
St. Albans Uniting Church (formerly Presbyterian)



1718 - Brimbank City Council
Post-contact Cultural
Heritage Study 1999



HO99 St Albans Unting
Church 1.JPG



HO99 St Albans Unting
Church 4.JPG



HO99 St Albans Unting
Church 5.JPG



Site 094 - St Albans Uniting
CHurch.jpg

Location

24-26 East Esplanade, ST ALBANS VIC 3021 - Property No 94

Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO99

Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 1, 1999

Individual place statement of significance::

The St. Albans Presbyterian is of local historical and architectural significance as an unusual early timber church which reflects the origins of St. Albans as a turn-of-the century suburban development. The scale, shape, form and construction of the church is typical of many churches and halls found in small communities throughout the State. The church's distinguishing feature is the steeple, an unusual and rarely found element on this utilitarian and modest building type.

It is also of social significance for its association with the Presbyterian community of the then predominantly Anglo-Celtic farming community.

The timber church building is the main heritage element on the site. The hall to the rear and the toilet block are later additions.

Precinct statement of significance::

The St. Albans Village Plan Heritage Area is historically significant as an innovative and unusual plan for a Melbourne suburb in the 19th century. Its circular and curved layout, designed by well-known Melbourne architect, Percy Oakden, centred on the railway line - the drawcard for prospective buyers of land. The link with railway development was characteristic of boom-time Melbourne. The main feature is the layout of streets and the naming system and it is important that these aspects should be preserved.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Brimbank - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study, G. Vines, 2000; Brimbank - Melbourne Western Region Cultural Heritage Study, Meredith Walker, Christine Johnston & Carmel Boyce, 1986; |
| Construction dates | 1912, 1950, |
| Hermes Number | 106059 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Description

An unusual spired and towered timber church with pointed side windows, obscured glazing, boarded entry doors. There are several rear additions, some of which are unrelated. The distinctive feature is the timber spire with pointed arches. Adjacent is a brick manse of relatively recent origin. It is sited on a radial street facing a minor reserve with play equipment and native planting. A later and unrelated brick residence is to the north and a brick toilet block added to the rear of the church yard. There is an added, unusual, 1950s wrought-iron balustrade on

the porch. A bell is bracketed to the side of the porch.

The church itself has a rectangular plan and form, timber frame, timber weather board cladding externally and a corrugated iron clad gable roof and pointed arch tinted glass windows as a clue to its ecclesiastical use. A small gable roofed entry porch or narthex is located at the church's street frontage. The building is distinguished by an unusual and naive pressed metal spire mounted on a timber tower, this is a rare element on what a typically humble and utilitarian building type.

Physical Conditions

Condition/integrity

In good condition and recently renovated.

Historical Australian Themes

8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.6 Worshipping

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/>