

---

# UNITING CHURCH



23215 Uniting Church  
Dunkeld 0149



23215 Uniting Church  
Dunkeld 0151

---

## Location

79-81 Wills Street, DUNKELD VIC 3294 - Property No 003

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

---

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 29, 2003

What is significant?

Dunkeld Uniting Church, formerly Dunkeld Wesleyan and later, Dunkeld Methodist Church, is located on the south side of Wills Street in the centre of the township of Dunkeld. The brick church, built in 1914, is the second to be built on the land, replacing an earlier timber church, built in 1867. The current brick church is constructed of locally made bricks on a freestone base, in an early English Gothic revival style. The architects were Clegg, Miller and Cain, and the builder was E. H Patterson of Hamilton. The church was associated with many local merchants of the township, Mrs. George Taylor laying the foundation stone in 1913. The first minister Rev. James W. Tuckfield, whose father was a well known Aboriginal missionary near Birregurra, and whose family was influential in the Victorian Methodist church in the later half of the nineteenth century.. The Church began as a Wesleyan Church under the Hamilton circuit, later breaking away to be under the Penshurst Circuit, and finally as the church increased in popularity, to become the centre of the Dunkeld Circuit. In 1902, it became the Methodist church, when the four branches of Methodism combined, becoming the United Church by the late 1970s. The

church is in excellent condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Dunkeld Uniting Church is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Penshurst and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Dunkeld Uniting Church is of historical significance as the expression of the role and position of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and subsequently the Uniting Church, and its congregation in the community for over one hundred and thirty years. It is of architectural significance for its use of the Gothic revival style to express religious values, for the range of its memorial objects and windows and as a comparison with the churches of other denominations in Dunkeld.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1914,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	WESLYAN CHURCH, DUNKELD METHODIST CHURCH,
Hermes Number	23215
Property Number	

---

## Physical Conditions

The church is in excellent condition

## Physical Description 1

The Dunkeld Uniting Church is a modest red brick building in the Early English Gothic revival style. It has a rectangular plan of four bays divided by buttresses, no porch and no chancel or vestry. The gabled roof is pitched at 60 degrees and is clad with corrugated iron. Architectural details are elaborated in cement render, now painted white. The facade is symmetrical about the front door which is timber and double leaved. Above the door there is a large tripartite window under a simple hood mould. The side windows are treated as single lancets.

In front of the church marking the entrance gate there is a pair of Cupressus sempervirens 'stricta', Italian Cypresses, one of which is twice the height of the other. They appear top date from the construction of the church. A timber church hall was been built later on the east side of the church which is now much altered.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4 Making places for worship

8.8 Remembering the fallen

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## Usage/Formal Usage

Continues to be used as a Church

## **Integrity**

High degree of integrity to 1914 construction date

## **Physical Description 2**

James, W Tuckfield, 1864  
Robert M Hunter, 1865  
Henry Catford, 1867  
William Weston, 1868  
Robert Brown, 1869  
Thomas Adamson, 1870  
Henry E Merriman, 1872  
William Reed, 1874  
James Lowe, 1876  
John Leslie, 1877  
William Wykes, 1879  
John Adams, 1880  
William T Hiatt, 1882  
A W Butler, 1883  
John G Wheen, 1885  
Philip Hauser, 1886  
S C Flockart, 1887  
Arthur Lelean, 1889  
John Jones, 1890  
Thomas Collins, 1892  
W J Palamountain, 1893  
Albert T Holden, 1896  
Henry J Ham, 1899

*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/>*