

Statement of Recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

Former Methodist Church, VHR H0148

484 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy North, Yarra City

Wurundjeri Country



Executive Director recommendation

I recommend to the Heritage Council of Victoria (**Heritage Council**) that the Former Methodist Church, located at 484 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy North in the Victorian Heritage Register (**VHR**) be amended. The category of registration is recommended to be Registered Place.

In accordance with section 62 of the *Heritage Act 2017* (**the Act**), I suggest that the Heritage Council determine:

- to include additional land in the VHR (section 49(1)(d)(i) and (ii) of the Act); and
- the proposed categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place for which a permit is under the Act not required, will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place under section 49(3)(a) of the Act.



STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

Date of recommendation: 11 September 2026

The process from here

1. The Heritage Council publishes the Executive Director's recommendation (section 41)

The Heritage Council will publish the Executive Director's recommendation on its [website](#) for a period of 60 days.

2. Making a submission to the Heritage Council (sections 44 and 45)

Within the 60-day publication period, any person or body may make a written submission to the Heritage Council. This submission can support the recommendation, or object to the recommendation and a hearing can be requested in relation to the submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the [Heritage Council's website](#).

3. Heritage Council determination (sections 46, 46A and 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body. It is responsible for making the final determination to include or not include the place, object or land in the VHR or amend a place, object or land already in the VHR.

If no submissions are received the Heritage Council must make a determination within 40 days of the publication closing date.

If submissions are received, the Heritage Council may decide to conduct a hearing in relation to the submission. The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if a submission requests a hearing, and that submission is made by person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land.

If a hearing does take place, the Heritage Council must make a determination within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.

4. Obligations of owners of places, objects and land (sections 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D and 43)

The owner of a place, object or land which is the subject of a recommendation to the Heritage Council has certain obligations under the Act. These relate to advising the Executive Director in writing of any works or activities that are being carried out, proposed or planned for the place, object or land.

The owner also has an obligation to provide a copy of this statement of recommendation to any potential purchasers of the place, object or land before entering into a contract.

5. Further information

The relevant sections of the Act are provided at the end of this report.

Description

The Former Methodist Church is located on a large rectangular site at the south-east corner of Nicholson and Church streets in Fitzroy North, addressed as 484 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy North. The former church is situated in the south-west corner of the site fronting Nicholson Street, with a small garden and entrance ramp to its front setback. The remainder of the site is occupied by a residential facility (1980) and former parsonage (c1901-10), both fronting Church Street, and at-grade carparks to the north-west corner and along the east boundary. A right of way extends along the southern boundary. A covered pathway extends along the north elevation of the former church leading to a glazed addition (later) at the rear of the former church, which links the former church with the adjacent residential facility. The former church and adjacent buildings are currently operated by Melbourne City Mission.

The Former Methodist Church is a substantial polychrome brick structure on bluestone footings designed in the Gothic Revival style with freestone quoins and dressings. The gable roof is clad with slate and there are six painted steel vents on the ridgeline – aligning with ceiling vents internally – and repeated skylights (later) to each fall. The principal (west) façade comprises a projecting parapeted gable form superimposed by a prominent bellcote and gabled entrance porch. Buttresses are stepped and obscure the recessed façade behind with tall shallow pointed arch windows and open timber gable screens. The gabled entrance porch comprises timber double doors with transom leadlight flanked by colonettes with capitals and recessed within double voussoirs decorated with serrated buff and red brickwork and cement pressed keystones. Above, the gable end is corbelled with serrated buff and red brick roundel and freestone coping culminating in a stone trefoil finial. To either side of the porch there are contrasting buff and red brick roundels. Above, the bellcote bisects the upper façade, flanked by two tall leadlight windows on stone sills with shallow pointed arch heads decorated with buff and red brick serrated voussoirs. The bellcote itself is a pitched form containing a recessed nameplate with carved '1874' inscription and topped by a cast iron cross.

Side elevations contain repeating recessed face brick bays set between buttresses with moulded brick modillions to the eaves. Bays contain leadlight windows on stone sills with shallow pointed arch heads decorated with buff and red brick serrated voussoirs and pressed cement keystones. The rear (east) elevation comprises a face brick gable end with simple timber bargeboards and vent to the upper gable. There is a fire escape door and timber staircase (later) to the southern end of the elevation. A single-storey gabled projection extends from the ground level with slate clad roof and brick chimney with cement render dressings. There are two tall shallow pointed arch windows to its south wall, and the later glazed addition extends from the north wall. A pergola structure (later) abuts the east wall.

Internally, the Former Methodist Church has been adapted into community and office spaces, with the original double height volume divided into two levels. The ground floor is occupied by a small airlock with glazed sliding doors and central reception area with staircase. Generally, fittings and finishes are later however leadlight windows with stop chamfered reveals have been retained. The first floor comprises a large open-plan office space. The original tray form ceiling remains intact supported by exposed timber trusses decorated with quatrefoil motifs, and pressed metal lining (overpainted) with circular metal ceiling vents (overpainted).

