
WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH (FORMER)

Location

53 NICHOLSON STREET,, BRUNSWICK EAST VIC 3057 - Property No 1941

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO128

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The Wesleyan Methodist Church is of local architectural significance. It is a good example of the use of bichrome brickwork as the primary decoration on an otherwise simple and unadorned building, typical of many Methodist places of worship. Although the building has been converted to housing, it remains substantially intact externally. The significance of the site as a whole has been diminished greatly by the demolition of the Sunday School and 1932 church, and the building of the adjacent housing.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999; Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990;
Construction dates	1877,
Architect/Designer	Fox & Oakden,
Hermes Number	59073
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Wesleyan Methodist Church is a simple bichrome brick building on a cruciform plan, with a gabled slate roof. Stylistically, the only significant external difference between the two parts is the latter use of machine-made red bricks rather than hand-pressed brown bricks. The walls are of either brown or red face brick, with bichrome patterning to brick pilasters. Window openings are arched, dressed with cream bricks and have bluestone sills. Below the eaves is a simple frieze of small crosses in cream brick; the eastern gable-end has a central circular vent, also dressed in cream brick. The roofs are punctuated with small dormer vents.

The building has undergone significant alterations in its conversion to elderly persons' housing. A section of the red brick wall has been removed on the north elevation. The coloured glass windows have been replaced with clear-glazed timber-framed awnings. It is not known whether the exposed internal roof trusses have been concealed. The other buildings on the site (Sunday School and 1932 Church) appear to have been demolished.

Key Architectural Elements:

Simple bichrome brick design
original slate roof
circular gable vent on the Nicholson Street facade

Conservation Guidelines:

Preferably reinstate coloured glass windows
infill missing section of wall on the north elevation.

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/>