

St Luke's Uniting (former Methodist) Church, 170 Barrabool Road, Highton Statement of Significance

May 2025

Heritage Place:	St Luke's Uniting (former Methodist) Church, 170 Barrabool Road, Highton	PS ref no:	HO2042
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Source: City of Greater Geelong, November 2024

What is significant?

St Luke's Uniting (former Methodist) Church at 170 Barrabool Road, Highton, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. Significant elements include:

- The original 1855 brick nave.
- The later 1867 Barrabool Sandstone Gothic Revival extension, both of which make up the main form of the church.
- The later 1874 Lane Memorial Hall.
- The sightlines from Scenic Road towards the church, including the open space around the church.
- Additionally, if present and intact following the 1926 Highton Tornado, the time capsule interred upon completion of the 1867 extension also contributes to the significance of the site.

Non-significant elements include:

- The later structures and landscaping, comprising:
- The rear weatherboard extension attached to the brick nave.
- Sunday School Hall.
- Kindergarten.
- 1983 Church.
- Later plantings, fences, sport courts, and carpark.

How is it significant?

St Luke's Uniting (former Methodist) Church is of historical and representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

St Luke's Uniting (former Methodist) Church at 170 Barrabool Road, Highton, is historically significant to the City of Greater Geelong as an early example of a brick masonry and Barrabool Sandstone Church first constructed in 1855 and extended in 1867. The Church is historically representative of the strong presence of a local Methodist community of Highton in the mid-19th century. Further, the historical destruction and rebuilding of the Church following the Highton Tornado of 1926 further represents the historical importance of the Church, as one of the few remaining places in Highton remaining after the disaster. (Criterion A)

St Luke's Uniting (former Methodist) Church is of representative significance as an intact mid-19th century Gothic Revival church. The Church abides by all key design elements expected of a Gothic Revival church, including rectilinear form with gabled roof, buttresses, pointed arch lancet windows with leadlight panes, a slate shingle roof, projecting narthex and tower, and construction in Barrabool Sandstone atop a basalt bluestone foundation. (Criterion D)

Primary sources

St Luke's Uniting (former Methodist) Church, author: Benjamin Petkov, November 2024, peer reviewer: Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy, May 2025.

Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study. Stage 2, Volume 16, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 1998-2000.

This document is an incorporated document in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*