The former parsonage is an Edwardian residence constructed of face brick (overpainted) with gabled and hipped roof forms clad in slate to the outer falls and metal to the inner falls of the rear wings. The ridgelines are decorated with terracotta capping. Two red face brick chimneys remain with cement render dressings; one terracotta pot remains to the east chimney. The principal (north) elevation comprises a projecting gable form with casement window and timber awning with decorative frieze. The gable end is detailed with a circular vent and decorative barge boards with open gable screen. The verandah retains its concave metal roof form with decorative lacework and bracketed eaves above. The side (east) elevation remains visible from the adjacent at-grade carpark with unpainted red face brickwork and timber framed sash windows.

Description images



2026, Principal (west) elevation of the Former Methodist Church, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, South elevation with laneway (right) along the southern boundary of the site, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, North elevation with residential facility to left, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, East elevation with fire stair, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Glazed linking element between former Church (right) and residential facility (left), Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Ground floor interior with leadlight windows, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Ground floor interior with leadlight windows, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Upper-level office space, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Interior of glazed linking element between former church and residential facility, Source: Heritage Victoria.



2026, Principal (north) elevation of the former parsonage, Source: 2026, East elevation of former parsonage and at-grade carparking, Heritage Victoria



2026, 1980 residential development, Source: Heritage Victoria

History

Statement of Country

The Wurundjeri people have an unbroken connection to the land and waters around Fitzroy North from time immemorial. Wurundjeri Country includes the city of Melbourne (Narrm) and an area extending north to the Great Dividing Range and beyond, west to the Werribee River, and east to Mount Baw Baw.

The Yoorrook Justice Commission recorded how colonisation brought irreparable damage to First Peoples in Victoria with the introduction of diseases, massacres, dispossession from Country, confinement on missions and reserves, forced labour, separation of families and ongoing policies and practices that perpetuate systemic injustice (Yoorrook Justice Commission 2025).

The Wurundjeri continue to live, work, practise culture and manage land and waters around Fitzroy North and the surrounding area.

Establishment of Wesleyan Methodism in Victoria and Fitzroy

Wesleyan Methodism emerged in mid-eighteenth-century England through the evangelical preaching of John and Charles Wesley, Church of England clergymen who remained within the established church. John Wesley organised his followers into religious societies and created a system of itinerant and local preachers. After his death, Methodists separated from the Church of England in 1795 to form a distinct denomination, finding its strongest support among the expanding industrial working class. Its message of universal salvation and spiritual equality appealed to people in mining and manufacturing towns who felt alienated from the established church. Wesley's circuit system—where lay preachers served local communities under the oversight of ordained ministers—allowed rapid expansion (Miles Lewis 1991:10; Uniting Church in Australia: online) <https://wesleychurchmelbourne.org.au/history/>.

Wesleyan Methodism reached Port Phillip in the earliest years of European settlement. The first ordained Methodist minister, Rev Joseph Orton preached in Melbourne in April 1836, and by 1838, a Wesleyan society of about 30 people, led by lay preachers, met regularly in a simple timber church on the corner of Swanston Street and Flinders Lane. They soon outgrew the first chapel, and a stone church was built in 1841 on the corner of Collins and Queen streets. In 1857-58 a Gothic style Wesley Church in Lonsdale Street was built to a design by Joseph Reed (VHR H0012). This church marked the acceptance of the Gothic Revival style into the mainstream of Wesleyan and other non-conformist churches, where previously the style had been viewed with suspicion for its associations with the Catholic Church. In 1902 the Wesleyan Methodists became part of the Methodist Church in Australia, which in turn combined with the Congregationalists and Presbyterians in 1977 to become the Uniting Church in Australia (Uniting Church in Australia: online; Miles Lewis 1991:47).

Wesleyans were amongst the earliest settlers in the Fitzroy area, and the first Wesleyan church was constructed at the corner of Brunswick and Moor streets in 1841-42. Three Wesleyan/Methodist schools (1841, 1858, 1862) were constructed in the area, along with a large bluestone church in the Gothic style, with a seating capacity of around 1,500 people, built in Brunswick Street in c.1860. This church was demolished in the late 1960s for the Atherton Gardens Estate (Allom Lovell and Associates 1992: 4.58-59; Victorian Places; North Fitzroy Conservation Study 1978:10-12).

Methodist Church in Fitzroy North

The Methodist Church site at the corner of Nicholson and Church streets was chosen due to the concentration of quarrymen in the area who were predominantly Methodist. As the population expanded in the districts of North Fitzroy and North Carlton, the congregation was outgrowing the small timber church that had been constructed at the site. Architects Terry and Oakden were appointed to design a substantial brick structure with freestone quoins and dressings with the capacity to accommodate 300 people. Confident that the congregation would continue to expand, the church was to be built so that it could be 'easily lengthened' to accommodate double that number (*The Age* 1 September 1874:3).

Tenders were advertised in July 1874 with the contract awarded to Murray and Hill for £1,200 (*The Age* 30 July 1874:1; *The Age* 1 September 1874:3). The church, opened for worship in January 1875, was described as 'an ornament to the neighbourhood'. Standing on the Church and Nicholson streets, it was reported that the intention was that the entire site would be eventually occupied by the Methodists:

The corner has been left vacant till the neighbourhood becomes more thickly peopled, when it is considered that a large church will be required; the present building will then be used as a Sabbath school and lecture room (The Age 13 January 1875:2).

