



134 Macquarie Street (GPO Box 618)
Hobart Tasmania 7001
Phone: 1300 850 332 (local call cost)
Email: enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au
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Name: St Stephen's Anglican Church & Hall
Status: Permanently Registered
Tier: State

THR ID Number: 12024
Municipality: Hobart City Council
Boundary: CPR11313

Location Addresses

520 SANDY BAY RD, SANDY BAY 7005 TAS

Title References

166284/1

Property Id

3252529



St Stephen's Hall and Church
DPIPWE, 2020



St Stephen's Church
DPIPWE, 2020



Red Chapel, prior to the 1895 additions
TAHO (NS1013/1/1923)



St Stephen's, c.1910
TAHO (NS392/1/770)

Statement of Significance: (non-statutory summary)

St Stephen's Anglican Church, Hall and ecclesiastical collection, Sandy Bay, reflect the role of Anglican worship in Tasmania, and the evolution of church sites to meet the need of expanding suburbs and congregations. The adaptation of the original building and the parish hall are markers of a congregation keen to express its modernity. The church building is representative of a class of place, that of a suburban church with Federation-era Gothic influences, whilst the parish hall is indicative of post-war minimalist design and the desire of parishioners to be seen as progressive and modern. St Stephen's Anglican Church, Hall and ecclesiastical collection have meaning to the people of wider Hobart as a landmark on a major thoroughfare, while the collection has a special association with woodcarver Ellen Nora Payne (1865-1962) a long-term practising Anglican

and resident of Hobart, responsible for the carved hymn board and honour roll at St Stephen's, Sandy Bay.

Why is it significant?:

The Heritage Council may enter a place in the Heritage Register if it meets one or more of the following criteria from the Historic Cultural Heritage Act 1995:

a) The place is important to the course or pattern of Tasmania's history.

St Stephen's Anglican Church, Hall and ecclesiastical collection, Sandy Bay are an important element in demonstrating the development of Hobart and its suburbs. They reflect the role of worship, and in particular, the role of established religion in developing social and spiritual hubs across Tasmania. Erected in the 1850s and renovated in the 1890s, the main church building is a record of the evolution of Anglican worship, whilst the parish hall demonstrates a congregation deliberately trying to express its modernity. The suite of collection material contained within St Stephen's is representative of ecclesiastical furniture, memorials and community tributes contained within Tasmanian churches.

b) The place possesses uncommon or rare aspects of Tasmania's history.

No Data Recorded

c) The place has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Tasmania's history.

No Data Recorded

d) The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of place in Tasmania's history.

Erected in the 19th century but heavily adapted in the 1890s, St Stephen's Anglican Church reflects the characteristics of a Federation-era church with Gothic elements, through the use of free form roofline, Arts and Crafts belfry and use of contrasting materials, textures and shades of colour. The adjacent St Stephen's Hall is an example of a modernist meeting hall, where uncomplicated design, natural light and substantial meeting space were valued for a growing congregation within a central Hobart suburb.

e) The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement.

No Data Recorded

f) The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social or spiritual reasons.

St Stephen's Anglican Church, Hall and ecclesiastical collection have meaning to the wider Hobart community as a landmark on Sandy Bay Road, a meeting place for over 150 years, and the namesake for Red Chapel beach, park and road, harking back to the affectionate moniker for the church on the headland.

g) The place has a special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Tasmania's history.

St Stephen's Anglican Church ecclesiastical collection has a special association with Tasmanian woodcarver Ellen Nora Payne (1865-1962), who carved both an honour board and hymn board for the church. Payne was a long-term resident of Hobart, practicing Anglican and responsible for some of Tasmania's finest church carvings of the 20th century.

h) The place is important in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

No Data Recorded

Heritage approval is required for work that will result in changes to the nature or appearance of the fabric of a Heritage place, both internal and external.

Please refer to the Heritage Council's Works Guidelines (www.heritage.tas.gov.au) for information about the level of approval required and appropriate outcomes.

Heritage Advisors are also available to answer questions and provide guidance on enquiries@heritage.tas.gov.au or Tel 1300850332

This data sheet is intended to provide sufficient information and justification for listing the place on the Heritage Register. Under the legislation, only one of the criteria needs to be met. The data sheet is not intended to be a comprehensive inventory of the heritage values of the place, there may be other heritage values of interest to the Heritage Council not currently acknowledged.

Setting:

St Stephen's Anglican Church and Hall are situated in the suburb of Sandy Bay, in the state capital Hobart. The complex faces north-east and is located on Sandy Bay Road. It overlooks the River Derwent's Red Chapel Beach which takes its name from the earliest building on the site, affectionately known as the Red Chapel.

Description:

St Stephen's Anglican Church & Hall is an historic site demonstrating over 150 years of Anglican worship. The two main structures on site – the church and hall - have been extensively adapted for successive generational use. The c.1847 Church was substantially remodelled in the 1890s. The c.1917 Hall, built seven decades after the church, was largely replaced by a new structure in 1961. Boundary infrastructure has similarly evolved from 19th century picket to brick fences.

