

## Heritage Citation



**Church of Christ Hall**

### Key details

<b>Also known as</b>	Boondall Church of Christ
<b>Addresses</b>	At 23 Carlyle Road, Boondall, Queensland 4034
<b>Type of place</b>	Church, Hall
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Carpenter Gothic
<b>Lot plan</b>	L319_RP26050
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2003 Date of Citation — December 2002

**Construction**

Roof: Corrugated iron;  
Walls: Timber

**Criterion for listing**

(A) Historical; (D) Representative; (G) Social

Built for the Church of Christ in 1923, this was the fourth such church to be built in Brisbane for this growing faith community. The building not only served the spiritual needs of the local community but also acted as a community hall, where issues such as the building of the Boondall State School were resolved. With the conversion of Boondall into a postwar residential suburb, a new Church of Christ was built in 1957 and the original church building was converted into a hall.

## History

The land on which the Church of Christ and Hall now sits was originally part of Portion 46, a block of crown land purchased by James Monro of Sydney on 24 September 1862. He paid ?107 for the 107-acre block. At the same time he acquired the adjacent Portion 47, comprising 79 acres, for ?79. Monro lost 5 acres, 1 rood and 14 perches of his Portion 46 on 10 May 1883, when the Commissioner of Railways resumed it for the building of the new Sandgate rail line. Monro then subdivided the remainder of Portion 46 into Subdivisions A, C and D. Subdivision A, encompassing 93 acres, 1 rood and 38 perches, was the largest of these new subdivisions.

When Monro died on 22 March 1889, his estate was shared between his widow, Maria and three partners, Charles Henry Humphrey, William Morris and Walter Joseph Monro. But the death of Charles Henry Humphrey on 23 October 1898, delayed the finalisation of James Monro's estate so that it was not until 9 March 1900 that the land was passed to Maria Monro, William Morris and Walter Monro. But Maria's hold on her husband's estate was short-lived because she died on 12 May 1901.

William Morris and Walter Monro disposed of Subdivision A to Sarah Jane Seeney, the wife of Stewart Seeney, of Brisbane, on 26 February 1914. The Seeney's mortgaged the vacant land for ?300 on 16 March 1914. Mabel Southern, provided the money on behalf of her husband, Howard Clive Southern. The Seeney's held the land for less than a year before it was transferred into the ownership of Robert George Oates and Samuel Rowe, on 22 May 1914. But on 25 August 1914, the State Government, in the name of King George the Fifth, resumed all of Subdivision A plus a section of the adjoining Portion 47. This area totalled 138 acres, 1 rood and 1 perch was leased back to Rowe and Oates at a peppercorn rent on 19 October 1914. The reason for this arrangement remains a mystery. But as Oates and Rowe were appointed by the government as trustees of the property due to "no survivorship" then it may be related to matters stemming from the Monro estate.

Rowe and Oates subdivided the land and sold off the first residential block on 17 December 1914. These subdivisions were to be the basis of the modern suburb of Boondall, though at that time the locality was known as College Hill. It was a farming district that was serviced by Boondall Railway Station (as Cabbage Tree Station) that opened in 1884. The name Boondall, meaning crooked creek, was adopted for the district in 1923. On 7 September 1922, William August Charles Wendorff of Brisbane, Frederick Thomas Keable of Tannymorel, Thomas Francis Stubbin of Boonah, Frederick Augustus Bignill of Sunnybrook and Joseph Benjamin Ash

of Brisbane purchased Subdivision 319 from Rowe and Oats. The five partners were the nominated trustees of this block that had once been part of Portion 46.

The five men were acting on behalf of the Church of Christ and the land was selected as a new church site. At the time of their purchase of the land at Boondall, there were only 11 Churches of Christ across the whole of Queensland. In Brisbane, there were Churches of Christ at Hawthorne, Albion and New Farm. A large number of timber and brick churches were constructed in the suburbs of the Mid-North District during the 1920's. This occurred because the "Roaring Twenties" was a period of economic prosperity and a renewal of interest in spiritual matters, both occurring as a result of the First World War. A Church of Christ is listed for the first time as an address in Queensland Post Office Directories in its 1924-25 edition. As the surveying of addresses for inclusion in the Queensland Post Office Directories was conducted in the year prior to the publication of each edition, then it can be concluded that the timber church was constructed in 1923. The first pastor of the Boondall Church of Christ was E.P. Aderman, who resided at Thistle Street at Kedron. Aderman had previously been the pastor at the Hawthorne Church of Christ.

The new church building became an important community resource. Local historian Barbara Bow has claimed in *Welcome to Boondall* that the public meeting, that led to the formation of a building committee to organise the construction of the Boondall State School (opened in 1925), was held at the church. She claims that this meeting was held on 19 June 1920, but as the church was not built until 1923, then the date of the meeting was more likely to have been 19 June 1923 or 1924. On 2 August 1935, Frederick Bignill died and ownership of the property was transferred to the surviving four trustees. Only a few months after the outbreak of the Second World War, the ownership of the church and land was transferred from the remaining four trustees to the Church of Christ organisation. Thus the Conference of the Associated Churches of Christ in Queensland took over the Boondall church on 18 January 1940. This was part of a general reorganisation of Church of Christ properties throughout Queensland.

The Conference mortgaged their Carlyle Road property through the Bank of Adelaide on 12 September 1956. The purpose of this mortgage was to fund the construction of a new church at Boondall. It was a reflection of the church's need for more space to accommodate its expanding congregation that had resulted from the post-war housing boom in the area. The Brisbane City Council granted a building approval for the church on 3 December 1956. A stump capping ceremony to mark the start of construction on the new church was held on 23 March 1957. This ceremony was attended by the Conference President, Mr. G. McKelvie. Construction of the new church began on 6 April 1957. When the new Church of Christ was opened on 8 March 1958, the old church became the church hall. Toilets, costing \$850, were added to the site in 1976.

But from the late 1960's, church attendances across Australia began to drop particularly amongst the younger generation, whose interests were focussed on other forms of spiritualism, including non-Christian religions. By the 1970s and 1980s, many smaller church buildings were sold-off or demolished as their congregations were no longer viable. The Church of Christ continued to serve the Boondall community throughout this tumultuous period and the Church Hall has been an integral part of that service for 75 years.

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## Description

The church is a simple lightweight structure on short cement stumps. It has a pitched roof with a gable fronting the road. A small structure with a gabled roof also projects at the road frontage. This appears to have been

originally a porch later enclosed. No entry stairs remain in this area.

The building is a symmetric structure with tall narrow windows to its sides and at either side of the front projecting structure.

Notwithstanding its simplicity and alterations, the building, almost built to the front boundary, has a strong pleasing presence within the road.

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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 the fourth Church of Christ to be erected in Brisbane and built in 1923 to meet the needs of the growing farming district of Boondall

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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, intact interwar timber church.

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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 church that has served the Boondall community for nearly 75 years.

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## References

1. Bow, Barbara, *Welcome to Boondall*, (Brisbane: Sandgate and District Historical Society, 1997)
  2. Brisbane City Council, *Properties on the Web*, post-1946 building approval cards
  3. Brisbane City Council, 1946 aerial photographs.
  4. Brisbane City Council Sewerage Maps
  5. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
  6. John Oxley Library, Brisbane Suburbs clippings files – Boondall
  7. *Queensland Post Office Directories*, 1868-1949
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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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