The church was built after the Methodists had moved away from John Wesley's original concept of the church as a 'plain and decent' preaching-house, to an acceptance of more elaborate and substantial Gothic-style structures as exhibited in the construction of the Lonsdale Street Wesleyan Church in 1857 (Miles Lewis 1991:10). The anticipated expansion of the church was not realised.

Development of adjacent land on Church Street

A Sunday School and Hall were subsequently built along Church Street along with a smaller 'School Room' (later known as the 'Kinder Room') at the rear of the church – both shown on the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) Plan dated 1901. The Sunday School and Hall opened in November 1899. Both buildings were demolished in the 1970s, along with the Kinder Room (PROV).

The Melbourne City Mission (MCM) occupied the Church Street site from the 1970s and in 1978 commenced planning for the construction of a nursing home. Named the Harold McCracken House in honour of the then president of MCM, it was opened by Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser on 30 March 1980 (*Canberra Times* 31 March 1980:1). Although the nursing home closed in 2005, the building is still occupied by the MCM for residential purposes.

The red brick Edwardian Methodist Parsonage at 10 Church Street and a cottage at 8 Church Street were built between 1901-1910 for the Wesleyan Church Trustees. By 1906 a four-roomed wooden house was recorded at 8 Church Street with a Net Annual Value (NAV) of £20 and occupied by Henry Rayner, caretaker, presumably employed by the Wesleyan Church Trustees, owners of the property. By 1910 Richard Ditterich, clergyman, was the occupant of the eight-roomed brick house at 10 Church Street with a NAV of £50 (Rate Books 1906-07 and 1909-10; Sands and McDougall Directories 1900-10).

8 Church Street was demolished as part of the 1980 nursing home development. The former parsonage at 10 Church Street remains and is used for MCM purposes.

Aerial photography dating from 1945 indicates the land to the north of the church (at the southeast corner of Nicholson and Church streets intersection) remained undeveloped at this time. By the end of the 1960s a service station occupied this land (subsequently demolished). An at-grade car park now occupies this portion of the site.

Selected bibliography

The Age.

Canberra Times.

Jacobs Lewis Vines, Architects, *North Fitzroy Conservation Study*, 1978.

Allom Lovell and Associates, *Fitzroy Urban Conservation Study Review*, 1992.

Phillips, Walter, 'The Denominations' in *Victorian Churches: their origins, their story & their architecture*, Miles Lewis (ed), National Trust of Australia (Victoria), 1991.

Public Record Office Victoria (PROV), Public Building File 4990, VPRS 7882/P0001; and City of Fitzroy Rate Books 1906-07 and 1909-10.

Sands and McDougall Directories, 1900-1910.

State Library of Victoria, Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) 40 feet to 1 inch Detailed Plans and Picture Collection, images as cited, accessed online 26 May and 6 July 2026.

Wesley Church – Uniting Church in Australia [website], 'Wesley Church History'; <https://wesleychurchmelbourne.org.au/history/>, accessed 26 May 2026.

Victorian Places [online resource], Monash University and The University of Queensland, 2015; <https://www.victorianplaces.com.au/>, accessed online 26 May 2026.

City of Yarra Library Catalogue, Title: Methodist Sunday School and Methodist Church, Fitzroy, 1971.