St Stephen's Anglican Church: is a Federation-era red brick building, incorporating an earlier c.1847 Georgian structure which was remodelled c.1890s. The roof is clad in corrugated iron and has a major gable with smaller gables at both ends for the chancel and vestry. An Arts and Crafts style belfry and spire is a prominent feature of the building. Later additions to the Federation-era building include the entry porch and western elevation extension from c.1970. Discrete remnants of the c.1847 red brick chapel form part of the nave of the current structure and are concealed by the later additions (Bester, 2019 p.5).

St Stephen's Anglican Hall: is a post-war modernist minimally detailed red brick response to the adjacent church, dating from 1961. The modernist additions conceal elements of the original Federation style hall c.1917; the lower section of the western elevation forms part of this earlier structure (Bester, 2019 p.5). The roof is low pitched. Concrete banding divides the brick walls horizontally, whilst full height windows dominate vertically creating natural light internally. A tall centrally placed entrance echoes its ecclesiastical purpose. The exterior envelope of the hall is considered of high heritage significance and a contributory element to the wider church setting (Williams, 2022 pp.36-50).

Significant Church items: A number of items provenanced to the main church building are considered of heritage significance, providing an understanding of the evolution of worship in the Anglican community, and the meaning of such places to greater Hobart. Of particular significance are the following elements:

- (i) carved wooden altar table in memory of Madge Carter (d.1933);
- (ii) hymn board carved by Ellen Nora Payne (1865-1962), c.1917;
- (iii) communion rails donated by Harry E Button in memory of his wife Cecilia Button (d.1929);
- (iv) rector's chair donated by the Cuthbertson family in memory of Canon Henry Cecil Cuthbertson (d.1964);
- (v) Great War Honour Roll carved by Ellen Nora Payne, c.1921;
- (vi) wooden pulpit and lectern;
- (vii) carved wooden font on wheels;
- (viii) carved wooden lectern in memory of Thomas Westbrook, c.1937; and
- (ix) wall plaques commemorating various parishioners.

Landscape setting:

St Stephen's Anglican Church and Hall, Sandy Bay are located on a foreshore site near the headland of Red Chapel Beach, Sandy Bay. A brick retaining wall fronts Sandy Bay Road and an iron archway with gates marked the entrance on the street to both the hall and church. The gates and entrance archway are considered of high heritage significance (Williams, 2022 p.49). The plantings surrounding the buildings are minimal, although the buildings themselves have particular prominence on the main thoroughfare through the suburb, Sandy Bay Road. A beach side location for a church is not common in Tasmania, many coastal towns include churches that are set well back from the shoreline,

often separated by a road or park.

History:

St Stephen's Anglican Church, like many other Tasmanian places, has its origins in the aspirations of a former convict, keen to leave his mark on the colony. In 1808 James Moodie was convicted in Surrey, England for highway robbery and assault, transported to Sydney initially, but by 1816 had received his freedom and moved to Hobart. In just over a decade he acquired 30 acres in the area now known as Sandy Bay, part of which he donated in later life for the erection of a church (*Courier*, 28 August 1847 p.3). Legal difficulties however, meant that the transfer of title to the Church Trustees took longer than the building committee was hoping. Church meetings were held in a number of temporary locations for almost a decade (*Courier*, 15 February 1856 p.3).

A subscription fund to build the church was established, although one correspondent to a local newspaper expressed confusion over the denomination, as initially the church was to be shared with the Wesleyans (*Courier*, 26 April 1856 p.3). St Stephen's was almost completed by the winter of 1856, the same year the convict colony changed its name from Van Diemen's Land to Tasmania. A newspaper correspondent recorded that: 'the building is of good substantial brick work, the height of the walls is nearly completed, the brick portion of the porch is up, and with a little further aid... it will be made a very neat little church' (*Courier*, 5 May 1856 p.3). The small church soon became a landmark on the headland above the beach, known affectionately as the Red Chapel after its red brickwork. The name has been immortalised in the names of a local road, beach and park (www.thelist.tas.gov.au).

Like so many other churches across Tasmania, St Stephen's maintained annual rituals such as Easter and Christmas services, fetes, bazaars and fundraising to assist with upkeep, missionary work and support for local charities. Inevitably, the congregation outgrew their original church, and in the 1890s further fundraising took place to extend the building, in concert with the growing population of the increasingly affluent suburb of Sandy Bay. Architects Ricards & Salier called tenders for alterations and additions to St Stephen's in late 1895 (*Mercury*, 18 December 1895 p.4). Work was completed within months. The *Mercury* described the updated premises having:

'A neat gabled porch from which springs the new belfry and spire gives access at one end to the nave, 40ft x 30ft, with an open and elegant timber roof. At the east end a large handsome gothic arch opens into a new apse-ended chancel similarly treated, and having an arched recess for organ at side, and a door leading to the new vestry on the same side. The walls to nave and chancel have handsome wood dado to windowsills, and above they are finished in plaster, tinted a soft French grey. The doors, dado and roof are constructed of selected Tasmanian stringy bark, beautifully finished, being equally effective in appearance to English oak. The nave is lighted with seven lancet windows and a large and effective west window, while the chancel has four lancet windows. These are filled in with stained cathedral glass, in elegant patterns. Altogether the building will form one of the most picturesque of our suburban churches' (*Mercury*, 18 April 1896 p.3).

