

# Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon) Notice 2014

Notifiable Instrument NI2014–162

made under the

**Heritage Act 2004, s34 Notice of decision about provisional registration**

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## **1 Name of instrument**

This instrument is the *Heritage (Decision about Provisional Registration of Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon) Notice 2014*.

## **2 Registration details of the place**

On 15 April 2014 the ACT Heritage Council decided to provisionally register Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon to the ACT Heritage Register. Registration details of the place are at [Attachment A](#): Provisional Register entry for Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon.

## **3 Reason for decision**

The ACT Heritage Council decided that Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon meets one or more of the heritage significance criteria at s 10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*. The provisional register entry is at [Attachment A](#).

## **4 Date of provisional registration**

15 April 2014

## **5 Indication of Council's intention**

The Council intends to decide whether to register the place under Division 6.2 within 5 months of provisional registration.

## **6 Public consultation period**

The Council invites public comment by Wednesday 21 May 2014 on the provisional registration of Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon to:

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Anna Gurnhill  
A/g Secretary (as delegate for)  
ACT Heritage Council  
15 April 2014



ACT Heritage Council

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HERITAGE REGISTER  
(Provisional Registration)

For the purposes of s. 33 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a provisional entry to the heritage register has been prepared by the ACT Heritage Council for the following place:

**Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall)**

(part) Block 30, Section 23, Braddon.

**DATE OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION**

15 April 2014 Notifiable Instrument: 2014-

**PERIOD OF EFFECT OF PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION**

Start Date: 15 April 2014 End Date: 15 September 2014

**Extended Period (if applicable) Start Date \_\_\_\_\_ End Date \_\_\_\_\_**

Copies of the Register Entry are available for inspection at the ACT Heritage Unit. For further information please contact:

The Secretary  
ACT Heritage Council  
GPO Box 158, Canberra, ACT 2601

Telephone: 13 22 81

## IDENTIFICATION OF THE PLACE

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), corner of Fawcner and Farrer Streets, (part) Block 30 Section 23, Braddon.

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This statement refers to the Heritage Significance of the place as required in s12(d) of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

## STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Shakespeare Hall (the Hall, formerly the Presbyterian Hall in Ainslie; The Presbyterian Hall in Braddon; St Columbas Presbyterian Church Hall; and St Columba's Uniting Church Hall), built in 1927, is important as the first ecclesiastical building constructed for the Federal Capital, which occurred amid a broader pattern of development of church facilities in the early capital. The multipurpose design and positioning of the Hall are evidence of the Presbyterian Church planning for the future development of the ACT. The building stands as a testament to the foresight and faith of the Presbyterian Church in the development of the ACT. [*Criterion (h)*]

The Hall has a special association with Heather and Arthur Shakespeare, a notable family in the history of the ACT as the founders of *The Canberra Times* newspaper and associations with numerous charitable causes and business and media interests, as a result of their long association with St Columba's Church and Shakespeare Hall and their interest in retaining it for future generations. The Hall was renamed Shakespeare Hall in their honour. [*Criterion (h)*]

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## FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE

The attributes listed below are assessed as features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place:

- The original 1927 hall, named Shakespeare Hall (formerly the Presbyterian Hall in Ainslie; The Presbyterian Hall in Braddon; St Columbas Presbyterian Church Hall; and St Columba's Uniting Church Hall. Currently part of St Columba's Uniting Church)
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## CONSERVATION OBJECTIVE

The guiding conservation objective is that Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall) shall be conserved and appropriately managed in a manner respecting its heritage significance and the features intrinsic to that heritage significance.

The ACT Heritage Council may adopt heritage guidelines applicable to the place under s25 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

For further information on guidelines applicable to the place, or for advice on proposed works or development, please contact the ACT Heritage Unit on 13 22 81.

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## REASON FOR PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, has been assessed against the heritage significance criteria by the ACT Heritage Council which found that it may have heritage significance when assessed against criterion (h) under the *Heritage Act 2004*.

