


Heritage Inventory Sheet

Recommended Name	St Barnabas Anglican Church		
Site Image			
Address	75 Hawkesbury Road, Westmead NSW 2145		
Lot/Section/DP	B	-	334311
Heritage Study ID	HS97		
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, Archaeological- Terrestrial	
	Level 2	Religion	

Curtilage Map



Statement of Significance

St Barnabas Anglican Church is significant at a local level for its historic, associative, aesthetic, social, scientific, rarity and representative values. The Church was constructed in 1954 for the Anglican community of Westmead and utilised sandstone blocks from James Houison's Nairn Villa which previously stood on the site. The Church provides evidence for the development of the Anglican congregation in Westmead which accompanied the residential growth of Westmead during the Post-War period. The site is associated with James Houison, Parramatta architect and builder, who constructed and resided at the Nairn Villa that previously existed at this location. The site has scientific value as it has the potential to reveal archaeological evidence for James Houison's Nairn Villa, constructed in c.1862 and demolished in 1952 to make way for the present St Barnabas' Church.

The Church is socially significant as a continuous focal point of religious activity for people in the community who have practiced worship here since 1936 when the Anglican church purchased Nairn Villa, and constructed the Church in 1954. The Church is aesthetically significant and intact as a unique Post-War Ecclesiastical style Church constructed using sandstone blocks from the Nairn Villa. 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. It is considered rare within the area.

The site also contains a relocated soldier's hut. The soldier's hut is historically significant as a purpose-built hut by the Parramatta Mayoral Patriotic Committee in 1940. The hut was originally located along Church Street in Parramatta and used as a serviceman's canteen during the World War II, was relocated to the subject site to function as a Church hall in 1946. The soldiers hut has aesthetic significance as a modest, utilitarian building with vernacular architecture.

Criteria Assessment	
a) Historic	<p>The Church was constructed in 1954 for the Anglican community of Westmead and utilised sandstone blocks from James Houison's Nairn Villa which previously stood on the site. The Church provides evidence for the development of the Anglican congregation in Westmead which accompanied the residential growth of Westmead during the Post-War period.</p> <p>The relocated soldier's hut is historically significant as a purpose-built hut by the Parramatta Mayoral Patriotic Committee in 1940. The hut which was originally located along Church Street in Parramatta and used as a serviceman's canteen during the World War II, was relocated to the subject site to function as a Church hall in 1946.</p>
b) Associative	The site is associated with James Houison, Parramatta architect and builder, who constructed and resided at the Nairn Villa that previously existed at this location.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	<p>The Church is aesthetically significant and intact as a unique Post-War Ecclesiastical style Church constructed using sandstone blocks from the Nairn Villa. The Church retains much of its original character and fabric.</p> <p>The Soldiers hut has aesthetic significance as a modest, utilitarian building with vernacular architecture.</p>
d) Social	The Church is socially significant as a continuous focal point of religious activity for a group of people in the community who have worshipped here since 1936 and constructed the Church on this site in 1954.
e) Scientific	The site has scientific value as it has the potential to reveal archaeological evidence for James Houison's Nairn Villa, constructed in c.1862 which was demolished in 1952 to make way for the present St Barnabas' Church.
f) Rarity	St Barnabas' Church is considered rare as a unique style of Church constructed in the Post-War period utilising salvaged materials from Houison's former residence.
g) Representativeness	The church is a good representative example of a Post-War Ecclesiastical style Church in the local area.

Physical Description

The St Barnabas Church at 75 Hawkesbury Road, Westmead is a unique Post-War Ecclesiastical style Church of the Post-War period constructed from sandstone blocks from James Houison's former country residence named 'Nairn Villa' constructed c. 1862. The Church is T-Shaped with a gabled shingled roof and clerestory running the entire length of the central nave. A central tower with central arched window and timber-panelled double doors, feature on the primary western façade. On either side of the door are lanterns and carved in sandstone above the door are three shields representing, St. Stephen, the Chi Rho, and St Barnabas. Two metal-framed, eight-panelled, glazed windows are located either side of the central tower. A plaque is inset in the northernmost wall of the façade. The plaque reads:

TO THE GLORY OF GOD
 This stone was laid by
 He most reverend H.W.K MOWLL.C.M.G.D.D
 Archbishop of Sydney
 26th December, 1954
 RT. REV. W.G. Hilliard. MA.,TH. D.Rector

The accompanying Hall, constructed in the 1990s, lies directly to the south of the church, and mimics the basic form of the Church building. The building is constructed of face brick with a gabled roof sheeted in corrugated iron with wide brick piers projecting from each gable end. The Church and Hall are connected by a modern brick path which is bound by a metal palisade pool fence.

