

# UNITING CHURCH SECOND WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL



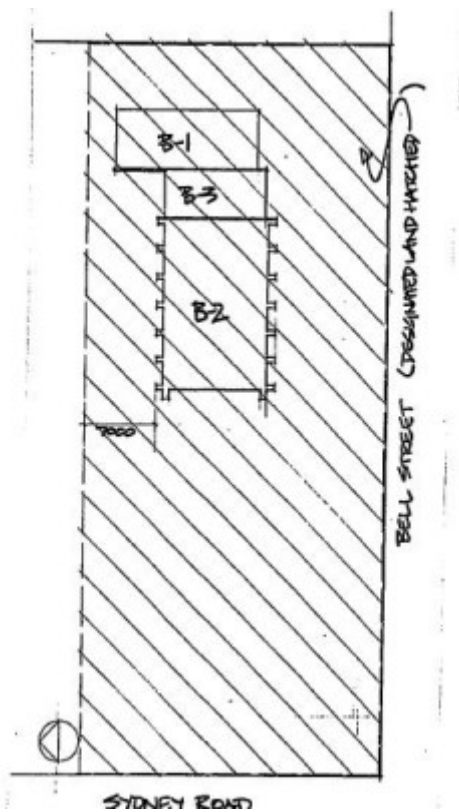
UNITING CHURCH SECOND WESLEYAN METHODIST CHAPEL SOHE 2008



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1 uniting church second wesleyan methodist chapel sydney road coburg front view



h00962 plan h0962

## Location

512 SYDNEY ROAD COBURG, MORELAND CITY

## **Municipality**

MERRI-BEK CITY

## **Level of significance**

Registered

## **Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number**

H0962

## **Heritage Overlay Numbers**

HO164

## **VHR Registration**

February 11, 1993

## **Heritage Listing**

Victorian Heritage Register

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## **Statement of Significance**

Last updated on - June 18, 1999

The former Methodist Chapel, constructed in 1849 and extended at the north end shortly afterwards, is the earliest known surviving Methodist chapel in Victoria. This substantially intact building is constructed of bluestone with a sandstone facade facing south towards Bell Street. It is one of the earliest extant bluestone buildings in Victoria and amongst the State's earliest surviving religious buildings. The former chapel was also originally used as a Methodist day school and is believed to be the earliest extant school building in Melbourne. It continues to be used as a hall by the present congregation.

The simple appearance of the 1849 former chapel is representative of mid nineteenth century Methodist chapels, the design of which is based on John Wesley's teachings that chapels should be plain, decent and economical. The simple design also reflects the Methodist emphasis on the preaching of Scripture.

The former Methodist church, now the Uniting church, designed by T J Crouch, was officially opened on 24 December 1857 and is an early example of a Gothic style Methodist church in Victoria. The church is one of three Gothic style Methodist churches, the others being at Lonsdale Street and St Kilda, designed and constructed during 1857 - 1858.

The adoption of the Gothic style, a more traditional and churchly architectural idiom, reflects changes within the Methodist movement during the mid nineteenth century. The 1857 chapel is representative of a number of medium sized suburban and country churches designed by TJ Crouch in sole practice and as a principal of the prolific partnership of Crouch and Wilson. The building is of note for its unusual random rubble stonework of the walls. The bluestone building adjoining both the former chapel and the church which is used as vestry, store and change room, is of note as an integral part of this complex of buildings. The church, former chapel and adjoining building demonstrate the continued use and changing requirements of the congregation. The buildings also illustrate the changes within the Methodist movement and how these changes influenced church architecture.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1858,
Architect/Designer	Crouch, TJ,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	UNITING CHURCH COMPLEX (FORMER METHODIST),
Hermes Number	3709
Property Number	

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## History

Associated People: Tenant WESLEYAN PARISH;

## Extent of Registration

### AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 962.

Uniting Church Complex (former Methodist) corner Sydney Road and Bell Street, Coburg.

(To the extent of:

1. The buildings known as the 1849 chapel, the 1857 Church and the adjoining building marked B-1, B-2 and B-3, on Plan No. 6051036(A), endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council; and
2. The land marked L-1 on Plan No. 6051036(A) being land from the base of the buildings south to Bell Street, west to Sydney Road, east to the eastern boundary and north from the outer face of the buttresses on the north wall of the 1857 church to a distance of 7000 mm, being part of the land described in Certificate of Title Volume

8621 Folio 473, marked L-1 on Plan No. 6051036(B).)  
[Victoria Government Gazette No. G6 11 February 1993 p.292]

*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/>*