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## ASSESSMENT AGAINST THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

Pursuant to s.10 of the *Heritage Act 2004*, a place or object has heritage significance if it satisfies one or more of the following criteria. Significance has been determined by research as accessed in the references below. Future research may alter the findings of this assessment.

**(a) it demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement (or both), by showing qualities of innovation, discovery, invention or an exceptionally fine level of application of existing techniques or approaches;**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, does not meet this criterion.

The Hall is a brick building constructed between 1926 and 1927. However, there is no evidence that it demonstrates a high degree of technical or creative achievement because this style of construction has been used in Australia since the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the Hall does not appear to use any methods that were not standard practice at the time.

**(b) it exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group;**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, does not meet this criterion.

Whilst the Hall is an example of Inter-War Gothic style architecture there is insufficient evidence to suggest that the design or aesthetic qualities are highly valued by the community or a cultural group.

**(c) it is important as evidence of a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function that is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost or is of exceptional interest;**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, does not meet this criterion.

The Hall is evidence of the Presbyterian faith being practiced in the ACT and was the first ecclesiastical structure to be completed in the Federal Capital. However, there is insufficient evidence to find that it is important as evidence of a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function that is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest.

**(d) it is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, does not meet this criterion.

The Council acknowledges that the Hall has been used by numerous groups in the ACT throughout its history. In the formative years of the capital's development it was used for community events such as dances, fetes and in association with tennis competitions. Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was used by a Tongan church group, a Spanish speaking church group and a social sewing club. As at September 2013, the Hall was being used by the St Vincent De Paul Society to help run its Street to Home project. However, there is no evidence that the associations these groups have with the Hall are enduring or demonstrate a strong or special connection with the place.

The religious and social values placed upon the Hall by current parishioners are demonstrative of the social value that may be attributed to any church building. When quotes for restoration proved too costly the Church initially decided to demolish the Hall, but it was through the benefaction of the Shakespeare family that the decision was

reversed. However, there is insufficient evidence to suggest that it is highly valued by the broader ACT community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations.

**(e) it is significant to the ACT because of its importance as part of local Aboriginal tradition**

This criterion does not apply to Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon.

**(f) it is a rare or unique example of its kind, or is rare or unique in its comparative intactness**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, does not meet this criterion.

Whilst the Hall shows excellent intactness, the Council does not consider it rare or unique when compared against other examples of Inter-War Gothic style buildings built during the early development of the ACT, such as St Andrew's Church in Forrest, Canberra Baptist Church in Kingston, and the Uniting Church in Reid. Of the six extant ecclesiastical buildings built after the creation of the Federal Capital and prior to WWII, four (Shakespeare Hall, the Methodist Church in Reid, St Andrew's Church in Forrest, and the Baptist Church in Kingston) are in the Inter-War Gothic style; the remaining two (the Salvation Army Hall in Braddon and St Christopher's Cathedral in Manuka) being built in other styles. Additionally, the Inter-War Gothic style is a common design for ecclesiastical buildings throughout Australia at the time.

**(g) it is a notable example of a kind of place or object and demonstrates the main characteristics of that kind**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, does not meet this criterion.

While the Hall is built in the Inter-War Gothic style common at the time for ecclesiastical buildings, it is a subdued example and not considered to be notable when compared against other examples of the style, such as St Andrew's Church in Forrest.

**(h) it has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase in local or national history**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, meets this criterion.

The Hall has a strong association with the early development of the ACT, the planning of which determined its location and encouraged it to adopt a multi-purpose ecclesiastical site design. It also has a strong association with Heather and Arthur Shakespeare, who are important figures in local history.

The Hall was the first ecclesiastical building constructed for the Federal Capital amid a broader pattern of development of church facilities in the early capital (now the Australian Capital Territory). While the majority of denominations were utilising the *Church Lands Leases Ordinance 1924* (CLLO) alone, the Presbyterian Church took the unusual step of procuring an extra block of land using the *Leases (Special Purposes) Ordinance 1925-43*. This was used to quickly erect the Hall to meet the immediate spiritual needs and community building functions related to the influx of public servants into the capital, and to allow for the development of the city on both sides of the Molonglo River (Image 10).

