
MOUNT DUNEED WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH SITE

Location

120 RUSSELLS ROAD MOUNT DUNEED, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7721-0534

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

The property at 120 Russells Road, Mt Duneed was reserved for use by the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the

mid 1850s. From 1857 until 1944, there was a stone church (the Mt Duneed Wesleyan Methodist Church)

located on the property. At times during the nearly 90 year lifespan of the church, there was at least one

timber outbuilding present to the south (see Figure 7 in attached site history), as well as a bell post and church

bell. The timber outbuilding in question may have been used as a stable, or alternatively, as a Sunday School

building. A gravel mound in the south west corner of the site may represent privy structures associated with

the property's use as a church. The church maintained re

gular services until at least the mid 1930s, and services appear to have ceased altogether in 1943. A bushfire in 1944 destroyed the church building (and

possibly outbuildings at the same time), which was not rebuilt.

Interpretation of Site

Post-1944 the property appears to have been used for stock grazing, and a cattle yard and ramp are present in

the western part of the site

- the construction of which has included the re-use of material from the demolished stone church.

The site is evidence of the religious and social traditions of the local people in the 19

th and early 20th century, and was regularly host to community events. The site forms part of wider themes associated with the spread

of the Wesleyan/Methodist Church throughout Victoria, and its association with different immigrant

community groups. The site served as a a community gathering place for almost 100 years, and has links to

current places of worship, evidenced by the gifting of the church bell to Belmont Methodist Church in 1936,

who held it until 1999, when it was installed outside Belmont Uniting Church

- and is marked with a plaque.

Historical archaeological features are present in the study area which date from at least 1857. These features

include a ruin of a stone church building, a modified basalt outcrop, fencing, garden paving and a dump site.

Other historical features present within the study area are of a later date (a cattle yard), or of unknown date

(gravel mound). The subsurface archaeological significance of the study area is unknown, but it is possible that

evidence of former (known) structures not apparent on the surface is preserved beneath the ground. Nonarchaeological

historical features such as historical pine plantings and fencelines are also present in the study

area.

Archaeological Significance

Most archaeological sites recorded in the surrounding region are rural-residential in nature, and church ruins,

particularly those of a building that stood for nearly 90 years, are uncommon. The property has historical

values in relation to its use as a church site, and its significance in terms of its archaeological value is increased

because of its destruction by fire in 1944. Historical records relating to this building do not appear to be held in

the archival locations that would be expected, and where records relating to other churches in the region are

preserved. It is possible that the records for this church were lost in the fire that destroyed the building, and

thus the archaeological record is all that remains.

The site has historical significance as the site of worship for the local Wesleyan / Methodist community from c.

Historical Significance

1857 and continuing for almost a century. The church building was one of the earlier structures built in the

region, and it would have served as a focal point for its congregation over an extended period of time.

Hermes Number

202046

Property Number

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>