

Heritage Citation



Brookfield Uniting Church

Key details

Also known as	Bible Christian Chapel
Addresses	At 2 Upper Brookfield Road, Brookfield, Queensland 4069
Type of place	Church
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Carpenter Gothic
Lot plan	L1_RP76114
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — September 2010
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

This Carpenter Gothic church was constructed circa 1886 by the Bible Christian Movement in an attempt to expand the Methodist faith in Queensland and has continued to serve the local Methodist community's spiritual needs since that time.

History

Sources indicate that the current Uniting Church was erected on its present site, replacing an earlier church, between 1886-88.

The church's origins were derived from the decision of the Bible Christian movement, a form of Methodism, to send a mission to Queensland in the early 1860s. The organisation of the Queensland Bible Christian's mission was left to Br William Woolcock who acquired land for a "preaching station" at the locality called Brookfield.

The Woolcock family became well known locally in the area and throughout Queensland. William became quite well off owning land at Kenmore, Figtree Pocket, Moggill and Enoggera. His son achieved a number of milestones within Queensland. He was appointed as parliamentary counsel (1899), private secretary to Sir Samuel Griffith, involved with the foundation of the University of Queensland and the State Public Library. At his death he was accorded a state funeral.

While the celebrated date of the founding of the Brookfield mission is given as 1869 the title deeds disclose that land, 2 acres, 1 rood and 30 perches, was transferred to the Corporation of the Bible Christian Church, Brisbane circuit in January 1871.

The Brookfield Church was one of two churches established by the Bible Christians in the area. The other being that at seventeen mile Rocks. The Bible Christians emphasis upon education meant that any hall erected would serve as both a school and as a place of worship. Evidence indicates that the wider community contributed to the erection of the first hall.

A combination of internal conflict occurring within the Bible Christians at Brookfield and disputes arising within the community over "school affairs" as it

Seemed it was no longer acceptable to others, not connected to the church, for the community-built hall to be located on Church land.¹

There is conflicting evidence over the exact date of construction of the second (current) hall. The title deed discloses that a mortgage for £100 as taken out on 20 November 1886. A photograph c1888 discloses that the new church (current) was erected and the earlier church/hall had been moved to the nearby reserve for community use.

In 1896, following the union of Methodism in Queensland, the property passed under the control new trustees appointed under the Wesleyan Methodist Church Property Trust Act 1896 (Qld). It is interesting to note that on the same day as the appointment the new trustees a mortgage was given on the property for £50.

Dingle in his *Annals of Achievement* discusses the circumstances surrounding the transfer of property to the Methodist Union and provides an extent of the growth of the Bible Christians in Queensland at that time;

After two years of meetings and correspondence with England, the following report to the conference of 1896 was made by the Rev. H. Youngman: "the following sites have been transferred to the interim trustees under the provision of the Model Deed: Clifton Terrace, Kelvin Grove, Everton Park, Bunya (2), Brookfield, Moggill, Indooroopilly Pocket, Hamilton and Carina" The final repayment was made to the Bible Christian Conference in England in 1897.²

In September 1969 a celebration of the centenary of the church was held. In keeping with the original intentions of the Bible Christians to contributing to the community the funds from the celebration "towards the building of a brick and concrete hall to be named Pioneer Memorial Hall."³

The Methodist church has remained an integral part of not only the Methodist congregation of Brookfield but, also the wider Brookfield Community.

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 it is a nineteenth century community and religious building constructed in Brookfield in the 1880s in an effort to expand the Methodist faith within that community.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as it is a fairly intact example of a nineteenth century Victorian Carpenter Gothic church.

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 the church has had a long association with the Methodist community in Brookfield and surrounding areas and is associated with the origins of the Methodist Church in Queensland.

References

1. Libby Wager. *Different Tracks*. (Kenmore-Brookfield, Kenmore-Brookfield Parish of The Uniting Church in Australia. 1988) p 86
2. Rev. R.S.C. Dingle, *Annals of achievement: A Review of Queensland Methodism. 1847-1947*. (Brisbane, Queensland Book Depot. 1947) p 68
3. *Courier Mail* 12 September, 1969
4. Certificates of Title.
5. *Courier Mail*. 12 & 15, September, 1969
6. Rev R S C Dingle ed *Annals of Achievement: A Review of Queensland Methodism 1847- 1947*, Queensland Book Depot, Brisbane, 1947
7. John Oxley Library, photographic collection.
8. Johnston, W.Ross. "Woolcock, John Laskey (1861-1929)". *Australian Dictionary of Biography*. John Ritchie (Gen Ed) Vol.12. 1891-1939. Smy-Z
9. 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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