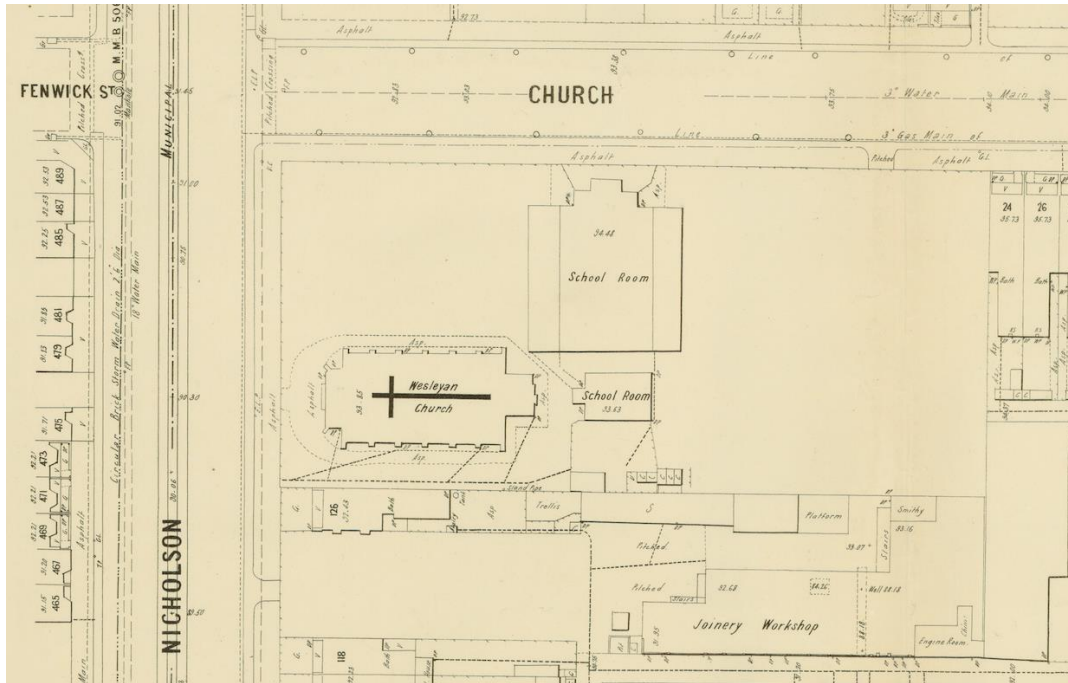
Historical images



1974, 'Fitzroy North. Methodist Church. Nicholson St. (Near Church St.)', photograph by John Collins dated 26 December 1974, Source: State Library Victoria, ID 9916731833607636.



c1970-74, Methodist Sunday School/Hall (demolished in the 1970s) fronting Church Street, northeast of the Methodist Church (behind at right), Source: State Library Victoria, ID 9939658317607636.



1901, Excerpt of MMBW detail plan no. 1255, City of Fitzroy showing Wesleyan Church and 'School Room' to the rear of the church and larger 'School Room' to the north, fronting Church Street, Source: State Library Victoria, ID 9911644073607636.



1945, Aerial photograph of Methodist Church (left), Methodist Sunday School/Hall (centre left), 8 Church Street (centre right) and Parsonage (right), Source: Landata Victoria.



1969, Aerial photograph of area near intersection of Nicholson Street (left) with Church Street (top), Fitzroy North. Service station (demolished) on northwest corner of site, Methodist Church to the south (below) and Methodist Sunday School/Hall (demolished, centre), 8 Church Street (demolished, centre right) and Parsonage to the east (right), Source: Landata Victoria



c1970-74, small weatherboard cottage at 8 Church Street, Fitzroy North (demolished), Parsonage to left, Source: State Library Victoria, ID 9939658317607636.



1971, 10 Church Street, Fitzroy North – Methodist Parsonage, Source: Yarra Libraries, Identifier: FL1424.

Further information

Registered Aboriginal Party information

The Former Methodist Church is located on Wurundjeri Country.

Under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, the Registered Aboriginal Party for this land is the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

The place is not in an area of Aboriginal cultural heritage sensitivity.

(25 August 2026)

Integrity

The integrity of the place is good. The cultural heritage values of the Former Methodist Church can be easily read in the extant fabric.

(2 July 2026)

Intactness

The intactness of the place is good.

(2 July 2026)

Condition

The condition of the place is good.

(2 July 2026)

Note: The condition of a place or object does not influence the assessment of its cultural heritage significance. A place or object may be in very poor condition and still be of very high cultural heritage significance. Alternatively, a place or object may be in excellent condition but be of low cultural heritage significance.

Amendment recommendation

State-level cultural heritage significance of the place

The cultural heritage significance of the Former Methodist Church was recognised when it was included in the Historic Buildings Register in 1974. Its State-level cultural heritage significance was confirmed in 1998 when it was transferred into the Victorian Heritage Register.

The Former Methodist Church is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Amendment application

On 26 August 2026 the Executive Director made and accepted an application to amend the registration of the place to ensure it is consistent with current practices under the Act.

Assessment of additional land and summary of significance

The information below is provided under s.40(3A)(c)(i)(ii) and s.40(4)(c)(i)(ii) as part of the Executive Director's Statement of recommendation.

The Executive Director recommends that the Heritage Council amend this registration because it is his view that:

- The State-level cultural heritage significance of the place would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed [s.40(3A)(c)(i)].
- The additional land surrounds the place and is important to the protection or conservation of the place; or contributes to the understanding of the place [s.40(3A)(c)(ii)].

The Executive Director notes that:

- The current extent is limited to the fabric of the building and structures, and is insufficient to protect, conserve and allow for a proper understanding of the place.
- The current extent does not include the land associated with – or surrounding – the buildings on the site that have been used in conjunction with the place since 1874 which is over 156 years.

The Executive Director is of the view that:

- If any of the additional land proposed for inclusion in the registration were developed, depending upon the nature of the proposal, there is potential for the development to impact upon the place and substantially reduce its State-level cultural heritage significance.
- The proposed inclusion of land associated with the place will provide clarity on the approvals process for works within the place.
- The proposed inclusion of additional land will ensure all fabric that relates to the State-level values of the place are appropriately captured and considered in any process to manage change.

Change of name

Not applicable.

Statutory requirements under section 40

Terms of the recommendation (section 40(3)(a))

The Executive Director recommends that the registration of the Former Methodist Church in the VHR is amended.

Information to identify the place or object or land (section 40(3)(b))

Number: VHR H0148

Category: Registered Place.

