

## Heritage Citation



### Hawthorne Presbyterian Church (former)

#### Key details

<b>Addresses</b>	At 159 Hawthorne Road, Hawthorne, Queensland 4171
<b>Type of place</b>	Church, Preschool
<b>Period</b>	Interwar 1919-1939
<b>Style</b>	Queenslander
<b>Lot plan</b>	L159_RP861434
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — September 2005
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber

**Criterion for listing**

(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social

The former Hawthorne Presbyterian Church was constructed circa 1919-1920 in response to growing demand for Presbyterian worship facilities in the Bulimba-Hawthorne area. The substantially intact timber and tin church served the local Presbyterian faith community for over 70 years before being closed in 1993. The building now operates as a child care centre.

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## History

Evidence indicates that this building was erected as a Presbyterian Church during the 1919-1920 period.

The first Presbyterian Church service held in Queensland was conducted by the Reverend John Dunmore Lang in 1845. In 1849 about six hundred and thirty immigrants arrived in ships chartered by Lang. Presbyterian, Baptist and independent immigrant settlers formed a Uniting Church and attended services conducted by an English Baptist Minister, Reverend Stewart who arrived on the ship "Fortitude".

Presbyterians in Brisbane were soon dissatisfied with this arrangement and in December 1849 a meeting at the residence of Reverend Thomas Mowbray in Kangaroo Point resolved to establish a Presbyterian Church in Queensland. In 1949 the Presbyterian faith celebrated 100 years in Queensland.

The Hawthorne branch of the Presbyterian Church was reputedly established in c1910. This Chapter evolved out of the Norman Park Charge. According to the History of the Bulimba Electorate: 1859-1959 a small church was initially constructed before a new church was erected. It is noted:

To meet increasing urgent demands for additional accommodation the original building was subsequently extended in 1926 and 1929. Hawthorne had at this stage become a separate sanctioned charge with the right to call its own minister.<sup>1</sup>

Title Deeds disclose that in November 1918 land was acquired from the trustees of William Gibson and registered in the name of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. The Post Office Directories (PODs) disclose that a Presbyterian Church was existent at Hawthorne Road by c1920.

The growth of the Church congregation paralleled the development of the Bulimba and Hawthorne environs and that of the Presbyterian faith in the early to mid-twentieth century. By c1926 the adjacent streets to the church, Miles and Dutton Streets were listed in the PODs. It was noted in the 1959 history that the enrolment at the Sunday School exceeded 200 students indicating the importance and influence of the church to Hawthorne parishioners.

In 1977 the Uniting Church was formed by the amalgamation of the Congregation, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches. A rationalisation of church properties then followed and the Hawthorne Presbyterian Church was disposed of in 1993. It now functions as a Children's day care centre.

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## Description

Now functioning as a Children's Development Centre this former Church presents as a large structure adapted for its current use. The current main entrance to the building is from the southern Miles Street side. The entry was from Hawthorne Road and although the property is fenced on this side the original entry, windows, double stairs and doors are still existent.

The external characteristics for the church, including its basic shape and construction materials of tin and timber are still existent. The church roof is steep-pitched and is double gabled. The front cover strips are still visible. A new side awning that forms part of the new entry to the Centre is located on the southern side of the building.

Internally the former church has been sympathetically partitioned and adapted to meet the needs of its current occupants. Much of the tongue and groove timber lining and timber decoration remain.

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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 religious worship erected during the early interwar period at Bulimba and specifically Hawthorne.

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### Rarity

#### CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a place of worship erected during the early twentieth century exemplifying growth of Presbyterianism in Queensland at this time.

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## Aesthetic

### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as an substantial place of worship constructed of the Queensland vernacular timber and tin material which substantially retains its interwar appearance and presence.

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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 place of religious worship for the Presbyterian faith at Bulimba and specifically Hawthorne.

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## References

1. *History of the Bulimba Electorate: 1859-1959*. Bulimba Electorate Centenary Committee. p.53
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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.

**Citation prepared by** — Brisbane City Council (page revised September 2020)



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