It was unusual for the Presbyterian Church to purchase a new lease when they were already being provided one on terms that were not available to any other non-

government organisation. The Presbyterian, Anglican and Methodist churches used their CLLO sites to erect large ecclesiastical buildings, but in order to meet the immediate needs of their congregations they separately bought leases under the *Leases (Special Purposes) Ordinance 1925-43* to build less expensive and quicker to erect churches that would serve their immediate needs, allow for the future expansion of the ACT, as well as to provide representation on both sides of the Molonglo River. Although the Methodist and Anglican churches also purchased additional blocks, their CLLO sites were not built until a later period of development in the ACT after the Second World War. Only the Presbyterian Church went ahead with its plans to build at both sites during the early development of the ACT. This investment ensured that the Presbyterians were the first church in the new suburbs of the ACT whilst still allowing them to build a national building in the form of St Andrew's Church. Although the Hall has become a part of the Uniting Church of Australia, it has maintained a continual connection with its predecessors as it has changed its name, but the congregation remained the same. The connection of the place with the Presbyterian faith in the region is also evidenced by a foundation stone of Shakespeare Hall being transferred from the threshold stone of one of the ACT's oldest churches, St Ninian's. The building stands as a testament to the foresight and faith of the Presbyterian Church in the development of the ACT.

The Hall was renamed Shakespeare Hall in honour of Heather and Arthur Shakespeare, a notable family in ACT history as the original owners of *The Canberra Times* newspaper, CTC-TV (today Southern Cross Ten) and associations with charitable causes. Heather and Arthur Shakespeare had a long association with St Columba's Church including the 1968 donation of 8,000 shares in Australian Capital Property Holdings, with which to maintain the church, Arthur's funeral service in 1975, as well as a benefaction which saved the Hall from being demolished in 1991 by paying for restoration work to the foundations which had been undermined by drainage problems on site. The Shakespeares' patronage and ongoing concern over maintaining the site is evidence of the strong association they have had with preserving the place for future generations.

**(i) it is significant for understanding the evolution of natural landscapes, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, does not meet this criterion.

The Hall is a landscaped and built environment and, as such, this criterion is not applicable.

**(j) it has provided, or is likely to provide, information that will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of the natural or cultural history of the ACT because of its use or potential use as a research site or object, teaching site or object, type locality or benchmark site**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, does not meet this criterion.

The Council considers that the ability of the Hall to provide information that will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of the cultural history of the ACT has not been clearly demonstrated at this time and, as such, this criterion is not met.

**(k) for a place—it exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, does not meet this criterion.

There is no evidence of any flora or fauna that this criterion refers to and, as such, this criterion is not applicable.

**(l) for a place—it is a significant ecological community, habitat or locality for any of the following:**

- (i) the life cycle of native species;**
- (ii) rare, threatened or uncommon species;**
- (iii) species at the limits of their natural range;**
- (iv) distinct occurrences of species.**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall), Braddon, does not meet this criterion.

There is no evidence of any species that this criterion refers to and, as such, this criterion is not applicable.

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## **SUMMARY OF THE PLACE HISTORY AND PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

### **HISTORY**

The first Presbyterian service on the Limestone Plains, later to become the ACT, was conducted in June 1838 by Reverend William Hamilton of Goulburn. A number of Scottish families had settled on the Limestone Plains, having been encouraged to come there under the bounty system established by the Campbell family, who were amongst the first settlers in the area. Subsequent services were held in the Duntroon Woolshed on the Campbell estate, with Ministers from Yass, Gundaroo and Queanbeyan officiating (*White 1951*). In 1865 the Kinlyside family built a church of bark which was later replaced by a stone building opened in 1871, now known as St Ninian's in Lyneham. When the National Capital was being formed and public servants were being transferred from Melbourne, Presbyterian services were held in the home of Mr H Rolland, Chief Architect of the Federal Capital Commission (FCC), then later at the Acton Hall, and then at the Friendly Societies' Hall (*White, 1951*).

