

Heritage Inventory Sheet

Recommended Name	Sacred Heart Primary School and Church		
Site Image			
Address	14 Ralph Street, Westmead, NSW 2145		
Lot/Section/DP	1-7	-	35147
Heritage Study ID	HS101		
LEP ID	Not currently included on the Cumberland LEP		
Heritage Conservation Area	Not included		
Date Updated	February 2021		
Significance Level	LOCAL		
Site Type	Level 1	Built	
	Level 2	Education	

Curtilage Map



Statement of Significance

Sacred Heart Primary School and Church are of local significance for their historic, social and representative values. Historically, the earliest portion of the existing Sacred Heart School is the Church, built in 1954 in response to the population growth encountered within the suburb of Westmead. The first permanent school building was constructed in 1975 which continued to expand with the growth of the suburb of Westmead. The Church and School provide evidence for the development of the Westmead Catholic community and is linked to growth of Westmead following the construction of the Westmead Housing Commission Estate.

The item has social significance as a School and Church that has remained a continuous focal point of religious and educational activity for the Catholic community in Westmead from the 1950s onwards. Both the School and the Church remain good examples of a Post-War period Catholic School building and a Church in the local area.

Criteria Assessment

<p>a) Historic</p>	<p>Historically, the earliest portion of the existing Sacred Heart School was built in 1954 in response to the population growth encountered within the suburb of Westmead. The first permanent school building was constructed in 1975 which continued to expand with the growth of the suburb of Westmead. The Church and School provide evidence for the development of the Westmead Catholic community and is linked to growth of Westmead following the construction of the Westmead Housing Commission Estate.</p>
<p>b) Associative</p>	<p>The item does not meet this criterion.</p>

c) Aesthetic/Technical	The item does not meet this criterion.
d) Social	The item has social significance as a School and Church that has remained a continuous focal point of religious and educational activity for the Catholic community in Westmead from the 1950s onwards
e) Scientific	The item does not meet this criterion.
f) Rarity	The item does not meet this criterion.
g) Representativeness	Both the School and the Church remain good examples of a Post-War period Catholic School building and a Church in the local area.

Physical Description

Sacred Heart Church and Primary School are located on sloped landscape along Ralph Street. Sacred Heart Church is a simple split-level, rectangular shaped church hall constructed of polychromatic face-brick with a gabled roof tiled in Marseilles tiles. This section was constructed in 1955 and forms the earliest component of the wider School precinct. The building features large, metal framed, four-paned windows which appear to be replacement of the original church windows. The doors to the church are not visible from the public domain as they are concealed by metal screen doors. Entrance to the church is beneath a smaller projecting gable that is located at the centre of the western façade. This smaller gable creates a portico which provides access to the church. A cross is located on the wall of the church at the front of the building with the words 'Sacred Heart Church' attached in metal lettering. Services and Mass times are displayed and timber boards beneath this sign.

Permanent school buildings were constructed on the site since 1975 with building continuing over time as the school has expanded. The main school building at Sacred Heart Primary School is located immediately to the west of the church. The building is a face brick two-storey structure with an area of the ground level supported by rendered brick columns and the ground level used as a car park. The building has metal-faced multi-paned windows. The portion of this building that is visible from the public domain forms an extension of the original school building constructed at the site in 1975. The original portion of this building is not visible from the public domain.

To the rear of the church is a smaller building with a gabled roof tiled in Marseilles tiles and with a projecting gable on its eastern elevation. This building is not visible from the public domain although aerial imagery shows the structure was likely built during the c.1960s. This is the second structure built within the boundary of the school. A large shade cloth is located between this structure and the main school building.

The school and church are enclosed by a tall metal palisade fence. The landscape within the boundary is partly grassed with concrete footpaths and driveways. There are several mature trees within the boundary of the church and school including species of eucalyptus, paperbark and London plane trees. The footpath has bottlebrush trees spaced along Ralph Street.

The school and church are well-maintained and are in a good condition.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

- Windows replaced on Church building*
- Security screen doors to Church
- School buildings added from 1975 onwards
- Metal palisade boundary fence

The church and school have been modified over the years with elements such as windows and doors replaced. The item is considered to be of moderate integrity.

Integrity	High	Moderate	Low
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* *element detracts from the overall cultural significance of the place*

Historical Notes

Construction years	Church 1954; School 1975
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Westmead

The suburb of Westmead is bounded by the suburbs of Wentworthville to the west, Parramatta to the east, Northmead to the north and Mays Hill and Merrylands to the south. The southern half of Westmead, south of Westmead Station lies in the area governed by Cumberland City Council.

