

/ /

BUILDING TITLE UNITING CHURCH (FORMER WESLEYAN) DOCUMENT FILE No.  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA CITY OF BALLAARAT

NATIONAL ESTATE PROJECT No.  
DOCUMENTATION OF LISTED HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN VICTORIA

DESIGNATION H.B.P.C. REGISTER No. NATIONAL TRUST ☒ ☒ FILE No.

BUILDING TYPE CHURCH  
BUILDING NAME WESLEY CHURCH  
STATE VICTORIA  
LOCAL GOVT AREA CITY OF BALLAARAT  
STREET LYDIARD SOUTH No.  
SUBURB/TOWN BALLARAT C.B.D.  
CITY BALLAARAT POSTCODE 3350  
RURAL  
NEAREST CENTRE Km.

TITLE REFERENCE Vol Fol  
DIRECTORY  
NEGATIVE FILE FILM 1 / FRAME 2



PHOTOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATION  
DATE OF SURVEY/INSPECTION JULY 1978

OWNERSHIP ORIGINAL WESLEYAN CHURCH  
PRESENT UNITING CHURCH  
ADDRESS

ARCHITECT/PRACTICE TERRY & OAKDEN  
BUILDER IRVING & GLOVER  
ARTISANS/TRADES

TENDERS 1. 9. 1883 REFERENCE ARGUS 1. 9. 1883  
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1883  
ESTIMATE/CONTRACT VALUE £7,115; FINAL SUM OVER £10,000  
ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS 1899 - ADDITIONS, ARCHITECT BRAZENOR  
1922 - CHOIR GALLERY DROPPED 8'  
1952 - INTERIOR REDECORATED COST £1295

#### BUILDING CITATION

The former Wesleyan Church was built in 1883-84 to the design of Architects Terry & Oakden and constructed by Contractors Irving & Glover. The initial contract price was £7,115, but the final cost was over £10,000. An earlier church, designed by Architect J.A.Doane, built south of the present church, was sold to the School of Mines in 1884.

The present church is an archetypal Oakden church in polychromatic Gothic style with banded arches, multiple lancet windows, horizontal wall banding and diamond motifs. Together with the Oakden churches at Brunswick (of 1871), and Toorak (of 1887), this church can be regarded as one of the three most significant ecclestaistical works by Percy Oakden.

The exterior is intact, apart from the removal of the pinnacle over the crossing. The interior is planned with seating in an amphitheatre form; a feature used in the Brunswick, Toorak and Fitzroy (now demolished) churches. The balcony with cast iron balustrading is unusual; the timber work has unfortunately been painted.

This building is of great architectural importance. It represents, with the Toorak and Brunswick churches, the best of Oakden's polychrome Gothic style. The church is of major streetscape importance and forms a unique group with the adjacent Sunday School Hall.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this building, as part of the Wesleyan Church complex, be added to the Historic Buildings Register, the Register of the National Estate, and be specified under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule)

## DOCUMENTATION SOURCES

- 01 GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 02 LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS
- 03 ARCHIVES/CATALOGUES
- 04 ARCHITECTS INDEX
- 05 ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS/ILLUSTRATIONS
- 06 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS
- 07 NATIONAL TRUST FILE/ HISTORIC BUILDINGS PRESERVATION COUNCIL FILE
- 08 PRIVATE RECORDS

02 B.C.C. BUILDING PERMITS BOOK, PLANS LODGED

1.10.1883.; PLANS FOR ADDITIONS LODGED 8.2.1899

THIS: 06 BALLARAT ILLUSTRATED EARLY PHOTO c1920 p43

BALLARAT & DISTRICT 1901 PLATE 10. - SHOWS  
FORMER MANSE, SINCE DEMOLISHED.

\*SEE REF 7 BELOW

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. AUGUS 1.9.1883
2. BALLARAT STAR 14.12.1884
3. HENDERSON S.C. 'A HISTORY OF WESLEY 1853-1963'
4. LEWIS, M.B. 'NORTH FITZROY METHODIST CHURCH' A  
REPORT TO THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS PRESERVATION  
COUNCIL 20. JULY 1975.
5. WITHERS W.B. THE HISTORY OF BALLARAT  
BALLARAT 1887. P 270.
6. ZUZOWSKI H 'THE WORKS OF LEONARD TERRY'  
HIST. IV THESIS, B. ARCH, MELB UNIVERSITY 1971.
7. SMITH J. (ED) THE CYCLOPEDIA OF VICTORIA MELB,  
3 VOLS, 1901, 1902, 1903 VOL 2 P 245 (PHOTO OF  
PREDECESSOR CHURCH)

## ASSESSMENT OF LISTING

CONDITION/INTEGRITY OF BUILDING SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT

SIGNIFICANCE OF BUILDING

LANDSCAPE/STREETScape/ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE PART OF RECOMMENDED  
AREA A.I.I.

