

## Heritage Inventory Sheet

<b>Recommended Name</b>	Auburn Presbyterian Church		
<b>Site Image</b>			
<b>Address</b>	29 Queen Street, Auburn, NSW 2144		
<b>Lot/Section/DP</b>	B	-	409667
<b>Heritage Study ID</b>	HS26		
<b>LEP ID</b>	Not currently included in the Cumberland LEP		
<b>Heritage Conservation Area</b>	Not included		
<b>Date Updated</b>	January 2021		
<b>Significance Level</b>	LOCAL		
<b>Site Type</b>	Level 1	Built	
	Level 2	Religion	

## Curtilage Map



## Statement of Significance

Auburn Presbyterian Church is of local significance for its historic, associative, aesthetic, social and representative values. Constructed in 1905 for the Presbyterian congregation in Auburn, the Church provides evidence for the development of the Presbyterian community which accompanied the residential growth of Auburn shortly after Federation. The Church is associated with Margaret Harris, a relative of surgeon John Harris of Ultimo Estate, and a keen supporter of Presbyterianism in Sydney, who unveiled a plaque associated with the establishment of the Church on Saturday 16 December 1905. The Church also has social significance as a continuous focal point of religious activity for a group of people in the community from 1905 onwards.

The Church building is aesthetically significant and intact as a modest Federation style church. The Church appears to retain much of its original character and fabric and is a good representative example of its type in the local area.

## Criteria Assessment

a) Historic	Auburn Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1905 for the Presbyterian congregation in Auburn and provides evidence for the development of this institution which accompanied the residential growth of Auburn shortly after Federation.
b) Associative	The Church is associated with Margaret Harris, a relative of surgeon John Harris of Ultimo Estate, and a keen supporter of Presbyterianism in Sydney, who unveiled a plaque associated with the establishment of the Church on Saturday 16 December 1905.

c) Aesthetic/Technical	The Church is aesthetically significant and intact as a modest Federation style church which retains much of its original character and fabric.
d) Social	The Church is socially significant as a continuous focal point of religious activity for a group of people in the community from 1905 onwards.
e) Scientific	The item does not meet this criterion.
f) Rarity	The item does not meet this criterion.
g) Representativeness	The Church is a good representative example of a modest Federation style Church in the local area.

### Physical Description

Auburn Presbyterian Church is a modest-sized Federation style church designed in a cruciform-shape with large plinths and a substantial extension to the rear. The roof is clad in corrugated iron which has replaced an earlier tiled roof. The Church walls constructed of face-brick with polychromatic brickwork are set on a concrete base with brick and concrete wall buttresses. Terracotta vents are located around the base of the walls.

Windows to the facade and two side elevations consist of three arch-headed stained-glass windows with a circular louvered vent located above the central window. Underneath the central window on the facade is a plaque which reads:

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.  
THIS TABLET WAS UNVEILED BY  
MISS MARGARET HARRIS  
ON THE 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 1905

The Church retains its original timber panelled double doors which are located on either side of the gable section of the Church along the Queen Street frontage. These are painted white and are accessed via two concrete steps.

The Church is surrounded entirely by concrete paving and has a brick fence with bullnose brick top and brick piers with rusticated sandstone capping. Access to the western side of the Church is via a concrete path which changes to paved brick towards the back of the Church. A palisade metal gate provides access to this side of the Church.

The Church has been extended to the rear on two separate occasion with the earliest addition in the 1920s featuring a small extension with gable roof clad in corrugated iron, exposed eaves and brick walls. There is a large L-shaped extension added in the c.1960s that extends towards the north and also features a gable roof clad in corrugated iron and brick walls and accessed by modern glass doors and concrete ramp.

The Church is set directly behind the public concrete footpath which has two mature London Plane Trees set in front. These trees appear to be relatively recent street plantings and there are no other significant landscape features.

Overall, the Church is intact and in mostly in a good condition. There is one brick pier falling over at the western end of the front brick fence and the external brick walls of the Church require repointing.

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Good</b>	Fair	Poor
------------------	-------------	------	------

### Alterations and Additions

- New corrugated iron roof
- Some brick replaced on fence

- Downpipes replaced
- Modern signage for Auburn Presbyterian Church
- Rear addition dating to 1921
- L-shaped addition c.1960s

Auburn Presbyterian Church is relatively unchanged and retains much of its original fabric. All additions and extensions to the Church are considered to be sympathetic in design. It is considered to be of high integrity.