The front of the Church is bound by a wrought iron fence set on a sandstone base. A sandstone path leads to the front entrance of the church. It is possible that this is the original boundary fence for the 'Nairn Villa' which was previously located on this site. A gravel driveway on the northern side of the building leads to the rear of the property. To the rear of the church there are several buildings including a soldiers hut which was relocated to the site in 1946, an L-shaped building and a small shed. Aerial imagery shows that the shed and L-shaped were extant by the 1965. These buildings were not visible from the public domain however, aerial imagery shows that the shed and easternmost buildings have gabled roofs sheeted in corrugated iron and the other L-shaped building has tiled roof material.

There is minimal landscaping around the property. A mature Port Jackson Fig Tree (*Ficus rubiginosa*) is located at the front of the property, otherwise there are no other plants of significance within the landscape. The Port Jackson Fig Tree possibly dates to the same time as the 'Nairn Villa'.

The site has the potential to reveal archaeological evidence for James Houison's Nairn Villa, constructed in c.1862 and demolished in 1952 to make way for the present St Barnabas' Church.

The Church and Hall have been well-maintained and are in a good condition.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

- Shed to the rear visible in 1965 aerial
- Soldiers hut – relocated in 1946
- 1912 Church hall demolished and new Church Hall added in c.1990s.
- New roof to easternmost building at the rear.

Overall, the item is considered to be of high integrity.

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

Historical Notes

Construction years	Soldiers Hut 1946; Church 1954; Church Hall c.1990s
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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.

St Barnabas' Anglican Church

St Barnabas' Anglican Church is located on a portion of land along the eastern side of Hawkesbury Road that originally formed a part of the Government Domain and was then subdivided and sold in 1859 to James Housion, prominent Parramatta architect and builder. On this block he constructed his country residence c.1862, known as Nairn Villa, the name referring to his birthplace in Scotland. Housion also grew crops of oats on his Westmead Estate, having delivered samples of his products to the Cumberland Argus Office, which displayed it in their office window. The residence then passed to Housion's son Richard following his death in c.1880.

Christian worshipping within the suburb of Westmead began in a purpose-built house located in Hassall Street and by 1914 had moved into a purpose-built hall located north of the subject site at 22 Railway Parade, Westmead. In 1936, worship moved to the subject site, after Parramatta Anglican Church acquired these premises. Housion's Nairn Villa remained at the subject site and was used as the residence of the rector. In 1946, a soldiers hut was relocated to the subject site to function as a hall for the Church. The soldiers hut was built by the Parramatta Mayoral Patriotic Committee in 1940 and was originally located along Church Street in Parramatta and used as a serviceman's canteen during the World War II.

The Nairn Villa was demolished in 1952 to make way for the construction of a new Church. The sandstone from Nairn Villa was salvaged and used in the construction of the church. The foundation stone was laid in December 1954 and the Church was dedicated by Archbishop Mowll in May 1956. The original St Barnabas Hall that had been constructed at 22 Railway Parade was also relocated to the new site at this time. The hall located adjacent to the Church building was constructed in the early 1990s following demolition of the original 1914 St Barnabas Hall.

The item remains in use as an Anglican Church and Hall and also contains a residence for the rector at the rear.

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.	X	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:

- It is recommended that a historical archaeological assessment be carried out to determine the archaeological potential of the site. In particular, the likelihood for ground floor deposits beneath the church.

Listings		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	N/A	-
Local Environmental Plan	N/A	-
Cumberland Heritage Study	St Barnabas Anglican Church	HS97
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>
- The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 1914, 'Westmead, 20 June, 11.
- The Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate*, 1946, 'Pulling down the soldier's hut' 27 February, 1.

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



View along church driveway to Soldier's Hut



View to the façade of the church.



Church Hall.



Wrought iron fence on sandstone base.



Mature Port Jackson Fig Tree (*Ficus rubiginosa*)



Detail of window and plaque on Church.