



The Northern Territory's oldest surviving church



Rear of the Church, 1996

The Wesleyan Methodist Church showing 1940s transepts, 1996

The Wesleyan Methodist Church is of outstanding heritage significance due to its association with the development of Darwin, because it is the oldest surviving church building in the Northern Territory and because of its unique method of construction.

Original Roof Framing



Detail of the construction system, 2000

'The wall system comprises principal studs of uniform section, between which run the pressed cladding sheets, which have a profile like weatherboarding.'

Dr Miles Lewis, Former Methodist Church, 1986.

'I would unequivocally rate this building as one of substantial importance in relation to the history and identity of Darwin, and of even more substantial and perhaps international importance as a technical specimen.'

Dr Miles Lewis, Comments, 1989.



Remnant of the corner hold-down chain

The destruction of the original timber framed church in the cyclone of 1897 influenced Methodist authorities to rebuild in steel. The Wesleyan Methodist Church incorporated a number of interesting technical details designed to provide resistance to cyclonic winds.

A unique aspect of the building was the use of chains to hold down each corner of the roof. The chains ran from a cast iron column cap to a concrete pad set in the ground. These were successfully tested in the severe cyclones of 1937 and 1974.



The original framing on its Knuckey Street site, 2000

Blackbutt Flooring

The remains of the original wall and roof framing system following the removal of the two transepts and the original wall cladding.

The steel members were probably imported from Scotland as steel was not manufactured in Australia at the time. The steel weatherboard cladding probably came from a North American source.

Concrete piers

