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## Former Methodist Church - Port Fairy - Historic Area



B0337 Methodist Church  
James St Port Fairy



Former Wesleyan, Methodist  
Church; Current Uniting  
Church

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### Location

44 James Street,, PORT FAIRY VIC 3284 - Property No B0337

### Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

### Level of significance

State

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0884

### Heritage Listing

National Trust

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 2, 2008

The foundation stone of the Methodist Church was laid in 1855 by William Witton, a famous itinerant preacher of the Western District in the 1840s. Walter McGill, a local sculptor, executed the elaborate ornamental carvings to the facade and entrance portal.

The rectangular bluestone structure is characterised by the elaborate and finely carved stone masonry of its principal facade and porch added later. Stone work to the main facade, with its round-headed windows, wreaths,

parapet cappings, pediment and acroteria and the door surround are all most notable.

The detailing of the porch is of interest, although the structure itself does not enhance the original facade of the building. In contrast, the side walls are unadorned, random coursed rubble. The interior of the building and the entire structure remains intact. The building is a rare surviving example and a particularly fine example of the non-conformist religious buildings which were erected mostly in England during the first half of the 19th century and of which very few examples survive in Australia. The basic form of this building reflects traditional Georgian design, whilst the detailing of the parapet pediment and the classical motifs such as the wreaths and acroteria all are reminiscent of the Greek Revival movement of the early 1800s. The Methodist Church is a landmark in Port Fairy and is one of Port Fairy's finest buildings.

Classified: 'Local' 12/05/1958

Revised: 03/08/1988

Part of Port Fairy Historic Area Classified: 02/03/1981.

2010 Note: Building in good condition

Other Names      Uniting Church,   Weslyan Church,

Hermes Number   69376

Property Number

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*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/>*