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# Ballarat South Uniting Church Complex



Uniting Church



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## Location

104-6 Albert Street, SEBASTOPOL VIC 3356 - Property No 2000511

## Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO204

## Heritage Listing

Ballarat City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 5, 2024

### **What is significant?**

Ballarat South Uniting Church Complex at 104-6 Albert Street, Sebastopol, designed by architect L H Vernon, and the Sunday School, the 1960s Kindergarten addition to the school and the low brick wall and gates on the Albert Street boundary. The following elements are not significant: the 1989 additions comprising kitchen and toilet block. The modern powder coated fence is not significant.

### **How is it significant?**

Ballarat South Uniting Church Complex is of historical and architectural significance to the City of Ballarat.

### **Why is it significant?**

Ballarat South Uniting Church Complex is historically significant for its representation of the confluence of several Christian congregations from the local area - of the Sebastopol Methodist Church and Rubicon Street Methodist Church, and later the joining of this combined congregation with the Zion Congregational Church to form the Uniting Church. The structure also includes a stone memorialising another church dating to the end of the 19th century, although the name and location of this church is not known. (Criterion A and G)

Ballarat South Uniting Church Complex is architecturally significant as a representative example of the survival of the Gothic Revival style into the late interwar period. In addition to ecclesiastical features such as lancet windows and a bell tower, it adopts the elements from a contemporary residential style - Old English Revival. (Criterion D)

## **Theme**

### 8. Building community life

Heritage Study/Consultant Ballarat - Sebastopol Heritage Study (Stage 2), Context Pty Ltd, 2015;

Construction dates 1940,

Architect/Designer Vernon, L.H,

Other Names Ballarat South Uniting Church Mission Centre,

Hermes Number 183807

Property Number

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## **Physical Description 1**

The former Sebastopol Methodist Church, now Ballarat South Uniting Church, is a red brick Gothic Revival church of 1940. It has a small setback from the street, delineated by a low brick wall along the boundary. The fence is of red brick with clinker brick accents, curving to meet two identical sets of geometric-patterned steel gates. Behind the church and adjoining Sunday school hall of 1940 are attached a Kindergarten hall of 1960 and a kitchen and toilet block of 1989; all of red brick with terracotta tiled roofs (apart from the kitchen and toilets), and constructed as a continuous structure.

The church is gable-fronted with a flush verge, as was seen on Old English houses of the time. There is a large stained glass lancet window at the centre of the facade, above a band of crosses executed in raised brick. On the right-hand side, the aisle is expressed by setting its face back slightly from that of the nave, though the roofline is in fact continuous. On the left-hand side is a short, square tower with a pyramidal tile roof. The pointed-arch entrance doors are at the base of the tower. The doors are ledged and framed with decorative iron hinges. The sides of the church are articulated by simple brick buttresses and pointed-arch leadlight windows with steel frames. The cornice is made of corbelled bricks, lending a Lombardic Romanesque touch. At the rear of the

church, on the north side is a small vestry. There are two memorial stones below the raised crosses that were taken from two earlier churches replaced by this one (see history), and engraved with the information that they were re-laid on 20 January 1940 by the two pastors. There is a third stone, the original foundation stone of an unnamed 1895 church, which was re-laid on the south side wall of the church in 1990 (presumably when the 1895 church was demolished).

A new fence has recently been erected (2015) behind the original brick fence.

#### Sunday school

The Sunday school hall has a transverse gable roof with flush verges and buttresses to the gable ends. The main entrance to the hall faces Albert Street, and is set just behind the vestry. These doors are of a similar design to those in the church tower.

The Kindergarten of 1960, which is in keeping with the Sunday school hall, extends to the west behind it. It is also built of red brick with a terracotta tile roof, but has a very simple timber bargeboard instead of the flush verge. At the rear is a standard, rectangular steel window.

Beside it is a less sympathetic kitchen and toilet block of 1989. It extends out from the complex at the side and rear, making it more prominent. It also has the only skillion roof seen on the building, falling from front to rear. Windows are high-set bands of anodised aluminium sliding sashes.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*