

## NOMINATION TO THE ACT HERITAGE REGISTER

*Please note that the information below represents indicative heritage values only, and not the views of the ACT Heritage Council (the Council).*

*This nomination is yet to be assessed by the Council against the heritage significance criteria established under the Heritage Act 2004.*

*Acceptance of a nomination is a preliminary, threshold step and ought not to be taken as indicative of any particular outcome concerning the Council's assessment of the nomination.*

### **Block 1 Section 32 FORREST Wesley Uniting Church and Manse FORREST**

The Wesley Uniting Church complex is valued by the community for its strong religious, cultural and historical associations on a national and local level.

The complex was built as a national memorial and centre of Methodism in Australia prior to the advent of the Uniting Church in Australia. The church hall building (now Wesley Hall and Vercoe Room) was opened in 1930 as a cooperative Church Hall for Methodists, Presbyterians, and Congregationalists. The parsonage was built in 1938 and the church was built in 1955 as the Methodist National Memorial Church. The site chosen was on land designated by the Federal Capital Advisory Committee for monumental churches and cathedrals to represent the various Christian denominations in the new Federal Capital. Although now part of the Uniting Church in Australia, the history and development of Methodism in Australia and the local region is still portrayed at the site. The memorial niche inside the church contains a number of artefacts from each of the States presented as gift to the Central Church as well as wooden slabs from an early Methodist church in Canberra built in 1869. The reredos features carved wooden emblems of each of the States of Australia as a reminder of its national significance. The founders of the Methodist church and early members of the Church in Canberra are commemorated in the stained glass windows.

The Wesley Uniting Church is also one of the churches where services are held to mark the beginning of the Parliamentary year.