

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Byaduk Lutheran Church Road BYADUK

**STUDY NUMBER:** 066

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 5A    **SECTION:** 16    **PARISH:** PARISH OF BYAMBYNEE

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 473 F2; VicRoads 72 G9; on the east side of Byaduk Lutheran Church Road, 1.0km south of Old Crusher Road about 5kms west of Byaduk.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Zion Lutheran Church, Old Crusher Rd, Byaduk

**Image Date:** 25/07/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings, graves, fences other works and all of the land.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The brick church is located towards the rear of a large block of land which is 5 kms west of Byaduk. The land is immediately north of the Louth Swamp. The church faces west while the graves in the cemetery at the rear face east. The church is built in a simple version of the Gothic revival style, in stretcher bond using bands of darker brick to contrast with the light red brick of the walls. These become arches over the windows and the top third of the main gable is a panel of dark brick. The nave, measuring approximately 8 x 4.5 metres, is two bays deep, each with a lancet window. There is a vestry at the rear of the nave. There are stepped buttresses at the corners and in the centre of the side walls. The corrugated iron roof is at a pitch of 45 degrees and includes small vents along the ridge line and small finials at both ends of the ridge. There is a small weatherboard porch at the front.

A small weatherboard building used as a Sunday School is located behind the church. The structure was built in 1931 as the Bochara State School, and was relocated to the Byaduk site in 1963.

Beyond the main allotment there is a small cemetery, which contains over 50 burials, including pioneer families of the area Burger, Edlich, Gerdzt, Gude, Handreck, Hona, Jeitz, Rentsch and Schlemmer.

## **HISTORY:**

According to the history of the Byaduk Lutheran Church (2002), the first Lutheran settlers in the region moved to Hochkirch, near Hamilton, in the 1850s. Johann Rentsch and his family were the first to settle at Byaduk, arriving in the early 1860s. Within a few years, there were at least 17 Lutheran families living in the Byaduk area. With one exception, these families were Wendish, and the majority had emigrated from the region of Lower Lusatia in eastern Germany. Pastor Clamor Wilhelm Schurmann, of Hochkirch, visited several times a year to conduct services in the homes of the growing Lutheran community. Johann August Rentsch, born on February 18, 1863, is the first birth that Pastor Schurmann recorded as having taken place at Byaduk.

On May 12, 1866 a meeting was held at which it was decided to form a Lutheran congregation at Byaduk. The name 'Neukirch' (lit. new church) was chosen, possibly in memory of a village in Saxony not far from Hochkirch. In December 1866, Johann Gude transferred 2 acres of Allotment 5, Section 16, Parish of Byambynee to the fledgling congregation. A simple church of wattle and daub construction was erected soon afterwards. It is believed that the lemwinckel technique was used, similar to the cottage built by the Burger family at Gnadenthal. This building served as a school for the children of the congregation for a few years. In the late 1860s and early 1870s there was a decline in the Lutheran population, when several families left the area to take up land in other districts. In 1874 the congregation numbered 44 members.

During the 1880s, the congregation prospered, enabling it to build a new church adjacent to the existing one. Pastor Schurmann dedicated the new timber church on December 17, 1886. This building was destroyed by a bushfire on February 26, 1900.

The present brick church was then built and was dedicated by Pastor E. Darsow on May 22, 1902. The cost of the building was between 300 and 400 pounds and the bricks were manufactured at a kiln on Mr Ern Rentsch's property. It was built by a Mr Mutch of Hamilton. No architect has been associated with the design.

The first recorded burial in the cemetery is that of August Handreck in July 1868. Over the years many members of the congregation have been interred there, and the cemetery continues to be used, albeit infrequently.

The Sunday School building is the second on the site. The first Sunday School was donated by Carl Bernhard Handreck, and erected by the centenary committee in 1957. This building was sold and removed a few years later, and was replaced in 1963 with the present Sunday School building, which was formerly the Bochara State

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School, built in 1932.

The Neukirch/Byaduk congregation has been part of the Hochkirch/Tarrington parish since its formation in 1866, and has been serviced by pastors from Hochkirch. The Byaduk congregation adopted the name 'Zion' in 1933. It has experienced considerable fluctuations in numbers, and presently has about 25 baptised members.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 6: Educating  
6.2 Establishing schools

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life  
8.6 Worshipping  
8.6.1 Worshipping together  
8.6.4 Making places for worship

Theme 9: Marking the phases of life  
9.7 Dying  
9.7.1 Dealing with human remains  
9.7.3 Remembering the dead

## **CONDITION:**

The church, cemetery and school are in good condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

High degree of intactness for church, school and cemetery

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Zion Lutheran Church is located in Byaduk Lutheran Church Road, 5kms from Byaduk. The existing church, built in 1902 is the third. The first, of wattle and daub, was opened about 1857 and the second, of timber, in 1886. A Mr Murch of Hamilton built it but the designer, if any, is not known. The church is built in a simple Gothic revival style with patterned brickwork. The complex includes a Sunday school and cemetery. The Lutherans around Byaduk were a branch of the main community located to the east of Hamilton and focussed on the communities of Tabor and Tarrington. The communities looked to their origins in South Australia for leadership and belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran Church, under the Synod in that state rather than the Victorian or General Synod. The presence of a cemetery at the rear of the complex is unusual. The church, school and cemetery are in very good condition and have a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Zion Lutheran Church is of historic, architectural and cultural significance to the community of Byaduk and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Zion Lutheran Church complex is historically significant as the continuing spiritual, educational and social focus of one of the several branches of German Lutheran settlement in the Shire. It is architecturally significant because the church, through its use of a simple design, humble materials and the Gothic revival style reflects the spiritual values as much as the means of the congregation. Similarly, the timber Sunday school reflects the congregation's efforts to maintain its cultural as well as spiritual identity. The presence of the cemetery within the church yard is significant because it demonstrates the congregation's desire to maintain links across generations.

## **COMPARISON:**

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002 St. Lukes Lutheran Church, Bunbury Street, Cavendish  
388 Bethlehem Lutheran Church & Cemetery, Tabor Rd, Tabor  
382 St Michaels Lutheran Church, Hamilton Hwy, Tarrington  
391 Trinity Lutheran Church, Glenelg Highway, Warrayure  
382 St Michael's Lutheran Church Complex, Hamilton Hwy, Tarrington

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

23-Oct-01

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Huf, Elizabeth	The Centenary of the Dedication of the Lutheran Church at Byaduk	2002	various