

<b>Street Address</b>	33 Thorne Road, Birkdale
<b>GPS/RPD</b>	Lot 1 on B4271
<b>Place Type</b>	Built



Red-e-map (RCC 2016).



St George's Anglican Church, Birkdale (AHS, 2016).

<b>Condition</b>	Very Good	<b>Integrity</b>	Very Good
<b>Statutory Listings</b>	Local Heritage Place		
<b>Non-Statutory Listings</b>	No current listing		
<b>Inspection Date</b>	02/12/2016		

## Historical Context

St George's Anglican Church was constructed in 1934. With a growing population and new arrivals, Birkdale flourished in the early twentieth century. The Anglican community had been campaigning for a church in the area from the late 1910s, and local parishioners worked towards raising the necessary funds. Prior to the Church's construction, the community utilised the Council's shed near the railway station for church services, despite a lack of approval and the presence of explosives housed there.[1] Church services were also held in the open under the shade of a tree, or at other times in the School of Arts Hall.

The communities of Birkdale and Thorneside worked together to fund not only an Anglican Church, but also a School of Arts Hall and a Methodist Church.[2] Mrs Randall donated land to the Synod, and a church was designed by noted Brisbane architect, Lange Powell. The first section of the Church was built in 1934, and was dedicated in March 1935 by Archbishop John William Wand, while the building was completed in 1969, with the final dedication held on the 19 October that year.[3]

Two prominent fundraising families were the Willards and the Randalls. While the altar cross came from the Willards, the marble altar was constructed as a memorial to Mrs George Randall using funds bequeathed by George Randall Snr, who died only four years prior to its construction.[4]

## Physical Description

St George's Anglican Church is a modest brick church in an accomplished English domestic style, set in a suburban area on a prominent corner location. Whilst built in two stages, it represents the distinctive form and detailing laid out by notable architect Lange Powell. The exterior walls are rendered and painted with a brick base and expressed buttresses. The steeply pitched roof is clad with terracotta tiles. The roof hips to form an entry and side entry. A decorative rose window is located in the west gable.

The site is landscaped with lawn and low shrubs as well as eucalypt trees planted more recently. The site includes several later buildings associated with the church function, including a church hall.

## Statement of Significance

St George's Anglican Church is a locally significant building which displays architectural, aesthetic and community values. Constructed between 1934 and 1969, it is a good example of an English domestic revival style church, and continues to be used as a place of religious ceremony. It has direct associations with important pioneering families, including the Willards and Randalls.

**Criteria A** The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.

St George's Anglican Church is important in demonstrating the population changes of Birkdale and the growing demand for places of worship over the early 20th century. Although Methodist and Catholic churches were already established in this area, the construction of the Anglican Church highlights the patterns of development in Birkdale during this period.

<b>Criteria D</b>	The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places important to the region.
The construction of the Anglican church demonstrates the desire in the community of Birkdale to conform to Anglican values as part of a wider Christianisation of the area. The influx of European settlers to this area contributed to the rising interest in the establishment of another Christian church, and the insistence of residents to participate in Anglican ceremonies reflects a class and cultural distinction in Birkdale.	
<b>Criteria E</b>	The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance.
St George's Anglican Church is an accomplished English domestic style revival church. It has aesthetic qualities as a result of the prominent corner location and the distinctive form and architectural detailing.	
<b>Criteria G</b>	The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons important to the region.
St George's Anglican Church has a strong association with the local Anglican community as a place of religious ceremony demonstrated by the continued use as a place of worship.	

Primary Themes	
8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions	8.01 Worshipping and religious institutions

References
<p>[1] Mary Howells, "Living on the Edge: Along Tingalpa Creek. A History of Upper Tingalpa, Capalaba and Thorneside," M. Phil. Thesis. The University of Queensland, 2001, p. 74.</p> <p>[2] Ibid., p. 56.</p> <p>[3] Ibid., p. 74.</p> <p>[4] <i>The Courier Mail</i>, 31 October, 1934, p. 4.</p>



*St George's Church, Birkdale (c. 1930s).*