

150 Years of Church Buildings Photographs Project Complete

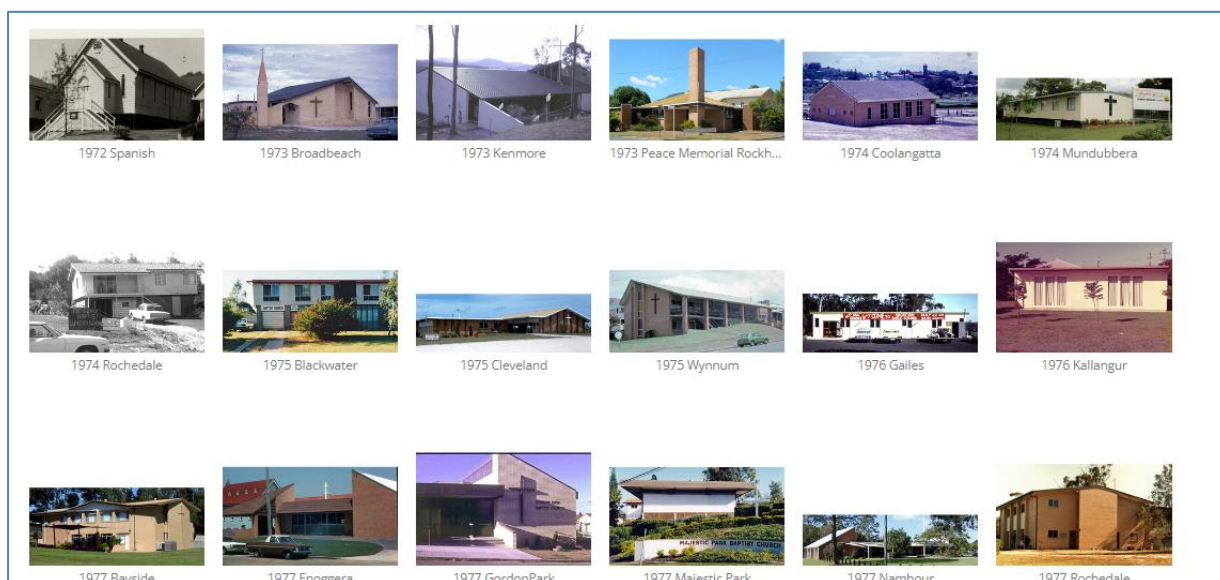
Baptist Church Archives Qld/Baptist Heritage Qld

By David Parker ©

2 March 2023

A project to publish on-line photographs of Baptist Church buildings in Queensland in chronological order from the earliest up to 2000 has been completed with the last batch, the 1990s, being posted to line recently. It may be found at <https://www.bhsq.org/barq/churches100years/index.html> There is also another album of German Baptist Churches in Queensland at <https://www.bhsq.org/barq/german-baptist/index.html>

A total of 312 buildings are shown, commencing with the United Evangelical Church in 1851 right up to the latest, Stanthorpe Baptist Church's current building (the third building on site, the first being in 1958). The churches are listed by year of opening date, each one of which has been verified.

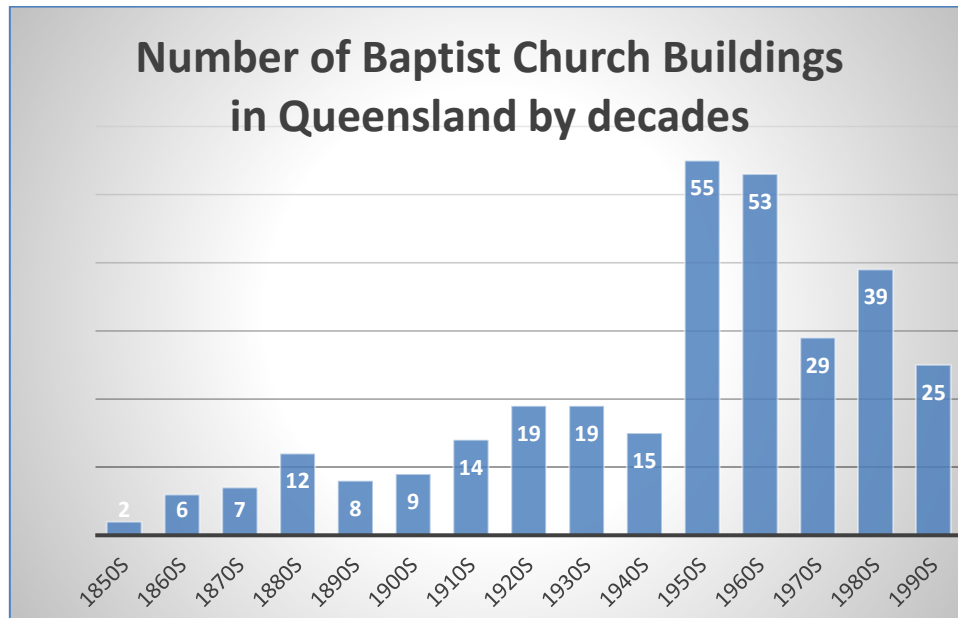


The project was intended to continue with buildings right up to the present, but the records of the Baptist Union and the churches since 2000 are too bad to provide anything like a complete listing. This is regretted because it means many significant buildings must be omitted.

The project, which is intended to showcase the variety and number of buildings erected by Baptists over the years in which they have been active in Queensland, was limited to the main church structures used for services so does not include outstations, halls, schools or child-minding properties. It is also restricted to new, or replacement buildings (including those in new locations), and not renovations, enlargements or modifications. It does not include rented buildings such as shop fronts, schools or community centres, which have become more common in recent years.

The album well illustrates the variety of building styles and construction materials used over the years, from the earlier decorated wooden 'Trotter' style, such as Cloyna or Graceville, to the standard Home Mission plan designed by Architect Ray Smith, such as at Grovely or Stanthorpe. Then there are buildings which are more functional in nature while others may be more stylistic or decorative, reflecting factors such as climate, affordability and sensitivity to the nature of a building used for Christian purposes.

This project also highlights starkly the surges that have taken place in building efforts by Baptists in Queensland. A tally shows that the average number of buildings per decade up to 1950 was about 10 but it jumped to more than 50 in the 1950s and 1960s. It eased off in the 1970s but recovered some of that growth in the 1980s to 39, before dropping again in the 1990s. These trends reflect the smaller size of the denomination in earlier years and then the growth in the 1950s and 1960s especially as the result of the vigorous outreach of the Home Mission. The booming years of the 1980s are also reflected. Some of the buildings have been repurposed from either other denominations or commercial use.



Photographs of a few churches were unable to be located (being presented by a blue image indicating this), so any assistance to fill these gaps would be appreciated. Information about church building openings is widely scattered across Baptist Union records so it is possible that some corrections might be needed to this list. Enquiries and assistance may be directed to archives@qb.org.au.

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