
FORMER WESLEYAN CHURCH SCHOOL PARSONAGE

Location

141-165 KOROIT STREET AND 89-105 LIEBIG STREET WARRNAMBOOL, WARRNAMBOOL CITY

Municipality

WARRNAMBOOL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7321-0074

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The construction of the shops along Liebig and Koroit Streets would have severely impacted the remains of the earlier churches. The latter church was possibly demolished after 1939 as the buildings of 95-99 Liebig Street appear to have been built in the late 19th century. It is likely that the church was located closer to the corner of Koroit and Liebig Streets. It does not appear that any of the post 1939 buildings on the site have basements and so it is likely that the strip footings of both churches are likely to be present between the footings of the existing buildings.

Archaeological
Significance

The archaeological significance of the site lies in the potential of the remains to provide information on early ecclesiastical architectural and construction quality in Warrnambool. Of particular interest would be the first church on the site, which seemed to have been poorly built. Did wombat burrows ultimately make the building unstable? Archaeological deposits from refuse and cess pits may provide some insight into the health and living conditions of the clergy who first lived on the site.

Intact remains would be expected to be found in the sealed surfaces at the rear of the buildings, the pedestrian easement leading into Koroit Street and the north eastern portion of the car park. Other archaeological remains that could be expected to be present would be post holes from fences, footings and/or post holes of subsidiary buildings such as parsonage and/or school room, and refuse or cess pits.

Historical
Significance

The site is historically significant as it was the location of the first Wesleyan (Methodist) church in Warrnambool.

Hermes Number 154849

Property
Number

History

The first Wesleyan Church in Warrnambool was constructed in 1850 on a land grant secured on the south western corner of Liebig and Koroit Streets. It was opened on the 4th May 1851 by the first resident minister, William Lightbody. Lightbody, who administered both Warrnambool and Port Fairy, was at the time one of five ordained Methodist ministers in Victoria.

Despite being a stone building, the initial church was made unstable because of excessive wombat burrowing. By 1857 the chapel was being supported by wooden props. A new and larger church was built in 1858 around the shell or footings of the original. By 1886 a schoolroom and parsonage had been erected on the church grounds. The church was used until 1939 when the existing church was built on Koroit Street, east of Liebig Street.

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/>