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# WESLEYAN CHURCH & SUNDAY SCHOOL (FORMER)

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## Location

340 Sydney Road, Brunswick VIC 3056 - Property No 19384

## Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1144

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO157

## Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The former Wesleyan Sunday School and Church complex is of state historical and architectural significance. The church is of exceptional quality and integrity, and is the first in the important series of polychrome churches designed by Percy Oakden and is an early example of decorative polychromatic architecture in Melbourne. The use of Glew's cream bricks is locally important, particularly in this building where Glew was an active member of the congregation. The Sunday School derives additional significance from its innovative planning.

Heritage  
Study/Consultant

Moreland - Keeping Brunswick's heritage: A Report on the Review of the Brunswick Conservation Study, Context Pty Ltd, 1990; Moreland - City of Moreland Heritage Review, Allen Lovell and Associates, 1999;

|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Architect/Designer | Oakden, Percy, Fox & Oakden,  |
| Other Names        | Sydney Road Community School, |
| Hermes Number      | 59100                         |
| Property Number    |                               |

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## Physical Description 1

The former Wesleyan Church is constructed of polychrome brick with a gabled slate roof, pierced by a number of dormer roof vents, and rendered copings and details. The building is distinguished by the quality of its brickwork, predominately brown with cream and red contrasts in diaper work and around openings. The west facade of the church, facing Sydney Road, is dominated by a series of four pointed arched windows at first floor level, enclosed within a large pointed arch with red and cream brick voussoirs. At ground floor level is a triple arched entrance loggia, which is flanked by brick buttresses with rendered copings, which continue around the north and south elevations of the building. The tower on the south-west corner is terminated by an open belfry with Gothic arcading and a slate spire with gabled vents. On the north-west corner, balancing the asymmetrical composition, is another much smaller open belfry and a small gabled secondary entrance with pointed arched openings. Between the buttresses on the side elevations are paired lancet windows. The brick and weatherboard east elevation at the rear of the church appears to indicate that the church was never finished.

The former Wesleyan Sunday School is constructed of red brick with a gabled slate roof, pierced by iron roof vents, with rendered eaves, brackets, quoining and opening surrounds. The main section of the building is flanked by two wings on the north and south elevations. The Sydney Road elevation features a four double hung sash windows at first floor level within a rendered pointed arch which encloses a rose window surrounded by contrasting basket weave cream brickwork. Windows on the remaining elevations are a combination of double hung sashes and pivot windows.

Key Architectural Elements: elaborate polychrome brick Gothic Revival church  
red brick Sunday school with rendered dressings and cream brick infill panels  
slate roofs  
timber-framed windows  
rendered dressings

Principal Historic Themes: establishment of permanent places of worship  
association with 19th century brickmaking and clay industries  
provision of education

*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/>*