

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: UNITING CHURCH

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Scott Street CAVENDISH

STUDY NUMBER: 365

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: CAVENDISH METHODIST CHURCH

PRECINCT: Cavendish

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 **SECTION:** 6 **PARISH:** PARISH OF CAVENDISH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 432J7; VicRoads 228 J7; located in the south-east corner of Scott and Cameron Streets, Cavendish on the eastern side of the township.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Uniting Church, Scott Street, Cavendish

Image Date: 11/01/03

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the building including the interiors, fixtures and fittings, and the hall but excluding the interiors, and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Uniting Church complex is comprised of two main structures, a church at the corner of Scott and Cameron Streets, in the Interwar Gothic revival style and a hall in the International Moderne Style on the east side. The church is rendered brick with a front porch, four bays in the nave and a vestry at the rear. The porch window has three lights with shallow pointed arches. The windows in the side elevations and vestry are square headed.

HISTORY:

Methodist services had been held in Cavendish from the 1850s as part of the Hamilton Circuit. At first they were held in private homes and shepherd's huts but, by about 1865, the first church was built. It was later removed and used as a Sunday school in Hamilton (Blamires, 268). "In Mr. Albiston's time, the new parsonage was erected, and in Mr. J B Smith's day a successful bazaar relieved the Circuit of the debt of the same" (Blamires, 268). This appears to have been Joseph Albiston who married Elizabeth Rowbotham in 1857 and whose son Walter Osborn Albiston was born in Hamilton in 1873 and died there in 1877 (PI, Reg. No. 1105, 17001, 12720). Still part of the Hamilton Circuit and without a resident minister, the congregation was then visited by Mr. W Taylor, Mr. M Burnett, and Mr. W Osborn.

E W Hyde purchased allotment 1 of section 6, comprising three acres from the Crown in May, 1920. He also purchased allotment 3 at the rear comprising four and one quarter acres in 1925. This appears to be the Ernest William Hyde who was born in 1885 at Mount Rouse (PI, Reg. No. 27777R). He died in 1958, the father of ten children, and is buried in the new Cavendish cemetery.

Construction of the present church began in 1938. The Rev. C Irving Benson laid the foundation stone on 17th August 1938. The Rev. Benson came to be one of the most prominent Methodists in Victoria, being knighted for his services to the community.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
8.6 Worshipping
8.6.1 Worshipping together
8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions
8.6.4 Making places for worship

CONDITION:

Excellent

INTEGRITY:

Very high degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is Significant?

The Cavendish Uniting Church is located in the north-east corner of Scott and Cameron Streets, Cavendish on the eastern side of the township. It was the second Methodist Church to be built, constructed in 1938 to replace an earlier 1860s structure. The church is rendered brick with a front porch, four bays in the nave and a vestry at the rear. The interiors include a range of memorials, the original pews, fittings such as the altar, podium and decorative works. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design, although an architect is likely. The church retains an excellent degree of integrity externally and high degree of integrity internally. It is in excellent condition.

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How is it significant?

The Cavendish Uniting Church is of historical, social and architectural significance to the township of Balmoral and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The Cavendish Uniting Church is of historical significance as an example of the importance of Methodist faith in the township of Cavendish and surrounding areas from the late 1850s. It is of further historical importance as the second church, illustrating a very strong commitment to the church from the congregation in the difficult economic times of the 1930s. The church is of social significance to the township of Cavendish as the focus for Methodists who settled in the township in the mid nineteenth century. It is of architectural significance as an excellent example of a late Interwar Gothic style, used to express religious values. It is of further significance for the range of memorials, and as a comparison with the churches of other denominations in Cavendish.

COMPARISON:

446 St Mark's Anglican Church, Henty Highway, Cavendish
002 St Luke's Lutheran Church, Bunbury Street, Cavendish

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

8/04/2003

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
W. L. Blamires, and John B Smith	The Early Story of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Victoria	1986	268
