

Other Names	N/A	
Street Address	8 Main Street	Proserpine
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	4RP706122	(E: 664878 N: 7743292)

Historical Context

St Paul's Anglican Memorial Church, Proserpine, the second church constructed on the site, was designed by the North Queensland architectural firm of E. H. Oribin and S. G. Barnes and constructed by Les Tinsley and Co. The church was dedicated on 4 July 1959.

Anglican services in the Proserpine district had been established at least by 13 June 1896 when a church service was conducted by a visiting priest from Bowen. Subsequent church services were held occasionally when priests visited the district. In 1899 the Anglican community wanted to establish a place of worship in town, prompting Bishop Christopher George Barlow, the second Bishop of North Queensland, to visit Proserpine. In June 1905 the Corporation of the Diocesan Synod of North Queensland acquired the property on Main Street. The first church was dedicated on 24 July 1906. In 1958 a campaign to raise funds for the building of a new and modern church was put into action. This campaign was successful and, on 9 July 1958, Governor of Queensland Sir Henry Abel Smith laid the foundation stone. With the construction of a new church the original one was moved to the rear of the property.

The church was designed by Cairns-based architect E. H. (Eddie) Edwin Oribin in 1958 when Oribin was still in partnership with S. G. Barnes. Edwin Henry [Eddie] Oribin was born in Cairns in February 1927. Whilst the Oribin family was holidaying in Brisbane in January 1942 Cairns was closed to all civilians due to the grave war situation. The family did not return to Cairns until April 1944.

Four months after his return Oribin commenced architectural training with Sid G Barnes, at that time the Chief Architect of the Allied Works Council for North Queensland. Barnes trained Oribin with a solid grounding in structural design and construction. Oribin returned to Cairns with his wife and children in March 1953 to begin a partnership with Barnes. Oribin undertook a wide range of work in North Queensland. Oribin's first house was designed in August 1957 and built in 1958, and was followed by the construction of his own studio in 1960. Increasing awareness of Oribin's work led to commissions for several churches, including the Gordonvale Church of England [1955]; Mareeba Methodist Church [1960]; Innisfail Presbyterian Church [1960] and the Proserpine Anglican Church [1959].

St Paul's Anglican Church was the first parabolic arched church in Queensland. The plan is arranged with the longitudinal axis of the building oriented north-south, positioning the sanctuary to the south and the nave to the north. The main parabolic frames are laminated timber, constructed on site, with the exception of the front frame made of pre-cast concrete. The first two laminated arches were constructed early and were used as the basis for the formwork of the front concrete arch. Oribin extensively detailed all internal fixtures of the church including candle holders and sanctuary doors. The sanctuary doors depicted styled interpretations of Saints Peter and Paul and were designed and routed by Oribin. The sanctuary doors have since been removed.

The church is distinctive in design with Oribin responding directly to the individual needs of his client while still allowing experimentation with constructional and design ideas. The church utilises a rectilinear structural grid based on modular materials and standard sizes constructed primarily of glue laminated parabolic arches. Oribin maintained natural finishes where possible. The church provides particularly fine examples of Oribin's versatility - crafting motifs of Saints Peter and Paul and personally producing seven acid etched copper panels each depicting a station of the cross. Other copper work for the sanctuary lights, candle holders and spun copper font were designed by Oribin and produced in Sydney. The attention to detail, both internally and externally, makes the church particularly significant as the furniture has been designed to be complementary to the style of the church.

The church was re-roofed in 1968 when new corrugated aluminum roof was installed. In January 1970 cyclone Ada damaged carpets and cork tiles, however, there was no structural damage to the building. People requiring shelter following the cyclone were housed in the church, as well as the parish hall and rectory. The rectory was sold for removal in early 2004.

St Paul's Church was consecrated in 1977 when it became debt free, as a Memorial Church. It remains as the main church for the Parish of Proserpine with two weekly services, on Wednesday and Sunday mornings.

