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# UNITED FRIENDLY SOCIETIES DISPENSARY (FORMER)



United Friendly Societies  
Dispensary (former) - 559  
Sydney Road, Coburg

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## Location

559 SYDNEY ROAD,, COBURG VIC 3058 - Property No 38669

## Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO368

## Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

What is significant?

The former UFS Dispensary at 559 Sydney Road, Coburg.

How is it significant?

The former UFS Dispensary at 559 Sydney Road, Coburg is of historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Moreland.

Why is it significant?

Of historic significance, as one of the many dispensaries established in the Coburg and Brunswick area by the United Friendly Societies in the early twentieth century. Four such dispensaries still operate in the area, although no longer from this building. (AHC Criterion B.2)

Of aesthetic significance, as a good example of a substantial late Edwardian commercial building in Coburg. (AHC Criterion E.1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - Moreland City Council: Local Heritage Places Review, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Moreland - City of Coburg Heritage Conservation & Streetscape Study, Timothy Hubbard Pty Ltd, 1991;
Construction dates	1913,
Other Names	UFS Dispensary,
Hermes Number	56896
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former UFS Dispensary at 559 Sydney Road Coburg is a two storey late Edwardian freestanding shopfront built in 1913. It is constructed from red brick, with four rendered pilasters running the height of the building, marking the extremities of the building and the door. The building is topped by a high decorative parapet with a central round arch flanked by deep dipping curves. The parapet hides a corrugated galvanised stainless steel gabled hip roof.

Windows are casement, flanked a fixed pane, with highlights within a curved rendered lintel. Windows retain original timber-framed sashes with tinted glazing to the highlights. The front door and the central upper storey window are marked by a round arch and the front entrance retains its original panelled timber doors. There are four string courses to the front facade, intersecting the windows at the base of the lintel and between the ground and first floor and the first floor and parapet.

It is a good and substantially intact example of a commercial Edwardian building. Unlike many Edwardian commercial buildings in Sydney Road, its ground floor has not been disfigured by the installation of modern shopfronts. Similarly, unlike its earlier counterpart in Brunswick, the distinctive face brickwork and rendered banding has not been unsympathetically over-painted. The survival of the original rendered signage and the foundation stone is also of especial note.

## Physical Conditions

Good

## Integrity

Minor modifications include the removal of the bluestone threshold and the installation of steel security window grilles.

*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/>*