
St David's Uniting Church and Hall



Hall



Church

Location

72-76 MELVILLE ROAD BRUNSWICK WEST - PROPERTY NUMBER 1000025864, MERRI-BEK CITY

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO567

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 12, 2023

What is significant?

St David's Uniting Church and Hall at 72-76 Melville Road, Brunswick West is significant. The late twentieth century Ecclesiastical style, form and materiality of the church is significant. The post-war Modernist style, form and materiality of the hall is significant. The white and blue colour scheme, paired with the face brick, is significant on both buildings. The forecourt and freestanding bell tower are also significant elements of the site.

How is it significant?

St David's Uniting Church and Hall is of local aesthetic significance, and is of local significance for its rarity value, to the City of Moreland.

Why is it significant?

St David's Uniting Church and Hall is a rare example in the municipality of a Postwar International / Modernist style church complex including a church hall. (Criterion B) St David's Uniting Church and Hall combines two distinct postwar architectural approaches to ecclesiastical building. The church emphasises verticality, while the hall uses volume and mass, to achieve a varied but pleasing aesthetic effect. The hall on its own is a striking and original example of Postwar International / Modernist style hall in the municipality of Moreland. (Criterion D)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Moreland Heritage Gaps Study 2017, Context Pty Ltd, 2017; Moreland Heritage Nominations Study, Extent Heritage, 2022;
Construction dates	1951, 1962,
Hermes Number	56392
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Edwardian shop, with Edwardian house behind

Physical Conditions

Fair All the buildings are in good condition, yet some deterioration was evident in the church hall in particular, including evidence of overflowing spouting, corrosion in iron window frames on the southern side, and weathering in the timber frame of the tower window.

Integrity

Altered

Alterations and Additions:

- Church hall - windows covered (internally, appears reversible)
- Both buildings demonstrate high integrity, without any substantial modifications

Physical Description 2

The St David's Uniting Church and Hall complex includes the church (1962) and church hall (1951), as well as 'Hutchinson Close' (1995) which is a residential dwelling located at the southern end of the site which is associated with an outreach project of the West Brunswick Parish of the Uniting Church in Australia. *Hutchinson Close* has not been subject to detailed evaluation.

The church was constructed in brown brick in a stripped, late twentieth century Ecclesiastical style. Rectangular in plan, it features a shallow gable roof with overhanging eaves, four long vertically oriented windows at regular intervals along each side, comprised of thirteen opaque brown glass panels (one of which is openable) set into white frames, with a modernist stained-glass window at the northern end. The main double door is in timber, painted blue with six carved wooden crests inset each featuring a different symbol, and a freestanding belltower in simple abstract modernist form is topped with a cross. Its entry vestibule is joined by a covered walkway to the hall.

Constructed in a Post-war Modernist / International style, the church hall is a strikingly composed De Still like array of rectilinear forms in cream exposed brick with hipped roof hidden behind the parapet. Under an awning, the entry set off 90 degrees to the hall, opening onto a vestibule with a short tower into which a long vertical window is inserted, topped with what appears to be a Presbyterian symbol set in concrete. The south elevation of the hall features five windows fitted with small rectangular clear glass panes (currently covered from within the hall in a reversible manner) separated by brick piers and topped with a short, cantilevered eave above which a brick string course runs in triplicate around the facade. A section below each window sill is painted blue, contrasting strongly with the cream brick and accentuating the connection with the International style. However, the northern elevation of the hall, which is not visible from the main entry onto the church forecourt, is in red brick, hinting at a building conceived in a straightened post-war period in which materials rationing was still in effect.

The complex is situated on a busy section of Melville Road.

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/>