

## Item Details

### Name

St Bartholomews Church & Cemetery

SHR/LEP/S170

LEP #

### Address

Ponds Road PROSPECT NSW 2148

### Local Govt Area

Blacktown

### Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown



### Item Type

Complex / Group

### Group/Collection

Religion

### Category

Church

## All Addresses

### Addresses

Records Retrieved: 2

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
	St. Bartholomews Place	PROSPECT/NSW/2148	Blacktown	Unknown			Unknown	Alternate Address
	Ponds Road	PROSPECT/NSW/2148	Blacktown	Unknown			Unknown	Primary Address

## Significance

### Statement Of Significance

St Bartholemews Church is of State significance as a rare remaining example of Colonial Regency church architecture, and as a significant remaining building from the colonial settlement of Prospect. The settlement of the area included many important Australian colonial identities which had an association with the Church and Prospect at some point, through the development of major farm estates of Verteran Hall, Bungarribee, Flushcombe Estate, Horsely Park, Hill End etc.

The remaining graves and records of the church provide a baseline historical resource for Western Sydney.

### Criteria a)

#### Historical Significance

St Bartholemews Church is of State significance as a rare remaining example of Colonial Regency church architecture, and as a significant remaining building from the colonial settlement of Prospect. The settlement of the area included many important Australian colonial identities which had an association with the Church and Prospect at some point, through the development of major farm estates of Verteran Hall, Bungarribee, Flushcombe Estate, Horsely Park, Hill End etc.

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### Criteria b)

#### Historical Association Significance

St Bartholomew's early history and development is closely associated with William Lawson of nearby Veteran Hall, the famous Blue Mountains explorer and an important early settler in this district, and with his family. The Cemetery includes significant early settler and colonial graves, as well as graves of long lasting families in the district through the generations. Founding members includes other significant colonial settlers including Robert Lethbridge, Robert Crawford, John Campbell, Thomas Icely, William Lawson, Edward Weston.

**Criteria c)**

**Aesthetic/Technical Significance**

The site is an important surviving fragment of the nineteenth century landscape; an historic icon; a virtual oasis, and a de-fact public heritage green space in a once notable rural area, now surrounded by the effects of rapid urban, industrial and commercial development. It reflects a visual continuity between 19th and 20th century society. This may be seen not only in the chronological continuity of family burials, but also dramatically in the direct accommodation of power transmission towers, the (M4 motorway), the modern Great Western Highway route and the first Great Western Highway route. (Heritage Group)

The church is an unusually detailed and planned church. The division of the east end into three separately roofed compartments may be the only extant example in NSW of this design. It therefore occupies a special position in the architectural evolution of churches in NSW. The church hall provides an element associated with the construction of Prospect Reservoir, a major engineering achievement within the district. (Historic Buildings Group).

**Criteria d)**

**Social/Cultural Significance**

The church, hall and cemetery aclosely linked with the development and early history of the district. (Historic Buildings Group)

**Criteria e)**

**Research Potential**

The church is an extant example of an 1840s church, providing evidence of the 1836 Church Act that promoted the building of churches in the colony. (Historic Buildings Group).

**Criteria f)**

**Rarity**

The Church and cemetery are a rare remaining and acitve colonial cemetery still in use in Western Sydney

**Criteria g)**

**Representative**

The Church us a representative example of a regency Georgian archiectural styling also found in the earlier St James Church, St Matthews Windsor and St Thomas Church Port Macquarie.

**Integrity/Intactness**

good-high, depending on element

**Owners**

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Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

**Description**

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**Designer** **Builder/Maker**

**Physical Description**

**Updated**

The St Bartholemews site includes the historic church building, carpark, hall, residence (modern) and shipping container and the Cemetary. The site is bounded by Prospect Highway, the M4 and Ponds Road. The site is located within a regional open space corridor. The site is accessed from Ponds Road in two locations.

The site also contains remnant historical cypress and fig plantings, 19th century garden plantings, and areas of remnant bushland.

The building is a plain, rectangular brick structure built on an east/west axis comprising nave, chancel and vestries with a tower at the west end. The tower has a square base with an octagonal belfry. It is of Georgian style. The belfry roof timbers carry a timber bell supporting frame although no bell is in place. The roof over the chancel and vestries is separate from the main roof over the nave. The entrance to the building is through the tower. There are also entrances to the vestries from the exterior.

The external walls are modelled by flat pilasters and finely moulded stone entablatures carried on carved stone modillion brackets, rectangular openings and blind windows. The hipped roof, originally shingled, is now clad with corrugated steel.

The interior joinery was finely moulded cedar and the interior walls plastered and painted. Each vestry had a fireplace but the chimneys and mantelpieces have now been removed. The floors are timber. The chancel floor, originally one step above the main floor, has been raised further and a rectangular projecting dais into the main hall added. There is also a small dais in the north western corner of the church on which a font was once placed. (HBG1991))

The Church Hall was relocated to the site in 1908 and is a corrugated iron structure within internal timber boarding.

The Cemetary contains historic graves dating from the 1840's including the Grave of William Lawson who was instrumental in establishing the church, graves of aboriginal descendants of the Darug indigenous inhabitants of the area, and many significant early settlers. The eastern section of the graveyard remains an active cemetery.