Name: The Former Methodist Church

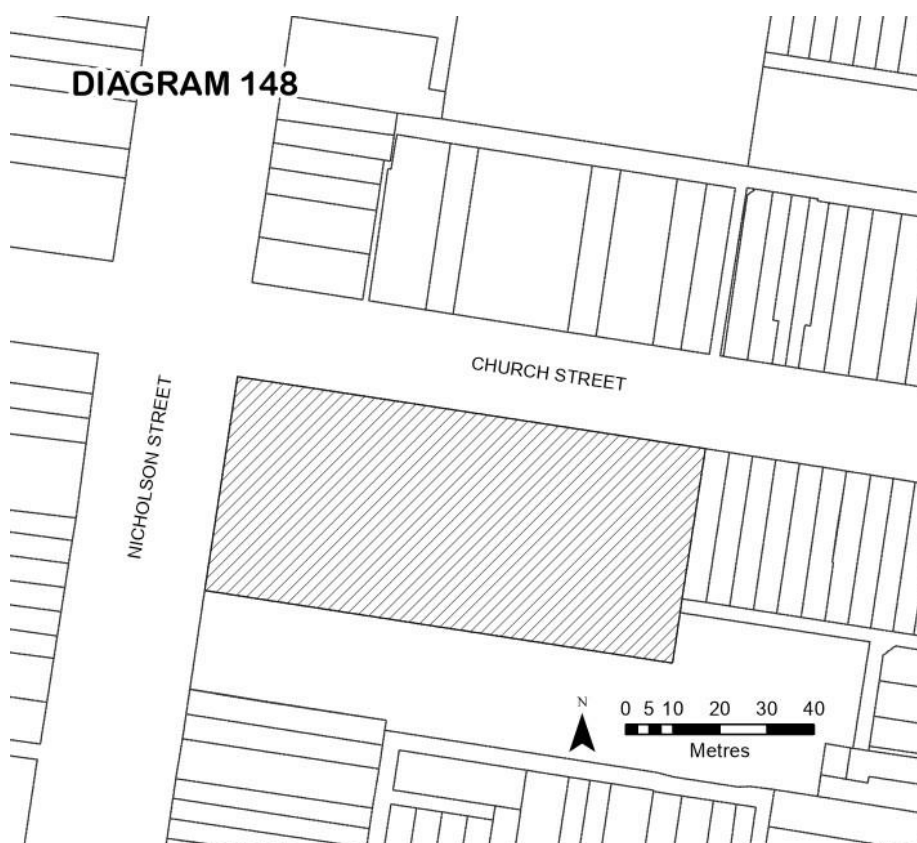
Location: 484 Nicholson Street, Fitzroy North

Municipality: Yarra City

Proposed extent of registration

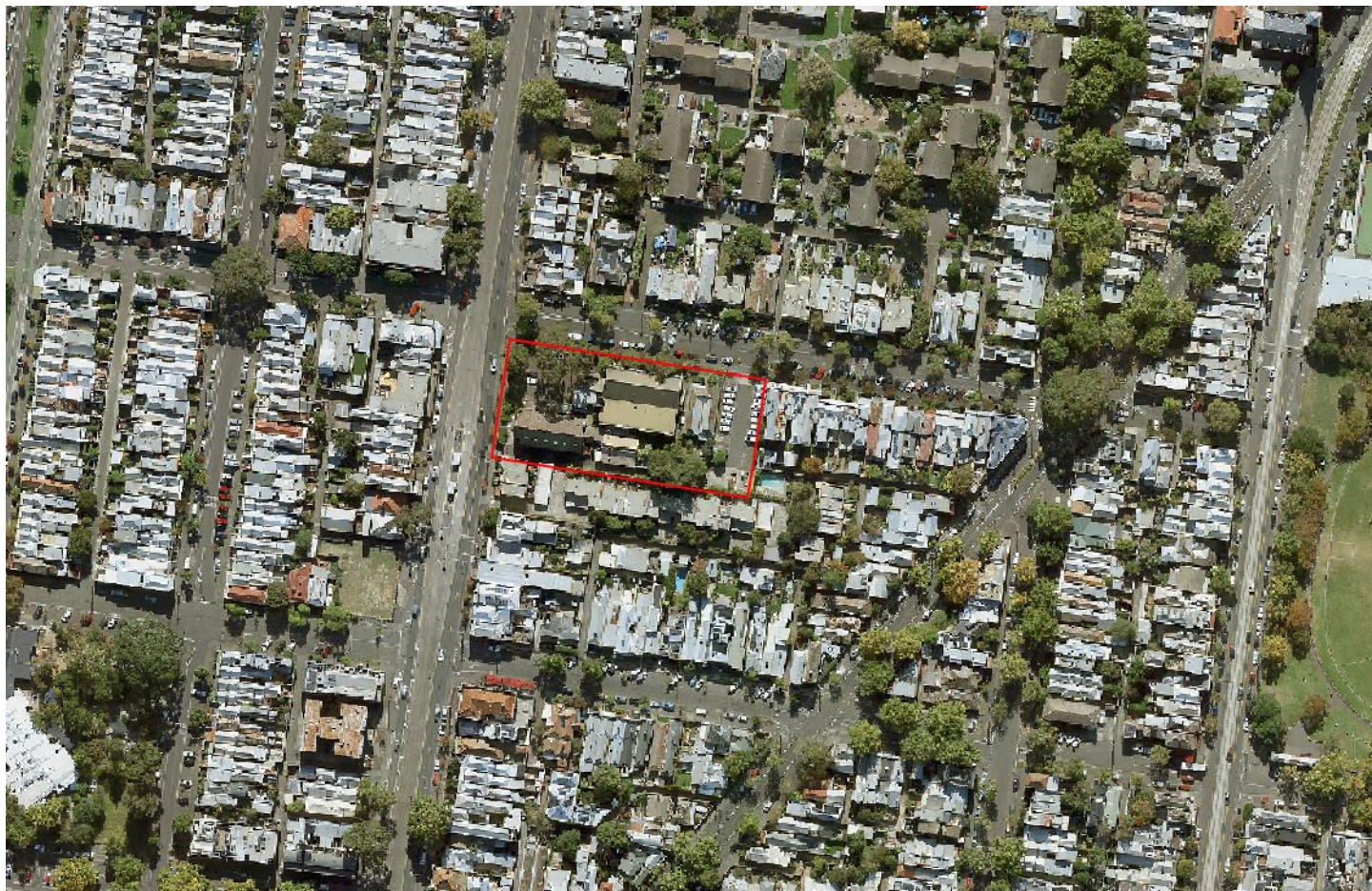
The Executive Director recommends that the extent of registration for the Former Methodist Church be gazetted as:

