
Former Baptist Church House



B0540 Former Baptist Church



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Location

486 Albert Street,, EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002 - Property No B0540

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

State

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0003

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 28, 2007

One of Victoria's oldest and most interesting nonconformist church buildings, comprising fragments of a Gothic chapel of 1853 by John Gill, that was subsequently converted into a hall; a nave of 1858 by Thomas Watts, now gutted by fire and a classical facade, the portico of which was built in as offices in the 1920s. The nave with its ramped floor, fine joinery, coved and panelled ceiling and decorative scheme imitating stone masonry but later over painted, was among the very finest of its type, but now consists of little but a shell with the remains of the classical ordonnance of the inside walls. The front portion, originally conceived by Thomas Watts as a portico in antis between two unusual towers, was modified by Smith & Watts in 1863 to truncate the towers and bring forward a prostyle hexastyle corinthian portico. The later building-in of the portico necessitated the provision of doors and stairs on either side.

The building is now of more value as a record of the changing fortunes of the churches, changing fashions in architecture, and the variable success of the conservation movement than as a specimen in its own right.

Special Aspects: Essential part of the Eastern Hill Precinct and forms an important group with the neighbouring synagogue and Citadel Press.

Classified: 'Regional' 06/05/1965

Revised: 03/08/1998

Also part of Eastern Hill Historic Area

Hermes Number 64277

Property Number

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/>