

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	Fawkner Methodist Church & Sunday School (former)	Significance Level	2004 Local
Address	1218-1220 Sydney Road Fawkner		
Place Type	Church		



1218-20 Sydney Rd. Fawkner



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1218-20 Sydney Rd. Fawkner

**Recommended VHR - HI - PS -
Heritage Protection**

Integrity

Altered

History and Historical Context

The Fawkner Methodist Church at 1218-20 Sydney Road, Fawkner was officially opened on 21 July 1956 by the rev. Prof. Calvert Barber. [1] The Fawkner Methodist Church was part of the Pascoe Vale Circuit and was associated with the Methodist Church at Merlynston (refer to separate citation in this Study). A history of the two churches, prepared in 1958, describes the establishment of the Fawkner church as follows:

"To meet the development and expansion to our north the need for action was realised, and we were fortunate indeed when, during September, 1954, Mr AH Wall made available an ideally located Church site in Sydney Road.

A survey by Rev. JJ Goff, Superintendent Minister of Pascoe Vale Circuit, revealed the urgent need of a Sunday School at Fawkner, and, at a meeting of Trustees on 23rd December 1954, it was decided to erect a suitable hall. The Trust Secretary, Mr McWiggan, led many volunteer workers clearing the land, and, showing the true pioneering spirit of Methodism, the present Church was constructed mainly by men who sacrificed their time and talents in this venue of service." [2]

Title information shows that the property now known as 1218 Sydney Road once formed part of a 5 acre allotment situated at the north-east corner of Major Road, which was purchased by Rosa Dowling in 1910. [3] The land was subdivided in 1950 and Alfred Horace Wall became owner of Lot 5 on 7 March 1950. [4] Four years later, the ownership was transferred to four people; the aforementioned Mr Wall, Lindsay Rawlings, William McWiggan (who was described as a builder residing at 5 Princes Street, Fawkner) and Donald Knowles Fulton (5 Piper Street, Fawkner). [5] These four men were the first trustees of the Fawkner church. Almost thirty years later, in 1982, the ownership transferred to the Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust. [6]

At the time the church was constructed, the area surrounding the church on the east side of Sydney Road was mostly farmland, however, the first suburban subdivisions were being made along the north side of Major Road, and the area was soon to be transformed later in the decade by housing estates for the Housing Commission of Victoria and the Ford Motor Company. The growth in the area is reflected in the increase in the number of children attending Sunday School from 27 to 108 between 1956 and 1958. [7]

The Fawkner Methodist Church was the second Methodist church in Fawkner built to serve this developing community, and followed the establishment of the Methodist Church in Orvieto Street, Merlynston in 1932 (refer to separate citation in this Study). Another early church in the Fawkner area was St Mark's Catholic Church in Argyle Street, which was established in 1934 (refer to separate citation in this Study)

The use of the church by the Samoan community appears to have begun around 1997 when the title records a change of ownership to members of that community. [8] It is now known as the Samoan Presbyterian Church. The Presbyterian Church is heavily involved in missionary work, with 130 missionaries serving in many countries, especially the Pacific,

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India and Korea. [9] This church is now one of four Presbyterian Samoan Churches in Melbourne, including St. David's Presbyterian (Samoan) Church, Pascoe Vale, the Samoan Family Church in Dandenong, and the Samoan Worship Christian Church Centre, Dandenong. [10]

SOURCES

- [1] 'Building on Faith. Merlynston and Fawkner Methodist Churches - Victoria. Combined Funds Canvass'. (February, 1958) p.4
- [2] *ibid*
- [3] Certificate of Title Vol. 3409 Fol. 647
- [4] Certificate of Title Vol. 7765 Fol. 014
- [5] *ibid.*
- [6] *ibid.*
- [7] 'Building on Faith. Merlynston and Fawkner Methodist Churches - Victoria. Combined Funds Canvass'. (February, 1958) p.4
- [8] Certificate of Title Vol. 7765 Fol. 014
- [9] Presbyterian Church of Australia website: www.presbyterian.org.au/
- [10] Presbyterian Church of Australia website: www.presbyterian.org.au/

Description

Physical Description

The former Fawkner Methodist Church is a simple undistinguished single storey weatherboard building with a gabled corrugated cement roof. It has a small weatherboard entrance portico on the west (Sydney Road) elevation which has a flat (steel deck?) roof. The entrance features a small leadlight window with a two orange panes with a small pointed arch in each separated by a plain glass pane. On either side are double hung windows - the one to the right appears to retain a pointed arch in the upper pane. There are five double hung windows along the side elevations reminiscent of an interwar school or hall building. A small weatherboard hall with a gabled roof of lower pitch has been added to the rear (east) elevation of the building which has strip windows under the eave line of the side elevation.

Physical Condition

Good

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The Fawkner Methodist Church & Sunday School (former) now known as the Samoan Presbyterian Church, opened in 1956, at 1218-1220 Hume Highway, Fawkner.

How is it significant?

The Fawkner Methodist Church & Sunday School (former) at 1218-1220 Hume Highway, Fawkner is of local historical and social significance to the City of Moreland.

Why is it significant?

Of historic significance as one of the earliest church buildings in the Fawkner area. It demonstrates a key phase of development of Fawkner during the immediate post-war period when it was being transformed from a farming area to a suburban housing estate. (AHC Criterion A.4)

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Of social significance as a key local meeting place for over 50 years, which has strong associations with the Fawkner community. The recent use as the Samoan Presbyterian Church reflects the continuing cultural diversity of the Fawkner area, which has been a characteristic of the community in the post-war era. (AHC Criterion G.1)

Assessment Against Criteria

AHC A4: The church is associated with the suburban development of Fawkner in the post war era and is one the earliest churches in the area.

AHC G1: The church is valued by the local community as a meeting place for almost fifty years. It is also of interest for its recent use by the Samoan community, which reflects the cultural diversity of the Fawkner area.

Recommendations 2004

External Paint Controls

-

Internal Alteration Controls

-

Tree Controls

-

Fences & Outbuildings

-

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

-

Incorporated Plan

-

Aboriginal Heritage Place

-

Other Recommendations

Community nomination: Add to HO - individual

This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.