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 148 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 1 and 2, Section 32 at North Fitzroy, Parish of Jika Jika.



Non-statutory information about the proposed extent of registration

Aerial photo of the place showing proposed extent of registration



The red dashed line indicates the proposed extent of registration.

Note: This aerial view provides a visual representation of the place. It is not a precise representation of the recommended extent of registration. Due to distortions associated with aerial photography some elements of the place may appear as though they are outside the extent of registration.

Rationale for the proposed extent of registration

The recommended extent of registration comprises all elements and features of State-level cultural heritage significance, including the Former Methodist Church, Fitzroy North, erected in 1874, the former Parsonage, an Edwardian brick residence built c1909 and all land associated with these two buildings.

The recommended extent of the registration is the same as the nominated extent of registration.

It should be noted that everything within the proposed extent is proposed for inclusion in the VHR. This includes all of the land, all soft and hard landscape features, plantings, and all buildings (exteriors, interiors and fixtures). A permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria is required for any works within the proposed extent of registration, apart from those identified in the categories of works or activities in this recommendation.

Summary of cultural heritage significance (section 40(4))

Statement of significance

The Former Methodist Church is located on Wurundjeri Country.

What is significant?

The Former Methodist Church, Fitzroy North, erected in 1874 in the Gothic Revival style to a design by the architects Terry and Oakden, and the former Parsonage, an Edwardian brick residence built c1909.

How is it significant?

The Former Methodist Church, Fitzroy North, is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects

Why is it significant?

The Former Methodist Church, Fitzroy North, and associated Parsonage are of historical significance for their association with the growth of Wesleyan Methodism in Victoria, particularly in the working-class area in which the church was constructed. The Church replaced a smaller wooden church that was opened on the site only three years earlier, demonstrating the speed with which congregations grew as Melbourne's suburbs were developed. The design of the church reflects the Methodists' move away from John Wesley's original concept of the church as a 'plain and decent' preaching-house to an acceptance of more elaborate and substantial Gothic Revival-style structures. The former Parsonage reflects the importance of the role of the clergy and their close connection to the congregation. [Criterion A]

The Former Methodist Church, Fitzroy North, is of architectural significance as a fine and externally intact example of Gothic Revival-style church architecture from the 1870s and an important work of the architects Terry and Oakden. It was designed by the firm in the first year of their partnership and is one of the earliest buildings to exhibit the characteristic details of the firm's work, such as corbelled gables, bellcote and striped serrated brickwork. The polychrome brick church is of note for its main façade, which is bisected by a prominent bellcote, and detailed with striped voussoirs of notched brickwork. [Criterion D]

Recommended permit exemptions under section 38

Introduction

A [heritage permit](#) is required for all works and activities undertaken in relation to VHR places and objects. Certain works and activities are [exempt from a heritage permit](#), if the proposed works will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the heritage place or object.

Permit Policy

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is utilised to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

The interiors of the both the former church and parsonage have been substantially altered to accommodate administrative and community functions. Further changes to the interior of the former church that do not impact the ceiling form and timber detailing, the structure of the building, or the stained glass windows will not harm the heritage values of the place. The Parsonage can continue to be altered internally without adverse impacts on heritage values.

The 1980s residential development, glazed linking element between the former church and the residential building, the covered walkway and other buildings to the rear of the former church are not significant.

