

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MUDDY CREEK PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Church Road YULECART

STUDY NUMBER: 166

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: MUDDY CREEK UNITING CHURCH

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF HAMILTON SOUTH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 431 F87; VicRoads H6; located on the east side of Church Road 0.5kms south of the intersection with the Digby-Hamilton Road.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Muddy Creek Pioneer Memorial Church, Church Road, Yulecart.

Image Date: 14/12/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the church building and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Muddy Creek Pioneer Memorial Church is located on the east side of Church Road, in Yulecart. The building is constructed of pressed red bricks, and is loosely Gothic in style. The church has three bays and a porch extending from the south side. The timber front door is of double leaved ledge and brace construction and painted dark red. The windows are timber painted dark red with coloured glass leadlights. The roof is corrugated iron and pitched at 60 degrees. Architectural details such as arches and buttress shoulders are finished in cemented render painted white.

There is a plaque in the front gable and a foundation stone to the lower left of the façade.

HISTORY:

The land on which the Muddy Creek Memorial Church was built was originally purchased from the Crown by John Smith, a devout and leading Methodist at Byaduk (Blaimires & Smith, 269), and comprised 45 acres. Muddy Creek, at its closest point, is about 1.0km west of the church. Having begun in Buckley's Swamp, it soon joins the Grange Burn nearby. The lands sales in the 1850s meant that many small farms were established and this formed the community of Yulecart, said to be the Aboriginal name for The Grange station.

Garden states that "the settlers used to gather together to worship and, in December 1858, opened a small church which was to be shared by all Protestant denominations. In the next few years, it came to be dominated by the Methodists and, in the 1860s, became the Muddy Creek Methodist Church" (Garden, 57) Muddy Creek Methodist Centenary Souvenir). The establishment and continuity of the congregation is important locally because, as Garden also states, "Indeed, the only non-Lutheran rural church was the Muddy Creek Methodist Church which in 1909 celebrated its fiftieth anniversary" (ibid.). More detail is provided in the 'The Early Story of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Victoria'.

A grant of 20 pounds by the Missionary Committee in Sydney in 1855 enabled the Rev. W. Tregillis, of Portland, to visit and report on Hamilton, or 'The Grange', as it was then called. He found a small mixed lot of Methodists, lately come from Belfast (now Port Fairy), who had settled at Muddy Creek, near Hamilton. The community consisting of Wesleyans, Primitives, Reformers, Independents, and Baptists (ibid., 265).

The Rev. H. Baker, based in the town, was appointed the first Minister of the Hamilton Circuit and was well received. He visited both Muddy and Murphy Creeks which Protestants tried to combine. The 'experiment' of a Union church at the latter place soon failed. "At Muddy Creek a Union Church was built with the understanding that any of the subscribers removing to another part should still retain their interest in the building, or else be bought out for 7 pounds. Many removed to the Horsham district, but the financial stipulation was not kept. The building fell into ruin and decay, for it was hard to tell to whom it belonged. It is now renovated and occupied exclusively by the Primitive Methodists" (ibid., 267).

The Rev. E. B. Burns was appointed to the Hamilton Circuit in 1862. Others followed including Rev. W. L. Blaimires, at Hamilton who later became President of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the Western District and R. M. Hunter, at Dunkeld.

A new church was built in 1929 by local builder, Reg Williams, the architect being A. Egglestone of Melbourne. The foundation stone was laid by Mrs. S Reed (nee Burgin) on 9th February 1929, whose family had a long and close association with the Muddy Creek Pioneer Memorial Church. The church was originally a Methodist, or "Pioneers Church".

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
8.6 Worshipping

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HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4 Making places for worship

CONDITION:

The church is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

high degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Muddy Creek Pioneer Memorial Church is located on the east side of Church Road in Yulecart. The church is a simple, loosely gothic style red pressed brick church which was built in 1929. The Church was built to replace an earlier Methodist church, and has since become the Muddy Creek Uniting Church.

How is it significant?

The Muddy Creek Pioneer Memorial Church is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Muddy Creek Pioneer Memorial Church is of historical significance as the expression of the role and position of the Methodist Church, and subsequently the Uniting Church, and its congregation in the community for over one hundred and fifty years. It is of architectural significance for its use of the Gothic style to express religious values.

COMPARISON:

0365 Uniting Church, Cnr. Scott & Cameron, Cavendish
0002 St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Bunbury Street, Cavendish
0137 Uniting Church (former Methodist), Wills Street, Dunkeld
0241 Former Wesleyan Methodist Church, 77 Bell Street, Peshurst

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

10-Aug-03

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
Don Garden	Hamilton, A Western District History	1984	var.
W. L. Blamires, and John B Smith	The Early Story of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Victoria	1986	265