#### **Physical Condition**

**Updated 12/09/2015**

Church Good / Cemetary in poor condition

#### **Modifications And Dates**

1858 - Repairs to ceiling of the church, covering the original plaster ceiling with fabric.

1880s - Stone tablet placed above entrance door bearing the date 1842.

1887 - Church ceiling covered with timber.

c.1970 - Reroofing with corrugated iron.

1907 - Repairs and ceiling covered with pressed metal.

c1912 - Chancel floor raised by the addition of a new floor over the existing one.

Dias added.

1940s - Stone tablet above entrance door altered to read 1841.

c.1950 - Timber roof framing in church reconstructed.

1950 - Metal ceiling refixed after removal of previous ceilings.

1970 - Brick base of hall renewed.

1977 - Doors and Windows removed from church and replaced with 3mm steel plate.

1989 - Fire destroyed much of the contents of the church and severely damaged the roof.

1991 - Work commenced to repair roof and brickwork damaged by the fire (Historic Buildings Group 1991: 3-4)

? security fencing erected around church and inner part of cemetery after the fire.

2000-2001 - Church completely restored with use of Federation Funding.

#### **Further Comments**

#### **Current Use**

Public hall, historic site and cemetery

#### **Former Use**

church and cemetery

#### **Listings**

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## Listings

			Records Retrieved: 2		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Amend No 143		4/12/2002 12:00:00 AM	72	2262
Local Environmental Plan	Blacktown Local Environmental Plan 2015	163	7/7/2015 12:00:00 AM	430	

## Procedures/Exemptions

Records Retrieved: 0					
Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

## History

### Historical Notes or Provenance

### Updated

Prospect Hill was first explored and named in 1788 as "Bellvue". In 1804 large areas of prospect were set aside for Government Stock and a Common for the use of local settlers. The Great Western highway commenced in 1814 and was finished by 1818.

One of five toll bars along the western road were opened in 1820 to pay for the road, one of which opened up near Veteran Hall. One of the first settlers in the area was William Lawson who built his home Veteran Hall on land Granted to him in 1822.

Lawson called for tenders for the erection of an Anglican Church at Prospect in 1838 on land granted to the church in 1829.. James Atkinson of Mulgoa was the successful tenderer. Atkinson also built St Peter's, Richmond, St Mary Magdelene's and St Thomas's, Mulgoa. The church was consecrated by Bishop Broughton on 14 April 1841. The Church is said to have been designed by Henry Robertson who worked with architect Edward Hallen who had married one of William Lawsons Daughters. Robertsons name appears as architect on the contract for the construction, and Edward Hallen as witness to the contract.

Founding members included many significant early settlers - William Lawson, Robert Lethbridge, Thomas Icely, John Campbell, and Robert Crawford.

An organ was purchased in 1881. Roofworks and window repairs were undertaken in 1887-8 and were followed by repairs to the church tower in 1890-91.

The interior of the church was refurbished in 1907. Works included a new ceiling, cedar pulpit, prayer desk, altar rails, and relocation of the organ to allow for a new baptistry.

1950 saw the reconstruction of the roof with new steel framing.

The church closed for worship in 1967 and the fittings were removed in 1968.

In 1975 after a long period of negotiation, the church and cemetery were leased to Blacktown City Council for fifty years. Subsequent conservation work to the church was overseen by Orwell Phillips, architect with engineering advice by Colin Crisp.

The graveyard includes the following significant burials :

- \* First Burials Margaret and Ann Goodin 1841
- \* Lawson Family Vault including William Lawson and his family. From 1850
- \* Weston Family Vault including Edward Nicholas Weston, of "Horsley Park". From 1856
- \* Meurant Family. From 1844 (Settlers in Parklea after whom Meurants Lane is named)

## Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 9

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
9. Phases of Life	Religion	Unknown
9. Phases of Life	Persons	Pioneers and social pressures/Settlement in the 19th Century
9. Phases of Life	Birth and Death	Unknown
8. Culture	Religion	Unknown
8. Culture	Creative endeavour	Unknown
4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	Settlement in the 19th Century
4. Settlement	Land tenure	Unknown
2. Peopling	Convict	Pioneering and social pressures/settlement in the 19th Century
2. Peopling	Aboriginal cultures and interactions with other cultures	Pioneers and social pressures/Settlement in the 19th Century

## Recommended Management

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### Management Summary

### Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

## Report/Study

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### Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 4

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
In House Heritage Items Review			2009		Margaret Fallon
Prospect Heritage Study - Draft Final Report			2005		Terry Cass / Jackson Stepowski Planning and Robertson and Hindmarsh
Blacktown Heritage Study			1995		(not stated)
Blacktown Heritage Study			1988		Jonathan Falk Planning Consultants in association with Rodney Jensen and Assoc.s

## Reference & Internet Links

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## References

Records Retrieved: 3

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Tanner Architects in conjunction with Knox & Partners & Casey & Lowe Associates	2004	Masterplan - St. Bartholemew's Chruuch and Cemetery, Prospect. Issue C	
Written	Graham Edds & Associates	1999	St Bartholomew's Anglican Church - Review of Conservation Plan	
Written	Heritage Group, State Projects	1994	St Bartholomew's Anglican Cemetery, Prospect	

## Data Source

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The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Blacktown City Council	1140062

Every effort has been made to ensure that information contained in the State Heritage Inventory is correct. If you find any errors or omissions please send your comments to [council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@blacktown.nsw.gov.au)

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