During the early 1920s the Federal Capital Territory, later the ACT, was still in its infancy. Much of the infrastructure was still under construction and several town planning issues were starting to arise. One consideration was that the spiritual needs of the population had to be met, but that there was also an opportunity to encourage the different denominations to erect grand cathedrals that would be worthy of national representation in the new capital. However, it was realised that it would be difficult to convince the churches to provide the investment required to do this if they were only granted 99 year leases which had been introduced as a result of the *Seat of Government (Administration) Act 1910* which required that the Commonwealth retain ownership of the land. This led to a perceived risk that any investment could be lost without a guarantee of the lease being renewed. In answer to this the *Church Lands Leases Ordinance 1924* (CLLO) was introduced whereby each denomination would be granted a single lease at a peppercorn rental that was exempt from rates and taxes and was granted in perpetuity. Despite the CLLO being introduced in 1924, and other leases under the *City Area Leases Ordinance 1924* being issued in 1924, as well as pressure from the churches, the CLLO leases were not issued and the allotted land was not available for building until December 1925 due to difficulty in selecting appropriate sites.

The CLLO provided for the allocation of church sites in the Federal Capital to the major religious denominations. These blocks were meant for cathedral and associated ecclesiastical buildings, which were anticipated to be a great expense for the several denominations servicing the same small population. Despite the eagerness of the various denominations to take advantage of the CLLO and to have a presence in the national capital, the funds required to build a cathedral were prohibitive. This led to a pattern of modest sized churches erected on sites, designed for cathedrals, springing up in the early development of the ACT. There were three exceptions to this broader pattern: the Presbyterian, Anglican and Methodist churches. These denominations used their CLLO sites to erect large ecclesiastical buildings, but in order to meet the immediate needs of their congregations they



separately bought leases under the *Leases (Special Purposes) Ordinance 1925-43* to build less expensive and quicker to erect churches that would serve their immediate needs, allow for the future expansion of the ACT, as well as to provide representation on both sides of the Molonglo River. The Methodist and Anglican churches also purchased additional blocks, but their CLLO sites were not built until a later period of development in the ACT after the Second World War.

The Presbyterian Church's secondary site, under the *Leases (Special Purposes) Ordinance 1925-43*, on the northern side of the Molonglo River is where it built a church hall, today Shakespeare Hall, that would serve as a church until the cathedral site could be built. For the cathedral site, which would become St Andrew's Church, the Presbyterians petitioned the Minister for Home and Territories to be allowed the two blocks of land on either side of the triangular block they had chosen as it was smaller than the other sites (4 to 4.5 acres), but this would have given them around 12 acres in total, not the 4 they claimed, and in the end they were not given the extra blocks.

For ecclesiastical buildings related to the initial development of the Federal Capital, examinations of Federal Capital Commission (FCC) records held by the National Archives of Australia show that by the end of 1924 it had identified twelve churches with an interest in selecting sites under the CLLO. This had been reduced to nine by July 1925 when the Chief Lands Officer provided the FCC with an estimate of the value of the selected blocks. In a 1927 map produced by the FCC (Image 10) showing the allocations of blocks, there are eight Christian denominations represented with eleven blocks, the three extra blocks being purchased using the *Leases (Special Purposes) Ordinance 1925-43* by the Presbyterians, Church of England and the Methodists. Of these three extra blocks only the Presbyterian and Methodist blocks and buildings continue today, represented by Shakespeare Hall at St Columba's Uniting Church (established February 1927) and what is now the Canberra Korean Uniting Church (established October 1927) respectively.

The foundation stone for the Hall was laid by Reverend Professor R. G. McIntyre on 24 October 1926. *The Canberra Times* (28 October 1926, page 1) reports that the stone was cut from the threshold of the old church on Yass Road (St Ninian's). The suburb was still referred to as Ainslie at the time, until the suburbs/divisions of Ainslie and Braddon were gazetted in 1928. Initially, the Hall was referred to as the Presbyterian Hall in Ainslie, but this was changed to the Presbyterian Hall in Braddon after the suburb was gazetted in 1928.

