UNITING CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL



23270 Uniting Ch Byaduk 0375



23270 Uniting Ch Byaduk 0374



23270 Uniting Ch Byaduk side elevation 0373

Location

Hamilton-Port Fairy Road BYADUK, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 11, 2003

What is significant?
The 1864 Uniting Church is constructed of bluestone with timber framed windows, and a corrugated iron roof. The interior of the church is austere, with no decoration. The Sunday School, erected in 1899, is built of timber, with a brick chimney, and contains a number of decorative Federation era leadlight windows. The Church was erected on land donated by Mr. William Holcombe, and the first services were conducted by the Rev J B Smith who travelled from Hamilton. No architect or builder has been associated with the design of the church or the Sunday school. The church and the Sunday school are in excellent condition and retain a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?
The Byaduk Uniting Church and Sunday School is of architectural and historical and social significance to the township of Byaduk.

Why is it significant?
The Byaduk Uniting Church and Sunday School are of historical and social significance for the association they have with the establishment of the Wesleyan and later Uniting church in the area, and for its long association with both religious and secular education in Byaduk. It is of further historical significance for its associations with the important early Wesleyan Leader, John Smith. Of further social significance is the function which the church has served as a communal worship and meeting place for over 100 years. The Church, in particular, is of architectural significance for its used of Gothic revival style in a Wesleyan church. The use of this style indicates a rejection of the first Methodists' anti-Papist preference for simple Classical chapels. The Gothic revival became an overwhelming fashion which few Protestant denomination could resist, illustrating an important part of the history of church architecture in Australia.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1864,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	BYADUK METHODIST CHURCH, BYADUK WESLEYAN CHAPEL,
Hermes Number	23270
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The condition of the church and school are excellent.

Physical Description 1

The Byaduk Uniting Church and Sunday School are located on the east side of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, approximately 250 metres south of the intersection of the Byaduk-Penshurst Road. The 1864 church is constructed of bluestone with timber framed windows, and a corrugated iron roof. There two lancet windows on either side of the nave, with a Gothic arch in the west wall, on either side of the original entrance arch, are leadlight lancet windows with 20th century yellow tinted glass with a border of green glass A brick porch was added to the front entrance in the 20th century, which contains a smaller version of the tinted lancet windows in the west facade.

The interior of the church is austere, with no decoration. The ceiling is plain, painted plaster. The painted plaster walls are unadorned except for two timber memorials, one being the Honour Roll. The wooden pulpit, which appears to be of 20th century origin, is modestly decorated with an arched frieze. The present seating is of a recent date.

The Sunday School, erected in 1899, is built of timber, with a brick chimney, and contains a number of decorative Federation era leadlight windows. A granite tablet has been placed in the footings to the left of the front doors. It reads 'Twentieth Century Sabbath School. This stone was laid by Mrs. Ward Oct 18th 1899.'

The grounds of the church contain two large Canary Island palms, and several shrubs.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life
8.6 Worshipping
8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.4 Making places for worship

Usage/Former Usage

church

Integrity

Good degree of integrity

Physical Description 2

Wesleyan Chapel Reserve

Physical Description 3

Wesleyan Chapel Reserve

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/