

ST AUGUSTINE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH AND HALL, 38 BUNDORAN PDE, MONT ALBERT NORTH

Building:	St Augustine's Anglican Church & Hall	HO No	261
Address:	38 Bundoran Parade Mont Albert North	Melway Map Ref:	46 K7
Building Type:	religious	Construction Date:	1929 (hall) & 1960 (church)
Architect:	Gawler & Drummond (hall) T G Payne (church)	Builder:	J Jones (hall)



History

The foundation stone of St Augustine's Hall was laid in April 1929 and the building erected to designs by the architectural firm, Gawler and Drummond. This prolific Melbourne firm designed a substantial body of work for the Church of England from the mid-1910s¹⁵⁰ and John Stevens Gawler himself was a local resident, parishioner,¹⁵¹ local councillor and educationalist. The contract for this Church of England Sunday School building¹⁵² in Rostrevor Parade was let on 12 February 1929.¹⁵³

¹⁵⁰ M Lewis, 'John Stevens Gawler' in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, at adb.anu.edu.au/biography

¹⁵¹ W Orange, 'St Augustine's Hall: 1929-2004' in Box Hill Historical Society Newsletter, August 2004, p 6

¹⁵² M Lewis, Australian Architectural Index at www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural

¹⁵³ M Lewis, Australian Architectural Index at www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural

Gawler was influential in the early years of the Church of England in the area; designing the Holy Trinity Church, Union Road, Surrey Hills in 1921¹⁵⁴ and initiating the first services of the parish of St Augustine's. These were held at Mont Albert Central School.¹⁵⁵ St Augustine's was initially part of the parish of the Holy Trinity until 1946 when it became the parish of St Augustine's, Mont Albert North.¹⁵⁶

St Augustine's Hall was designed for a number of uses including church services, Sunday School, meetings and functions held by various parish groups. It originally comprised a central rectangular hall with alcoves either side, a sanctuary and adjoining vestry at the street end and stage, kitchen and choir vestry at the other end. The intention was to extend the building towards the street at a later date, however council regulations prohibited this and the original temporary timber wall still remains.

In addition to its use as a church and Sunday School, the hall was used for dances, concerts, meetings of church groups, badminton and kindergarten classes. By 1971 a purpose built kindergarten had been¹⁵⁷ constructed behind the hall.

The dual function of this hall continued until the present church was constructed in 1960 to designs by architect Thomas G Payne.¹⁵⁸ It was sited along the northern boundary of the site, parallel to the 1929 hall. Payne designed a number of religious buildings for the Catholic Church, including St Paschal's Chapel in Box Hill (HO214).

Historical Themes

City of Whitehorse Themes

5 Institutions

5.1 Religion

Victoria's Themes

8 Building community life

8.1 Maintaining spiritual life

Description

Hall

The 1929 hall, built of clinker bricks with a glazed tile roof, is domestic in scale and designed in an inter-war Old English style. Side walls are buttressed and metal-framed double arched windows are placed between in square openings. A double hipped roof dormer window, containing rows of similar arch headed metal window frames, face to the north and south. The front facade of the building, initially constructed in timber to allow extension towards the street, remains in this originally temporary state.

Church

The church is designed in a simple modern style and is built of cream brick with a glazed tile roof. It is of rectangular form with distinctive parabolic arch entrance to the gabled front porch and a rectangular tower with slender spire to the north elevation. The asymmetrical front facade contains the entrance porch which protrudes to one side and a high gabled elevation on the other. The latter incorporates a low horizontal strip of windows which is divided by heavy vertical mullions, and a large blank upper facade with a large applied cross. Long vertical windows line the side walls, with those at the sanctuary end having

¹⁵⁴ M Lewis, Australian Architectural Index at www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural

¹⁵⁵ W Orange, 'St Augustine's Hall: 1929-2004' in Box Hill Historical Society Newsletter, August 2004, p 6

¹⁵⁶ W Orange, 'St Augustine's Hall: 1929-2004' in Box Hill Historical Society Newsletter, August 2004, p 6

¹⁵⁷ Public Building File VPRS 7882/P0001/852, Public Record Office Victoria

¹⁵⁸ Public Building File VPRS 7882/P0001/1428, Public Record Office Victoria

pointed window hoods. The tower has a curved copper gabled roof and synthetic stone¹⁵⁹ is used for the parabolic arch and the unglazed tower window grille.

