

CHARLES ST METHODIST MISSION CHAPEL & METHODIST CHURCH, WEST PERTH



| PLACE INFORMATION | |
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| Place name | Charles St Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church |
| Other names | Uniting Church and Methodist Mission Chapel, Wesleyan Church and Chapel (fmr) |
| Place type | Individual building or group |

| HERITAGE LISTING | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| inHerit ID: | 2237 |
| State Heritage Register: | 13 Dec 1996 |
| Other Listing: | Register of the National Estate Registered 27 Oct 1998; Classified by the National Trust 7 Dec 1987 Uniting Church Inventory Completed 1 Oct 1996 Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995 |

| SITE LOCATION | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Street address | 113 Charles St |
| Locality | West Perth |
| Survey | LOT: Y262 D/P: 222985 |
| Vol/folio | 1636/452 |
| Reserve | — |

| SIGNIFICANCE | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Level of significance | Exceptional Essential to the heritage of the area. Rare or outstanding example. Consider for nomination for State Register of Heritage Places if not already included. |
| Management category | Category 1 The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place. |
| Statement of significance | <p>The place is important aesthetically for its landmark quality and as an important component of an historic precinct.</p> <p>As a sequential pair of a pre-gold rush timber chapel and a gold rush stone and brick church, the place has a high rarity value.</p> <p>The individual buildings are representative examples of their architectural genre.</p> <p>The place has historic importance as it demonstrates the pattern of suburban evolution of the metropolitan area following the Gold Rush.</p> <p>The place had an important social value to the community and members of the Methodist Church for ninety-six years and, while not currently serving its intended use, the social value has continued for many who recall using these buildings for religious and social activities.</p> |

| PLACE USE | |
|---------------------|---|
| Original use | Religious: Church Religious: Church Hall |
| Current use | Educational: Tertiary Institution |
| Other use | |

| CONSTRUCTION DETAILS | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Construction date | 1890; 1896; 1983 |
| Walls | Stone Timber Brick |
| Roof | Corrugated Metal sheeting |
| Architectural Style | Victorian Carpenter Gothic Federation Gothic |
| Physical description | <p>The chapel is a timber framed, weatherboard and iron roofed chapel. The chapel has a single entrance under a simple gabled porch, matching the roof pitch. The main façade has narrow lancet windows symmetrically placed either side of the entry porch. It has a timber bellcote on the roof and a diamond shaped vent set into the apex of the gable.</p> <p>The neighbouring church is of limestone with brick buttresses and window quoins. The zincalume roof carries 7 triangular ventilators either side of the ridge. The church has entries in the outer bays of the front façade, either side of a central stained glass window featuring gothic tracery. This tracery is unusual in that it is constructed from turned timber rather than the traditional stone or metal frame.</p> <p>The original open grassed site has developed into a cluttered, hard landscaped area. Various small and large alterations have been made over many years, some sympathetic and others intrusive</p> |

| CONSTRUCTION DETAILS | |
|----------------------|------|
| Condition | Good |
| Integrity | High |
| Authenticity | High |

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Anglican minister John Wesley (1703) - 1791) was an early leader of the Methodist movement which began at Oxford University with the foundation of the Holy Club. The first Methodist or Wesleyan Methodist services in Western Australia were held by Joseph Hardey under a large jarrah tree in what is now central Hay Street, Perth. Hardey was one group of Methodists who had arrived in Western Australia on board the 'Tranby' in 1930. Their first church building was erected on a block of land donated by J. Inkpen on the corner of William and Murray Streets in Perth.

The Charles Street Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church are situated on land which was first reserved in 1873 for a Wesleyan Church and Glebe. The first church on the site was a weatherboard Methodist Mission Chapel, built in 1890. This section of West Perth was a suburban fringe area, but rapidly growing. Following an increase in congregation numbers in 1896, the limestone Methodist Church was built. The foundation stone for the Church was laid on 27 October 1896, by Sir George Shenton, Mr Walter Simpson, and Mrs H. Cowell Ashton, wife of William Henry Cowell Ashton the architect and builder. The first service was held on 7 February 1897. The chapel was used for Sunday School and rented for public use.

From the 1930s - 1960s it was used as a youth club by the YWCA and YMCA, while services continued to be held in the Church. In the 1970s, when the congregation grew smaller, services moved back to the chapel, and the Church was used by the youth groups. In 1983, all the buildings except the Chapel were leased by the State for the use of the Technical Education Department (TAFE).

In 1986, the Uniting Church reluctantly accepted an offer by the State to purchase the site and it is understood that many who used the buildings for religious and social activities remain bitter about its resumption by the government.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The last service was held in the Chapel on 15 February 1986. The buildings were used by the TAFE External Studies College Campus for some years, before falling into disuse. The chapel and church are associated with the original Manse, built at No. 482 Newcastle Street which currently operates as a physiotherapy.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century onwards indicate that the form and extent of the subject place have changed little since then

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|---|
| Historic theme | Cultural Life: Religion Social Services: Education | |
| Associations | William Henry Cowell Ashton Sir George Shenton Mr Walter Simpson | Architect and builder Founder Founder |
| Sources | P2237 Charles St Methodist Mission Chapel and Methodist Church, DPLH Assessment Documentation. Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. | |

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