The Presbyterian Hall, today Shakespeare Hall, was officially opened on 17 February 1927, marking it as the first permanent ecclesiastical building of the Federal Capital (*The Canberra Times*, 17 February 1927, p.1, 8). As the first such structure in the centre of urban development, the Hall was used by other Christian denominations in the spirit of friendship and cooperation of the new capital (*The Federal Capital Pioneer Magazine* 24 September 1927 p.27). During the early years of the ACT the Hall was host to several dances, fetes and social gatherings as one of the few community halls in the ACT – at the time it was a hub of social activity.

The building was designed by the architectural firm of Messrs Oakley and Parkes of Melbourne and Canberra, and constructed by Mr C Turton of Canberra. Oakley and Parkes were prolific during the development of the Federal Capital, winning a design competition for government cottages in Blandfordia (now Forrest) where 46 of their designs were constructed. They are also known for their design of the Manuka Theatre and The Lodge. Chief architect for the firm in the ACT at this time was Kenneth Oliphant, who was a notable architect during the development of the ACT. Turton was a member of the Master Builders Association of the Federal Capital Territory (MBAFCT) in early 1928 and was still a member when it was formally registered in August 1938. Turton, and the other 25 members and 10 building companies of the MBAFCT, were largely responsible for the work put out to contract by the FCC at the time. (Foskett, et al, 2001)

The Hall is an early example of modern ecclesiastical site planning. The Hall is a multifunction building that was used as the main auditorium for the Presbyterian Church in the late 1920s, as well as filling in for other church activities such as social gatherings. It was erected to one side of the block in a standard design of the time and in such a way as to allow for the future expansion or erection of other buildings on the block. This was done so that the church could minister to their congregation while collecting money for, and waiting for the construction of, their grand edifice of St

Andrew's Church on their main block in Forrest. In 1921, Tralle wrote that his ideas of integrated and sometimes multipurpose buildings were a relatively recent phenomenon. He stated that an 'evangelical church' should have no problem in using its main auditorium as a multipurpose area as long as it is promoting a religious life, including schooling and entertainment. However, all of the plans for church buildings he used to demonstrate his ideas had separate rooms for separate functions. Siebenlist (2008), an architect who specialises in ecclesiastical architecture in America, stated that in his lifetime the idea of a multi-purpose church building has moved from a new and exciting concept to standard practice. It has got to the point where almost all new church sites start with a "less architectural and less expensive" (p.62) multipurpose building, often referred to as a 'phase 1 building', followed by later expansion across a site with purpose-specific buildings. This process also fits in with most church agendas allowing them to minister quicker and frees up funds for other projects and buildings.

The role of the church as a centre for community activity was evident during World War II when the church grounds were carved up into a series of trenches to act as bomb shelters. A letter to the Session Clerk, from the church records stored at the National Library of Australia dated 29 May 1976, quipped, "Naturally the enemy found it impossible to penetrate these home ground defences of the Braddon Presbyterians".

In 1945 it was decided to divide the parish into two, either side of the Molonglo River, consisting of St Andrew's parish to the south and Braddon, today St Columba's, parish to the north. In 1950 the Braddon parish was renamed to St Columba's and the old church on Yass Road was rededicated St Ninian's Church and became part of the parish. From this point on, the Hall was referred to as St Columba's Presbyterian Hall, St Columba's Presbyterian Church, or simply St Columba's. (Fullerton 1988)

A utility hall, today Lewis Hall, was constructed from April 1957 and was officially opened in May 1958. It is connected to Shakespeare Hall via a small corridor where there was an existing door in the southwest corner. A new church building soon followed and was opened in 1961, resulting in the function of the Hall changing from a church and hall to just a hall.

In 1977 St Columba's Presbyterian Church became part of the Uniting Church in Australia. As a result the official ownership of the Hall (and the rest of St Columba's) was transferred to the Uniting Church NSW/ACT Synod. From this point the Hall was named St Columba's Uniting Church Hall.

