

Building:	Burwood Heights Uniting Church	Significance:	B
Address:	347 Blackburn Road, Burwood East	Melway Map Ref:	61 K7
Building Type:	Church	Construction Date:	1961
Architect:	Alexander Harris & Associates	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:

G[x] F[] P[]

Condition:

G[x] F[] P[]

Existing Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register []
 Register of the National Estate []
 National Trust []

Recommended Heritage Listings:

Victorian Heritage Register []
 Register of the National Estate [x]
 Heritage Overlay Controls [x]

History

A map in the Municipal Directory of 1892 shows the site, on the south-east corner of the present Blackburn Road and Burwood Highway, labelled as a 'church reserve'.¹ It is believed that a timber Methodist church existed on this site from about the 1870s.²

The present church was built in 1961 as East Burwood Methodist Church. It was designed by Alexander Harris & Associates.

After the establishment of the Uniting Church in 1977, the church became part of the Burwood Heights parish, along with the former St Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Bennettswood (Burwood East) and the former Blackburn South Methodist Church. By the early 1990s, the church had become known as the East Burwood Centre, but when St Stephen's closed c.1991, the present church was renamed Burwood Heights.³

Description

The Burwood Heights Uniting Church consists of a very tall A-frame nave, with a small single-storey brick wing at the rear. The nave is completely enveloped by a steeply pitched slate roof which extends right to the base, where it is penetrated by dormer windows. The front gable is clad with vertical timber boards, and the rear gable is infilled with leadlight panels. The entry porch is situated at the side of the building, between the A-frame nave and the flat-roofed rear wing. There is a freestanding tower near the street corner, in the form of a skeleton frame of curving steel members. It appears to be purely ornamental.

Comparative Examples

Holy Eucharist Roman Catholic Church, 16 Goode Street, East Malvern (1962)

St Thomas' Anglican Church, Warrandyte Road (cnr North Road), Langwarrin (1963)

Significance

Burwood Heights Uniting Church is of aesthetic significance, and some historical interest. It is assuredly demonstrates the post-War interest in the use of dramatic non-rectilinear geometries in ecclesiastical architecture. Historically, the site has been associated with the Methodist Church since the late nineteenth century. The building and its distinctive tower form a local landmark on this prominent intersection.

Source

Context Pty Ltd. *City of Nunawading Heritage Survey Project*. 1994. (Graded C+)

1 'A Map in the *Municipal Directory* of 1892' in Niall Brennan. *A History of Nunawading*. Melbourne, 1972. pp 62-63.

2 Information from Alistair Orton, Burwood Heights Uniting Church.

3 Information from Alistair Orton, Burwood Heights Uniting Church.