DOCUMENTATION JACOBS LEWIS VINES DATE SEPTEMBER 1978  
ARCHITECTS

## WESLEYAN CHURCH

### BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

This Wesleyan Church was built in 1883-1884<sup>1</sup> to the design of Architects Terry & Oakden<sup>2</sup> and constructed by Contractors Irving & Glover. The initial contract price was £7,115<sup>3</sup> but the final cost was over £10,000<sup>4</sup>.

An earlier Wesleyan Church was constructed south of the present church in Lydiard Street to the design of Architect J.A.Doane<sup>5</sup>. This stone church was sold for £2,000 to the School of Mines for use as a Museum. The last church service was held on 7.12.1884<sup>6</sup>. This predecessor church is visible in an early photo<sup>7</sup>, and has subsequently been demolished.

This building is an archetypal Oakden church in polychromatic Gothic style, with banded arches, multiple lancet windows, horizontal wall banding and diamond motifs. The interior is planned with the seating in more or less an amphitheatre form; a feature to be repeated in the later Oakden Toorak church of 1887, and used in the earlier predecessors : the Congregational Church in Victoria Parade, and the Wesleyan Church in Sydney Road Brunswick, both of 1871.

- 
1. Tenders called *Argus* 1.9.1883.
  2. Withers *The History of Ballarat* 1887, p.270.
  3. Zuzowski H. 'The Works of Leonard Terry'. Information recorded in the Minute Book of the Trustees.
  4. Withers loc. cit.
  5. M.B.Lewis 'North Fitzroy Methodist Church, Nicholson Street', p.9.
  6. Henderson G.L. 'A History of Wesley'.
  7. *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria*, Vol.2, p.245.

## WESLEYAN CHURCH (contd.)

### BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

M.B.Lewis has prepared a study of the North Fitzroy Methodist Church of 1874, also by Oakden, and in this study included a discussion of the partnership of Terry & Oakden. It has been included here to provide the context for this church description:<sup>8</sup>

"The partnership of Terry and Oakden was formed on 1 January 1874, and continued until Terry's death in 1884. Leonard Terry, the senior partner, with a two-thirds interest, had a well-established Melbourne-based practice specialising in branch banks and in Anglican church work, but even during the partnership his work remained quite distinct from Oakden's, which is of more interest here.

Percy Oakden (1845-1917) was born in Tasmania, partially trained in England, and practised at Ballarat from 1868, being from 1869 to 1872 in partnership with J.H.Fox. In 1871 Oakden was successful in two competitions, one for the Congregational Church in Victoria Parade, Fitzroy (now demolished) and the other for the Wesleyan Church in Sydney Road, Brunswick. In at least the latter case the winning entry was actually in the name of Fox and Oakden. These two admirable buildings established Oakden's foothold in Melbourne, and after entering partnership with Terry he continued to bring in church and school work from the nonconformist denominations, while Terry remained active in commissions for the Anglican and even the Roman churches.

Both of these buildings were planned with the seating in more or less an amphitheatre form, a feature to be repeated in two later Oakden churches; the Wesleyan church at Dana Street and Lydiard Streets, Ballarat, and that at Toorak and Williams Roads, Toorak. The Ballarat church, of 1884, is somewhat coarsely massed, and is in a more dilute version of the Oakden style than the church at Brunswick; the Toorak church, of 1887, is even thinner stylistically, but more imposing in its appearance due to being built over a basement Sunday School.

The four churches which have been mentioned should be regarded as Oakden's major ecclesiastical works.

In brief it may be said that, of Oakden's surviving churches, those at Brunswick, Ballarat and Toorak are of the greatest significance. Though their comparative merits can only be determined by detailed external and internal examination, it would appear that Brunswick is not only the earliest but also the most outstanding example."

---

8. M.B. Lewis op. cit. p.6.

WESLEYAN CHURCH (contd.)

BUILDING ANALYSIS AND DESCRIPTION

In this study Lewis has attempted to rank in order of importance those patterned brick churches discussed in his report. He considers the Victoria Parade, Fitzroy, (demolished) and the Sydney Road, Brunswick, to be the two most important Oakden polychrome churches. He writes of the Ballarat and Toorak churches:<sup>9</sup>

"The Ballarat church of 1884, is somewhat coarsely massed and is in a more dilute version of the Oakden style than the church at Brunswick; the Toorak church of 1887 is even thinner stylistically, but more imposing in its appearance due to being built over the basement Sunday School."

In brief it can be said that of Oakden's surviving churches those at Brunswick, Ballarat and Toorak are of the greatest significance.

The Ballarat church is externally intact, apart from the removal of a small pinnacle over the crossing. It is constructed in red brick, with basalt foundations; Waurin Ponds freestone dressings to the openings, and a slate roof internally. The balcony is of interest with delicate cast iron balustrading. Unfortunately the timber work has been painted, detracting from the overall effect.

This building forms a unique group with the Sunday School Hall. Together these buildings are of major streetscape importance, and accentuate the height and grandeur of the Ballarat escarpment. As one of the three most important Oakden churches in Victoria, this building is worthy of protection and preservation.

---

9. op. cit. 0.7.