

Heritage Citation



Northgate Methodist Church (former)

Key details

Also known as Northgate Uniting Church and Hall

Addresses	At 116 Peary Street, Northgate, Queensland 4013
Type of place	Church, Hall
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Gothic
Lot plan	L202_SP157125
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — October 2010
Construction	Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Face brick
People/associations	Clifford Ernest Plant (Architect)
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social; (G) Social

Though the Methodist Church leadership had identified the need for a church in Northgate as early as 1913, it was not until September 1928 that this brick, English Gothic styled church was completed. Until that time the growing Northgate Methodist population had conducted services in temporary locations. The church was later complemented by a hall, completed in 1936 and extended in 1955. The church and hall are significant for their deep and longstanding connection with Methodist and later Uniting Church parishioners of Northgate. The church is also aesthetically significant.

History

Methodist worship in the Nundah area dates to the establishment of the German mission at Zion's Hill (Nundah) and the arrival of the Reverend William Moore to Moreton Bay in 1847. A joint Methodist / Lutheran Church was erected there, but the Methodists built their own church in 1859. Another was built in 1882 at Nundah as part of the Fortitude Valley Circuit. With the growth of the congregation in the district, the Nundah Circuit was constituted in 1894.

It was the Nundah Circuit of the Wesleyan Church that appointed a committee in 1913 to investigate purchasing a church site in Northgate, however no action was taken. Undeterred by the absence of a permanent church, Methodists in the Northgate area commenced worship fourteen years prior to the building of the present church. Services and a Sunday School were begun in the Peary street home of local resident W.B. Robinson as early in 1914. The Sunday School ceased operation in 1921.

During 1924 the District Synod recommended acquisition of land at Northgate. It was purchased in 1925 for £580. In November 1926 weekly services were commenced in the School of Arts in Ridge Street, remaining

there until the church was built. The foundation stone of the church was laid on 31 March 1928 by the President of the Queensland Methodist Congregation, Rev James H. Heaton. Built by L. and O.G. Machin to a design by architect C.E. Plant, the red brick English Gothic church was completed only six months later in September 1928.

By 1933 the Sunday School was again operating and commenced a building fund. A hall for that purpose was erected and opened in 1936 at a cost of £11116. During World War II the hall was declared a Clearing Station and Rest centre for the District. A Kindergarten Hall, with its kitchen facilities, was opened in 1955. After 1977, when the Uniting Church was formed by the amalgamation of the Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches the church was renamed the Northgate Uniting Church. In recent years both halls have been leased for the operation of a child-care centre.

The church is presently in private ownership and is used as a residence.

Description

This English Gothic style church is set back slightly from the street alignment on an L-shaped site. At the rear of the church, and facing Northgate Road, is a timber framed former church building, now being used as a Day Nursery and Kindergarten.

The church is built in the traditional form with a cruciform plan containing nave and transepts and large vestry to the rear. A tower dominates the western front of the once symmetrical front elevation. The addition of a more recently erected roof and portico disrupts this symmetry.

The single storey red brick structure rises from a rendered brick plinth and is constructed generally in stretcher bond with the brickwork to the tower laid in garden wall cross bond brickwork. Stepped buttresses provide stiffening and decoration to the walls. The walls to the transepts and the eastern and western walls of the nave extend above the roof level to form parapeted gables.

The steeply pitched roof is sheeted with terra cotta tiles. The roof to the transepts is extended between the side buttresses to form hoods for windows and doors. These hoods are supported on timber brackets. Similar tiles have been installed in the skillion roof over the entrance portico. Eaves overhang to the nave are lined with slatted timber boarding spaced apart to allow ventilation to the roof.

Metal ventilators are installed along the ridges over the nave, transepts and vestry.

Windows are generally timber framed lead-light casements with pointed arch stained glass fanlights.

Centre windows to north and south parapeted gable ends are similar to other windows, however they are taller because of the installation of a stained glass panel between the casements and the fanlight. Above these elongated windows towards the apex of the parapeted gable are triangulated windows glazed with stained glass.

Brick jamb linings to windows are slightly recessed from the wall face to produce a shadow line.

Windows to the vestry at the rear are timber framed casements glazed with opaque glass.

Doors to main entry and to the north and south transepts are framed tongue and groove vertical joint. Main entry doors are hung on decorative heavy duty hinge brackets. Rear doors to vestry are single leaf framed tongue and

groove vertical joint doors. Access for the disabled is provided by way of a small ramp leading to the south transept doors.

The tower over the western entry porch is three stories in height and is terminated at the top with a parapet surround spanning between the extended corner buttresses.

The western wall of the tower, at ground level, contains a large stained glass window terminating in a pointed arch. Above this window is placed a label mould. Similar label moulds appear above the entrance door on the southern side and the casement windows on the northern side.

Above the stained glass window on the western face is installed a typical lead lighted casement window with pointed arch fanlight. The north and south faces at this level of the tower contains pairs of blind niches.

Each face of the upper storey contains pairs of lancet type openings with pointed arch heads. Fixed timber louvres are fitted to these lancet openings.

Levels in the tower are accentuated externally at sill level by horizontal rendered bands. Stepping of the tower buttresses also occurs at these points.

The roof framing is supported on exposed hammer beam trusses and the ceiling is lined with fibro cement.

Internally the walls are plastered above the brick dado.

The church hall is an Inter-war timber framed structure with weatherboard cladding and features some Old English design elements. The steeply pitched roof is sheeted with terra cotta tiles.

A prominent feature of the eastern end gable is a section of imitation half timbering which forms a transition between wall and gable. This section of half timbering also contains a bank of three casement windows. This imitation half timbering element has also been incorporated in the attached porch on the eastern end.

Windows generally are pairs of multi-panel timber casements with fanlight above. A design element of all these windows is the curved underside of the top rail.

The roof space is ventilated through fixed timber louvres located above the imitation timber boarding on the eastern end gable.

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:

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 about the growth of Northgate in the early twentieth century.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places

as the church is a surviving example of a medium sized, brick, Gothic style church built in the interwar period.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as the church is a notable local landmark constructed in the Gothic Style, with a tall bell tower and attractive stained glass windows.

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 it reflects the determination of a willing band of local workers who gathered first in 1914 and then worked until 1928 to establish a church to cater for the spiritual needs of Methodists in Northgate.

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 strong and long-lasting connection to those who worshipped at the Church and attended Sunday School and Kindergarten in the hall; and for the evidence it provides of the importance attached to religious observance and religious education in Sunday Schools in the first decades of the twentieth century.

References

1. *Architectural & Building Journal of Queensland*, October 1926
 2. Rev R S C Dingle ed *Annals of Achievement: A Review of Queensland Methodism 1847- 1947*, Queensland Book Depot, Brisbane, 1947
 3. *A Jubilee History of the Northgate Uniting Church, 1928 - 1978*
 4. *Uniting Churches in South East Queensland*, file, John Oxley Library
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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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