

## **SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE**

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### **REGISTER ENTRY**

**Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the  
*Heritage Places Act 1993***

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**NAME:** Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery **PLACE NO.:** 26433

**ADDRESS:** 18 Main South Road, Normanville  
CT 5676/974 (Allotment 472, Filed Plan 165191, Section 1037,  
Hundred of Yankalilla)

### **DESIGNATED PLACE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

#### **STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery is an important representative of the religious burial practices of the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In particular, this cemetery demonstrates the burial practices of the Wesleyan Methodist denomination. Such cemeteries have become increasingly scarce in South Australia, through the destruction of gravesites with an increased demand for burial plots as the state's population has grown. Thus, this Cemetery is a rare surviving example of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century chapel-yard burial ground that has remained untouched by 20<sup>th</sup>-century development.

The Cemetery provides examples of the work of monumental masons George Sara, E H Herring and W Hawken. While a similar association could be claimed for other cemeteries in South Australia, the exemplary quality of those headstones that remain at Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery warrants it being regarded as important to South Australia through the outstanding aesthetic, creative and technical accomplishments of these monuments.

#### **STATEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESIGNATION**

The Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery was used for burials for a relatively short period of time, between 1856 and 1893, and is designated a place of archaeological significance as it has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of burial/funereal practices in South Australia in the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## **RELEVANT CRITERIA (under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*)**

### ***(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.***

Established in the first twenty years of European settlement in South Australia, the burial ground in the yard of the Normanville Wesleyan Chapel, now known as Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery, stands as a snapshot in time of burial practices from the second half of the nineteenth century. In particular, the size, location, plantings, grave markers, record of those interred and layout of the cemetery all serve to demonstrate aspects of the social, cultural, and religious history of South Australia in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery demonstrates the burial practices brought with the settlers from England to South Australia and reflects the typical chapel yard burial sites found in England and Australia before public cemeteries became more common. The Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery reflects the importance of Wesleyan Methodism, which played a significant part in the development of South Australia. The importance of religion was reflected in the burial practices of the colony: the cemetery became an important cultural institution in which the religious, moral and social order could be established and a person's identity could be defined. Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery reflects the social structure in the society it served through the physical location of gravestones within its geographic bounds and the respective elaborateness of the burial sites.

### ***(b) it has rare, uncommon and endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.***

The Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery is uncommon for its comparatively early establishment (1856), its restricted period of operation (about 37 years between 1856 and 1893), and the fact that it has remained relatively intact for over one hundred years.

Early South Australian burial places have become scarce through processes such as natural attrition and cyclical destruction due to increased demand over time for burial plots as the state's population has grown.

There were only 27 burial grounds established in the Adelaide and hills region by the time Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery was being used in 1856. Of these, many have faced development pressure, been rejuvenated or had burial plots and headstones moved or re-used. The Cemetery also includes one of the best-preserved collections of intact slate headstones in South Australia.

# SITE PLAN

Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery  
18 Main South Road, Normanville

PLACE NO: 26433



Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery, 18 Main South Road, Normanville – Site Plan

[Generally indicating the important elements and features of the place (outlined in red)]

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## COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

### Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

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#### Physical Description

The Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery sits behind the 160 year old former Normanville Wesleyan Chapel on the main road through Normanville. It is a fenced chapel yard burial ground on the Bungala River. It contains 10 identifiable headstones or grave markers, an additional 10 unidentified graves (indicated by markers), and potentially many other unmarked plots or graves. The layout appears to be in roughly parallel rows with headstones oriented to the west-north-west. There are several trees on or near the site including eucalyptus, olive and pine species.

The components identified as being intrinsic to the heritage significance of Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery include:

- All grave markers, grave fences, headstones, footstones, grave-plots, archaeological assemblages, and original fence posts.

#### History of the Place

Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery stands on land donated for the Normanville Wesleyan Chapel by Nelson Leak in about 1854. The Normanville Wesleyan Chapel was dedicated in November of that year and the earliest dated headstone in the chapel yard cemetery is that of Elizabeth Leak, the wife of Nelson Leak, who died on 11 July 1856. Burials continued in the chapel yard cemetery, with the last marked headstone dated 1877. Caroline Thurston who died on the 21 January 1893 has been cited as the last burial in the cemetery. The Wesleyan Methodists formed a union with the other branches of Methodism in 1900, and the Normanville Wesleyan Chapel became the Normanville Methodist Chapel, with services for the district shared on a roster with other Methodist Chapels in the area. By 1923 the chapel yard was described as disused. In October 1949, the Normanville Methodist Chapel held its final service and was deconsecrated. In 1952, the Chapel and its surrounding land apart from the cemetery was sold to the Yankalilla Branch of the Returned Servicemen's League. The cemetery remains in the ownership of the Uniting Church.

Normanville was the fifth Wesleyan cemetery established in the Adelaide and hills region following Willunga (1845), Walkerville (1847), Aldinga (1853) and McLaren Vale (1853) – none of which are entered in the South Australian Heritage Register as State Heritage Places.

## **References**

The primary source for this Summary was:

- Collins, Dr Julie, Heritage Assessment Report 'Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery' (2014), commissioned by DEWNR.

Refer to the Heritage Assessment Report for more detailed information about the history of the Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery, 18 Main South Road, Normanville and references.

## SITE DETAILS

Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery  
18 Main South Road, Normanville

PLACE NO: 26433

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<b>FORMER NAME:</b>	Normanville Wesleyan chapel yard Normanville Methodist chapel yard
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:</b>	The Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery sits behind the 160-year-old former Wesleyan Chapel and contains 10 identifiable headstones or grave markers, an additional 10 unidentified, but marked, graves and potentially many other unmarked plots or gravesites.
<b>DATE OF COMPLETION:</b>	Chapel built 1854; Burials 1856-1893
<b>SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:</b>	<b>Description:</b> Nominated <b>Date:</b> 28 October 2013 <b>Description:</b> Provisionally entered <b>Date:</b> 8 October 2014 <b>Description:</b> Confirmed <b>Date:</b> 22 April 2015
<b>LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS</b>	N/A
<b>CURRENT USE:</b>	<b>Description:</b> Burial ground <b>Dates:</b> 1856-1893 [Remains an inactive burial ground to the present day]
<b>PREVIOUS USE(S):</b>	<b>Description:</b> N/A <b>Dates:</b> N/A
<b>ARCHITECT:</b>	<b>Name:</b> N/A <b>Dates:</b> N/A
<b>BUILDER:</b>	<b>Name:</b> N/A <b>Dates:</b> N/A
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:</b>	<b>Description:</b> Yankalilla
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Unit No.:</b> N/A <b>Street No.:</b> 18 <b>Street Name:</b> Main South Road <b>Town/Suburb:</b> Normanville <b>Postcode:</b> 5204
<b>LAND DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>Title Type:</b> CT <b>Volume:</b> 5676

**Folio:** 974  
**Lot No.:** 472  
**Plan No.:** Filed Plan 165191  
**Section:** 1037  
**Hundred:** Yankalilla



## PHOTOS

**Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery**  
**18 Main South Road, Normanville**

**PLACE NO: 26433**

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*Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery, 18 Main South Road, Normanville  
(looking south-south-east)  
(J Collins, April 2014)*



*Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery, 18 Main South  
Road, Normanville (looking north-north east)  
(J Collins, April 2014)*



## PHOTOS

**Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery**  
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*Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery, 18 Main South Road, Normanville  
(looking north-north east)  
(J Collins, April 2014)*



*Normanville Wesleyan Cemetery, 18 Main South Road, Normanville  
(looking south-south west)  
(J Collins, April 2014)*