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## Baptist Church (former)



Church

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### Location

126 Bruce Street COBURG, MORELAND CITY

### Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

### Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO569

### Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 12, 2023

#### What is significant?

The Baptist Church (former) at 126 Bruce Street, Coburg is significant. The Gothic interwar style and form of the church is significant, as well as key decorative features including the tiled roof, large mullion arched window, leadlight glazing, brickwork and timber joinery. The boundary fence is not original but is contributory, owing to its matching design with the church. The two-storey extension is not significant.

#### How is it significant?

The Baptist Church (former) is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Moreland.

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

The Baptist Church (former) is historically significant as evidence of the development of local church institutions that accompanied the interwar growth of Coburg and Pascoe Vale. (Criterion A) The Baptist Church (former) has aesthetic significance as a high-quality, intact and well-maintained example of a Gothic style interwar church with a matching boundary fence. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant Moreland Heritage Nominations Study, Extent Heritage, 2022;

Construction dates 1940,

Hermes Number 206894

Property Number

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## **Physical Description 1**

The Baptist Church (former) comprises of an unusual face brick Inter-War Gothic style building. The church features a large brick tower to the entry with a corrugated iron roof, a large mullion arched window with leadlight glazing and a decorative timber double door with tiles, which is flanked on either side by projecting brick wings. The main portion of the church consists of a single gable roof clad in terracotta tiles. Along the elevations are grouped three sets of tall arched windows with leadlight glazing.

The building has been converted into a single residence, with the addition of a two-storey weatherboard extension to the rear with a tiled roof, automatic garage door, and timber windows in a similar style to the church windows. The primary layout of the church has been retained and is in use as a dining and living area. To the rear of this is the bathroom and laundry on the ground floor, which then connects into a four car carport within the new extension. On the second floor, a billiards room, three bedrooms and ensuite have been added. While the residence includes modern fittings such as the kitchen and bathroom facilities, original internal features survive such as the roof truss, fireplace and a church pew.

Landscaping on the church site includes a series of mature hedges which line a brick and metal palisade boundary fence lining Bell Street and Bruce Street. The front setback consists of a concrete section of path.

The building occupies a corner site in a densely suburban area and, while it is addressed to Bruce Street, fronts the main thoroughfare of Bell Street.

The former church has been well kept and presents well to the street, having undergone works in the recent past in relation to the dwelling conversion project.

### **Integrity**

- Two-storey extension to the rear in weatherboard with a tile roof and timber windows, dated post 2000
- Concrete and asphalt surfaces around the base of the building
- Hedges
- Brick and metal palisade boundary fence, added when the building was extended to the rear

Although the building has been converted and extended, the primary church building remains highly intact.

### **Physical Conditions**

The former church has been well kept and presents well to the street, having undergone works in the recent past in relation to the dwelling conversion project.

*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/>*