

## Heritage Citation



### Hill End Child Care Centre (former church)

#### Key details

<b>Also known as</b>	Presbyterian Church Mission Rooms (former)
<b>Addresses</b>	At 18 Mitchell Street, West End, Queensland 4101
<b>Type of place</b>	Church
<b>Period</b>	Federation 1890-1914
<b>Style</b>	Carpenter Gothic
<b>Lot plan</b>	L50_RP883779
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — October 2006

**Construction**

Roof: Corrugated iron;  
Walls: Timber

**Criterion for listing**

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

Initially constructed as Presbyterian Church Mission Rooms circa 1891, later serving as a church, and currently in use as a child care centre, this building has served the spiritual and community needs of the Hill End area since the early 1890s. It is a good example of a Carpenter Gothic style church constructed in the late nineteenth century, and has significant aesthetic appeal. Through its association with religious and community activity, the building has been a significant component of community life in the area for more than one hundred years.

## History

The Hill End Child Care Centre is based in the former Park Presbyterian Church Mission Rooms, which were constructed in either 1891 or 1892, and later served as a church proper.

David Forest Mitchell first purchased the subdivisions on which the Mission Rooms were constructed in December 1878. He held the land for ten years, eventually transferring it to Alexander James Lamont, Thomas William Wilson, and James Allan in September 1888. These men were probably involved with the Presbyterian Church, and the Mission Rooms were constructed before the property was ultimately transferred to the church proper in 1898.

The Presbyterian Church has a long history in Queensland, beginning with the first services held by John Dunmore Lang in 1845. The Park Presbyterian Church was constructed at the junction of Cordelia and Glenelg Streets, South Brisbane, opposite Musgrave Park, and was completed in 1885. This church had been built to relieve pressure on the Presbyterian churches already in existence on Ann and Grey streets. The new church was soon swamped by attendances, however, and this could have led to the construction of the Mission Rooms in 1891 or 1892.

Sources suggest that the Mission Rooms may have struggled initially, and that closure had been seriously considered. The situation seems to have turned around in the early part of the twentieth century, however, and extensions to the building were undertaken in 1914, the Mission having been able to raise the £250 required for the alterations. By 1919 Post Office Directories confusingly refer to the Mission Rooms as the "Park Presbyterian Church," and later, from 1926, as the Hill End Presbyterian Church. It seems that the building served as a church proper from about 1919.

The property stayed in Presbyterian hands until 1980 when, as a result of the amalgamation of the Presbyterian, Congregational, and Methodist Churches, the Rooms and land was vested in the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust. In 1988, it was converted to a child care centre. The decision to do this may have been prompted by the impending Expo 88. Hill End Child Care Centre still occupies the building.

## Description

This former church building has a steep, corrugated iron roof with chamfer clad walls. A front entry porch is centred within the symmetrical front facade of the building with a small gable roof over it. The gable end has a simple panel infill and is supported by paired, corniced posts. The porch is accessed via timber stairs to either side with a triple top rail, dowel balustrade as per the front of the porch. The pair of front doors of the building is timber with tall vertical windows to both sides of the porch. Further windows are along the sidewalls. Batten infill encloses the space below the building.

Recently a covered deck has been added to the right side of the church with a slat balustrade and skillion corrugated roof. A number of large trees grace the yard of the property.

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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 Presbyterian church built in the early 1890s in response to the demands of a growing congregation.

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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 good example of a late nineteenth century timber church, incorporating a simple gable form with a central porch, exposed decorative roof trusses and gothic arched windows.

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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 Presbyterian church that has served the local faith community for almost 100 years.

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## References

1. Brisbane City Council Water Supply & Sewerage Detail Plans
2. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
3. Environmental Protection Agency
4. JOL Estate Map Collection and photographic collection
5. McKellar's Map of Brisbane and Suburbs. Brisbane: Surveyor-General's Office, 1895
6. *Park Presbyterian Church 1849-1899 Jubilee Services*, 1899

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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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