Vital to community engagement, and like so many other churches, memorials and testimonials formed an important part of the cultural life of St Stephen's. In 1915 a memorial window depicting St Augustine, dedicated to solicitor and Sandy Bay resident, George Patten Adams and executed by Messrs Brooks, Robinson & Co of Melbourne was unveiled (*Mercury*, 25 January 1915 p.3). This firm undertook frequent ecclesiastical commissions across Tasmania and Victoria (www.stainedglassaustralia.wordpress.com). St Stephen's was also the beneficiary of the work of prominent Tasmanian woodcarver Ellen Norah Payne (1865-1962). A student of Melbourne's most famous woodcarver, Robert Prentzel, Payne's works in later life were predominantly Hobart based, and often for her beloved Anglican church. The commissions at St Stephen's, Sandy Bay, included a hymn board unveiled in 1917, and an honour roll commemorating the Great War, unveiled five years later (<http://www.nelliepayne.com>).

Around this time to accommodate a growing congregation, a parish hall was erected to the north-west of the church building. Emma Mills in her will of 1916 left £200 to St Stephen's, on the stipulation it was used for the construction of a Sunday School (TAHO, AD960/1/38 #10266). Coverage of the church's 80th anniversary celebrations in 1927 noted the congregation had already outgrown the hall, and an extension was required. At building centenary celebrations in 1956 an arch and gate was erected in front of the parish hall. The congregation, keen to express its modernity, commissioned architect Harry Oldmeadow to re-model the building. The existing hall was demolished to foundation level and a new structure with extension erected (Williams, 2022 p.27). A porch was later added to the main church building in 1970 (TAHO, NS4946/1/1).

The Church and Hall were sold by the Anglican Church in 2022 and are now privately owned.

References:

www.abs.gov.au

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/payne-ellen-nora-7988>

Alexander, A. (ed.) 2005 *The Companion to Tasmanian History*, University of Tasmania.

Bester, C. 2019 *Concise Conservation Management Plan: St Stephen's Anglican Church, Sandy Bay*.

Courier, 28 August 1847, 15 February 1856, 26 April 1856, 5 May 1856.

Goc, N. 1997 *Sandy Bay* Gentry Publishing.

Henslowe, D. n.d. *Our Heritage of Anglican Churches in Tasmania*, Mercury Walch.

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Mercury, 18 December 1895, 18 April 1896, 25 January 1915.

www.nelliepayne.com

St Stephen's Church, Sandy Bay. 1947 *St Stephen's Church of England centenary booklet*.

www.stainedglassaustralia.wordpress

Stephens, G. 1991 *The Anglican Church in Tasmania: A Diocesan History to Mark the Sesquicentenary: 1992*, The Print Centre.

TAHO, AD960/1/38 #10266.

TAHO, NS4946/1/1.

Williams, B. 2022 *Conservation Management Plan and Heritage Impact Assessment for Conversion to a Dwelling, St Stephen's Church Hall, 520 Sandy Bay Road, Sandy Bay, Tasmania*.

Note

1. Lot 1 represents the registered boundary for 'St Stephen's Anglican Church', #12024 on the Tasmanian Heritage Register.
2. Lot 1 is the whole parcel of FR 166284/1, the boundary of which is marked by a heavy black line and described below.
3. All boundaries are parcel boundaries, details of individual land parcel boundaries may be accessed through the Land Information System Tasmania (LIST).

River Derwent

Red Chapel Beach

FR 158431/3

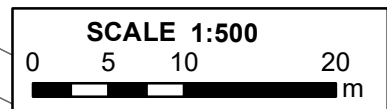
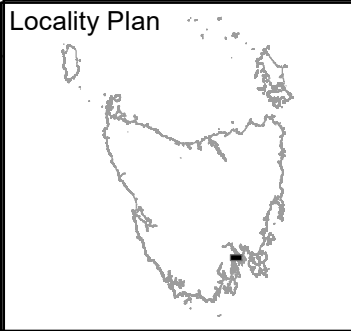
FR 166284/1

FR 59370/0

Lot 1
~1552m²

FR 59370/0

Sandy Bay Road



TASMAP: TAROONA - 5224 GRID: MGA94 / ZONE 55 DATUM: AHD CONTOUR INTERVAL: N/A

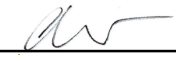
No.	PRODUCTION / AMENDMENT	AUTHORITY	REFERENCE	DRAWN	APPROVED	DATE
1	Production	THC	12024	AW	A.ROBERTS	14.12.22



St Stephen's Anglican Church
520 Sandy Bay Road
Sandy Bay

CENTRAL PLAN REGISTER



p.p. Surveyor General: 
Date Registered: 14.12.22

CPR
11313

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HERITAGE TASMANIA

