
METHODIST CHURCH (FORMER)



52669 Former Meth Ch Drik
Drik 083

Location

534 WINNAP-NELSON RD, DRIK DRIK, GLENELG SHIRE

Municipality

GLENELG SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

Glenelg Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The former Methodist Church, located on the Winnap-Nelson Road, Drik Drik was built as a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in 1885. It is located about 5.0km south-south-west of the intersection of Winnap-Nelson Road and the Princes Highway and 32.5kms north-west of Heywood. The congregation was served by ministers and lay preachers from Portland and later Heywood, the first being the influential Rev. William Lightbody whose descendants continued as members of the congregation. Drik Drik was the first 'preaching station' of the Portland Bush Mission. The present church dates from 1885, and appears to be the second constructed in the area superseding a timber slab church built in 1866 on the same site. The designer is not known but the builder was a Mr. Thomas. It opened free of debt. The church is a simple two bay Gothic structure, built of local stone, the doors and windows having simple Gothic arches, arranged symmetrically. The original fittings such as the altar, pews and memorials have been removed but the church retains a high degree of integrity externally. It is in good condition. The Methodist congregation was always supported in practical ways by the local Presbyterians, with

whom there were many close connections. The two formed the Presbyterian-Methodist Co-operation in 1966 and amalgamated as part of the Uniting Church of Australia in 1977, after which the present church passed into private ownership.

How is it significant?

The former Methodist Church, Drik Drik is of historical, social and architectural significance to the Glenelg Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The Methodist Church is of historical significance as an example of the importance of Methodist faith in the Drik Drik area from the 1860s. The church is of social significance to the community of the Drik Drik-Heywood-Portland area as the focus for Methodists who settled there in the mid nineteenth century. It is of architectural significance as a good example of 'primitive' Gothic style used to express religious values.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Glenelg - Glenelg Shire Heritage Study Part One, Carlotta Kellaway, David Rhodes Mandy Jean, 2002; Glenelg - Glenelg Heritage Study Stage Two (a), Heritage Matters, 2006;
Construction dates	1866,
Hermes Number	52669
Property Number	

Usage/Former Usage

Holiday weekender.

Physical Description 1

The building is a very small church of two bays in the Primitive Gothic Revival style with a plan approximately 4.5m x 5.5m. The walls are coursed bluestone with dressed sandstone quoins, now painted white, continued into the gables as stepped coping stones. The main door and lancet windows in the side walls have rendered quoins, voussoirs and keystones. The date 1885 is carved into the keystone of the main door. The church faces east and is set within an open paddock. The original iron roof has been replaced recently and other repairs undertaken. A stone wall and memorial plaque are also located on the site.

Physical Conditions

Very Good

Historical Australian Themes

8. DEVELOPING AUSTRALIA'S CULTURAL LIFE

8.6: Worshipping

8.6.1: Worshipping together

8.6.2: Maintaining religious traditions and ceremonies

8.6.3: Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4: Making places for worship

8.6.5: Evangelising

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/>