During the 1950s the Hall was the focus for a Scout troop and various social clubs, with tennis played on the adjoining (no longer extant) courts. During the 1980s the Hall was used by a Tongan group and by a Spanish speaking church, the Voice of Hope Church, in the 1990s. It was also during the 1990s that the Hall was used by a social sewing group and by the church for their annual Floral Festival and Banner Display. (Ponsford, 1994)

By 1991 the Hall "had been condemned as unfit for use" (Ponsford, 1994, p.7) due to drainage problems that had undermined the foundations. Ponsford goes on to note that the Church had decided to demolish the Hall due to the prohibitive costs of restoration, but that Heather Shakespeare had then provided the funds needed and the decision was reversed. The Presbyterian Hall was renamed in 1991 to Shakespeare Hall in honour of the family's benefactions and ongoing support for St Columba's Uniting Church. It was also at this time that Lewis Hall was upgraded with kitchen and meeting facilities. The cost of renovations and updates to both buildings came to a combined total of \$175,000.

The Shakespeare family were the original owners of *The Canberra Times* newspaper and have been benefactors of several charitable causes. Arthur Shakespeare was the first editor of *The Canberra Times* and then manager. Other notable business associations he had include co-founding CTC-TV, now Southern Cross Ten, involvement in and founding organisations that supported provincial news, and he was on the Wartime Commonwealth Newsprint Pool Committee. His involvement in community organisations included positions in the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, YMCA, the Canberra Theatre Trust, the NCDC, the Canberra Citizens Rights League, the ACT Repatriation Committee, the ACT Advisory Council (a precursor to the ACT Legislative

Assembly) and many more. Heather Shakespeare received the Order of Australia medal in 1997 and has been involved with the boards of the YWCA, Business and Professional Women's Club, Country Women's Association, and was a charter member and later president of the Soroptomists International of Canberra. She was the patron of the Arthur Shakespeare Foundation for Scouting, which she founded in his honour as a part of their ongoing patronage of the Scouts. They were both heavily interested in, and foundation members of, the Canberra Historical Society. In a 1968 letter to the ACT Presbytery, Arthur donated 8,000 shares of Australian Capital Property Holdings Ltd (with a 1968 return of \$500 per annum) conditional that the whole "income shall be devoted to maintaining St Columba's Church." His funeral service was conducted at St Columba's Church in 1975.

Heather and Arthur Shakespeare Park in Civic was named in May 2013, and Arthur has had a plaque dedicated to him in the ACT Honour Walk, for their various contributions to the ACT.

## **DESCRIPTION**

Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall) is an Inter War Gothic style building of modest proportions. The design is simple and uncluttered. Architectural features are balanced and symmetrical with regular fenestration. The building plan is a rectangular form in a single storey. There is one large, open internal space with a vestibule at the main/west entrance near Fawcner Street and three storage rooms at the rear/east, with a toilet block attached to the outside of the building on the eastern end. There are two doors on the east wall on either side of the toilet block. There is a side door on the north wall into the main room and another door on the southeast end connected to the storage rooms. The southeast door originally opened to the outside, but has been attached to the newer utility hall so that it now opens into a kitchen area. The main entrance is on the western facade and has a solid wood double door set in a moulded concrete architrave that has been painted white.

The Hall is constructed of red face brick as a structural element laid in a stretcherbond pattern. The decorative architraves around the door jambs and windows on the west facade as well as the string course and coping are cast concrete painted white. The west facade incorporates the main entrance vestibule which is formed by a castellated frontispiece with a small breakfront formed in red face brick. There is a secondary entrance on the southern side of the frontispiece. The entrance is flanked by two tall, thin blind windows. It has a steep-pitched tile roof with parapeted gable ends.

### Physical condition and integrity

There has been very little change in the design or material of the Hall. Photographs taken by Mildenhall in 1927 (Image 5) show that the only major modifications to the building has been to attach a utility hall, built in 1957, externally mounted air-conditioning units and the development of a carpark on the northern side of the Hall. There is some asbestos present in the building that requires monitoring.

