

Church School (former) and Cretan Brotherhood



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Location

148-150 NICHOLSON STREET,, BRUNSWICK EAST VIC 3057 - Property No 1809

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO564

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 12, 2023

What is significant?

The Church School (former) and Cretan Brotherhood at 148-150 Nicholson Street, Brunswick East is significant. Specifically, the Inter-War Tudor style facade (western elevation) to the church is significant, inclusive of the bell tower. The memorial garden dedicated to El. R. Venizelos is also significant. The later construction elements of the church (to north, south and east elevations), as well as the asphalt carpark and boundary fence are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Church School (former) and Cretan Brotherhood is of local historical, aesthetic, social and associative significance to the City of Moreland. The memorial garden is of local social significance to the City of Moreland.

Why is it significant?

The site is significant for its former associations with the Brunswick East community as an important religious meeting place and school site. The site further demonstrates the development of church and school facilities the suburb during the interwar period. (Criterion A)

The site has rarity value as the only Cretan Brotherhood venue in Victoria. (Criterion B)

The front facade of the Church School (former) and Cretan Brotherhood has aesthetic significance as an Inter-War Tudor style church, in particular the gable end and bell tower. (Criterion E)

The site is socially significant as the home of the Cretan diasporic community in Melbourne, functioning for this use since 1896. (Criterion G)

The site is associated with the Cretan Brotherhood of Melbourne and Victoria. (Criterion H)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990; Moreland Heritage Nominations Study, Extent Heritage, 2022;
Construction dates	1927, 1986,
Architect/Designer	Moriarty, Bart,
Other Names	Cretan Brotherhood of Melbourne,
Hermes Number	56548
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

1920s church - Very altered. School demolished?

Physical Conditions

Fair The building is in good condition overall.

Integrity

Altered

Alterations and Additions:

§ Replacement of the interior and primary structure behind the facade after a major fire, including the roof

§ Brick render

§ Paint scheme*

§ Memorial garden and statue

§ Asphalt carpark

§ Loop metal fence on perimeter of the site*

§ Steel framed windows*

§ Single-storey skillion extension to the northern elevation

§ Air-conditioning units and large vent to northern roof plane

§ Removal of statue from tabernacle, which is noted in a newspaper article for the opening of the church (*The Argus*, 24 January 1927, p. 7 'New Catholic Church')

The original church building has been heavily modified, though the front facade and tower retain their overall form and key features. The site has low integrity overall.

Physical Description 2

The subject site contains a former church building which was built in the interwar Tudor style and later modified. The primary portion of the building - the church hall - is constructed of brick with a long Colourbond gable roof and two projecting hipped sections to the south. The facade (west elevation) is characterised by a tabernacle to the upper facade which does not contain a statue, two diamond shaped inserts into the brickwork and a large timber window with six fixed square windows along the top and six double hung sash windows along the bottom. Beginning on the right-hand side of the facade and leading around to the southern elevation is a castellated style parapet. The southern, eastern and northern elevations of the church building are largely unornamented, with painted brick with large steel framed windows. To the north of the church hall is a tall brick bell tower with a castellated top, concrete capping features and eight arched openings.

A 1980s style entrance has been added to the southern elevation, constructed of brick and glass. Further, a single-storey brick skillion extension with a Colourbond roof has been added to the northern elevation.

The church would have originally been face brick, though large sections of it have now been painted in a green and cream colour scheme. Some elements, such as the tower, remain unpainted.

Overall, original remaining features include the front facade and bell tower. The remainder of the site, as viewed from the street and supported through research, has been shown to be heavily modified.

To the north and east of the building is a large open asphalt carpark. This is entered by a gate along Stewart Street. To the south of the building is a memorial garden for El. R. Venizelos, a Greek politician who served as Prime Minister of Greece for fifteen years over two terms from 1910-1920 and 1928-32. Venizelos is remembered for his significant role in the autonomy of the Cretan state. He is therefore a figure of importance to Cretan people. The memorial consists of a tiled platform that steps up to a bronze statue of Venizelos. It is surrounded by garden beds containing European plantings such as roses and low-scale hedges.

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/>