

# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hedley Grace Church  
Electoral Area "G"

## DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC PLACE

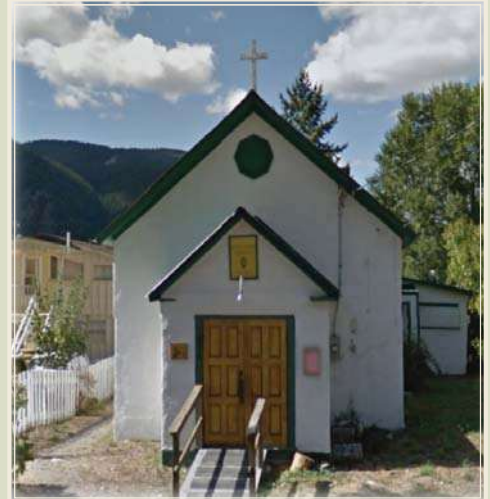
Hedley Grace Church is a small church building located on 864 Ellis Avenue in Hedley, British Columbia. It is positioned on Lot 5-6, Block 42, District Lot 1975, Similkameen Division Yale District, Plan 2565. Situated adjacent to Woodlie Park, the building features a white stucco exterior, green roof, with green trim, varnished doors and a wooden cross mounted over the entrance.

The Hedley Grace Church is valued today as a site of continuous spiritual worship since the early 20th century. The first service at the site is known to have occurred as early as 1901, when Rev. E.E. Hardwick, an employee at the local mine, held services in a tent at this location. A year later, Grace Methodist Church was constructed on donated land with volunteer labour and under the direction of Rev. J.W. Hedley. The rear of the church building hosted Hedley's first school, along with the first Library, and the headquarters of the Twentieth Century Club in 1903.

Throughout the years, the building has housed a number of religious denominations, including the Methodist Church (1902), the United Church (1925), the Keremeos Ecumenical Parish (1969), and Hedley Grace Church (2008). Since inception, the church building has played a prominent role in the social, cultural, and spiritual fabric of the community.

## HERITAGE VALUES

The building holds aesthetic value for its physical features are true to architectural design of its time, many of which sit in their original form today. The cultural value of the site is apparent in the church mandate of community service of the church having served the community of Hedley for 113 years. The spiritual value of the site is embodied in the site being a place of spiritual worship and guidance, including Sunday school, Bible teachings, and regular Sunday services. Social value of the site is exemplified in that the church has served as a gathering place for community activities, including potlucks, Christmas and Easter pageants, and an emergency centre in times of crisis. Having functioned as a school and library, the site holds educational value for residents. Finally, Hedley Grace Church has provided significant economic value to the community, having provided donations for numerous community projects, such as sending children to summer camp, and providing hampers to families and individuals in need.



## CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

- Original doors and windows;
- Original chairs in the sanctuary and Sunday school room;
- A wooden cross on vestibule;
- The original platform;
- Fir wood floors;
- The original piano;
- Stucco siding from the 1930's;
- Built with 1" x 6" Shiplap

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

1. Barnes, H. D., 1948. Early History of Hedley Camp. *Okanagan Historical Society*, 12: 67 - 88.
2. Hughesman, Rev. D., 2001. Celebrating 100 years of Worship. *The Review*, Keremeos, British Columbia.
3. Leslie, T. A., 1969. Hedley. *Okanagan Historical Society*, 33: 147-150.
4. Martens, A., 2015. Gifting of Hedley Grace Church. *Living Significantly*. Accessed at <http://livingsignificantly.ca/2015/04/28/> on December 22nd, 2016.