

ST THERESE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Lincoln Rd 48A.JPG

Location

48A LINCOLN ROAD, ESSENDON, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

Municipality

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO417

Heritage Listing

Moonee Valley City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 23, 2015

What is significant?

St Therese's Catholic Church at 48A Lincoln Road, Essendon, is significant. The 1934 church was designed by architectural practice Payne & Dale. It is sited on the diagonal, to face the intersection of Lincoln Road and Florence Street. The church is monumental in scale and the facade is dominated by a soaring central tower. The walls are of clinker brick, with red brick dressings and a terracotta tiled roof. The church sits within a large forecourt, defined by rubble stone walls and garden beds, which are contemporary with the church.

Other buildings on the site, including the Parish Office on Lincoln Road and the school buildings along Edward Street with associated play areas, are not significant.

How is it significant?

St Therese's Catholic Church is of local historical, architectural/aesthetic and social significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

Why is it significant?

It is historically significant as an ambitious example of the Catholic Church's conscious decision to accelerate building programs during the 1930s depression as a form of social support by providing employment and business for many local tradesmen and suppliers. (Criterion A)

The church is architecturally significant as a monumental and highly intact example of the Romanesque Revival style applied in a stripped and streamlined manner. This same modern approach characterises Payne & Dale's other important design: St Monica's Catholic Church, also of 1934, which is a monumental sandstone building in a modern Spanish Gothic style. Architect Thomas G Payne was an Essendon local who had previously worked for the St Therese parish with his father in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The building is distinguished by its high-quality materials and details such as the red brick dressings and corbel tables, but mainly for the dramatic massing of its central front tower whose height is emphasised by its diminishing size and the elongated buttresses that project from its corners. Its monumental quality is enhanced by its dramatic diagonal siting. (Criteria E & H)

The forecourt, which wraps around the two street frontages of the church, with its rubble stone walls and garden beds, enhances the presentation of the church. (Criterion E)

St Therese's is socially significant as the centre of Catholic worship in the North Essendon Parish since 1922. (Criterion G)

Theme

8. Building community life

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moonee Valley - Moonee Valley Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2015, 2015; Moonee Valley - City of Moonee Valley Stage 1 Heritage Gap Study, Context PL, 2013;
Construction dates	1934,
Architect/Designer	Payne & Dale, Payne, TG,
Other Names	St Teresa's Catholic Church,
Hermes Number	196392
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The St Therese's Catholic Church complex stands on the south-west corner of Lincoln Road and Florence Street. Behind the 1934 church stands the Parish office and to its east a number of modern school buildings along Edwards Street, which together comprise almost half of the block bounded by Lincoln Road, and Florence, Edwards and Thorn streets. The 1934 church is of a monumental scale, and its visibility is amplified by its siting on a diagonal, oriented to address the intersection of Lincoln Road and Florence Street.

The church is a striking clinker-brick building with a cruciform plan, in the Neo-Romanesque style. Its most prominent feature is the soaring tower with prominent corner buttresses at the centre of the front facade. The high nave is flanked by two parapeted aisles, and the transept has prominent parapeted gables with rose windows above a small gabled porch. The roof of Marseille roof tiles is accentuated by a dog-tooth frieze of red brick below the eaves. Red brick is also used as parapet copings, as decorative bands, as voussoirs to the round-arched windows and doors, and around oculus windows. The tower form is stepped and crowned with an octagonal belfry and with stylised arcaded corbel tables above and below. The tall central stained glass window is an elongated round arched window with a contemporary pattern of leaded glass, a keystone at the top and raked brick sill. The entrance porch and tower is flanked by the original baptistery and committee rooms with hip roofs set behind parapets connecting at a stepped cross detail in the centre of the tower.

The front doors sit below a tympanum with a relief of two kneeling angels. The double doors have a traditional coffered form but appear to be of modern anodised aluminium.

The interwar hard landscaping survives with a rubble stone wall around the perimeter and garden beds of the same stone. The chequerboard pattern of concrete and brick edging to the church forecourt is sympathetic and may also be early.

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/>