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# Wesleyan Methodist Manse and Kindergarten (Former)



Wesleyan Methodist Manse and Kindergar (former), Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006



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## Location

34 Electra Street WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO98

## Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The former Wesleyan Methodist Manse, designed by Crouch & Wilson and constructed in 1876 and the Kindergarten (Former) constructed by WH Salt in 1914-15, at 34 Electra Street, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The former Wesleyan Methodist Manse and Kindergarten at 34 Electra Street, Williamstown are of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the Manse is significant for its associations with Wesleyan Methodists who were one of the earliest religious congregations to establish in Williamstown. It is now one of the earliest surviving ecclesiastical residences in the municipality and demonstrates the importance of the Wesleyan Methodist church in Williamstown during the nineteenth century. The kindergarten demonstrates the increasing recognition of the educational needs of very young children by the Methodist church at the beginning of the twentieth century and is the oldest surviving kindergarten in the municipality. (AHC criteria A4 and D2)

Aesthetically, the Manse is significant as a Medieval styled ecclesiastical residence built of local bluestone, thus reflecting its locality. It is an integral part of the former Wesleyan church complex, which includes the similarly styled church and contributes to the historic character of Electra Street. The kindergarten is notable as an intact example of its type, which contributes to the historic character of the complex as part of the group of public buildings in Electra Street. (AHC criteria E1)

*Note: There is a separate citation for the adjoining Wesleyan Methodist Church (Former)*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;
Construction dates	1914,
Architect/Designer	Crouch & Wilson,
Hermes Number	15028
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Manse

Set on an asymmetrical plan, built of quarry-faced basalt masonry with quoining in cream brickwork (now painted), this two-storey house possesses a gabled-thrust wing set against a typical hipped-roof main section and a single level, bullnose-roofed verandah. The roof is of slate and the brick quoining windows suitably pointed for their ecclesiastical function. Venetian configured three-light windows provide the main emphasis, set below the finialled gable verge and the centred oculus.

The fence has been replaced and the verandah altered. The brick quoining has been painted.

Kindergarten

The Methodist Kindergarten is a red brick building with twin gabled corrugated iron roof over projecting bays at either end that enclose a central porch. The gables have carved bargeboards and timber brackets. Foundation Stones are set into the facade of each bay: On the left is inscribed "Feed My Lambs. This Stone was laid by Rev. Francis Mason Superintendent Minister 19 August 1914", while on the right is "Suffer Little Children to Come Unto Me. This Stone was laid by William H Salt Sunday School Superintendent 19 August 1914".

## Integrity

External Integrity and condition

Integrity - High (Manse and Kindergarten). Condition - Good (Manse and Kindergarten)

## **Physical Description 2**

Context

The Manse and Kindergarten are integral parts of the Wesleyan church complex, which contributes to the historic character of Electra Street.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Forming Associations, Worshipping

## **Physical Description 3**

*Associations*

John Harcourt, Crouch & Wilson

*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/>*