

Heritage Citation



Moggill Methodist Church (former)

Key details

Addresses	At 3451 Moggill Road, Moggill, Queensland 4070
Type of place	Church
Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Carpenter Gothic
Lot plan	L1_RP27586
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 17 May 2013 Date of Citation — September 2011
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (E) Aesthetic; (G) Social

The Moggill Methodist Church (former) is one of the oldest Methodist churches surviving in Brisbane and is an outstanding local landmark. The timber church was constructed in 1868 in response to the fledgling area's spiritual needs. Originally known as the Moggill Wesleyan Methodist Church, the church was extended in 1905 to accommodate the growing congregation. In 1941 a hall was added to the church and this was made possible by the donation of £300 from Mr and Mrs Joseph Sinnamon, early Moggill farmers. This church makes a strong aesthetic contribution to Moggill and has both spiritual and social significance for generations of Moggill residents.

History

Much of the land in the Moggill district was cleared through logging, thus opening the way for farming. Dairy farms were established in the Moggill district throughout the late nineteenth century. Crops such as arrowroot, potatoes and corn were planted to provide extra income for dairy farmers. Livestock and poultry farms were also established in the district. Pineapple farms were an important feature of the Moggill landscape. As the population gradually increased in the district, the need for certain services arose. By 1866 the district had a post office, a school and a cemetery.

The Wesleyan Methodist congregation in Moggill had attended services from as early as 1854 at the home of early pioneer Thomas Makepeace. As the congregation grew the services were held in his barn. This was not satisfactory and by 1868 a one acre portion of land at Moggill had been set aside for the construction of a new church. The trustees for the property were Thomas Tindale Makepeace, Robert Sexton, Enoch Horne, James Shields, Thomas Makepeace [jnr], Henry Heiner and George Sexton.

The timber church was constructed in 1868 and formed part of the Ipswich Methodist Circuit. It was officially opened on the 9 June 1868. As the district was remote and accessibility by road was arduous the preachers from Brisbane would travel by rowing boat down the Brisbane River to Moggill. In 1898 Queensland's Methodist groups (the Wesleyan, Primitive, United Free and Bible Christians) amalgamated and with this the Moggill Wesleyan Methodist Church was known as the Moggill Methodist Church.

By the turn of the century the Methodist congregation had expanded further and so in 1905 the church was extended. These alterations cost £90 and it was reported that "The building should now be quite ample for all requirements"¹. In 1909 the Moggill Methodist Church (former) became part of the Bundamba Circuit. By 1911 the predominately rural community had 250 residents and by 1947 the population had risen to only 364. The slow growth of the area was due mainly to its limited access, with only one main road, Moggill Road, from Kenmore into the area.

On 8 November 1941 an article was published in the Courier Mail reporting a generous donation given to the Moggill Methodist Church (former) by two residents, "Mr and Mrs J. Sinnamon, 80-year-old residents of the Moggill district have given £300 to build the hall now being erected at the Moggill Methodist Church"². Earlier that year the Moggill Methodist Church was recorded in the Register of New Buildings. The additions to the church were listed as "wood and iron hall" and the builder was J. Krueger of Bundamba with an estimated cost of £250. The hall was constructed on an east-west axis at the rear of the original church building built on a north-south axis.

Joseph Sinnamon and his family were important figures in the district. From the late nineteenth century Joseph

Sinnamon had established a farm at Moggill and for almost sixty years had farmed prize winning Jersey cows. The donation of the hall for the Methodist Church reflects the contribution made by the Sinnamon family in the early years of settlement in the Moggill district. The hall was named the 'Sinnamon Hall' and continues to be known as this today.

The Moggill Methodist congregation embraced the 1977 union of the Presbyterian, Congregationalist and Methodist churches and the building is now a Uniting Church continuing to serve as a focus for the local community. The Moggill Methodist Church (former) retains much of its original fabric. The additions to the hall can be easily read and these features contribute to the understanding of the evolution of the church.

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

for the evidence it provides of the development and expansion of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Brisbane and the development of the Moggill district.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage

as the earliest extant church in the Moggill district, the Moggill Methodist Church (former) is a rare example of a timber church built in 1868.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as a surviving example of a small, timber church built in the 1860s.

Aesthetic

CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance

as a local landmark positioned on a prominent corner of Moggill Road and Kangaroo Gully Road that makes a strong contribution to Moggill's history.

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 site of continuous worship since 1868, having served the spiritual needs of generations of residents in the Moggill district.

References

1. *The Brisbane Courier*, Monday 22 May 1905, p3
2. *The Courier Mail*, Saturday 8 November 1941, p8
3. Cameron, Ian, *A Green and Pleasant Land: An Account of the Pullenvale-Moggill District of South-East Queensland*, Ian Cameron, Pullenvale, 1999
4. Wager, Libby. *Historic Brookfield*. (Pullenvale: Pullenvale Field Study Centre. 1988)
5. *Queensland Places*, Moggill and Bellbowrie, University of Queensland, <http://queenslandplaces.com.au/home>
6. Sugars, Bruce and Mabel Kelly, *A Time to Remember: Descendants of Moggill Pioneers*, Souvenir Booklet, 1988
7. Lawson, Ronald 1973, *Brisbane in the 1890s: A Study of an Australian Urban Society*, University of Queensland Press, St. Lucia
8. Historic Titles, Department of Environment and Resource Management
9. Queensland Post Office Directories
10. *Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Survey Maps*

11. Brisbane City Council Building Register, October 1941
 12. Rev R S C Dingle ed *Annals of Achievement: A Review of Queensland Methodism 1847- 1947*, Queensland Book Depot, Brisbane, 1947
 13. *The Brisbane Courier*, Monday 7 May 1928, p18
 14. *The Brisbane Courier*, Monday 22 May 1905, p3
 15. *The Courier Mail*, Thursday 8 February 1945, p4
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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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