

Item Details

Name

St Mary Magdalene Church, Hall, Cemetery and grounds

SHR/LEP/S170

LEP #301

Address

299-311 Great Western Highway ST MARYS NSW 2760

Local Govt Area

Penrith

Local Aboriginal Land Council

Unknown

**Item Type**

Built

Group/Collection

Religion

Category

Church

All Addresses

Addresses

Records Retrieved: 1

Street No	Street Name	Suburb/Town/Postcode	Local Govt. Area	LALC	Parish	County	Electorate	Address Type
299-311	Great Western Highway	ST MARYS/NSW/2760	Penrith	Unknown			Unknown	Primary Address

Boundary Description

Great Western Highway, Magdalene Street, King Street.

Significance

Statement Of Significance

The church of St Mary Magdalene, erected between 1837 and 1840, provides unique insight into the Colonial era development of the region with its historic associations with the King family. The adjoining historic cemetery is the resting place of many pioneers of the district. The church is a fine example of the architecture of Francis Clarke and the whole site continues to function as a focal Christian place of worship for the local community and surrounding districts.

Criteria a)**Historical Significance**

The church is intrinsically associated with the European development of the region and demonstrates the initial development of the large rural estates and late village and farming settlements on South Creek and its tributaries.

Criteria b)**Historical Association Significance**

Heritage significance exists in the associations of local prominent citizens including the King and Lethbridge families. Governor King's headstone was retrieved from Britain in 1988 and re-laid in St Mary's Cemetery.

Criteria c)**Aesthetic/Technical Significance**

Albeit rendered, the church is a textbook example of a Gothick Revival church of the 1830s attractively set on a prominent position above and adjacent to the township of St Mary's, overlooking the historic Nepean valley and Blue Mountains. The grounds are embellished by stands of exotic and native shade trees, a typical rural village cemetery and an early twentieth century church hall.

Criteria d)

Social/Cultural Significance

The church has been a focal point of Christian teaching during the growing, infant years of our nation. The township of St Mary's adopted its name from the church.

Criteria e)

Research Potential

The St Mary's Cemetery contains the graves of many of the prominent citizens of the district who helped develop the community. The church is of architectural significance being one of Francis Clarke's examples of our early settlement churches.

Criteria f)

Rarity

Although one of several churches designed by Francis Clarke, its positional aspect overlooking the town bearing its name is unique. The cemetery contains many graves of notable people who contributed to the national history of community culture.

Integrity/Intactness

The structure is a fine example of Clarke's design. Stained glass windows, commemorative plaques and head stones within the adjoining cemetery attest to pioneers of our nation. The building structure is original without extensions or changes having been made to it. Although external brick walls have been cement rendered and the roof replaced. The original theme exists with exposed sandstone lintels and sills.

Owners

Records Retrieved: 0

Organisation	Stakeholder Category	Date Ownership Updated
No Results Found		

Description

Designer	Builder/Maker
Clarke, Francis.	Atkinson, James

Physical Description **Updated**

The church is located on the rise of the hill to the east of the traditional village centre of St Marys. The church comprises a nave, tower/porch and vestry. The tower is orientated on an east/west axis and the tower of the church faces west overlooking the shallow valley of South Creek and the distant Blue Mountains. The church is constructed of locally sourced bricks, now rendered, with sandstone string course, and sills. The gabled roofs are covered in asbestos-cement tiles. The architectural style of the church is Gothick Revival, the windows having half round heads and the tower incorporated four corner pinnacles and pedimented parapets. The memorial steps to the entry were erected in the 1930s. The extensive church grounds have been selectively cleared and there are remnant stands of native trees as well as exotic plantings. To the east of the church is the enclosed cemetery, and there is an isolated group of burials to the north. The funerary monuments are laid in a formal layout. The cemetery is fenced in a modern mild-steel high railing. There is a c.1960s columbarium sited to the south of the church. Other built elements are the breezeblock church hall (c.1960s), breezeblock lavatory (1960s), a rectory (c.1980s) and an early twentieth century brick former church hall. The hall is located to the south of the church and has frontage to the highway. The hall has a gabled roof, buttressed walls, and timber framed lancet windows.

