

## Heritage Citation



**Kelvin Grove Uniting Church (former)**

### Key details

<b>Also known as</b>	Kelvin Grove Methodist Church
<b>Addresses</b>	At 36 Enoggera Road, Newmarket, Queensland 4051
<b>Type of place</b>	Church, Hall
<b>Period</b>	Federation 1890-1914, Victorian 1860-1890
<b>Style</b>	Carpenter Gothic, Gothic
<b>Lot plan</b>	L17_RP20059
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 October 2000 Date of Citation — August 2010
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron

The Bible Christian branch of Methodism was first established in Brisbane in 1867 by Reverend William Woolcock who, after developing a local congregation, commissioned a small Carpenter Gothic style timber church to be built on this site in 1883. Within the next decade there were Bible Christian churches in at least nine Brisbane suburbs, however financial troubles saw the Church forced to amalgamate with the Wesleyan Methodist branch in 1897. In 1914, as the congregation continued to expand, the timber church was moved to the back of the lot to be used as a Sunday school and a new Federation Gothic brick church was built on the site. The original church was later incorporated into a new hall that was built in the early 1930s. In 1977, when the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches amalgamated to form the Uniting Church, the building was renamed the Kelvin Grove Uniting Church. In 1995 the Uniting Church sold the church and hall to private owners.

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## History

Although the Bible Christians represented a only small branch of Methodism in the United Kingdom, they appear to have established themselves disproportionately in Brisbane during the nineteenth century. Their first meeting in Brisbane was held in 1866. In 1867 the Reverend William Woolcock, a Bible Christian Minister, arrived in Brisbane. He saw an opportunity to extend the Methodist missal amongst Kelvin Grove settlers and began his church meetings on a site near the army drilling grounds.

Through Reverend Woolcock's efforts the local congregation grew. A parcel of land was purchased and a small wooden church erected in 1883 on this site at the corner of Davidson Street and Enoggera Road by Mr Sylvanus White. The area was still then widely referred to as Kelvin Grove, though the new market for cattle and stock had been established there since the late 1870s. By 1894 Bible Christian Methodist churches had been erected at Clifton Terrace, Kelvin Grove, Everton Park, Bunya, Brookfield, Moggill, Indooroopilly Pocket, Hamilton and Carina. As a result of severe financial difficulties, the Bible Christians began negotiations in 1894 for amalgamation with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and these were successfully completed by 1897. The church then became Wesleyan Methodist.

The former Bible Christian church, enlarged after a few years, was then moved to the back of the allotment when the present red brick church was erected in 1914. It was used for a time as the Sunday school hall. In 1930 the congregation began the erection of a new hall in anticipation of the celebration of the 1933 Jubilee of the Church. The former church was moved again and incorporated into the new 'Jubilee' hall, for use as a kindergarten hall. The hall extension was prompted by an increase in the activities of the church in the district.

In 1977, when the Uniting Church was formed by the amalgamation of the Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, the church was renamed the Kelvin Grove Uniting Church.

By 1995, the church had become surplus to the requirements of the Uniting Church and the property was sold. The new owners converted the building to a private residence.

# Description

## 1883 TIMBER CHURCH

Set on low timber stumps, the original 1883 Carpenter Gothic style timber church, clad in weatherboards, has a steeply pitched corrugated iron roof. Located at the back corner of a small site, it has previously been incorporated into a hall which was added to one side of the church. In early 1996 approval was given to convert this building into a residence. The property is surrounded by a high timber fence.

The former church building features a steeply pitched gable roof. The shallower gable roof of the hall intersects the church gable below its ridge line. Equally spaced timber framed windows with triangular heads line the remaining side wall of the church. To each gable end, two of these windows sit below a diamond shaped louvred vent. They feature a lower pane of opaque glass and a clear glass top.

## 1914 BRICK CHURCH

This former red and brown brick church is Gothic in style with a gable roof clad in corrugated iron. Consisting of a nave, front entry vestibule and vestry to the rear, the building sits to the front of the property overlooking Enoggera Road. A small brick toilet block which was added to the rear of the vestry at some stage, has been removed to accommodate a carport.

### Exterior

The brown brick side walls of the nave are divided into five bays by red brick buttresses. Single timber framed lancet windows to each bay have dark brown brick sills and small panes of opaque glass. A white horizontal band runs the full length of each side wall forming an arch over each window. Incorporated in this is a hoodmould.

To each symmetrical gable wall of the nave, a louvred opening sits behind a battened gable screen. Three leadlight lancet windows are located centrally below this, the centre one taller than the outer two. Crowned with hoodmoulds, these windows have partially rendered surrounds. Several white horizontal bands extend from either side of the windows across the front facade. A centrally located entry vestibule projects from the front facade and has a parapet wall to the street. Rendered brick stairs to each side lead to a pair of timber doors with rendered lintels. The hipped roof of the vestibule projects beyond its side walls and is supported on timber brackets. Curved brick balustrades to the stairs rise to the parapet wall, which features a central window. The window has three timber framed casement windows, it is crowned with a drip cap. The building's front facade and entry vestibule are built only of red brick.

The walls of the vestry are brown brick with red brick quoins to the corners and side of openings. Bulky white lintels sit above windows and doors.

### Interior

Timber box beams with bead mouldings form the main roof supports to the nave's truncated gable ceiling. The painted interior is broken at dado level by a bead moulding and by decorative vents within each ceiling bay. The timber floor is carpeted throughout. Two doors in the rear wall of the nave access two interconnected vestry rooms. Both have side doors to the outside, and a window to the rear.

The building is very intact. The internal wall between the vestries has recently been removed and a large

opening punched into the vestry wall facing Davidson Street to create a garage. It is believed that the rest of the building is now used as a rumpus room as part of the adjoining residence.

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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

for the evidence it provides of the development of the Kelvin Grove/Newmarket area in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and, as evidence of the strong presence of the Bible Christian and Wesleyan branches of Methodism in the area at this time.

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#### Aesthetic

##### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a Federation Gothic style church with simple decoration and well designed use of contrasting materials that makes a valuable contribution to the Enoggera Road streetscape.

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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 worship for the local Methodist community for almost 100 years.

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## References

1. Dingle, Rev R.S.C. 1947, *Annals of Achievement: A Review of Queensland Methodism 1847-1943*, Queensland Book Depot, Brisbane
  2. Marsden, B. S. 1970, 'Temporal Aspects of Urban Population Densities: Brisbane 1861 - 1961'
  3. *Australian Geographical Studies*, Vol 8, No 1, April 1970
  4. *Methodist Times* 14 August 1930
  5. *Methodist Times* 5 October 1930
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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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