

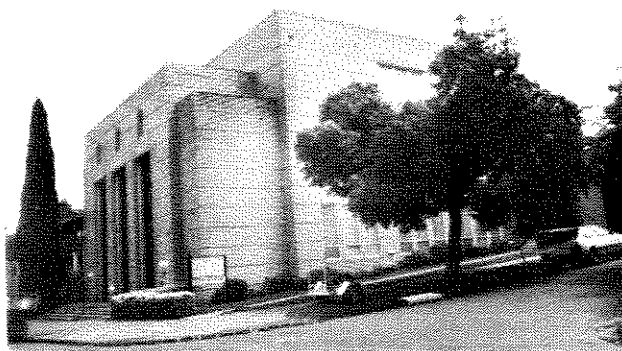
flats are more related (particularly in scale) to the red brick commercial architecture on its west and the Camberwell Railway Station opposite.

Significance

Although built many years after the popular use of its adopted style, this block of flats is distinctive as a fully articulated and near intact example of the transition from the Queen Anne influence to that of the Bungalow in domestic architecture. It is of special interest as such an anachronism that it provokes speculation on the designer-builder's intent; of regional and local importance.

Historically, a large and near intact example from the hand of a prominent local builder, which may reflect the need for conservative design in a city which discouraged flat development; of local importance.

Second Church of Christ Scientist, 41 Cookson Street



National Trust of Australia (Class/Rec.):
Classified

NTA File Number: 49

Study Grading: A

Precinct: 26.02 Streetscape: 2

Construction Date: 1936

First Owner: Second Church of Christ Scientist

Architect: Bates, Smart & McCutcheon

Builder: Hansen & Yuncken

History

Churches of Christ began as an offshoot of Protestant religions, in the 1830s, focusing on the New Testament as their inspiration. In Australia the first church congregation was established in Adelaide in 1846, followed by Sydney (1852), Melbourne (1853), Tasmania (1871), Queensland (1882) and Perth (1891).

A further evolution occurred when Mary Baker Eddy formed the first Christian scientist church in Boston in 1879. Her philosophy centred on Christianity as the sole healer of sickness as well as absolver of sin. Introduced in Australia by visiting Americans in the 1890s, the first Melbourne services were held in 1898 and, in Sydney, in 1900. The first Church of Christ Scientist was built in St. Kilda Road during the early 1920s, followed by this church and the Third Church, in Elsternwick. By the 1970s there were 57 churches and societies in Australia, all under the Boston Mother Church but autonomous in their internal affairs. By-laws, sermon-readers and officers are elected by the Church and there are no clergy.¹

A special meeting of the First Church membership, in 1924, resolved that members from the Kew, Hawthorn and Camberwell areas should seek to form a second church. They did so in June 1924, electing office bearers and directors and commenced holding their meetings in a leased Masonic Hall, Hawthorn. The first service was held there on 29 June, 1924.²

Money raised in the interim allowed purchase of the site in 1933 and the architects for the First Church, Bates Smart & McCutcheon commenced designs for the Second, after their appointment in August 1934. The design was accepted in early 1935 and its construction followed the contracting of builders, Hansen and Yuncken P/L, in 1936 for a price of £13,998.

Prior to its erection, the directors of the Second Church

Christ Scientist included Elizabeth Wright, Charles Hancock, Lotty Doughty, Walker Gass, and Maggie Tilley: all from the Hawthorn and Camberwell areas.

The opening services, in November were popularly attended by which time the total cost of church, fittings and organ had risen to £19,660 awaiting another nine years before the debt was cleared.³

The awarding of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects' Street Architecture Model for 1938 was the third given to Bates Smart & McCutcheon in six years (1932, 1934) and the first given outside of Melbourne city. It was acclaimed for "...the architectural dignity which may be achieved with simplicity of massing,

well proportioned voids and the judicious placing of

appropriate enrichment"⁴.

1 T.V. Sommers, 'Christian Scientists' in *Religions in Australia* (1966), as summarized in *The Australian Encyclopaedia*, Vol.2, p.17f
2 CLF P71
3 NTA FN 4985; *ibid.*
4 *ibid.*

Description

Following a variation on the European Modern movement's functional and spartan geometric shaped designs, this church varies greatly from the neo-Byzantine cum neo-Grec styled First Church. Its non-eclectic solution instead used the geometric massing and naked brickwork of the Modern movement, e.g. Dudok. However, the symmetrical formalism of the composition and the sparse but similarly symmetrical ornamentation (doors, grilles) places this building into a neoclassic variation of the Modern theme.

The complex contains a Sunday School at ground level, administration at the rear, and the church at first floor level. The privet hedges, and the cypress remain from earlier, once symmetrical, planting.

Comparative Examples

The style and use combination is startling, compared to the designs for other denominations of the era. Where churches were still being designed in a stripped Gothic revival, this church-hall was starkly modern and more comparable with complexes like the Heidelberg Civic Centre. Another comparison would be with the McPherson Robertson Girls High School in South Melbourne, albeit not directly comparable within the use. The building's very differences with other churches and its secular equivalents, probably earned it the award.

External Integrity

The church is generally original except for signs.

Streetscape Contribution

Isolated, given its monumental form, echoing the commercial strip further west from the building rather than the adjacent Bungalow-era residences.

Significance

Architecturally, one of the State's best designs in the Moderne- Classical manner, designed by the distinguished firm of Bates Smart & McCutcheon and the winner of acclaim from the architectural profession in the form of the RVIA Medal.

Historically, a prominent expression of a minority Christian faith in the metropolitan area and perhaps the first Modern/Moderne church design in the State.

House, 49 Cookson Street.



Study Grading: B

Precinct: 26.02 Streetscape: 2

Construction Date: 1923

First Owner: Shellnack, T.J. & Sarah

Builder: Gibson, F.

History

Hawthorn resident, J.G. Norris, sold Allotment 36 Cookson Street to Sarah Jane Shellnack in 1922.¹ A year later, F. Gibson built a two-storeyed dwelling on the allotment for T.J. and Sarah Shellnack.² The eight roomed, brick dwelling had an area of 1763 square feet and was estimated to cost £2850.³ Ferdinand and Clara Shellnack were the owners of the property by 1925 and occupied it until the early 1940s.⁴ Other occupants were Douglas T. Fardon in the mid-1940s and Miss I.M. Trezise in 1950.⁵

Description

An unusual red brick and stuccoed house in an Oriental Bungalow manner, which has a picturesque hipped and gabled roof form, the gable roofs being on projecting room bays and an arched porch being between the two projecting bays. Wedged above the porch is a dormer window with shingling, possibly a sleepout porch at some stage. Window bays are bowed in form, with diamond pattern glazing and double-hung sashes. Two boxed bays extend along the west side of the house.

The roofing tiles are terra-cotta Marseilles pattern and the fence is a swagged form with a notable pergola entry portal and chain wire and scrolled iron gate. Between the swags are capped piers with projecting brick corbels, set within each cap. Elements of the garden are mature and of the period, including a silver birch.

1 RB1921-22, 2178; RB1922-23, 10392
2 RB1923-24, 14388; RB1923, 3289
3 *ibid.*
4 RB1925-26, 19140; D1925; D1940
5 D1944-45; D1950