<b>Integrity</b>	<b>High</b>	Moderate	Low
------------------	-------------	----------	-----

\* *element detracts from the overall cultural significance of the place*

### Historical Notes

Construction years	1905
--------------------	------

#### Auburn

The land which forms part of the modern suburb of Auburn was first developed in the 1790s when a track from Sydney to Parramatta was first developed and early land grants were given to free settlers and ex-convicts in the area. Most early land grants were small, measuring between 30-100 acres and were awarded to people such as Edward Gould, Henry Marr, Thomas Bates and John O'Donnell. Larger grants were given to established merchants and officials, such as James Chisholm, a merchant, who received a 600-acre grant, and Joseph Hyde Potts, who was given 410 acres.

In 1855, the first railway line from Sydney to Parramatta Junction allowed for suburban development around the area. The suburb of Auburn developed in the 1860s-80s from the subdivisions by John Yelverton Mills near the railway station. Mills named the suburb after the village in Oliver Goldsmith's poem 'The Deserted Village'. During this period, several main roads were built through the area and by 1880 it was reported that there were about 40 residences and a population of 200 people living in Auburn. By 1912–13, Auburn had established itself as suburb with the 11th largest number of new buildings in the metropolitan area for that year, with 268 approvals.

From the 1870s, industrial development had a significant impact on the Auburn's development. This process began in the 1860s when the New South Wales government began buying small lots of railway rolling stock locally. Some notable industries that came to Auburn include Henry Vale & Co. who built locomotives around Auburn, car and tractor maker Caldwell Vale, and Purcell Engineering. As the area was known for its clay-based soil, pottery and brickmakers flourished in the area, such as the Auburn Brick, Tile & Pottery Company who took over Duck River Brickworks.

#### Auburn Presbyterian Church

Auburn Presbyterian congregation was formed in c.1904, originally congregating in the Town Hall for Sunday services. By March 1905 plans and specifications had been drawn up for brick church which was to be constructed for the congregation. On Saturday 16 December 1905, an unveiling ceremony was held in which a plaque associated with the establishment of the Church was unveiled by Margaret Harris. Harris, a relative of surgeon John Harris of Ultimo Estate, was a keen supporter of Presbyterianism in Sydney, and funded the construction of several churches and manses in Sydney. At the unveiling it was noted that the building was not quite complete, however, it appears to have been completed in early 1906. The building was later extended in 1921 at a cost of 1000 pounds and again extended with an L-shaped rear addition which opened in c.1960s. The Church was well-known for hosting many events including an annual Spring Fair. From the 1940s the Church was also known as St Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

At present, the church remains in use and is known as Auburn Presbyterian Church.

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).			
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:

- Should the opportunity arise, the brick to the Church walls should be repointed by a suitably qualified heritage tradesperson.

Listings		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	N/A	-
Local Environmental Plan	N/A	-
Cumberland Heritage Study	St Andrew's Church	HS26
National Trust Australia Register	N/A	-

### Other References

- Kass, T 1996, Auburn Heritage Study Draft Final Report. Volume 2 Historical Context Report. Sydney: Auburn Council.

---

- Kass, T 2008, Auburn, retrieved 27 March 2019, <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/auburn>

---

- Jervis, J 1933, The story of Parramatta and district, Sydney.

---

- *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 'Auburn', 11 March 1905, p.2.

---

- *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 'An Unveiling Ceremony', 16 December 1905, p.3.

---

- *The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 'Auburn', 26 January 1906, p.2.

---

- *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 'Auburn Presbyterian Church', 13 December 1921, p.10.

---

### 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.

---

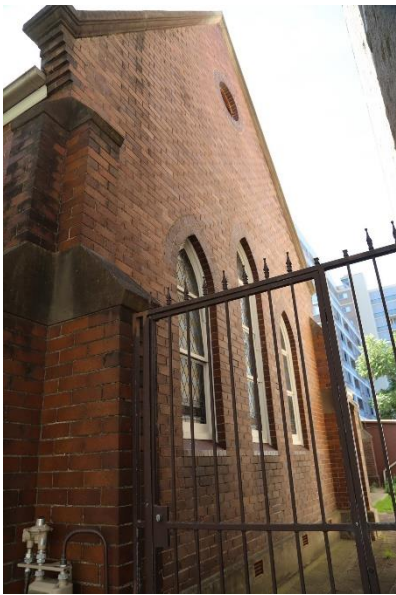
### Additional Images



Overview of Church.



Unveiling plaque.



View to side elevation.



Entrance to Church.



Stained glass windows.



View along side towards rear extension of church.