

Heritage Citation



Uniting Church (former)

Key details

Also known as	Primitive Methodist Congregation
Addresses	At 215 Latrobe Terrace, Paddington, Queensland 4064
Type of place	Church, House, Hall

Period	Victorian 1860-1890
Style	Carpenter Gothic
Lot plan	L1_SP164810; L2_SP164810
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — August 2015
Construction	Roof: Corrugated iron; Walls: Timber
Criterion for listing	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (D) Representative; (G) Social

Constructed circa 1886 and moved to this site in 1891, this Victorian Carpenter Gothic building is the oldest of three extant Methodist church buildings in Paddington. The first Methodist Church had been built in 1878 on Given Terrace but was considered too far for those travelling on foot so funds were raised by the community to erect a new church. Originally built for the Primitive Methodist Congregation, this church was purchased by the Unity Order of Oddfellows Friendly Society in the 1920s but was again owned by the Primitive Methodist Congregation from 1965- 1978. The building became a Uniting Church in 1978 and was sold in the 1980s to a private owner who has since converted the building to a residence.

History

Paddington was among the first suburbs to experience close residential settlement when overcrowding forced residents away from what is now known as the city centre and Spring Hill in the 1880s. The commanding views offered from the area's ridges and its proximity to the town attracted further settlement in the ensuing decades. The growth of the district was recognised in 1887 when residents successfully petitioned for the formation of the Ithaca Shire which served to link the scattered communities.

The Primitive Methodists and the Wesleyans were early in commencing activities in the Paddington district. Services were held in makeshift tents until sufficient funds were raised to purchase land and erect permanent structures. The Wesleyans built one of the area's first permanent churches in 1875 and the Primitives followed soon after, erecting a church on Given Terrace around 1878.

This church also had its beginnings in a tent. A group of local residents saw the need for a Primitive Methodist church in the vicinity as the Paddington Church at Given Terrace was considered too far for those travelling by foot. The group eventually organised services on the verandah of a local home. The success of the informal verandah services prompted the group to erect a tent church, located almost opposite the present Government House. The tent church was not a success though, as the preacher failed to appear at the first Sunday service and soon after the tent was destroyed by extreme winds. Eventually enough funds were raised to purchase land on Fernberg Road and to build a timber church. For reasons that are not clear, the church was moved in 1891 to its present site at Latrobe Terrace.

The church celebrated its golden jubilee in 1936, and was featured on the front page of the Queensland Methodist Times in May of that year. At the time of its golden jubilee, three memorial windows were presented to the church by the families of former church members. A picket fence which was built to celebrate the occasion remains today.

It has undergone a series of changes in ownership since its construction. Originally built for the Primitive Methodist Congregation, the church was purchased by the Unity Order of Oddfellows Friendly Society in the 1920s but was again owned by the Primitive Methodist Congregation from 1965- 1978. The building became a Uniting Church in 1978 and was sold in the 1980s to a private owner who has converted the building to a residence.

Description

This small box-like Victorian Carpenter Gothic style former church is sited close to the street frontage on a steeply sloping site. The building is now used as a residence.

This timber framed chamferboard clad building is rectangular and contains an attached small entry porch on the southern (street frontage) end. This porch is accessed from both sides by small flights of L-shaped timber steps. The underneath area created by the terrain of the site has been utilised and enclosed.

The structure is supported on concrete piers with the area under the lower floor accommodation enclosed by vertical timber battens fixed between concrete piers. The building is clad externally with timber chamferboards.

The pitched roofs to the main building and the entry porch are sheeted with corrugated iron. The eaves overhang along both sides has been lined with fibro cement sheeting whilst the eaves overhang to the gabled ends has been left unlined. The slight overhang to the entry porch is also unlined.

An extension to the building has been the addition of a timber framed open deck supported on metal columns and roofed with corrugated iron. The ceiling is unlined.

The windows to the upper floor area are lancet type stained glass pivoted windows. The windows to the lower level are clear glass double hung windows. These windows do not line up with the lancet windows overhead.

The window to the entry porch has a flat head in lieu of the pointed arch incorporated elsewhere on the upper floor level.

The gable ends to both the main building and the entry porch have been modestly decorated by the utilisation of

vertical timber boarding spaced apart and supported on a timber rail. The slightly wider centre board incorporates fretwork decoration.

A fixed timber louvre ventilating panel in the southern gable provides ventilation to the roof space.

External access to the lower floor area and rear of the site is by way of a flight of timber framed steps. The L-shaped steps to the entry porch appear to be replacements of earlier steps.

The timber fascia and barge boards have been dressed to contain a beaded bottom edge. A cornice mould packing has been fixed to the top of the large board directly under the beaded roof flashing to provide decoration to the barge board.

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 about the intensive settlement of Paddington in the late nineteenth century and the early beginnings of the Primitive Methodist church community in the area.

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as the oldest Methodist church in Paddington.

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 framed 1880s Victorian Carpenter Gothic style church.

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 an important part of the lives of successive generations who have worshipped there and for its association with the Unity Order of Oddfellows Friendly Society.

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