
METHODIST CHURCH (FORMER)



279 Albion St. Brunswick

Location

279 ALBION STREET,, BRUNSWICK VIC 3056 - Property No 14769

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO258

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

What is Significant?

The former Methodist Church at 279 Albion Street, Brunswick.

How is it Significant?

The former Methodist Church at 279 Albion Street, Brunswick is of local historical and architectural significance to the City of Moreland.

Why is it Significant?

The former Methodist Church is of historic significance as there has been a Methodist church on this site since 1911, when the first building was built to cater for the new residential subdivision, of which the Edwardian houses at Nos 265, 275, 281 and 283 still remain and collectively form a context. (AHC Criterion A.2)

The current building, erected in 1934, demonstrates the expansion of church facilities as population increased during the inter-War period. The church has been an important focus for different religious denominations and community activity for many decades (AHC Criterion G.1). Its more recent remodelling and re-use by the Greek Orthodox community provides significant evidence of the changing demography of the region in the post-War years.

Architecturally it is significant as the church is a representative and intact example of an inter-War brick church with typically simplified Gothic detailing (AHC Criterion E.1), and remains as a prominent element in the streetscape.

Its connection with Leslie J Wilson, local resident but evidently not a practicing architect, is of some interest.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Moreland City Council: Local Heritage Places Review, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review. Additional Building Citations, Allen Lovell and Associates, 2001;
Architect/Designer	Wilson, Leslie J,
Other Names	Greek Orthodox Church,
Hermes Number	58954
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The church at 279 Albion Street, Brunswick is a red face brick building on a cruciform plan, comprising a nave flanked by transepts with a chancel beyond. The steep gabled roof is clad in Marseilles pattern terracotta tiles and some gables have decorative inlays of tapestry brick in a herringbone design. Clinker brick is also used for dressings. The leadlight windows generally have pointed arch heads.

The prominent towers, front gable and porch appear to be additions and reflect a Greek stylistic influence, which altered a previously simple church. The porch arcade is supported by paired Corinthian columns and is floored with glazed quarry tiles. The non-original carved timber front doors and marble threshold also appear to be alterations during this period of change. Low brick planter boxes and wrought iron gates have been added to either side of the church.

There is a large brick building of similar detail at the rear of the church presumed to be the church hall.

Key Architectural Elements:

Massing of red face brickwork, punctuated by narrow pointed arch windows
Marseilles pattern terracotta tiled gabled roof
Arcaded porch with paired Corinthian columns

Conservation Guidelines:

Retain original unpainted finish to brickwork

Comparative Examples:

Former St Matthew's Church, Plumpton Avenue, Glenroy (1929)
St Fidelis Roman Catholic Church, 41-49 Clarendon Street, Coburg (1937)

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/>