

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** UNITING CHURCH COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Mirranatwa School Road MIRRANATWA

**STUDY NUMBER:** 315

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** PRESBYTERIAN (?) CHURCH

**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 60 or  
61

**PARISH:** PARISH OF MIRRANATWA

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 390 F5; VicRoads 559 H8; located on the south side of the Mirranatwa School Road, beside the Mirranatwa hall and former school halfway between Addinsall's Road and Mirranmatwa Road

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Uniting Church, Mirranatwa School Road, Mirranatwa

**Image Date:** 5/07/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the building and all of the land including the memorial tree plantings and plaques.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

A small symmetrical church in the form of a simple hall of four bays facing northwards. There is a porch at the front with the entrance on the east side. The main roof and porch roof are corrugated iron and gabled. The walls are sawn limestone. The windows, including the small window in the porch have angled heads, simulating the Gothic style. The church is set within a small yard bounded by a low Cyclone wire fence with timber posts. There is a memorial tree on the west side of the church commemorating early pioneering families. The plaque states "This tree was planted to commemorate the settlement of our forebears in the Mirranatwa/Victoria Valley district in 1871, McArthur Family Reunion Easter 1987". The church is located beside the Mirranatwa hall which was formerly a primary school.

## **HISTORY:**

The land on which the Mirranatwa Uniting Church Complex now stands was first taken up as part of the Victoria Valley run. The name Mirranatwa is said to mean 'water between the hills' or 'Gang Gang Parrot' (Clabburn, et. al, 33). The area was thrown open for selection in the 1870s, and the numbers of selectors who came to the area with their family led to a demand for services. The first school was opened in 1881, with an enrollment of 20 children (ibid.). The first church services were held in the home of Mr. And Mrs. Robertson (of Barrahead station, later of Skene, near Hamilton), with the Reverend James McGaw from Ulster as preacher (ibid.). After the Robertson family left the area to move to Skene Homestead, services were held at the Mirranatwa School until 1961, when the Uniting Church was built in its current location. A ti-tree was planted to the west of the church in 1987 by the McArthur family as a memorial to the pioneering McArthur family.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.1 Worshipping together

8.6.3 Founding Australian religious institutions

8.6.4 Making places for worship

## **CONDITION:**

The building is in excellent condition.

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## **INTEGRITY:**

Excellent degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Mirranatwa Uniting Church complex is located on the south side of the Mirranatwa School Road, beside the Mirranatwa hall and former school. The complex consists of a small symmetrical church in the form of a simple hall of four bays, with a front porch and entrance of the east side. The church is constructed from sawn limestone, and the roofs of the church and porch are gabled with corrugated iron. A memorial tree is planted to the west of the church commemorating early pioneering families. The first church services were held at Barrahead homestead, owned by Thomas Robertson, later of Skene Homestead near Hamilton. After he left for Hamilton, services were conducted in the local Mirranatwa school. No architect or builder has been associated with the design of the church, constructed in 1961. The building is in good condition, and retains a high degree of integrity to the 1960s period.

How is it significant?

The Mirranatwa Uniting Church is of historical and social significance to the community of Mirranatwa and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

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The Mirranatwa Uniting Church is of historical and social significance as the focus for, firstly, the Presbyterian and, subsequently, Uniting Church denominations in the Mirranatwa district and the Victoria Valley generally.

## COMPARISON:

159 St Andrews Uniting Church and Hall, Coleraine Road, Balmoral  
157 St Mary's Anglican Church, corner of Stirling and Bell Streets, Balmoral  
069 St Joseph's Catholic Church & School, McKebery St, Coleraine  
421 St Patrick's Catholic Church, Martin St, Dunkeld

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh & mgt

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

11-Jul-02

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

### HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

### REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Elsie Clabburn, Iris Field, Betty Gordon & Kath Dickie	Dunkeld & District: A Short History	1995	33-4