

TEMPLESTOWE UNITING CHURCH COMPLEX

Templestowe Presbyterian Church

Place No. 81

ADDRESS 104 Atkinson Street (109 Wood Street)
Templestowe

Last Update 28/04/2005

DESCRIPTION The Templestowe Uniting Church property at 104 Atkinson Street (with a rear frontage to Wood Street) contains a c.1895 single-storey weatherboard church and the much larger 1962 brick church.

The c.1895 church is an example of the simple Victorian Carpenter Gothic style. It has a gable roofed nave with metal ridge ventilators and a projecting entry porch to the front. The front gable ends have a simple timber gable screen with turned timber finials. Windows are narrow with triangular heads. The rear wing of the building may be a later addition. An early post and wire fence beneath a row of pines separates the site from the commercial vegetable garden adjacent. It may be compared with the former Christ Church at 177 Foote Street (refer to separate citation in this Study).

The 1962 church is a simple rectangular pavilion beautifully built of rough clinker brick, further textured on the west wall by setting some forward. The north elevation has panels of brickwork rising to parapets between full-height windows with projecting fascias. There is a broad steel-framed verandah facing the view and extending as an entry canopy, all very carefully detailed. The east end is all glass. The internal layout of pews has been altered from facing the long to the short axis (ie. to the south) and a crypt created under. There is a freestanding cruciform section steel cross.

The 1962 church is comparable to a number of examples of the 1970s: Charles Duncan's houses, Graeme Gunn's Plumbers Union building in Victoria Street, Carlton; Clarke Hopkins and Clarke's two offices at Kew Junction, Robin Boyd's Menzies College at La Trobe & Pickin Court at Ormond College, University of Melbourne.

Condition	Excellent	Integrity	Intact
Threats	None apparent	Key elements	Buildings Fence/gate Tree(s)
Designer	The office of Keith Reid.		

HISTORY The Templestowe Presbyterian Church was constructed c.1895 on land donated by Mrs John Smith for this purpose [1]. The Smith family were pioneering orchardists in the Doncaster and Templestowe area.

The township of Templestowe was laid out in 1852 by the surveyor Henry Foote, bound by the present-day Foote, Anderson and Porter Streets and the Yarra River. In November of that year grazing leases were cancelled, and the land designated for the new village, sold off in small lots. The site was well chosen for its elevation above the river valley, its sunny aspect and its access to water. However, the settlement did not develop quickly as an urban centre and remained predominantly rural with most of the land used for orchards and farming. This church was one of a number of public buildings established in the Templestowe township by the end of the nineteenth century that included the State School (1874) and the Mechanics' Institute (1882), both in Anderson Street, and Christ Church of England (c.1900) in Foote Street. (Refer to separate citations in this Study.)

The small church served the needs of its congregation until the rapid growth of Templestowe brought about by suburban development in the post-war period. A new church was constructed in 1962 to accommodate the growing congregation in a bold design by architects from the office of Keith Reid, who designed many other buildings in this area. The foundation stone was laid on 17 March, 1962. The late D. & I. Irvine were the builders [2].

SOURCES

[1] Keogh, p.44; Doncaster Templestowe Historical Society, undated notes.

[2] Letter John Reid to Richard Peterson 28 February, 1991; Foundation stone.

Creation Date c.1895, 1962

Change Dates

Associations

Local Themes

Mrs. John Smith; D. & I. Irvine - builder

6.02 - Churches

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The Templestowe Uniting Church complex, comprising the original Presbyterian Church constructed c.1895 and the 1962 designed by the Office of Keith Reid, and the associated mature trees at Atkinson Street, Templestowe.

How is it Significant?

The Templestowe Uniting Church complex is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to Manningham City.

Why is it Significant?

The Templestowe Uniting Church complex has historic significance as the two churches provide evidence of two key phases in the development of Templestowe: the initial settlement during the late nineteenth century and the suburban development of the post-war period. The c.1895 church is also significant as one of just six surviving nineteenth-century buildings in the Templestowe township. The 1962 church is significant as an example of the work of the office of noted architects, Keith Reid and Associates. (RNE criteria A.4, B.2, D.2 & H.1)

The Templestowe Uniting Church complex has social significance as it has played an important role in the development of the Templestowe community over a one hundred year period. (RNE criterion G.1)

The 1962 Templestowe Uniting Church has aesthetic (architectural) significance, possibly at a State level, as a particularly early and finely detailed neo-brutalist building by an architectural office that subsequently demonstrated a consistent approach to design in this manner in the municipality. (RNE criterion E.1)

LEVEL

Local significance

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Manningham Planning Scheme	HO10		Listed

Extent The whole of the property as defined by the title boundaries.

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	
Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:		

Conservation Management

This property is already within the HO, however, the statement of significance now confirms that the small timber church is also of local significance.

The 1962 should be nominated for inclusion on the Victorian Heritage Register.

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.

2. Discourage the demolition of significant or contributory buildings unless the demolition is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:

- The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
- The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
- It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
- It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the historical use and/or layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.

5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or interpreting the significance of the place.

6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.

7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.

8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.

9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

NOTE:

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY Context Pty Ltd, (1991), City of Doncaster and Templestowe Heritage Study, City of Doncaster & Templestowe, Doncaster, 88
Context Pty Ltd, (2005), Manningham Heritage Study Review, Manningham City Council, Doncaster