
Former Men's Fellowship Room



B6316 Men's Fellowship Room

Location

Rear - Unititng Church, 23 Highbury Grove,, KEW VIC 3101 - Property No B6316

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

National

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 14, 2008

Built c1919 to a design prepared in the Melbourne office of Walter Burley Griffin, (1) probably under the supervision of Roy Lippincott, the former Men's Fellowship Room at the rear of 23 Highbury Grove, Kew is of national significance as an early and largely intact example of Griffin and Lippincott's work in Australia. The design is clearly grounded in Griffin's Prairie School idiom, with angled fascias to boxed gutters, entry doors featuring bold prismatic decoration, a base or dado of weatherboard mitred at corners applied decorative glazing bars to windows, and wondows defined horizontally by bands of wood at sill and head. The gables lean forward in the manner of Roy Linnincott's contemporary house at 21 Glenard Drive, Heidelberg (1917-18), (2) the design bears close comparison with a number of timber and stucco houses designed by Griffin between 1908 and 1910, including the Dr Karl Stencher house, West Pensacola Street, Chichago, of 1910. (3) Deference to local materials is shown in the use of Marseilles pattern terracotta tiles on the high pitched roof. The architect's interest in geometric decoration is demonstrated on the interior by the battens of the pitched

ceiling and the treatment of doors and cupboards. Australian landscape murals located on the upper walls and believed to have been painted by James Beament,

(4) a local house decorator cum artist who was later to have a house at 33 Uvadale Grove designed by Griffin and/or Eric Nicholls, one of Griffin's articulated pupils.

(5) In addition, there are approximately 30 chairs designed by the architect for the use of the bible students. These are of a Craftsman style typical of Griffin's furniture, and are distinctive in their detailing. The majority of these chairs remain in the former Men's Fellowship Room and the neighbouring church buildings.

The building is generally intact, except for the addition of an unsympathetic sink and cupboards and the loss of some glazing bars. At the time of the building's design Griffin's Melbourne office was largely devoted to the design of commercial and institutional buildings such as the Capitol Building and Newman College, with relatively few projects of a domestic scale other than Griffin and Lippincott's own houses at 23 & 21 Glenard Drive, Heidelberg. This building must therefore be considered a distinctive, relatively early and generally intact example of domestic scale work from Griffin's Melbourne office. It is not known whether the paintings by Beament were executed at the time of construction or at a later date, but they, together with the Griffin chairs, should now be considered integral to the building's significance.

Classified: 15/04/1992

Other Names Tennis Pavilion,

Hermes Number 64913

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/>