Permit Exemptions

General Permit Exemptions

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the VHR. General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Act.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Permit Exemptions

The works and activities listed below under the heading 'Exempt works and activities' are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of Former Methodist Church. These are subject to the following guidelines and conditions:

Guidelines for specific permit exemptions

1. Where there is an inconsistency between permit exemptions specific to the registered place or object ('specific exemptions') established in accordance with either section 49(3) or section 92(3) of the Act and general exemptions established in accordance with section 92(1) of the Act specific exemptions will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
2. In specific exemptions, words have the same meaning as in the Act, unless otherwise indicated. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and the Act, the Act will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
3. Nothing in specific exemptions obviates the responsibility of a proponent to obtain the consent of the owner of the registered place or object, or if the registered place or object is situated on Crown Land the land manager as defined in the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, prior to undertaking works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions.
4. If a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* is required for works covered by specific exemptions, specific exemptions will apply only if the Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been approved prior to works or activities commencing. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the relevant works and activities, Heritage Victoria must be contacted for advice on the appropriate approval pathway.
5. Specific exemptions do not constitute approvals, authorisations or exemptions under any other legislation, Local Government, State Government or Commonwealth Government requirements, including but not limited to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning, building or environmental approvals from the responsible authority where applicable.
6. Care should be taken when working with heritage buildings and objects, as historic fabric may contain dangerous and poisonous materials (for example lead paint and asbestos). Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn at all times. If you are unsure, seek advice from a qualified heritage architect, heritage consultant or local Council heritage advisor.
7. The presence of unsafe materials (for example asbestos, lead paint etc) at a registered place or object does not automatically exempt remedial works or

activities in accordance with this category. Approvals under Part 5 of the Act must be obtained to undertake works or activities that are not expressly exempted by the below specific exemptions.

8. All works should be informed by a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place or object. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General conditions for specific permit exemptions

1. All works or activities permitted under specific exemptions must be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents harm to the registered place or object. Harm includes moving, removing or damaging any part of the registered place or object that contributes to its cultural heritage significance.
2. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the registered place are revealed relating to its cultural heritage significance, including but not limited to historical archaeological remains, such as features, deposits or artefacts, then works must cease and Heritage Victoria notified as soon as possible.
3. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time, all works must cease and the Secretary (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*) must be contacted immediately to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
4. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any munitions or other potentially explosive artefacts are discovered, Victoria Police is to be immediately alerted and the site is to be immediately cleared of all personnel.
5. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any suspected human remains are found the works or activities must cease. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office must be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, the State Emergency Control Centre must be immediately notified on 1300 888 544, and, as required under s.17(3)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, all details about the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the Aboriginal Heritage Council (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*).

Exempt works and activities

Specific permit exemptions include:

1. All non-structural works and activities to the interior of the former church, including demolition, providing the works and activities do not impact the ceiling (including timber detailing), the leadlight windows, or the remnant original walls and decorative internal features.
2. All non-structural works and activities to the interior of the former parsonage.
3. All internal works and activities to the 1980s residential building and the buildings to the rear of the former church.
4. External alteration of the 1980s residential building and the buildings to the rear of the former church that does not increase the floor area or height of the buildings.
5. Installation of roof-top solar systems to the 1980s residential building, buildings to the rear of the former church, and the inner-roof falls of the former parsonage.
6. Removal, replacement and planting of new trees and vegetation. Gardening activities should provide an adequate separation between heritage building fabric and plantings to ensure damp is not trapped against buildings, and watering systems should be directed away from heritage building fabric.

Appendix 1: Important information for owners and interested parties

Heritage Council determination (section 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body that will make a determination on this recommendation under section 49 of the Act. It will consider the recommendation after a period of 60 days from the date the notice of recommendation is published on its [website](#) under section 41.

Making a submission to the Heritage Council (section 44)

Within the period of 60 days, any person or body may make a submission to the Heritage Council regarding the recommendation and request a hearing in relation to that submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the [Heritage Council's website](#). The owner can also make a submission about proposed permit exemptions (Section 40(4)(d)).

Consideration of submissions to the Heritage Council (section 46)

(1) The Heritage Council must consider—

- (a) any written submission made to it under section 44; and
- (b) any further information provided to the Heritage Council in response to a request under section 45.

Conduct of hearings by Heritage Council in relation to a recommendation (section 46A)

(1) The Heritage Council may conduct a hearing in relation to a recommendation under section 37, 38 or 39 in any circumstances that the Heritage Council considers appropriate.

(2) The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if—

- (a) a submission made to it under section 44 includes a request for a hearing before the Heritage Council; and
- (b) the submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land that is the subject of the submission.

Determinations of the Heritage Council (section 49)

(1) After considering a recommendation that a place, object or land should or should not be included in the Heritage Register and any submissions in respect of the recommendation and conducting any hearing, the Heritage Council may—

- (a) determine that the place or object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (ab) in the case of a place, determine that—
 - (i) part of the place is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and
 - (ii) part of the place is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (ac) in the case of an object, determine that—
 - (i) part of the object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and
 - (ii) part of the object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (b) determine that the place or object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or

