

Heritage Citation



Brookfield School (part)

Key details

Also known as	Brookfield State School
Addresses	At 24 Boscombe Road, Brookfield, Queensland 4069
Type of place	State school
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Queenslander
Lot plan	L209_SP259783; L266_SL11959
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — October 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

This timber school building was constructed in 1874 and was the first vested school building at Brookfield. While additions were carried out in 1888 and remodelling in 1953, the building has been in constant use since that time and now serves as the school library.

History

This particular school was erected and opened as Brookfield School in 1874. The arrival of education at Brookfield began a few years earlier and was a gradual process. The eventual success of a government school in the area may account for the ongoing community support for the retention of the building.

Mrs Laws, who ran a small school in her husband's barn, initially provided education at Brookfield. However when Bible Christians arrived at Brookfield, a public subscription to construct a hall that would 'function as a meeting place for the community, as a school house during the week and as a place of worship for the Bible Christians' was undertaken.¹

Upon completion of the hall (c1871) a letter was sent to the Inspector of Schools requesting a teacher, as it was claimed there were 40 to 50 students of school age attending the school. A teacher was supplied but as this was a non-vested school it was disadvantaged from the start as the salary offered teachers was poor and it was difficult to attract and retain good ones.

In April 1873, Thomas Shield, Secretary, Local Patrons, requested a National School in place of the non-vested one. He stated that the community could provide at least £60 towards a school. The letter met with success and the subject building was opened on 30 June 1874.

A teacher's residence was also constructed but was removed in 1932 and a new residence built. The original teacher's residence was tendered for £10 and remains as part of the Brookfield General Store.

The local community has remained attached to the original school building. Within the school building a plaque is attached which states:

On the evening of December 9th 1974 people gathered here to celebrate and remember that this building was erected 100 years ago in 1874.

*Brookfield State School
Parents and Citizens Association*

The community was also instrumental in retaining its external appearance and while it underwent minor alterations in 1982, the building was converted for use as school library.

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 school building erected at Brookfield in the mid 1870s.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage
as a rare example of an extant rural nineteenth century school building that is still in use.

Representative

CRITERION D

The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class or classes of cultural places
as a nineteenth century timber educational building.

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 vested school which has served the local community since the 1870s.

References

1. Libby Wager, *Different Tracks*, Brookfield: Kenmore-Brookfield Parish of the Uniting church in Australia, 1998, p.59
2. Certificates of Title.
3. Forrest, Ruth, *Brookfield State School 1871 – 1996 Celebrating 125 Years*, Queensland: 125th Anniversary Committee, Brookfield State School, Brookfield, 1996
4. John Oxley Library Photograph Collection
5. Meadows, Jane. *Brisbane's Western Suburbs: Our Heritage in Focus*. (Brisbane: State Library of Queensland Foundation. 1994)
6. Post Office Directories.
7. Wager, Libby. *Historic Brookfield*. (Pullenvale: Pullenvale Field Study Centre. 1988)
8. Wager, Libby. *Different Tracks*. (Brookfield: Kenmore-Brookfield Parish of the Uniting church in Australia. 1998)

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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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