

Attachment B

Historical Justification

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Mount Carmel Way recognises the long historical association of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church and School in the district of Waterloo. The school and church have provided educational facilities and a place of worship to the local community continuously since the 1850s.

The site is located on the traditional lands of the Gadigal people. Early grantee Daniel Cooper donated over an acre of land for the church and school in 1858. It originally formed part of his Mount Lachlan Estate. Situated at the top of a sandhill before the land dropped down to the Waterloo Swamp, the site commanded fine views across to Newtown and Botany. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School commenced teaching the local children of Waterloo in November 1858.

The foundation stone for the Catholic Church was laid by Archbishop Polding on 15 August 1859. Around 600 people gathered for the ceremony. The church was ambitiously designed by architect William Monroe, although his vision was never fully realised. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church was officially blessed and opened by Archbishop Polding on Sunday 7 April 1861.

Waterloo Municipal Council had been formed the previous year in 1860 and the church was well-placed to serve the growing community of Waterloo. The church on the hill was a landmark in the district and was sketched by renowned artist Conrad Martens.

Originally associated with the Benedictine order, the Presbytery was converted to a convent for the Sisters of Mercy in 1885. By 1909 there were between 3,000 and 4,000 parishioners.

A working-class district, the parishioners of the church have cared for the poor through charity and practical support. Picnics of the Sunday School and the Church were popular affairs throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries.

In 2000 the church became a diocesan Shrine to Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The church and school precinct celebrated its bicentenary in 2008. As part of the Our Lady of Mount Carmel sesquicentenary celebrations in 2008, Council resolved on 2 June 2008 to approach the Crown Lands office to seek their endorsement and ratification of the naming of the service lane in Waterloo Park to "Mount Carmel Way".

A sign designating Mount Carmel Way was installed by City staff.

References

State Heritage Inventory Listing, Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church and School Buildings Incl. Interiors And Grounds,

<https://www.hms.heritage.nsw.gov.au/App/Item/ViewItem?itemId=2420845>

W. Malone, The Centenary of Mount Carmel, Waterloo, 1858-1959, M.S. Simpson & Sons, Sydney, 1959.

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