

## Heritage Citation



### Brethrens Meeting Room

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 62 Balmoral Street, Hawthorne, Queensland 4171
<b>Type of place</b>	Hall
<b>Period</b>	World War II 1939-1945
<b>Style</b>	Gothic
<b>Lot plan</b>	L2_RP57863
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — June 2003
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Terracotta tile; Walls: Timber
<b>People/associations</b>	W. Wright and G. Cooper (Builder)

This church hall was built in 1942 on land donated to the Brethren assembly by a local resident. It is an excellent example of the humble church architecture preferred by the Brethren.

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## History

On 15 May 1941, Eveline Eade signed a contract to purchase 17.3 perches of land fronting Balmoral Street, near a major fourways intersection in Hawthorne. Eveline Eade lived in neighbouring Philip Street with her husband Sidney in "Birken Lodge". It is probable that she purchased the land in a prominent location for the purpose of building a church hall, as two days earlier on 13 May 1941, she applied to the Brisbane City Council to build a "wood church hall" in Balmoral Street. The cost of this unpretentious building was estimated at £750.

Eveline Eade contracted W.Wright of Norman Park to build the church. Anecdotal information suggests that George Cooper, the father of one of the current trustees of the church also assisted with building the Brethren meeting room.

The Brethren movement began in the 1820s in England and Ireland when groups of Christians met to rediscover what they considered to be the central tenants of the Christian faith: bible study, prayer and communion. In 1848 there was a doctrinal split in the Brethren movement between those who believed in the fellowship of all believers and those who held that separation from all things evil, including existing Christian denominations that did not adhere to the true faith, was necessary for following Christ. This led to the establishment of the Open Brethren and the Closed or Exclusive Brethren Assemblies.

In 1876, the first Open Brethren assembly met in Queensland in Fortitude Valley, Brisbane. There are now nine Open Brethren assemblies in Brisbane and about 400 Open Brethren assemblies in Australia. It is difficult to know the number of people who follow the brethren teachings as, due to their non-denominational outlook, some brethren prefer to identify themselves on the census as "Christian" or "born-again Christian". However, in the 1996 census, 22,063 people or 0.12% of the population identified as Brethren.

Brethrens believe in the 'priesthood of all believers' and few groups have paid or appointed ministers or pastors. They acknowledge the unity of all believers, but reject organised ecumenism or church hierarchy as it would compromise the autonomy of local congregations – known as assemblies. Brethren's aim for biblical simplicity and meet on a weekly basis, sometimes more frequently, in unadorned and modest halls. The Brethren meeting room on Balmoral Road is a good example of a typical interwar meeting room.

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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 as a place of worship established when Hawthorne was experiencing growth as a suburb.

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### Representative

#### CRITERION D

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

as a small, interwar meeting place used for religious purposes.

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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 a Brethren meeting place that has been in continuous use for more than sixty years.

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## References

1. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Board, Detail plan no. 1185, 1957
2. Brisbane City Council, *Register of New Buildings*, 1942
3. Department of Natural Resources, Certificates of Title
4. Humphreys, Robert, 1995, *Religious Bodies in Australia: a comprehensive guide*, New Melbourne Press, Victoria
5. Gillman, I. 1988, *Many Faiths One Nation: A Guide to the Major Faiths and Denominations in Australia*,

Collins, Sydney

6. Queensland Post Office Directories

7. "Religion in Australia, 1996 Census", Adherents.com

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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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