
BRUNSWICK & COBURG UFS DISPENSARY (FORMER)

Location

228 MELVILLE ROAD,, BRUNSWICK WEST VIC 3055 - Property No 8167

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO524

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The former Brunswick & Coburg United Friendly Society Dispensary, now the Brunswick West Pharmacy, designed by H.M. Thompson and R.A. Terry and constructed in 1930 at 228 Melville Road, Brunswick West, is significant. This is a single storey interwar commercial building occupying a prominent corner site within a small interwar shopping centre at the intersection of Melville Road and Moreland Road. It is constructed from red brick, with rendered bands at sill height and the base of the low simple parapet surmounted by a rendered cornice that partially conceals a hip roof. Pilasters that project slightly above the parapet mark the corners of the building (the and frame the central section of the long south facade, which contains three arched multi-paned timber sash windows (one since converted to a doorway) which are slightly inset below the original render panel sign with 'Brunswick & Coburg UFS Dispensary' in raised letters. The sign panel is shaped with incised ends and a pointed top, which echoes the low triangular pediment above. The bay to the left contains a tall rectangular multi-paned timber sash window, while there is a smaller window in the bay to the right. The narrow Melville Road facade contains a small arched timber multi-paned sash window to the right, a large arched central window with a multi-paned highlight and a large fixed pane below, and an arched doorway with multi-paned highlight to the left. All openings are slightly inset. Above is a cantilevered canopy.

Non-original alterations and additions including the signage are not significant.

How is it significant?

The former Brunswick & Coburg United Friendly Society Dispensary, at 228 Melville Road, Brunswick West is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Moreland.

Why is it significant?

It is significant for its association with the co-operative system of pharmaceutical supply to members of friendly societies, which developed in the late nineteenth century and flourished until well into the twentieth century. This branch, erected in 1930, demonstrates the expansion of UFS facilities during the interwar period and is associated with the suburban development of Brunswick West at that time. It is of note as the only surviving UFS still used for its original purpose. (Criteria A & H)

Aesthetically, it is a fine and well-detailed example of an interwar commercial building, which is notable for its relatively high degree of intactness including original fenestration and signage. Occupying a prominent corner site, it is a distinctive element within the streetscape in Melville Road. (Criterion D & E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Moreland Heritage Gaps Study 2017, Context Pty Ltd, 2017; Moreland - Moreland City Council: Local Heritage Places Review, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990;
Construction dates	1930,
Architect/Designer	Thompson, H,
Other Names	Brunswick West Pharmacy, United Friendly Societies Dispensary, Shop,
Hermes Number	56506
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

This is a single storey interwar commercial building occupying a prominent corner site within a small interwar shopping centre at the intersection of Melville Road and Moreland Road. It is constructed from red brick, with rendered bands at sill height and the base of the low simple parapet surmounted by a rendered cornice that partially conceals a hip roof. Pilasters that project slightly above the parapet mark the corners of the building (the and frame the central section of the long south facade, which contains three arched multi-paned timber sash windows (one since converted to a doorway) which are slightly inset below the original render panel sign with 'Brunswick & Coburg UFS Dispensary' in raised letters. The sign panel is shaped with incised ends and a pointed top, which echoes the low triangular pediment above. The bay to the left contains a tall rectangular multi-paned timber sash window, while there is a smaller window in the bay to the right. The narrow Melville Road facade contains a small arched timber multi-paned sash window to the right, a large arched central window with a multi-paned highlight and a large fixed pane below, and an arched doorway with multi-paned highlight to the left. All openings are slightly inset. Above is a cantilevered canopy.

The building is in excellent condition and has a relatively high degree of external integrity and intactness. The key visible change has been the conversion of one window in the side wall to create an accessible entrance, and the addition of signage to the wall corner. This has been done in a sensitive manner and has not adversely impacted upon the building. The front door to Melville Road is not original and a roller security screen has been added.

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/>