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# ST THOMAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH



760 Mt Alexander Road.JPG



soldiers memorial hall



Essendon Conservation Study 1985

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## Location

756-760 MT ALEXANDER ROAD, MOONEE PONDS, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO85

## Heritage Listing

Moonee Valley City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### What is significant?

St Thomas' Anglican Church complex, at 756-760 Mt Alexander Road, Moonee Ponds is significant. The following buildings contribute to the significance of the place.

- The church to the extent of the church designed by Knight & Kerr, the late nineteenth century additions by Bruford & Braim, and the 1954 tower addition designed by Louis Williams.

- The church hall
- The vicarage\*

Non-original alterations and additions to the contributory buildings other than specified above and other buildings on the site are not significant.

\*The vicarage has an individual place record and statement of significance.

### **How is it significant?**

St Thomas' Anglican Church complex, Moonee Ponds is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

### **Why is it significant?**

The church is historically and socially significant as the oldest surviving church and public building in Essendon. The church hall and tower are also significant as rare examples of church buildings erected as war memorials. The tower addition is significant as an example of the work of prolific church architect, Louis Williams. (Criteria A, B & H)

The church is architecturally significant as a surprisingly cohesive design in the established parish church style which has been altered in detail. The tower gives the building landmark qualities as part of a group of community and civic buildings in this part of Mt Alexander Road. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moonee Valley - Essendon Conservation Study, Graeme Butler, 1985;
Construction dates	1857,
Architect/Designer	Knight & Kerr, Williams, Louis R, Braford & Brain,
Other Names	MPAC study area,
Hermes Number	24046
Property Number	

## **Physical Description 1**

A rough cast stuccoed masonry church in the Early English Parish Church mode, with a gabled porch, lancet side windows, a steeply gabled and slated main roof, a two-light main western window with quatrafoil light and hood-mould over and corner and stepped buttresses to the main side walls. This is the 1859 building.

Major, similarly designed transepts from the 1885-90 work, occur at the east end, whilst a sympathetically designed buttressed square bell tower, with crenellations, has been added in 1954 to the north-west corner (cf Anglican Church at Queenscliff).

The church is in good condition and has a relatively high degree of external integrity. The main door and diamond pattern glazing to the first section has been replaced; rough cast stucco (of this century) covers all sections, enabling a relatively homogenous appearance despite 100 years of building; the double palisade spade head picket fence has been removed (refer photograph held by ECC)

At the rear of the church is the church hall. It is a gabled building, constructed in brick with a tiled roof. A cement plaque on the end wall identifies it as the Soldiers' Memorial Clubroom'. Landscaping which appears from early this century (privet hedges, cypress and palms) is supportive to the period atmosphere. The church complex forms part of a group of civic and community buildings that include the former town hall and court house.

*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/>*