

NAME: St. Josephs School (Cruciform Building) ADDRESS: 106 Holden Street

CONSTRUCTION DATE: 1911
ARCHITECT: unknown
BUILDER: unknown
FIRST OWNER: St. Josephs School
PRESENT OWNER: St. Josephs School
CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS: red brick, slate roof
CONSERVATION AREA: -



BUILDING CITATION:

This building constructed in 1911 is a single storey cruciform plan school building. The building is constructed of red brick and is decorated by a cream brick band at sill height, cement bands, and an elaborate cement parapet decorated by semicircular motifs and corbelled turrets. The front gable end is of a mixed eclectic character, not of high quality.

The building itself is rather clumsy in design and composition. It is of interest only in a local context as part of the streetscape of Holden Street.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that this building be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

BUILDING ANALYSIS:

This building, constructed in 1911¹, is a single storey cruciform plan school building. The central section which reads as a polygon from the outside is little more than a square with chamfered corners and internally has a false ceiling. It is not possible to discern the nature of the original space. Externally the roof is surmounted by a small louvred ventilating lantern of a slightly unrefined baroque character.

The building is constructed of red brick decorated by a three course band of cream brick at sill height and cement bands elsewhere. The front (north) wing has a basilican cross section. The two side wings are surmounted by a cement parapet with corbelled turrets at the corners. The parapet is decorated by loopy semicircles (filled with vertical strips) which are suspended from the top of the parapet. This detailing is similar to the work of MacKintosh, and is found on his Glasgow School of Art building (1897-9).

The front gable end is of a mixed eclectic character, again not of high quality. There is a cross at the top (with strange foliated decoration at the base) which caps a pediment. There is a suggestion of vertical half timbering at the top part of the gable end. Below, there is a triple light ventilator with two further fake panels on either side, with some strange ornamental work. The interior has been completely modernised.

1. Foundation Stone (in Latin)