

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SITE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton-Port Fairy Road BYADUK

STUDY NUMBER: 204

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 2C **SECTION:** XVI **PARISH:** PARISH OF BYADUK

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473 ; VicRoads H8; located on the south-east corner of the intersection of Hamilton-Port Fairy Road and Harman's Road, Byaduk 3.0kms north of the township of Byaduk.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Heritage Inventory



Presbyterian Church Site, Port Fairy-Hamilton Road, Byaduk

Image Date: 28/03/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the above and below ground structures, the bluestone wall and all of the land included in allotment 2C, Section XVI, Parish of Byaduk

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Byaduk Presbyterian Church was located on the south east corner of the Hamilton-Port Fairy road and Harman's Road, approximately 3 kilometres north of Byaduk township. The timber church was destroyed completely by bushfires in 1977.

The physical remnant of the former church consists of a finely crafted bluestone masonry wall which formed the base of a tall wooden picket fence along the frontage of the church. The wall has two openings which were the gateways of the churchyard. On the northwest corner of the site, the bluestone wall is abutted by the remains of one of the original timber fence posts, now damaged.

A bronze plaque mounted in a cement block is located inside the main gateway, and records the construction in 1882 and destruction in 1977 of the Byaduk Presbyterian Church.

HISTORY:

Several of the pioneering families who settled in the Byaduk area were Scots Presbyterians. There were few opportunities for services in the earliest period, although Rev Angus McDonald of Hamilton conducted services at Macarthur, and at least one service at Byaduk. In 1863 Rev James McRoberts took over the charge at Branxholme, and held regular monthly services at Byaduk in various private houses, including the Frasers, Christies and Warners. Later, services were held in the North Byaduk school and then at South Byaduk school.

In 1881 Rev William Campbell Wallace was appointed as pastor, a position he held for over 25 years. Under his charge, the decision was made to build a church on land donated by Mr C. Fraser. The church was officially opened on 9th December 1882 by Rev J K McMillan of Hamilton, assisted by Rev Wallace. Fundraising for the construction of the church included a gala tea-meeting on 15th December 1882 (reported in detail in the Hamilton Spectator).

A detailed report on the building of the church was published in the Hamilton Spectator on 21st December 1882. It seems the cautious Scottish parishioners were loath to assume a large debt for the building of the church, so they took on the task of building much of it themselves. Men were assigned to the difficult task of levelling the stony ground. One farmer provided the lime for building the foundations and plastering the walls, while others provided cartage for the many materials which had to be brought from Hamilton. Among the congregation were seven skilled carpenters who completed the construction to the design of the architect Mr Smith of Hamilton. The whole was fenced in with a good stone wall. The building was completed at a total cost of 175 pounds, and was thence offered to the Presbyterian Church organisation as a free gift by the congregation.

A Sunday School was subsequently started at the church, with about 30 children in attendance. Later still, branches of the Young People's Fellowship and PWMU were opened at Byaduk Presbyterian church.

Early settlers long associated with the church include the Frasers, Christies, Kinghorns, Holcombes and Stewarts.

The church and associated structures were destroyed by bushfires in February 1977

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 masonry wall is in very good condition.

INTEGRITY:

Church demolished after a fire. Low integrity. Extensive stone walls remaining.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Byaduk Presbyterian Church was located on the south east corner of the Hamilton-Port Fairy road and Harman's Road, approximately 3 kilometres north of Byaduk township. The church was officially opened on 9th December 1882. It was destroyed completely by bushfires in 1977. The only physical remnant of the former church consists of a finely crafted bluestone masonry wall which formed the base of a tall wooden picket fence along the frontage of the church. A bronze plaque mounted in a cement block is located inside the main gateway, and records the construction in 1882 and destruction in 1977 of the Byaduk Presbyterian Church.

How is it significant?

The site of the Byaduk Presbyterian Church, Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, is of historical significance to the district of Byaduk, as a heritage inventory site.

Why is it significant?

The Byaduk Presbyterian Church site is of historical significance as the focus for the strong Presbyterian population who settled the area in the mid to late nineteenth century.

COMPARISON:

- 187 Uniting Church, Hamilton-Port Fairy Road, Byaduk
- 214 St Andrew's Uniting Church, Monroe Street, Branxholme
- 215 Free Presbyterian Church, Monroe Street, Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE: 18/05/2002

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
	Byaduk Presbyterian Church Jubilee 1882-1932	1932	var.
Miles Lewis, ed.	Victorian Churches, Their origins, their story and their architecture	1991	6, 9-10, 10, 21