

Glenroy Library



Library

Location

737 Pascoe Vale Road GLENROY, MERRI-BEK CITY

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO584

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 12, 2023

What is significant?

The Glenroy Library at 737 Pascoe Vale Road, Glenroy is significant. The built form including clinker brick walls, ribbon windows and concrete colonnade that wraps around the building is significant. The modified main entrance, external signs and banner poles, street typography and plantings, carpark, and interior are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Glenroy Library is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Moreland.

Why is it significant?

As the first purpose-built library in what is now the Moreland municipality, Glenroy Library represents an important stage in the evolution of public facilities in the municipality and is evidence of the recognition of the importance of public libraries in the community. (Criterion A)

Glenroy Library is a rare intact Brutalist-inspired building in Moreland, and one of only several surviving examples in the municipality of this increasingly appreciated aspect of our cultural history. (Criterion B)

Glenroy Library is notable example of a Brutalist-inspired Modernist building in the municipality and a particularly early example in Melbourne. It features a transitional combination of clinker brick building form and high-set ribbon window characteristic of International-style Modernism forms, as well as Brutalist off-form concrete in an arcaded colonnade that wraps around the entire building. (Criterion E)

Glenroy Library is a prominent public facility that has a strong association with the Glenroy community for social and cultural reasons. While no investigation of contemporary social value has been undertaken as part of this assessment, the strength of this association can be inferred from its status as the library in longest continuing operation at an existing site in the municipality. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant Moreland Heritage Nominations Study, Extent Heritage, 2022;

Construction dates 1970,

Architect/Designer Winbush, Harry and Associates,

Hermes Number 206831

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Glenroy Library consists of a single storey masonry building constructed in face clinker brick and off-form *beton brut* concrete. The planning of the building is redolent of twentieth century classicism, with the rectangular brick building wrapped within with a colonnaded arcade of concrete with basket-handle arches and a parapet concealing a low hipped roof. Each column projects slightly over the parapet, and the colonnade wraps around the entire building. Offset to the left-most point of the main facade (as seen from Pascoe Vale Road) is the glazed main entrance, and a high-set ribbon window extends across the centre of the facade. A series of signs are above the entrance and set into the asphalt, which post-date the construction of the building. Poles have been attached to five of the columns with support vertical banners. A small substation appears set into the north-eastern corner of the building.

Glenroy Library is on busy road, separated by a wide asphalt footpath and small street plantings.

The concrete has areas of slight discolouration and evidence of repair, otherwise the building is in good condition overall.

Integrity

- Signage on facades and set into asphalt
- Glazed entrance, which appears to have involved some alteration to brickwork
- Banner poles on facade*
- Metal capping on parapet

- Solar panels on western side of roof (not visible from ground level)

On the most part, the building has undergone cosmetic changes and retains a high level of integrity.

* Denotes element that detracts from the cultural significance of the place.

Physical Conditions

The concrete has areas of slight discolouration and evidence of repair, otherwise the building is in good condition overall.

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/>