
563-567 Glen Huntly Road



563-567 Glen Huntly Rd
Elsternwick, August 2000

Location

563-567 Glen Huntly Road ELSTERNWICK, Glen Eira City

Municipality

GLEN EIRA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO110

Heritage Listing

Glen Eira City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The former St. John's Presbyterian church complex, now the Elsternwick/Caulfield South Uniting Church, is situated at nos. 563-567 Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick and in Foster Street. The church was designed by architects H.W. and F.B. Tompkins and construction proceeded in 1915. The complex is aesthetically and socially significant and is understood also to be scientifically important.

It is aesthetically significant (Criterion E) as a prominent complex of early twentieth century religious buildings united in purpose and choice of materials and/or architectural forms. The church is especially noteworthy as an

example of the Gothic Revival Style incorporating Arts and Crafts elements in moderation but demonstrating the architects' leanings towards this mode. The Greek cross form and sloping floor are representative of the Presbyterian Church's worship traditions and the Foster Street hall (west side) is aesthetically of interest for the manner in which its facade treatment corresponds with that of the church. The complex is socially significant (Criterion G) as a long standing place of worship in the community and for the way of life which it continues to demonstrate. Finally, the Fincham organ is understood to be of scientific (technical) importance (Criterion F) whilst the association of the place with the highly successful architectural practice of H.W. and F.B. Tompkins is unique in the Municipality.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Glen Eira - City of Glen Eira Heritage Management Plan, Andrew Ward, Architectural Historian, 1996;
Other Names	Former St. John's Presbyterian Church, now the Elsternwick/Caulfield South Uniting,
Hermes Number	42504
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

An Arts and Crafts influenced Gothic Revival Church in red brick with cement dressings having the form of a Greek cross on plan with the angles occupied by splayed extensions of the floor area. The former porch, now glazed in, is given emphasis by means of castellated and faceted bays on either side of the entry. There is a steeply pitched slate roof with fleche at the crossing and a rose window to the facade with flanking buttresses terminated by spheres with castellations re-iterating the motif at the entry and demonstrating Arts and Crafts principles. There are sympathetic additions at the rear and recent additions on the east side.

Inside, the floor slopes to the table and pulpit and there is a varnished-v jointed dado and lined ceiling with exposed ornamented trusses, the upper sections above the ties being concealed from view. There is a hammer beam treatment at the lower intersections of the trusses which are supported on slender clustered columns in the Gothic manner with Arts and Crafts foliated enrichment to the caps. There is a Fincham organ.

A Sunday School hall at the rear is of utilitarian form and has a presumed later terra cotta tiled roof, moulded weatherboards and later porch at the front. The main barges have partly removed Gothic terminations. Inside, the timber ceiling linings follow the slope of the roof and the timber trusses are exposed. There is a painted timber dado and plastered walls.

There is a plainly treated red brick hall with stuccoed dressings opposite. It has a castellated porch at the front. The facade is subdivided by pilasters into three parts with a central timber vent, the pilaster terminations being carried above the coping line with moulded terminations capped by orb finials with imposed cross motifs. There is a timber addition at the rear. Inside, the ceilings and fills have sheet linings with strapwork.

Physical Description 2

Integrity: High, Sunday School hall (medium), Original gates to church porch conserved on site.

Physical Description 3

Condition: sound

Historical Australian Themes

Plaques etc. at site. Melbourne University Architectural index

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/>