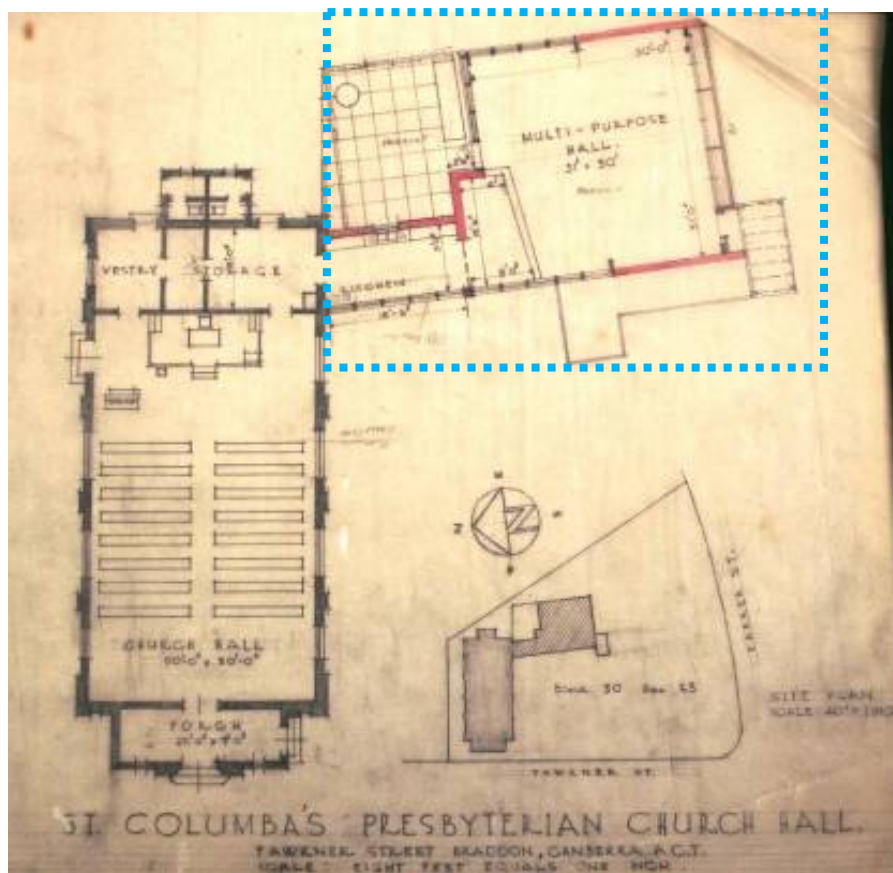
A site visit by the ACT Heritage Unit on 1 July 2013 showed that the building appears to have previously had repairs performed and it was also noted that some new cracks have appeared. The materials of the Hall and heritage values inherent in them are intact and in relatively good condition.



## IMAGES



**Image 3.** Aerial photograph of Braddon c.1950, with Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall) circled. The tennis court can be seen to the right of the Hall. ([http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Braddon\\_1950.png](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Braddon_1950.png))



**Image 4.** Plans c.1961 showing the addition of a multi-purpose hall, today Lewis Hall (outlined by a blue dashed line), to Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall). Further additions to the utility hall were added after this date. Lewis Hall does not form a part of the Register entry for Shakespeare Hall. [National Library of Australia manuscripts collection: St. Columba's Uniting Church (Braddon, A.C.T.) (1943). Records, 1943-1983.]