Physical Condition **Updated 10/20/2004**

The structure is in reasonable sound condition, evidence of ground settlement in wall cracks and movement has been observed for 50 years. (Brettoner 1998)

Modifications And Dates

Walls believed to have been cement rendering in the 1930s. Original roof replaced in same period. Stained glass windows installed to commemorate local, historic citizens. Walls treated with resinous damp course during 1988.

Further Comments

Listing does not include 1960s hall.

Current Use

Church

Former Use

Church

Listings

Listings

Records Retrieved: 3					
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Penrith Local Environmental Plan 2010	301	9/22/2010 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage study	St Mary Magdalene Church of England & Cemetery	SM-13	4/1/1987 12:00:00 AM		
Heritage study		2260301	11/1/2007 12:00:00 AM		

Procedures/Exemptions

Records Retrieved: 0

Section of Act	Description	Title	Comments	Action Date	Outcome
No Results Found					

History

Historical Notes or Provenance

Updated

St Mary Magdalene Anglican Church is known as the 'Church on the Hill'. This reference comes from early settlers when the church was first built in 1840. It was the first church built in the area formerly known as South Creek and the town of St Marys was subsequently named after the church. The family of Governor King, third Governor of NSW 1800-1806, donated the land on which the church was built. It was Anna Josepha's, the wife of Governor King, desire to see a church built at South Creek bearing the name of the one in Launceston Cornwall where she was married. In 1837, her son Philip Parker King acquired two acres of land from John Oxley on the Great Western Highway and donated it to the church. 400 pounds was raised by public subscription for the building of the church. John Payne, the local brickmaker, made the bricks of 'Dunheved clay' and Thomas Shadlow carted the bricks to the site. The Church was designed by Francis Clarke, one of our pioneer architects. Governor King returned to England and died in 1809. Anna Josepha accompanied her son Philip back to the colony in 1832 to live at Dunheved. Anna Josepha died on the 16th July 1844 and was laid to rest in the King Family Vault and this is the earliest marked grave. A tiny infant Thomas Reveley, being the first recorded burial on the 12th October 1840 in an unmarked grave, having died two days earlier, aged 9 weeks. During the 1930s significant repairs were carried out, including external cement rendering of brick work and replacement of roof. In 1987-88 further repairs/restoration work was done, including the installation of dampcourse (resin) and internal repairs and painting. In 1988 the Bicentennial year of Australia, the descendents of the King family arranged for his tombstone to be brought to Australian and it is to be found in the cemetery next to his wife.

Historic Themes

Records Retrieved: 2

National Theme	State Theme	Local Theme
8. Culture	Religion	Unknown
4. Settlement	Towns, suburbs and villages	Unknown

Recommended Management

Management Summary

Management

Records Retrieved: 0

Management Category	Management Name	Date Updated
No Results Found		

Report/Study

Heritage Studies

Records Retrieved: 4

Report/Study Name	Report/Study Code	Report/Study Type	Report/Study Year	Organisation	Author
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Pail Davies Pty Ltd
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty Ltd
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty. Ltd.
Penrith Heritage Study Review			2005		Paul Davies Pty. Ltd.

Reference & Internet Links

References

Records Retrieved: 4

Type	Author	Year	Title	Link
Written	Robin M Brettner	1998	NSW State Heritage Inventory Form	
Written	Robin M Brettner	1998	NSW State Heritage Inventory Form	
Written	Stapleton, L & E.	1981	Anna Josepha King - Governor King's Wife	
Written	Stapleton, L & E.	1981	Anna Josepha King - Governor King's Wife	

Data Source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

Data Source	Record Owner	Heritage Item ID
Local Government	Penrith City Council	2260301

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