

Heritage Inventory Sheet

Item Name	St Peter Chanel School Hall, Church and Rectory		
Recommended Name	St Peter Chanel School Hall, Church and Presbytery		
Site Image			
Address	60–66 Kingsland Road, Berala NSW 2141		
Lot/Section/DP	A and B	-	323658
	1 and 2	-	589907
Current LEP ID	I23 (Cumberland LEP)		
Former LEP ID	I25 (Auburn LEP)		
Heritage Conservation Area	Not included		
Date Updated	March 2020		
Significance Level	LOCAL		
Site Type	Level 1	Built	
	Level 2	Religion	
Ownership	Department of Education & Training		

Curtilage Map



Revised curtilage recommended- see below.

Statement of Significance

The St. Peter Chanel Church and School buildings are locally significant for their historic and aesthetic values. The site has been used as a religious and educational resource by the local community since 1959 and provides evidence of the nature of suburban development in the Post-War Period. In particular, the extant buildings provide evidence of the development of local social and cultural institutions during the residential growth of the period. The Church building is aesthetically significant as a representative example of a suburban Post-War Ecclesiastical Church and, externally, it appears to retain much of its original character and fabric.

Criteria Assessment

a) Historic	The St. Peter Chanel Church and School buildings have local historic significance, having been used as a religious and educational resource by the local community since 1959. The buildings provide evidence of the development of local social and cultural institutions during the residential growth of the period. The buildings are also significant for the evidence they provide of the nature of suburban development in the Post-War Period.
b) Associative	The item does not meet this criterion.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	The Church building is aesthetically significant as a suburban Post-War Ecclesiastical Church which retains much of its original character and fabric.
d) Social	The item does not meet this criterion.
e) Scientific	The item does not meet this criterion.
f) Rarity	The item does not meet this criterion.
g) Representativeness	The item does not meet this criterion.

Physical Description

Church

This Post-War Ecclesiastical style Church has a simple rectangular massing with a large entrance portico. Both the portico and the main Church have low pitched gable roofs. The building appears to be constructed around a reinforced concrete or steel frame, with large areas of infill brickwork and glazing between the structural bays. The street facade of the entrance portico is defined by a prominent gable and side wall verge. The facade is clad with sandstone panels and features a sculpture of Christ's Crucifixion. The portico also features a simple colonnade, behind which two large timber doors form the entrance to the building. Two large glazed areas are situated either side of the main entrance. The colour of the brickwork indicates that a covered roof has been added to the entrance which is supported by several simple brick columns and a single storey building to the left side used as the 'Church Shop'.

Hall

The 'Berala Jubilee Hall' is situated to the south of the main Church. It is a small, one storey steel framed building with a flat roof. The street facade is clad in sandstone panels and features two pairs of off-centre double doors. A face brick structure has been added to the left side of the façade. This partially covers what would have been sandstone cladding. It has a covered walkway leading from the southern elevation of the Church to the main entrance on the eastern (street facing) elevation.

Presbytery

The Presbytery is situated directly north of the main Church. It is a single storey red brick and tile building, constructed in a simple mid-20th century style. The roof is hipped with rounded ridge capping. The windows are timber double hung and the front entry door is covered by an enclosed brick portal. Above the doorway is a cross. The building has a long straight footpath laid in red and cream tile with a concrete edge. The building also contains a side entry stair in brick leading to an aluminium door. A detached brick and tile roof garage, in matching to style to the dwelling, is located at the rear of the dwelling. This garage is entered via a concrete driveway.

Landscaping

The site contains a large open carpark laid in concrete. The carpark contains a single tree surrounded by a small square of grass. It is unlikely that any mature vegetation was present here earlier as the carpark site once comprised of a dwelling.

The buildings on site appear to be in good condition overall.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

Church

- Face brick church shop to the front façade, connected to the portico awning
- Brick columns to portico awning
- Concrete carpark
- Modern signage

Hall

- Face brick building to the front elevation*

The church retains much of its original character and fabric and is therefore considered to have high integrity.

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

Historical Notes

Construction years	1959-1963
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The suburb of Berala is 17.7 kilometres west of Sydney city and is bounded by Auburn, Lidcombe and Regents Park. Berala originally formed the southern part of the suburb of Lidcombe (then known as Rookwood) and was known Hyde Park during this time. It is entirely in the catchment of the main arm of Haslams Creek. The name Berala is derived from an Aboriginal word meaning swamp duck, which refers to the birds that live in the swampy Haslams Creek.

