

## Heritage Citation



### Red Hill/Paddington Community Centre

#### Key details

**Also known as** Carmel Presbyterian Sabbath Church

<b>Addresses</b>	At 180 Jubilee Terrace, Bardon, Queensland 4065
<b>Type of place</b>	Church, School, Hall
<b>Period</b>	Federation 1890-1914
<b>Style</b>	Carpenter Gothic
<b>Lot plan</b>	L53_RP889049
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — September 2008
<b>Construction</b>	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (D) Representative; (G) Social

Constructed in 1903, this former Presbyterian Sabbath school was constructed to provide religious education to youths in the Bardon area. Built in a simplified form of the Federation Carpenter Gothic style, the building was used as a church from 1940 and continued to serve the local community until its closure in 1989. This fine building now operates as a community centre.

## History

The former Carmel Presbyterian Sabbath School was constructed on this site in the latter half of 1903. The property was first secured by trustees (presumably on behalf of the Church) in 1902 and a mortgage taken out in March 1903 for £250. This may have been used to finance construction of the building. The trustees held the land on which it stands until December 1923 when the title was transferred to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. The 1940 Post Office Directory shows that the name of the establishment was changed around this time to the Carmel Presbyterian Sabbath Church. It is presumed that the building served as a regular church from the early 1940s onwards.

The history of the Presbyterian Church in Australia stretches back as far as 1809, when the first Presbyterian services were held in New South Wales. Presbyterian ministers arrived in the 1820s and the Church continued to grow throughout the colonial period. The Presbyterian Church of Queensland was formed in November 1863, and remained a very small organisation for some time, with only three ministers delivering regular services. In 1901, at the same time as Federation, the various colonial Presbyterian Church bodies amalgamated to form the Presbyterian Church of Australia. The Sabbath School building at Jubilee Terrace was established very soon after this amalgamation took place.

The Sabbath School was an integral part of the Church's activities in Queensland. The first edition of The Queensland Presbyterian Magazine and Sabbath School Messenger, published in January 1879, outlined its

importance to the goals of the church:

The Sabbath School has of late years very much come to the front as a leading instrumentality in carrying on the Church's work. Our Schools all over the colony are now banded together into one body, not separate from, or independent of the church.... The hope of the Church lies in the up-bringing of the young as Christians – as believers in Jesus, and followers of Him, - at once intelligent, consistent, and devout.

The establishment of a Sabbath School was a demonstration of the Presbyterian Church's commitment to the religious education of young people in the hope that they would grow to be good Christians and stalwart members of Australian society.

The Carmel Presbyterian Sabbath School was established in Bardon at a time when an increasing amount of church services were becoming available to local residents. In the late 1880s, few religious institutions were available to Bardon residents. People wishing to attend services were compelled to travel to nearby Paddington, Rosalie or Milton. The establishment of the Sabbath School at Jubilee Terrace was one example of the wider pattern of development of the Presbyterian Church's activities in Queensland. It also shows that, though Bardon's and surrounding districts' populations were yet to experience the growth boom of the early decades of the twentieth century, there had been a sufficient local population to make a Presbyterian Sabbath School viable.

The Church at Jubilee Terrace served the parish until 1989, a total of 85 years, and has been in use as a community centre since 1992. This constitutes nearly a full century of community service.

---

## Description

This Federation Carpenter Gothic style church is located in close proximity of Jubilee Terrace street alignment. The building is rectangular in plan with a street facing gable and an attached gabled entry vestibule projecting towards the street. The structure is timber framed and clad with timber boards.

The steeply pitched roof is clad with corrugated sheeting and extends beyond the walls to provide eaves overhangs. The gable ends of the main building, as well as the vestibule, are decorated at the top with diagonal battening infill and a finial.

Light and natural ventilation to the nave is provided by lancet windows. These timber-framed windows consist of a lower and upper window with a fixed panel fanlight above.

The architectural form itself emphasises economy and simplicity, and was typically used for churches of modest size, though larger and more ornate churches were constructed as well. Further, this church, in its simplified form mirrors the philosophy of the Presbyterian faith, which emphasises thrift, and rejects excessive ostentation. This type of ecclesiastical architecture is to be found throughout the eastern states of Australia and is a distinctive component of the Australian architectural milieu.

# 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 one of the earlier ecclesiastical structures in the Bardon area, constructed at a time when Bardon was a predominantly rural area with large estates and few church establishments.

---

### 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 Federation Carpenter Gothic style church simplified in a typical Presbyterian manner.

---

### 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 building that has served the local community for nearly 100 years, initially as a Sunday school and church, and more recently, as an important community center.

---

## References

1. Richard Apperly (et al), *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian architecture* Sydney: Angus and

Robertson, 1989

2. Brisbane City Council Water Supply and Sewerage Detail Plans
  3. *Brisbane Centenary Official Historical Souvenir 1923*
  4. Brisbane Post Office Directories
  5. Department of Natural Resources and Mines, Queensland Certificates of Title
  6. Queensland Presbyterian Magazine and Sabbath School Messenger
  7. *The Queensland Presbyterian Magazine and Sabbath School Messenger*, January 1879
- 

## Copyright Brisbane City Council

**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)



*Dedicated to a better Brisbane*