- (c) in the case of a recommendation in respect of a place, determine that the place or part of the place is not to be included in the Heritage Register but—
 - (i) refer the recommendation and any submissions to the relevant planning authority or the Minister administering the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to consider the inclusion of the place or part of the place in a planning scheme in accordance with the objectives set out in section 4(1)(d) of that Act; or
 - (ii) determine that it is more appropriate for steps to be taken under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 or by any other means to protect or conserve the place or part of the place; or
 - (ca) in the case of a recommendation in respect of an object nominated under section 27A, determine that the object, or part of the object, is to be included in the Heritage Register if it is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place or a place the Heritage Council has determined to be included in the Heritage Register; or
 - (d) in the case of a recommendation in respect of additional land nominated under section 27B, determine that the additional land, or any part of the additional land, is to be included in the Heritage Register if—
 - (i) the State-level cultural heritage significance of the place, or part of the place, would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed; or
 - (ii) the additional land or any part of the additional land surrounding the place, or part of the place, is important to the protection or conservation of the place or contributes to the understanding of the place.
- (2) The Heritage Council must make a determination under subsection (1)—
- (a) within 40 days after the date on which written submissions may be made under section 44; or
 - (b) if any hearing is conducted, within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.
- (3) A determination made under subsection (1)(a), (ab), (ac), (ca) or (d)—
- (a) may include categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to a place, object or land, or part of a place, object or land, for which a permit under this Act is not required, if the Heritage Council considers that the works or activities would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place, object or land; and
 - (b) must include a statement of the reasons for the making of the determination.
- (4) If the Heritage Council determines to include a place, or part of a place, in the Heritage Register, the Heritage Council may also determine to include land that is not the subject of a nomination under section 27B in the Heritage Register as part of the place if—
- (a) the land is ancillary to the place; and
 - (b) the person who owns the place, or part of the place—
 - (i) is the owner of the land; and
 - (ii) consents to its inclusion.
- (5) If a member of the Heritage Council makes a submission under section 44 in respect of a recommendation, the member must not take part in the consideration or determination of the Heritage Council.
- (6) The Heritage Council must notify the Executive Director of any determination under this section as soon as practicable after the determination.

Obligations of owners (section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D)

42 Obligations of owners—to advise of works, permits etc. on foot when statement of recommendation given

- (1) The owner of a place, object or land to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

- (a) any works or activities that are being carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given; and
- (b) if the place, object or land is a place or additional land, any application for a planning permit or a building permit, or any application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit, that has been made in relation to the place or additional land but not determined at the time the statement is given; and
- (c) any works or activities that are proposed to be carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given.

(2) An advice under subsection (1) must be given within 10 days after the statement of recommendation is given under section 40.

42A Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of permits

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of any of the following is given a statement of recommendation—
 - (i) a place or object nominated under section 27;
 - (ii) an object nominated under section 27A;
 - (iii) land nominated under section 27B; and
- (b) any of the following occurs within the statement of recommendation period in relation to the place, object or land—
 - (i) the making of an application for a planning permit or a building permit;
 - (ii) the making of an application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit;
 - (iii) the grant of a planning permit or building permit;
 - (iv) the grant of an amendment to a planning permit or building permit.

(2) The owner must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

- (a) the making of an application referred to in subsection (1)(b)(i) or (ii), within 10 days of the making of the application; or
- (b) a grant referred to in subsection (1)(b)(iii) or (iv), within 10 days of the owner becoming aware of the grant.

42B Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of activities

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) within the statement of recommendation period it is proposed that activities that could harm the place, object or land be carried out.

(2) The owner, not less than 10 days before carrying out the activities, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

42C Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of proposal to dispose

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) within the statement of recommendation period a proposal is made to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land.

(2) The owner, within 10 days after entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding for the disposal of the whole or any part of the place, object or land, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

42D Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—requirement to give statement to purchaser

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) the owner proposes to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land within the statement of recommendation period.

(2) Before entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land during the statement of recommendation period, the owner must give a copy of the statement of recommendation to the person who, under the proposed agreement, arrangement or understanding, is to acquire the place, object or land or part of the place, object or land.

Owners of places and objects must comply with obligations (section 43)

An owner of a place, object or land who is subject to an obligation under section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C or 42D must comply with that obligation.

Penalty: In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units;
 In the case of a body corporate, 240 penalty units.

Appendix 2: Existing registration details

Existing extent of registration

City of Fitzroy. No. 148. Methodist Church, Nicholson Street, Fitzroy.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No 100 Wednesday, October 9 1974 p.3648]

Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the *Heritage Act 1995* pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act)

Existing extent diagram

This registration was gazetted in 1974 without an extent diagram.

Existing statement of significance

Last updated on - January 30, 2024

What is significant?

The Methodist Church, Nicholson Street, was erected in 1874 by Murray and Hill to a design by the architects Terry and Oakden. The exposed brick structure comprises an aisled nave. The buttresses and openings are decorated with contrasting brickwork, pressed cement keystones, mouldings and cappings, and corbelled gables. A shallow bell-cote and entrance are superimposed over the street facade. The main doorway is flanked by colonettes with capitals.

How is it significant?

The Methodist Church is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Methodist Church is of architectural significance as a fine example of Church architecture from the 1870s and an important work of the architects Terry and Oakden. It was designed by the firm in the first year of their partnership and is one of the first buildings to exhibit such typical characteristics of Oakden's work as corbelled gables, bellcote and striped serrated brickwork. Terry and Oakden were responsible for some elements of the Working Mens College (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology) buildings, and Oakden, in a later partnership with Addison and Kemp, was responsible for the ANZ Bank building in North Fitzroy.

The Methodist Church is of historical significance as a visible reminder of the growth of church congregations, reflecting the growth of 19th century Melbourne. The Church replaced a smaller wooden church that was opened on the site only three years earlier, demonstrating the speed with which congregations grew as Melbourne's suburbs were developed.

Existing permit policy and permit exemptions

Nil.