

## Heritage Citation



### Kingsholme Methodist Church and Mission Hall (former)

#### Key details

Also known as	St. Mary Macedonian Church
Addresses	At 140 James Street, New Farm, Queensland 4005
Type of place	Church, Hall
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Romanesque
Lot plan	L26_RP9138

<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — November 2010
<b>People/associations</b>	W.C. Voller - Church (Architect)
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social

This polychromatic brick church, designed by Brisbane architect W.C. Voller, opened in 1927 as the Kingsholme Methodist Church. The church, built in the Interwar Romanesque design with a prominent tower, was constructed in front of a timber-framed hall. The simply designed timber hall was built prior to 1922 as a non-denominational mission hall. In 1984, after the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational Churches amalgamated to form the Uniting Church, the building was sold to the Macedonian Orthodox Church and renamed St. Mary Macedonian Church. The changing congregations of the church reflect both changes in religious traditions and the diversity of the local population. The timber hall is included in the heritage significance of the site.

## History

The New Farm locality was first used by the penal colony to grow food for the convict population. Free settlement dates from 1842 and urban development in the area was becoming established by the early 1860s, especially around Fortitude Valley. By 1879 residential housing had extended along James Street as far as Annie Street and the growth of urban New Farm was hastened by the introduction of horse trams to Barker Street by 1883 and the draining and filling of low lands between 1884 and 1887. The introduction of industries such as the lime kilns (1880), Colonial Sugar Refining Company (1893) and attendant wharves encouraged the subdivision of surrounding estates to house workers in these industries and in the nearby city centre. 'Kingsholme Estate' was subdivided and auctioned in the mid 1880s and the area was known as Kingsholme until well into the twentieth century. During the 1920s and 1930s, New Farm's population continued to grow as converted and purpose built flats provided additional accommodation.

Methodists in the district attended services in the Fortitude Valley church in Ann Street built in 1857 and the Primitive Methodist church built on the corner of Brunswick and Malt Streets in 1861. As suburban development extended into New Farm nondenominational religious services were conducted outdoors, later there were regular cottage meetings. In 1870 it was decided to build a nondenominational mission hall which became the centre for "revival services that led to many conversions". The Methodists eventually became responsible for the services at this hall, under the auspices of the Valley circuit. The hall was later acquired by supporters of the Methodist Church.<sup>1</sup>

The Kingsholme Methodist Church was constructed in 1927 through the devotion and generosity of Dr and Mrs E.W.H. Fowles. Architect W.C. Voller, who "was responsible for many churches of all denominations", designed the building with a square bell tower rising above the main entrance, set in a dramatic diagonal across the corner. J. Hobes was the builder and construction costs totalled £3,400. The generosity of parishioners quickly reduced this debt with Mr and Mrs A.J. Bradfield and Mr and Mrs F. Lather joining Dr and Mrs Fowles as valued supporters. The church remained a centre for Methodist worship and education until it was became a Uniting

Church after the amalgamation of Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian Churches in 1977.

The building became the property of the Uniting Church in 1980 and was sold to the Macedonian Orthodox Church in 1984. Evidently not long after the formation of the Uniting Church some rationalisation of assets was undertaken. St Mary's Macedonian Orthodox Church is the only Macedonian Orthodox church in Brisbane reflecting the growing self awareness of this population group whose numbers have steadily increased with postwar immigration. That the church is in New Farm perhaps indicates not only the centrality of location but the increasing cultural diversity of the population.

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## Description

### CHURCH

This two storey, polychromatic brick church has a steeply pitched gable roof and a square bell tower. Sharing a small sloping site with a timber hall, the church occupies a prominent position at the intersection of Annie and James Streets. The building is a local landmark.

Elevated above street level, the main floor of the building contains a nave, with a front and side entry vestibule. The tower which rises from the front entry vestibule, is positioned on an angle to address the street corner. To the base of the tower, the main entry doors of the building are reached by a short flight of tiled steps. The lower floor contains meeting rooms and is set back from both street frontages. No disabled access is provided to the church.

### Exterior

The gable roof of the nave, clad in terra cotta roof tiles terminates to both ends with a parapet wall. The front entry vestibule projects forward from the nave's front wall below three stained glass windows. The vestibule has horizontal parapet walls which hide its skillion roof from view. The orange brick walls of the church are divided into bays by brown brick buttresses. Those buttresses to the front facade rise above the walls and are crowned with triangular capping pieces. The tower buttresses are capped in a pyramidal form extending past two levels of copings, the lower one with a crenellated pattern in the brickwork underneath. The square bell tower sits forward, and on an angle to the nave's front gable wall with a belfry vent to each wall face and narrow window to three sides

below. It is crowned by a metal cross and candle stick structure with three lights in the position of candles. The parapet walls of the nave and vestibule are crowned with a rendered coping.