Westmead originally formed a part of the western part of the Domain of Government House at Parramatta which was laid out by Governor Philip in 1790. It originally comprised of over 2000 acres of land established by Governor Macquarie as an administrative area for the penal colony and it became a residential office for ten governors. By the 1850s the Domain became known as Parramatta Park. In 1859-1861, an extensive portion of the Domain was subdivided and it was at this time that the suburb became known as Westmead ('West meadow'). The major landholder in the area was William Fullagar, a butcher and publican turned stock agent. Land was also allotted to James Houison, John Savery Rodd and George Oakes. These allotments comprised of 50 acres, however, many of these individuals acquired multiple allotments. By the time of this subdivision, a number of main roads had been established including Hawkesbury Road, Pye Street, Oakes Street, Bridge Road, Good Street and Houison Street.

Westmead was relatively slow to develop, and it was only after the Westmead Railway Station was opened in 1883 that landowners began to subdivide in the area. By the 1920s, the station's facilities had improved and several estates such as Toohey's Palm Estate and Fullagar's Estate were further subdivided. By the late 1940s, the Westmead Housing Commission Estate was developed which comprised of 300 brick houses as well as a retail strip with 12 shops and a block of flats. Westmead owes much of its present street layout to the developments from this period.

Sacred Heart Primary School

Prior to Sacred Heart Primary School being established, the Parish of Sacred Heart was founded on 1 February 1951 and was headed by Parish Priest Reverend James Collins who remained with the Parish until 1963. From the outset, Mass was celebrated in Westmead Boys' Home until a church was built at its present location and opened on March 28, 1954. The church and primary school building is located along Ralph Street. The establishment of the church is attributed to the growing housing commission development, which had rapidly resulted in an increase in the local population, and the need for a local parish.

The Sacred Heart School was founded in 1955 and was operated by the Sisters of Mercy. The Sisters of Mercy who staffed the school were based in Parramatta. The Mercy tradition continued until 1993, when Mrs Sattler was appointed the first lay Principal of the school.

The School building has been extended several times since then. In 1975, the first permanent school building was constructed as the result of a Government Grant. In 1999, Sacred Heart School was extended and improved by the Catholic Education Office, increasing the enrolment of the school to over 200 students.

From December 2002 to early 2015 the care of both the parish and school was transferred to the Camillians (Ministers of the Infirm). Fr Walter Fogarty is the current Parish Priest. The school buildings continue in use as a primary school and the church is still in use by the Sacred Heart Parish.

Recommendations					
Heritage Management		Existing Built and Landscape Elements		Future Development and Planning	
1. Include this item as a new heritage listing on the LEP.	X	6. Original fabric is highly significant and should be maintained.	X	12. Alterations and additions should respond to the existing pattern of development, with careful consideration of the setting (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).	X
2. Include this item's listing as part of or as a Heritage Conservation Area.		7. Unsympathetic alterations that detract from the cultural significance of the item should be removed.		13. New alterations and additions should respect the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	X
3. Consider additional research to nominate this item for the State Heritage Register.		8. Maintain heritage landscape elements and schemes.		14. Future uses for this item should be compatible with its historical functions/associations.	X
4. The heritage curtilage for this item should be revised/reduced.		9. Maintain the existing setting of the heritage item, informed by the historic pattern of neighbouring development (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).	X		
5. Not recommended for inclusion on the LEP.		10. Maintain the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	X		
		11. The condition of this item is poor. Condition and maintenance should be monitored.			

Other recommendations and/or comments:

- None.

Listings		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	N/A	-
Local Environmental Plan	N/A	-
Cumberland Heritage Study	Sacred Heart Primary School and Church	HS101
National Trust Australia Register	N/A	-

Other References

- Broomham, R and T Kass. 1992. Holroyd Heritage Study Thematic History. Sydney: Holroyd City Council.
- City Plan Heritage 2017, Westmead Station (South Precinct) Heritage Study, City Plan Heritage, Sydney.
- Elias, J and Coppins, S 2013, Pictorial History Holroyd, Kingsclear Books, Alexandria.
- Levins, C 2010, Parramatta Park, retrieved 14 May 2019, https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/parramatta_park
- Mauldon V 2012, Shaping the Domain: The World Heritage Site Old Government House & Domain at Parramatta Park, retrieved 14 May 2019, <https://www.parrapark.com.au/assets/Shaping-the-Domain-brochures/Shaping-the-Domain-World-Heritage-1788-1856-Parramatta-Park-Brochure.pdf>

Limitations

1. Access to all heritage items was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not assessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. Unless additional research was required, historical research for all heritage items was based on existing information in the Cumberland Heritage Study Stage 1 2019 prepared by Extent Heritage.

Additional Images



Overview of Church.



View of School buildings.