**Image 5.** W J Mildenhall photo  
National Archives of Australia, A3560, 3391.



**Image 6.** Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall) west facade/front. (ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)



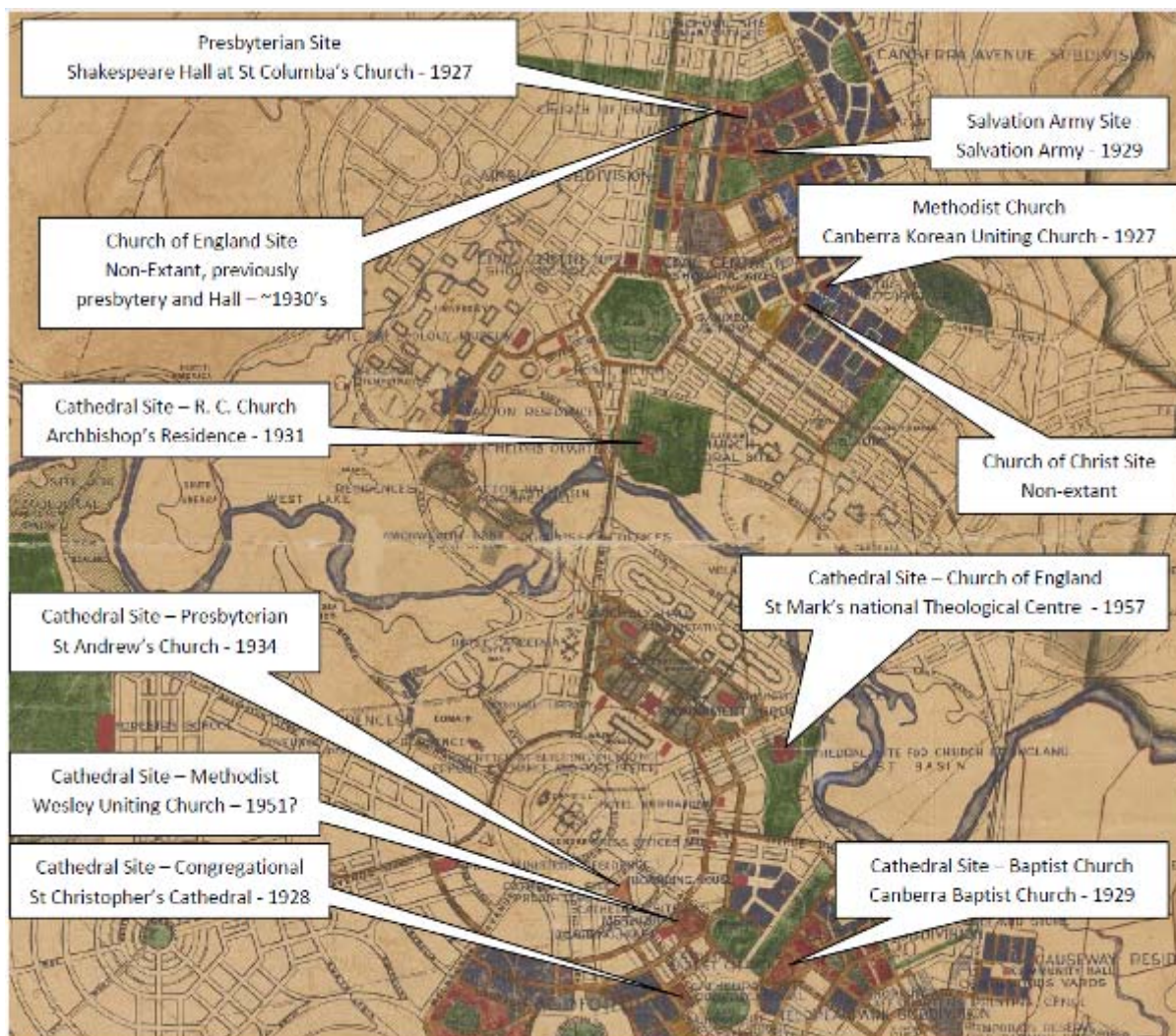
**Image 7.** Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall) south facade with 1957 additions shown to the right. (ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)



**Image 8.** Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall) north facade and carpark. (ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)



**Image 9.** Shakespeare Hall (formerly St Columba's Presbyterian Church Hall) east facade/rear. (ACT Heritage Unit, 2013)



**Image 10.** 1927 FCC map with map annotations and current names and establishing dates overlay. (nla.map-vn1989541)

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