

# Victorian Heritage Database Report

Report generated 18/09/19



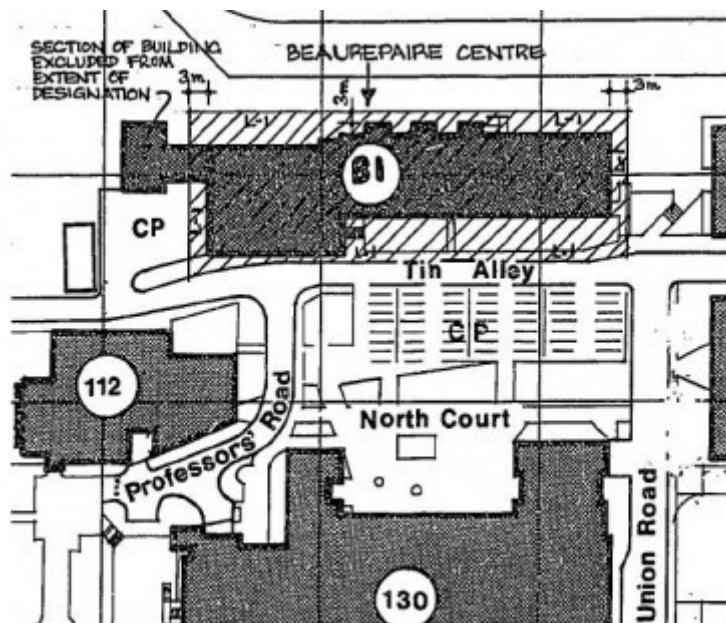
## BEAUREPAIRE CENTRE



BEAUREPAIRE CENTRE SOHE 2008



1 beaurepair centre university of melbourne parkville exterior view jul1993



h01045 plan h1045

### Location

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, 156 - 292 GRATTAN STREET PARKVILLE, MELBOURNE CITY

### Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1045

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO326

## VHR Registration

August 18, 1994

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 6, 2000

What is significant?

The Beaurepaire Centre, designed by Eggleston, Macdonald and Secomb and comprising a 25 metre tiled swimming pool, changing rooms, gymnasium, trophy hall and administrative offices was officially opened on 12 April 1957, although it had already been used for training purposes by athletes during the 1956 Olympic Games. The complex was realised from a gift of £200,000 to the University by Sir Frank Beaurepaire. Beaurepaire was a former Olympic swimmer who, in one of many acts of philanthropy, provided the money for this complex in order to further the development of the individual character, health and leadership skills of students. Construction is of simple steel portal frames with walls of cream coloured brick and aluminium-framed glass curtain walls. The roof was originally of "fural" aluminium, later replaced by Colorbond decking. In the trophy hall of the Beaurepaire Centre is a mural frieze designed by Leonard French entitled "Symmetry of Sport". It is semi-abstract in style, finished in enamel paint on cement, and reaches from the floor to the ceiling of the hall. The Centre is decorated externally with a bank of Italian glass mosaic tiles also designed by French. In 1958 the Greek Orthodox community of Melbourne donated a copy of a bronzed Zeus which was originally located at the southern entrance to the complex. This impressive classical statue is now located at the top of the stair to the trophy hall.

How is it significant?

The Beaurepaire Centre is of architectural, aesthetic and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Beaurepaire Centre is architecturally significant as an unpretentious and elegantly designed example of the International Style. The Centre is an unusual combination of engineering and art representing a new monumentalism in Victorian architecture. The Centre's massing, its expressed structural framework, its extensive use of glass, sun control devices and internal acoustic treatments were influential in the development of architectural style, building technology and construction techniques in Victoria in the 1950s. The Beaurepaire Centre is a significant early work of the burgeoning architectural practice of Eggleston Macdonald and Secomb. This firm later produced many important buildings for the University of Melbourne and tertiary institutions.

The Beaurepaire Centre is aesthetically significant for the mural in the trophy hall 'Symmetry of Sport' and the external glass mosaic friezes by Leonard French. French is one of Australia's most distinguished twentieth century artists. His public commissions in stained glass, mosaic, tapestry and paintings are held in high regard. The Beaurepaire murals are significant examples of his earlier manner.

The Beaurepaire Centre is historically significant for its strong associations with Sir Frank Beaurepaire, Olympic swimmer, businessman, civic leader and Chairman of the committee that promoted the Olympic Games in Melbourne in 1956. Beaurepaire's financial gift, which enabled the Centre to be built, was the largest single donation ever received by the University. The Beaurepaire Centre was used by Olympic athletes for training purposes, and has a strong association with the Melbourne Olympic Games of 1956, an event of considerable social and historical importance to the State of Victoria.

|                         |                               |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Construction dates      | 1956,                         |
| Architect/Designer      | Eggleston Macdonald & Secomb, |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place,             |
| Hermes Number           | 3805                          |
| Property Number         |                               |

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## History

### Contextual History:

Sir Frank Beaurepaire was born in Melbourne in 1891. He won his first Victorian swimming titles in 1906 aged 14, and in 1908 won three national titles. In 1908 he also represented Australia in the Olympic Games in London. 1910 marked his highest swimming achievements, with twelve Australian championships and four world records. The Helms Athletic Foundation of America awarded him its trophy for best athlete of the year. In 1911 Beaurepaire was a swimming instructor with the Victorian Education Department and ceased amateur competition. After serving in the Army during the First World War he made a comeback and competed in the Olympic Games in 1920 in Antwerp. His third and last Olympics were at Paris in 1924. Despite a brilliant career Beaurepaire never won an Olympic gold medal. In 1922 he founded the Beaurepaire Tyre Service and later the Olympic Tyre and Rubber Company. His business interests were all amalgamated in 1953 under the holding company Olympic Consolidated Industries. In 1928 he was elected a councillor for Gipps Ward, and was Lord Mayor between 1940 and 1942. He was knighted in 1942, and the same year was elected to the Legislative Council where he sat until 1952. Beaurepaire was a chief proponent of the Melbourne Olympic Games and was for a time Chairman of the Victorian Olympic Council and of the Olympic Games Organizing Committee. He died suddenly in May 1956 before either the Beaurepaire Centre was opened at the university of Melbourne or the opening of the Olympic Games.

Associated People: Sir Frank Beaurepaire

## Extent of Registration

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 1045

Beaurepaire Centre

University of Melbourne, Parkville (City of Melbourne)

(To the extent of:

1. All of the building known as the Beaurepaire Centre, excluding the two storey western office block and connecting covered way, shown marked B1 on Plan 6055330, endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.

2. All the land extending

West - to a line 3 metres from the extreme west face of the gymnasium

North - to a line 3 metres from the extreme north face of the building

East - to a line 3 metres from the extreme east face of the building

South - to the north kerb of Tin Alley, this being part of the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 8876 Folio 379 and marked L1 on Plan 6055330, endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.)

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G33 18 August 1994 pp.2256-2257]

*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 data owner.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*