
NYORA UNITING CHURCH



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Location

23 MITCHELL STREET, NYORA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 20, 2022

What is significant?

The Nyora Uniting (former Methodist) Church designed by R.G. Wilson and opened on 18 January 1937, at 23 Mitchell Street, Nyora, is significant. It is a small Carpenter Gothic building with modest detailing. Like other examples of this style, it is a timber-framed structure with a gabled roof. There is a flying (slightly jettied) gable to the front facade, which is clad in timber shingles. The roof is clad in terracotta tiles, with metal ridge vents atop the nave and there is a louvred vent to the apex of the South gable, and metal air vents at mid-window level. The church has a shingled finish with walls clad of timber weatherboards below window-sill height, and faux half-timbered of fibro-cement sheets and timber cover straps. There is an impressive five-sided apse beneath a steep faceted hipped roof, set below the main roof. The apse has single windows with an inscribed lancet arch and diamond pane glazing. There is a gabled, and enclosed, entrance porch, on the East elevation, has the same type of cladding as the rest of the building, which includes a pair of lancet-style windows and a timber ledge door with high-set window to the North and South faces. The rest of the building has rectangular windows, with a group of three at the front, with delicate glazing bars creating a lancet arched shape and timber ledge doors. Non-original alterations and addition are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Nyora Uniting (former Methodist) Church is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, it is associated with the development of Nyora in the interwar period after it became a railway junction following the opening of the railway to Wonthaggi in 1910. This church, which replaced the original church, was the culmination of 11 years of planning by the local church trust. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, while a simple design it is distinguished from other modest late Interwar timber churches by its incorporation of a full apse, and the range of cladding materials including terracotta roof tiles. (Criterion E)

It has social significance for its strong and enduring associations with the Nyora community through its use as a Methodist and now Uniting Church for over 70 years. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1937, 1937, 1937,
Architect/Designer	Wilson, RG, RG Wilson,
Other Names	Nyora Methodist Church, Extra, Former Methodist Church,
Hermes Number	73353
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Nyora Uniting Church is a small Carpenter Gothic building with modest details. Like other examples of this style, it is a timber-framed structure with a gabled roof and windows with lancet arched glazing patterns.

Another element of the design with a medieval reference is the flying (slightly jettied) gable to the front facade, which is clad in timber shingles. This shingled finish and the wall cladding of timber weatherboards below window-sill level, and faux half-timbering of fibro-cement sheets and timber cover straps, is characteristic of simple houses built during the interwar period.

Windows are mostly pairs of rectangular windows (a group of three at the front), each with delicate glazing bars creating a lancet arched shape.

The gabled and enclosed entrance porch, on the east side elevation just back from the front facade, has the same type of cladding as the rest of the building. On its gabled east side it has a pair of the lancet-style windows,

and a timber ledge door with high-set window on the north and south faces. There is a third fully ledged timber door at the rear of the west elevation.

While an otherwise modest building, the church has an impressive five-sided apse beneath a steep faceted hipped roof set below the main roof. The apse has single windows with an inscribed lancet arche and diamond pane glazing. In addition, the roof of the entire building is clad in terracotta tiles with metal ridge vents atop the nave. This roof cladding is both characteristic of the interwar, but a more expensive and thus prestigious roof cladding than the typical corrugated iron.

The church is highly intact externally, and retains details such as a louvered vent to the apex of the south gable, and metal air vents at mid-window level.

The site retains a number of mature trees that appear to date from the interwar period, including a Canary Island Palm, a Monterey Pine, and two oak trees (which have been heavily lopped below powerlines).

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/>