Physical Description

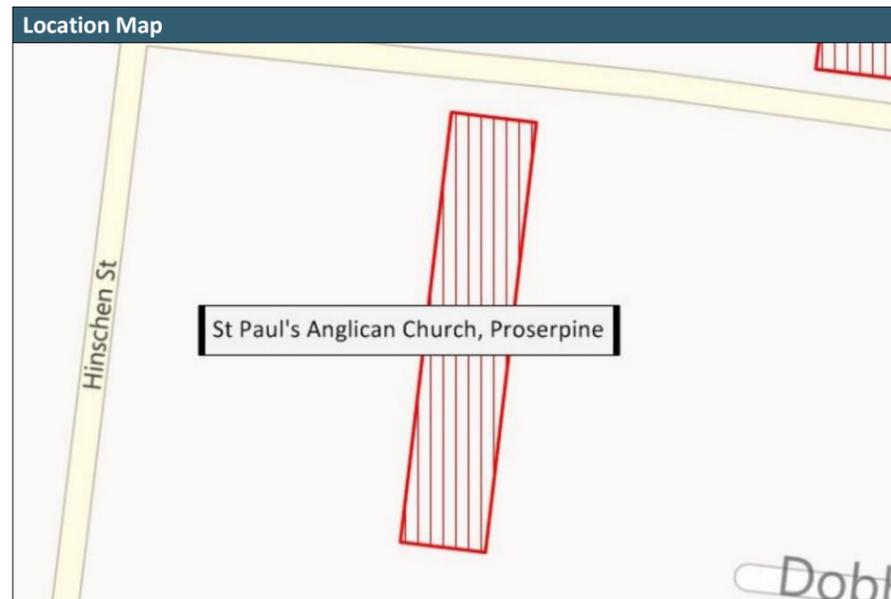
St Paul's Anglican Memorial Church is a single storey brick and timber building located on Main Street, Proserpine. A brick bell tower is constructed on the western side of the church.

The main architectural feature of the church is the laminated timber beams, made on site, which have been constructed as an exposed structural frame forming a high parabolic arch. The façade of the frame, facing Main Street, is in filled with a glass wall in a grid pattern formed around a timber cross. The front frame is painted pre-cast concrete. The roof is clad with corrugated iron in the same curved form.

The main entrance to the church is via a covered timber framed entrance porch with double leaf glazed doors and timber framed glass panels. On its western and eastern sides the building has lowered external roofs which extend along the sides of the nave and sanctuary. These also project inside, lowering the scale of the nave along these edges, whilst also providing transverse stiffening of the main parabolic arches. The walls have paired hopper windows within brick pillars.

The plan of the church is arranged with the longitudinal axis of the building orientated north-south, with the sanctuary to the south and the nave to the north. The sanctuary wall at the rear of the church is constructed of bricks laid in a stacked bond configuration. The wall behind the altar bears a tall stained-glass cross, illuminated in daylight by a window behind it

Heritage Significance	
Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
Statement	St Paul's Anglican Memorial Church (1959) is significant for its association with the consolidation of the Anglican Church in Australia in North Queensland. It is evidence of the strong contribution of the Anglican Church in the Diocese of North Queensland, and a product of a process of church building which began in Proserpine in 1896. It is evidence of the growth of the district following the opening of the Proserpine Mill in 1897 and an example of the development of the sugar economy in North Queensland.
D	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places important to the region.</i>
Statement	St Paul's Anglican Memorial Church is significant as an example of the work of Cairn's architect E. H. Oribin. Oribin made an important contribution to North Queensland's built environment. He undertook a wide range of work in North Queensland and is particularly known for the fine group of churches that he designed in Innisfail and Mareeba, and the Mareeba Shire Hall. St Paul's Anglican Memorial Church dates from the period between 1955 and 1960, a significant time for Oribin. It is also an early example of the use of parabolic arches made from laminated timber beams.
E	<i>The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance</i>
Statement	St Paul's Anglican Memorial Church is significant for its landmark and expressive attributes particularly its landmark arches and modern design. Oribin's design expresses a sense of modernity and forms a significant element of the Main Street of Proserpine. The integrity of the design is enhanced as Oribin designed and detailed complementary interior fittings and furniture, such as the stations of the cross, which he etched on copper panels.
F	<i>The place is important in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period for the region.</i>
Statement	St Paul's Anglican Memorial Church is particularly significant for its architectural and technical excellence. With its intact exterior especially the building's signature parabolic arched frame the church is important. As the first example of a parabolic arched church building in the district, North Queensland, and possibly in Australia, St Paul's Anglican Memorial Church is particularly important.



and at night by internal lighting. The exposed timber arches and ceiling lining are illuminated by indirect natural light, across the apex of the building by a suspended ceiling cove. The ceiling cove conceals most of the natural light source in addition to housing recessed artificial lighting and ventilation.

The church has original furniture including timber pews and pulpits as well as the original copper candle holders and font designed and made by Oribin. A bronze war memorial plaque is located in the south-west corner of the church. Next to the memorial plaque near the main feature window is the original copper font.

The earlier timber church has been re-located to the rear of the site and is currently used for storage. This single storey timber building has an arched entrance double leaf entrance door with decorative wrought iron hinges. The gable roof is clad with iron. The western wall of the building has been clad with Trim-deck.

Integrity	Good	Condition	Good
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	Register of the National Estate (archived)		
Inspection Date	15/02/2011		

References	
DERM. State Wide Survey Draft Research Report, 2007.	
David Scobie Architects, 2005. Proserpine Main Street Study & Datasheets.	
Delys Jeppesen, 2006. St Paul's Anglican Church, Proserpine: Celebrating 100 Years.	
Register of the National Estate (archived).	