A leadlight window sits within each of the five side wall bays of the nave, except one which contains the side entry vestibule on Annie Street. This timber framed entry which is clad in fibre-cement sheeting, rests on a brick base and has a tiled gable roof. Horizontal bands of contrasting grey/blue coloured bricks extend across the face of each wall bay. They include a band crowning each wall, and at sill and window head height, the later incorporating an arch over each window. The timber framed windows sit within a shallow arched opening and are painted white. They consist of two casements and a pivoted window above. Single casement windows light the building's lower floor.

The back and front gable walls of the nave are divided into three bays. To the front facade, three, metal framed stained glass windows, the middle one larger than the outer two, sit centrally above the entry vestibule. The wall

is crowned by an apex vent and features several darker brick horizontal bands and architectural features. The front wall of the vestibule is punctuated with leadlight windows with white painted timber frames. The edge of the concrete slab on which the vestibule sits has also been painted white, creating a strong horizontal element which contrasts with the vertical emphasis of the building's buttresses. A polychromatic brick fence which lines both street frontages is of a complimentary design.

### Interior

The front entry vestibule which has a tiled concrete floor is separated from the nave by a timber panelled wall incorporating leadlight windows. The nave has a timber floor which is carpeted. Its side walls reflect the building's exterior decoration, but with render up to sill height. To the top of each side wall is a projecting string course and rendered horizontal band. Hammer beam trusses support the roof and ceiling which comprises of diagonally laid tongue and groove boards to the underside of collar ties. A system of lights hang from the roof including three chandeliers. A timber screen has been added at some stage to the front of a raised sanctuary platform. Behind this, the back wall of the nave has a large rendered and face brick arch with a window to each side.

### HALL

This simple timber framed building has a steeply pitched iron roof and walls clad in chamfer boards. A simple open porch addresses the street. It has a gable roof supported on timber brackets and battened front. The building has simple windows in banks of three hopppers. Above the front porch are three coloured glass windows surmounted by a label mould. The undercroft of the building is enclosed with concrete block walls.

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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 the hall and church provides of continuing population growth and religious observance in New Farm from the late nineteenth century, its stability and optimism in the early twentieth century and New Farm's cultural diversification in the postwar era.

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### Aesthetic

#### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as the Voller-designed former Methodist church is a uniquely designed polychromatic brick church specifically designed to address the corner, it is a landmark in the streetscape of James and Annie Streets.

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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

as places of worship and community gatherings for the local Anglo-Saxon communities from 1870 until 1984 and the Macedonian Orthodox Church since 1984, reflecting the changing ethnic composition of New Farm.

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## References

1. R.S. Dingle *Annals of Achievement: A Century of Queensland Methodism 1847- 1947* p. 202 records the decision to build a nondenominational timber hall in Kingsholme. The hall beside the church is first recorded in the Post Office Directories in 1922 reflecting the increased detail recorded in later directories.
2. Brisbane City Council Sewerage Detail Plan 1927
3. Campbell, D.W. 'Urban Spatial Pattern Change: Transport and High Density Dwelling Use in Brisbane's Inner Suburbs', School of Australian Environmental Studies, Griffith University
4. Dingle, Rev R.S.C. 1947 *Annals of Achievement: A Review of Queensland Methodism 1847-1947*, Centenary Committee of the Queensland Methodist Conference, Brisbane
5. Greenwood, Gordon. *Brisbane 1859-1959 A History of Local Government*. Council of the City of Brisbane, Brisbane, 1959
6. McClurg, J.H C. 'Kingsholme Suburb', manuscript
7. *Post Office Directories*, 1921-1931
8. Queensland Land Titles Office Records
9. State Library Queensland. *Indexes of Personal Names and Local Church History in the Christian Witness, Methodist Leader and Methodist Times*
10. Richard, E.L. *Early Brisbane Main Drains map*. Evan Richard collection
11. *Brisbane Courier* <http://trove.nla.gov.au/> Kingsholme Methodist Church hall (accessed 14-16/11/12)
12. Donald Watson and Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the Nineteenth Century*, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994

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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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