
1ST CITY OF BRUNSWICK SCOUT HALL (FORMER)

Location

273 VICTORIA STREET,, BRUNSWICK VIC 3056 - Property No 9770

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO502

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The former scout hall at 273 Victoria Street, Brunswick, is significant.

How is it significant?

The former Scout Hall at 273 Victoria Street, Brunswick, is of local historical and social significance to the City of Moreland.

Why is it significant?

The former Scout Hall at 273 Victoria Street, Brunswick, built in 1926, is historically significant for its associations with the Boy Scout movement, as the oldest purpose-built scout hall in the City of Moreland and one of the oldest in Victoria. The hall was built for the 1st City of Brunswick Scout Troop as their first permanent hall and it remained in use by the scouts until the 1960s. The scouting movement played an important role in the lives of young boys in the twentieth century, and this hall demonstrates the formative period after World War I when the scouting movement had become established and troops began to create permanent places to meet. While the building has been altered the connection to the scouts is still demonstrated by the original foundation stone. (Criterion A)

The building at 273 Victoria Street, Brunswick, is socially and historically significant as evidence of postwar migration in Brunswick, for its use since 1979 as the home of the Toscana Social Club. Social clubs played an important role in the formation of migrant communities in Victoria and the Toscana Club was one of several

established in Brunswick that illustrate the strong regional ties of various migrant groups. Social clubs provided a welcome respite from the drudgery of work and gave people an opportunity to meet, talk, dance, gossip and reminisce. (Criteria A & G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990; Moreland - Moreland Heritage Gaps Study 2017, Context Pty Ltd, 2017;
Construction dates	1926,
Other Names	Community, Brunswick Cinema, Toscana Social Club,
Hermes Number	56645
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

This is an interwar hall building, constructed of brick, of typical layout with a gabled iron roof section containing the hall set behind a front two-storey parapeted section containing the entrance and anterooms. The symmetrical facade has the original central arched opening (with 'Toscana S.C.' in raised letters above) leading to a recessed entry, which is flanked by what appear to be the original paired timber sash windows with four-pane upper sash and single pane below. The windows are set within recessed panels formed by pilasters at the corners and a shallow cornice above. There is also a stringcourse at sill height. Below the window to the left is the foundation stone, laid in April 1924. Above the entry is another timber-framed window. The plain parapet is framed by pilasters and contains a stringcourse.

Historic plans held by the Public Records Office and one historic newspaper image provide some clues to the changes that have occurred to the building. Key alterations include:

- . The rendering of the facade, which was originally face brick. The recessed wall panels and rounded edge to the pilasters reflect the articulation of the brick structure prior to the rendered finish being applied.
- . Additions to the front section to create two levels. This involved building up the original stepped parapet to create the plain horizontal wall that exists today and the installation of the new window above the entrance (note: the original plans show the installation of two new first floor windows above the windows in the ground floor).
- . Alterations and additions at the side and rear.

Physical Conditions

Good

Integrity

Altered

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/>