

Building:	Former Wesleyan Methodist Church	Significance:	B
Address:	515 Station Street, Box Hill	Melway May Ref:	47 D10

Building Type:	Church	Construction Date:	1886
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:
G[x] F[] P[]

Condition:
G[x] F[] P[]

Existing Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register	[]
Register of the National Estate	[]
National Trust	[]

Recommended Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register	[]
Register of the National Estate	[x]
Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

History

The first Wesleyan Methodist service was held in the Box Hill centre in the Barkly Hall, on 13 May 1883. Tenders were called for the present building on 17 November 1885 and the foundation stone was laid on 11 February 1886. The first service was held on 13 June 1886. Box Hill became an independent circuit in 1889 and in 1926, a new church immediately to the west was built to replace the early building. The two buildings are connected by a single-storey section of building which appears to date from the 1960s.

The church was built during a period of expansion of Methodism within the municipality, is approximately contemporaneous with the former Methodist churches in Surrey Hills (1888) and Blackburn (1891).

The building is now known as the Oxford Theatre.

Description

The former Wesleyan Methodist Church is a late Victorian polychromatic brick Gothic Revival Church in red brick with cream brick quoins and alternating red and cream pointing arches. The building is in the form of a rectangular hall with a lower, parapeted front porch and buttressed side elevations. The staged buttresses have rendered copings and pinnacles. The gabled roof is clad in slate. Many of the windows, including the rose window in the east elevation, do not appear to be original.

Comparative Examples

St George's Church of England, 370 Mont Albert Road, Mont Albert

Significance

The former Wesleyan Methodist Church, Box Hill, is of aesthetic and historic significance. It is the largest polychromatic brick church in the municipality, and a good and substantially externally intact example of a metropolitan Gothic Revival church building. Historically, the church is integral to the history of Methodism within the municipality. The church building remains a key structure in the Station Street streetscape.

Source

Andrew C Ward & Associates. *City of Box Hill Heritage and Conservation Study*. 1990.

Additional Historical Information

Andrew Lemon. *Box Hill*. Melbourne, 1978. pp 95-96.

Additional Notes

Andrew Ward's study identified only the 1886 church on this site. It did not identify the 1926 church. This datasheet is a review of Andrew Ward's datasheet for the first building.