Berala lies on the land that was originally part of the Hyde Park Estate, a grant of 1,110 acres given to HG Douglas in 1833. A large part of this estate was purchased by Joseph Hyde Potts, in 1834 and 1835, who subdivided the area into farm lots and subsequently into residential lots. This area lies to the east of the railway. There were earlier, smaller land grants, including one of 60 acres (24 hectares) to Thomas O'Donald in 1823, which encompassed what is now the western side of the railway.

On 11 November 1912, a single line on the railway was opened at Regents Park which served residents at Berala until 1924, when Berala Station was opened. By this time Berala had begun to develop as a suburb with an increase in residences and industry. These residences were predominately detached single-storey houses. It was not until the late 1960s that the first three- and four-storey apartment blocks, and later townhouses were built. The 1980s brought similar but higher density development, mainly on the western side of the railway.

Industry and commercial businesses also developed alongside the introduction of the railway. By 1920, there was a letter receiver, an authorised stamp seller and a public telephone. Mail was delivered from Lidcombe post office. In 1925, an unofficial post office was opened on the western side of the railway station in W. K. Andrews' general store. By 1935, there were 26 business and the population had increased to 2,000. The Commonwealth Bank of Australia opened a branch in 1947, followed by the Bank of New South Wales and a building society. The shopping centre developed along one side of Woodburn Road, facing vacant railway land and the station.

Until 1919, Berala parishioners travelled to Lidcombe to worship at St. Joachims. A hall in Third Avenue was purchased in 1920 for the Church. The hall was blessed and dedicated in 1923 and was the subject of a number of alterations until its removal in 1928 to land in Kingsland Road when further alterations were conducted.

Two Catholic Parochial Schools were established in 1933 by the sisters of St. Joseph. One operated in Mary Street, Lidcombe and the other in Kingsland Road, Berala. These schools were distribution points for local benevolent societies in the 1930's. The Kingsland School became St. Peter Chanel.

The hall located on Third Avenue ceased to be used in 1940, with the construction of the Church / School in Regents Street in 1959. Since this time a number of alterations have taken place. This included the demolition of the Church on Regents Street in 1964, and the erection of the new parish hall in 1962-63 on Kingsland Road, called the Berala Jubilee Hall.

Today, the site remains in use for religious activities.

Recommendations					
Heritage Management		Existing Built and Landscape Elements		Future Development and Planning	
1. Maintain this item's 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).	
2. Maintain this item's listing as part of the Heritage Conservation Area.		7. Unsympathetic alterations that detract from the cultural significance of the item should be removed.	X	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 delisting as an individual item from the LEP.		8. Maintain heritage landscape elements and schemes.		14. Future uses for this item should be compatible with its historical functions/associations.	X
4. Consider additional research to nominate this item for the State Heritage Register.		9. Maintain the existing setting of the heritage item, informed by the historic pattern of neighbouring development (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).			
5. The heritage curtilage for this item should be revised/reduced.	X	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:

- Should the opportunity arise, remove the face brick addition to the front of the hall.
- As the listing concerns the church, hall and presbytery only, the heritage curtilage shown below should be considered as a revised curtilage for the new Cumberland Council LEP.
- Should the revised curtilage be adopted, this listing sheet does not reflect the current Lot/DP which will need to be altered.



Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	N/A	-
Local Environmental Plan	St Peter Chanel School Hall, Church and Rectory	I27
Heritage Study	St Peter Chanel School Hall, Church and Rectory	I27
National Trust Australia Register	N/A	-

Previous Studies

Type	Author	Year	Title
Heritage Study	Extent Heritage Pty Ltd	2019	Cumberland LGA Heritage Study
Heritage Review	DPC	2007	Auburn Town Centre Heritage Review
Heritage Study	Neustein & Associates	1996	Auburn Heritage Study
Heritage Study	Terry Kass	1995	Draft Historical Context Report: Auburn Heritage Study
Heritage Review	DPC	2007	Auburn Town Centre Heritage Review

Other References

- Gordon, L 2008, *Berala*, retrieved 16 April 2019, <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/berala>
- Unknown authors 1993. *City of Parramatta Heritage Study Part Two: History and Heritage*, City of Parramatta, Sydney.

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 an assessment of previous LGA heritage studies, the Thematic History (prepared by Extent Heritage, 2019) and existing information in former heritage listing sheets.

Additional Images



St Peter Chanel Church.



St Peter Chanel Presbytery.



St Peter Chanel Presbytery.



Berala Jubilee Hall.