

## Heritage Citation



### Fire of Hope Baptist Church Manse & Hall

#### Key details

Also known as	Albion Baptist Church
Addresses	At 16 McLennan Street, Albion, Queensland 4010
Type of place	Church, Residence (group), Institutional / group housing, Hall
Period	Victorian 1860-1890, World War I 1914-1918, Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Academic Gothic
Lot plan	L16_SP159935
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — August 2008

<b>People/associations</b>	Banks and Carandini (Architect); John Richard Hall (Architect); S.S. Carrick (Builder)
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<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (G) Social
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The Fire of Hope Baptist Church was opened in June 1883 as the Albion Baptist Church and was one of the first permanent churches in the area. With the construction of the Albion railway station in 1882 and new residential estates opening up, there was an increased need for a permanent place of worship for the growing Baptist community. In 1915 a timber manse was built on an adjacent block and in 1929 a timber hall was built at the rear of the church. Over the years, the church has been expanded and altered to meet the changing needs and size of the parish, and also began a number of outreach programs to assist members of the local community in need.

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## History

Known since 1989 as the Fire of Hope Baptist Church, this church has been a focus for Baptist worship in the local area for more than a century. The land on which this church stands was first acquired in 1883 at a time when residential development in this, and surrounding areas, was growing apace. The construction and opening of the railway line to Sandgate in 1882, the location of a Railway Station at Albion, and the opening up of estates such as the Albion Station Estate in 1881 all provided good indications of future growth and demand.

To meet the spiritual needs of those moving to the area, members of the Jireh Baptist Church in Fortitude Valley, under the guidance of the Reverend John Kingsford, established a preaching station on 20 January 1882.

Eighteen months later, on 26 June 1883, a small chapel was opened, built according to tradition by the men from Jireh. Local residents, in conjunction with brethren from the Jireh Church, then worked towards local autonomy.

Erected six years after the formation of the Baptist Union of Queensland in 1877, the Albion Baptist Church was one of the first permanent churches to be established in this vicinity. In 1886, Reverend Kingsford and thirty local members of the church successfully petitioned for the dismissal from the fellowship of the Jireh Baptist Church in Fortitude Valley so that this church could be constituted as a separate church. The church's first independent pastor was Reverend W. Higlett who lived close by at 'Camden' at 108 McLennan Street from 1895.

Over the next decade, the Albion Baptist Church, as it was then known, and its congregation were to be sorely tested as economic downturns and financial crises took their toll and natural disasters such as the 1890s floods posed a threat not only to homes and livelihoods but also to the structure of the church and its furnishings. Nonetheless, Sunday School was a priority from the first and so too other outreach activities in the wider community, particularly that of the Women's Union.

In 1910, church membership peaked and by the end of 1916, the Sunday school was one of the largest Baptist Sunday Schools in Queensland and was renowned throughout Brisbane. As the population grew, and the congregation expanded, the church was extended several times. In 1915 a manse was built on an adjacent block and in 1929 a hall was built at the rear of the church. To suit the changing needs of the ministry, alterations were also made to the interior of the church, such as the removal of the front rail and the addition of stairs.

The Albion Baptist church was, for many years, the base for mission work within and outside Australia and when residential development accelerated in nearby suburbs the church became a centre for outreach to both Gordon Park and Stafford and more recently Albany Creek. The patterns established in the early decades of the church have continued through to the present day, despite the decline in religious observance and the shortage of trained clergy in recent years.

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## Description

**Church:** Gothic style rendered masonry walls with attached buttresses to the nave and chamferboard cladding to the later side transepts and apse. The main roof, transepts rear apse and entry porch have gabled corrugated iron roof forms with decorative timber infills.

**Hall:** High-set building enclosed under between timber stumps, with chamferboard walls and low-pitched gabled roof. Front entry porch and stairs with flanking timber windows.

**Manse:** High-set timber house on timber stumps, with partly enclosed encircling verandahs. Timber dowell balustrading and decorative timber brackets to verandah posts. Pyramid corrugated iron roof form.

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## Statement of significance

### Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

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### Historical

#### CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

For the evidence it provides of the development of Albion in the late nineteenth century and the strong presence of the Baptist community in the area.

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## Rarity

### CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as one of the first permanent churches in the area and as the oldest surviving church in Albion.

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## Social

### CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

for its role in the lives of successive generations who have worshipped here since 1883 and for its contribution to the wider community through its outreach programs.

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## References

1. Kerr, J 1988, *Brunswick Street, Bowen Hills and Beyond: the Railways of the Northern suburbs of Brisbane*, Australian Railway Historical Society, Brisbane
2. White, Rev. J. E 1992, *A Fellowship of Service: A History of the Baptist Union of Queensland 1877-1977*
3. Brisbane City Council 1990, *Fire of Hope Baptist Church: Centenary souvenir 1892-1992*, Windsor Heritage Trail, Brisbane

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**Note:** This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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