

Heritage Citation



Oxley Methodist Church Hall

Key details

Addresses	At 86 Oxley Station Road, Oxley, Queensland 4076
Type of place	Hall
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Carpenter Gothic
Lot plan	L25_RP29509; L24_RP29509
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 17 May 2013 Date of Citation — December 2010
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (D) Representative; (G) Social

The Oxley Methodist Hall was built in 1930 by the Oxley Methodist community in response to the spiritual needs of the community. The modest timber hall was built at a time of increased settlement in the Oxley area and became the preaching centre for the Methodist congregation of the Oxley district in this period. The funds for the construction of the church hall were raised by the Methodist community. As the first Methodist Church hall in Oxley it holds historic significance to Oxley.

History

By the late nineteenth century Oxley had two main areas of development. The first was along Ipswich Road where the hotel had been established. Businesses such as a store, a butcher and a blacksmith shop were established as the population slowly increased and the need for services arose. In 1864 a non-denominational church was built near the corner of Bannerman and Ipswich Roads and the first Oxley school was built in 1873 with 32 enrolments when opened. This area became known as Oxley Central. The second area of development in Oxley was beside the railway station. However, this was slower to develop commercially than the first. Further development occurred in Oxley in the interwar period with new businesses being established beside the railway station.

Prior to the construction of the Oxley Methodist Church hall the Oxley Methodist community attended services and events at the Oxley Progress Hall, the Darra Methodist Church or the Graceville Methodist hall. In the mid-1920s the Oxley Methodist community began to raise money for the construction of a new church hall to be used for services, Sunday school and Church events. In 1927 a thirty-two perch block of land was purchased along Oxley Station Road by the Oxley Methodist community, the trustees were George Iredale Bourne, Edwin Proctor and William Brown.

A continued fund-raising effort conducted by the Oxley Methodist community soon had raised enough money for the construction of the hall. Events such as fetes and concerts were organised. On Monday 13 October 1930 The Brisbane Courier published an article 'Church Activities: Oxley Stump Capping'. The ceremony was to celebrate the commencement of construction of the timber building. The ceremony was attended by respected Methodist community members including Reverend A. A. Mills, President of the Methodist Conference, Reverend J. A. Heaton, ex-President of the Methodist Conference, Reverend R. P. Pope, secretary of the Methodist Conference, Reverend H. Ralph Heaton, minister in charge of the circuit, as well as other dignitaries including Mr. Nimmo, M. L.A and Walter Taylor.

The cost of construction of the new hall was estimated to be approximately £600. The report in The Brisbane Courier stated, "The building which is being erected primarily as a Sunday school hall, will be of wood, with a gable roof, and will measure 48ft. by 26 ft. There will be a vestibule porch, approached by double steps. The structure will be lined and ceiled ...the floor of hardwood, crow's ash, and stringy bark boards alternating, and the windows are to be of arctic glass".¹ In October, 1930 the Church hall was recorded in the Register of New Buildings. The estimated cost of the work was £590; the builder was Mr Gregory of Nundah.

On Saturday 17 January, 1931 the Oxley Methodist Church hall was officially opened. The opening ceremony was attended by the Oxley Methodist community and officials as well as the Lord Mayor, Alderman W. A. Jolly. The Lord Mayor commented "on the remarkable progress of the Oxley district during the last 10 years, adding that he regarded the erection of the Methodist Church Hall as one of its coping stones".² The cost of the hall

once completed exceeded the initial estimate, “the amount raised for the building fund since February 1926, was £458/19/8, and £853 had been spent on the property - £132 for the land, £590 on the hall, and £131 for furniture.”³

Once completed the Oxley Methodist Church hall became the preaching centre for the Methodist Church community in the district. The hall is historically significant to Oxley as an interwar timber ecclesiastical building constructed by the Oxley Methodist community in response to the increased settlement in Oxley and the need for adequate spiritual centres.

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

As the first Methodist Church in the Oxley area, the Oxley Methodist Church hall is representative of the development of religious institutes in the area in response to the spiritual needs of the community; the timber church built in 1930 that represents the growing needs of the Methodist congregation in the Oxley area in the early twentieth century.

Representative

CRITERION D

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

as a timber ecclesiastical building built in the early twentieth century.

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 the first Methodist Church hall in Oxley built by the Oxley Methodist community in the interwar period.

References

1. *The Brisbane Courier*, Monday 13 October 1930, p.3
 2. *The Brisbane Courier*, Thursday 22 January 1931, p.19
 3. *The Brisbane Courier*, Thursday 22 January 1931, p.19
 4. Donald Watson and Judith McKay, *Queensland Architects of the Nineteenth Century*, South Brisbane: Queensland Museum, 1994
 5. Judy Gale Rechner, *Brisbane House Styles 1880 to 1940: a guide to the affordable house*, Brisbane: Brisbane History Group Studies No. 2, 1998
 6. Historic Titles, Department of Environment and Resource Management
 7. Queensland Post Office Directories
 8. Metropolitan Water and Sewerage Survey Map
 9. Rev R S C Dingle ed *Annals of Achievement: A Review of Queensland Methodism 1847- 1947*, Queensland Book Depot, Brisbane, 1947
 10. Jenkins, Lesley, *A Celebration of Culture: A Social History of Darra*, Living in Brisbane, 2003
 11. Fones, Ralph, *Oxley! A Mind of its Own*, Oxley-Chelmer History Group, 2006
 12. Grantham, Lona, *Heritage Tour: An Historical Tour of Oxley*, Oxley-Chelmer Historical Group, 2003
 13. *The Brisbane Courier*, Monday 23 September 1929, p.9
 14. *The Brisbane Courier*, Saturday 9 November 1929, p.14
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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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