

Heritage Citation



Presbyterian Church Hall (former)

Key details

Addresses	At 78 Enoggera Terrace, Red Hill, Queensland 4059
Type of place	Hall
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Carpenter Gothic
Lot plan	L2_RP67649
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — June 2007
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
People/associations	E. Farris (Builder)

This former Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1885 as the first Presbyterian Church in the Ithaca area. It was built in response to the growth of the local Presbyterian community and to the population growth in the region generally. The hall is a physical manifestation of the social and demographic developments of the area's past.

History

The hall is situated on the corner of Enoggera Terrace and Surrey Street, and stands on what was originally portion 741, a section of over three acres in size, first purchased from the Crown by John Nott in 1869 for seven pounds, ten shillings, and sixpence. Nott was a produce merchant, and according to postal records, resided in Red Hill from at least 1878.

Alexander McLean purchased the entire portion in 1871 and it was subdivided in 1877 and again in 1885. Two of the three subdivisions were sold to trustees for £120. The trustees mortgaged the blocks, now totalling a little more than a quarter of an acre, presumably to provide funds for the construction of a wooden church with a shingled roof for the Ithaca Presbyterian congregation. The Presbyterian community in the area had been expanding for some time, in line with the general population growth then taking place in Brisbane. The congregation had been active since 1880 and had taken root in a branch Sunday school of the Wickham Terrace Presbyterian Church. The school was initially held in a Petrie Terrace shop owned by a Mr R. Menzies. Evening services were soon added, and, as the population expanded further and brought more Presbyterians to the locale, the Sunday school was relocated to the Red Hill School of Arts at Waterworks road. It was here that the idea for construction of a new local church was proposed.

Local builder E. Farris of Wellington Road, Red Hill constructed the church at a cost of £250. It was designed to hold up to 270 people, and the first church assembly, conducted by Rev. C McCulloch, was held on Sunday 6 December 1885. The first regular minister was Rev. G Crawford, who was appointed in 1887.

The Church served until 1929, when, partly in response to the needs of a growing congregation, the current Presbyterian Church was built. After this the former church was used as a church hall and Sunday School. The property was re-subdivided in 1949 and ownership transferred from the trustees directly to the Presbyterian Church itself. The hall roof was damaged by fire in 1956, and this is probably when the present corrugated metal roof was installed. Restroom amenities were expanded in 1972.

The building was sold to the developer Spero Conias in 1980 and it underwent renovations and alterations. These included the replacement of floorboards and wall panels, the addition of leadlight windows, the conversion of the altar area to a stage, and general maintenance work. A fully equipped commercial kitchen was also added. Since then it has been resold and seen a variety of different business and community uses. It was "The Paddington Reception Centre" for a period and was home to the Queensland Fencing Club, a yoga centre, and has even been used as a restaurant.

Description

This former church building and church hall has a corrugated gable roof and a traditional basilica plan. The building is clad with timber boarding.

The previous front foyer to the worship space, at the front centre portion of the building, projects forward towards the street. Centred within the lower portion of the projecting front wall is a lancet arch leadlight window. To the left and in the left side of this projecting section of the building are lancet arch timber doorways. Along both sidewalls similar lancet arch windows replicate along the length of the walls. Each of the windows and doors have a decorative timber moulding over the upper portion.

A low timber picket fence runs along the street alignments. Being sited on a corner block the building is quite prominent in the streetscape, even through it is nestled amongst some large shade trees.

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 as a church constructed in response to a growing Presbyterian population in the Ithaca area.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as a converted nineteenth century timber church that has also been used as a hall.

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 a former church that was the original location of Presbyterian worship in the Ithaca region, and intimately connected with the local congregation for ninety-five years.

References

1. Brisbane City Council Building Card, M0-067-016 and M063-029 023
2. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plans
3. Brisbane Centenary Official Historical Souvenir 1923, p199
4. *Brisbane Courier*, 7 December, 1885
5. *The Courier Mail*, 23 November, 1935
6. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
7. Environmental Protection Agency
8. McKellar's Map of Brisbane and Suburbs. Brisbane: Surveyor-General's Office, 1895
9. *The Sunday Mail*, 21 April, 1929
10. *Telegraph*, 16 April, 1981
11. Advertisement in *The Sun* 2 September, 1988
12. *Daily Sun*, 19 February 1983

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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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