

WARRANDYTE UNITING CHURCH

-	Place No. 126	
ADDRESS	Cnr. Taroona Avenue & West End Road Warrandyte	Last Update
DESCRIPTION	-	
	Condition Excellent	Integrity Intact
	Threats	Key elements
	Designer John Hipwell and Albert Ross.	
HISTORY	<p>A simple, low pitch, triangular plan church, with a cement Marseilles tile, low pitched hipped-roof and walls of concrete block. It has a striking triangular copper spire which is very tall and slender. The building is carefully and sensitively detailed. The altar is set against a wall which slices across the triangle, creating a triangular outdoor seating space sheltered by an enormous cantilevered canopy. There are highlight windows and deep sloping eaves. Timber window joinery is stained black. There are water spouts in place of downpipes. A recent rectangular plan gable addition, butts into the north elevation. It has a corrugated steel roof and effectively cuts out north light and shatters the geometry.</p> <p>The Presbyterian church in Warrandyte was formed in 1923, and their first building was on the site of the present Gospel Chapel in Yarra Street [132]. In the late 1950s Hipwell, Weight and Mason designed the first church, using halls from the old Box Hill Presbyterian Church, (including a chapel and stained glass windows). All was destroyed in the January 1962 bushfires. John Hipwell designed a new church in association with Albert Ross, which was completed in 1963. (Charles Weight and Peter Mason had died). Hipwell designed the spire and the internal fittings and furniture; Ross the rest of the building (Ross retired in 1979). [133] The builder was Alex Edwards, a local [134].</p> <p>Hipwell also designed the kindergarten opposite and a church in Loch, Gippsland which is unaltered. He was an elder of the church. The spire is copper clad over a TV antenna. The whole has a Japanese influence, presumably via Robin Boyd. The addition was designed by the drafting firm, D.J. and D.C. Building Design of Monbulk, without consulting the architects and built by Chapman Gardner builders.</p> <p>This kind of geometric church owes much to Christopher Wren's London City churches. It's plan, is similar to St Mary's Abchurch (1681-6) and its spire is like that of St Michael's Queenhithe (c1676-87, now demolished), St Benet's, Gracechurch Street and St Margaret's, Lothbury. Architecturally, this building can be compared to (for example) the Presbyterian Church at Loch, the Templestowe Uniting Church (1962), and Robin Boyd's work, especially Tower Hill.</p>	
	<p>SOURCES</p> <p>[132] Church archives</p> <p>[133] John B. Hipwell 18.4.91 pers. comm.; Architects' Registration Board, re: Albert Ross; John Chapman, Chapman Gardner Builders, pers. comm.' Secretary and Minister, pers. comm.</p> <p>[134] Bruce Bence, pers. comm.</p>	
	Creation Date 1963	Change Dates
	Associations	Local Themes
		6.02 - Churches
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Of State significance. A very sensitively designed and detailed small church in a bushland setting. Designed by John Hipwell and Albert Ross in 1963. The spire is particularly fine and the work recalls Wren's London City churches in quite a different context. The addition does detract from the significance.	
LEVEL		
RECOMMENDATIONS		

Heritage Register Listings**Register****Reference****Zoning****Status**

None Specified

Extent**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**Extra Research**

BIBLIOGRAPHY