Comparative Examples

City of Whitehorse Comparisons

Church

The City of Whitehorse contains an important group of distinctive churches of modern design from the late 1950s to the early 1960s. This was a period of great experimentation in church design with the challenging of traditional forms and the move away from religious symbolism. Modern forms, construction techniques and materials were typically introduced into church design at this time.

Together these churches form an excellent group of modern religious buildings in the Municipality of Whitehorse. Two of these are included in the Heritage Overlay and one in the Victorian Heritage Register.

All Saints (Christ Church) Anglican Church, Mitcham (HO96 and VHR H2302)

This Anglican Church was built in Mitcham to an innovative design by architect Ray Berg in 1958. Built of rigid steel construction with brick end walls and tile-clad side walls, it is of simple rectangular form with shallow butterfly roof, strips of clerestory windows and an open steel framed detached tower with cross.

The City of Whitehorse Building Citation states that it is significant for its attempt to move away from entrenched religious symbolism in church architecture and as a rare example of the work of important and influential architect and academic Ray Berg.

Burwood Heights Uniting Church, Burwood East 1961 (former East Burwood Methodist Church) (HO106)

This former Methodist Church was built in East Burwood to a distinctive design by architects Alexander Harris & Associates in 1961. It is a tall A-frame building with steeply pitched, slate-clad roof which extends to the base, where it is penetrated by large dormer windows.

The City of Whitehorse Building Citation states that it is significant due to its use of dramatic geometries in ecclesiastical architecture and for the site's long association with the Methodist Church.

Other highly distinctive examples in the City of Whitehorse include St Benedict's Catholic Church, Burwood in 1957-58 by architects Stuart McIntosh & Alexander Harris, and The Avenue Uniting Church (former Presbyterian Church), Blackburn in 1959 by architect Keith Reed.

Hall

Two other church halls were constructed in the municipality at a similar time to St Augustine's hall.

St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, Surrey Hills (HO132) has an associated brick hall that appears to have originally been constructed in 1888, but was reconstructed in 1929. Domestic Gothic in character, it is a small red brick gabled hall of four bays, with stepped buttresses and multi-paned rectangular windows with shallow pointed arch window heads.

¹⁵⁹ 1957 drawings in Public Building File VPRS 7882/P0001/1428, Public Record Office Victoria

Mountview Uniting Church Complex (HO162) contains an iron framed hall that was also erected c1929. This is part of a complex of buildings built from 1888 to 1967, and appears to be a prefabricated building.

State Comparisons

Church

Comparison can be made with St Bede's Catholic Church, Severn Street, North Balwyn which was designed by S J Moran and Associates and constructed in 1961. This cream brick church also incorporates a parabolic arch entrance and square tower with thin spire.

Hall

Comparison can be made with St Paul's Anglican Church Hall, East Kew which was designed by architect K H Oliphant and constructed in 1925.



St Bede's Catholic Church, North Balwyn



St Pauls Anglican Church Hall, East Kew

Significance

What is significant?

St Augustine's Anglican hall, Mont Albert North was designed by architects Gawler and Drummond and built in 1929. The adjacent church was designed by architect T G Payne and built in 1960.

How is it significant?

St Augustine's Anglican Church and hall are of historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Whitehorse.

Why is it significant?

St Augustine's Anglican Church and hall are of historical significance as the centre of Anglican worship in Mont Albert North from 1929. The two buildings illustrate both the early establishment of the parish and the later period of suburban growth which resulted in the construction of the large church building in 1960. [Criterion A]

St Augustine's Anglican Church is of aesthetic significance as a distinctive and intact example of late 1950s ecclesiastical architecture in the City of Whitehorse. Together with All Saints Anglican Church, Mitcham (former Christ Church) 1957-58; St Benedict's Roman Catholic Church, Burwood 1957; The Avenue Uniting Church (former Presbyterian) 1959 and Burwood Heights Uniting Church (former East Burwood Methodist) 1961 it forms an important group of highly innovative modern buildings of ecclesiastical design from the late 1950s period. [Criterion D & E]

St Augustine's Anglican Hall is of aesthetic significance as an example of the Interwar Old English style applied to a public building. Designed by well known Melbourne architects Gawler and Drummond, the hall has important associations with local architect, resident and Councillor John S Gawler.

Recommended Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

References

MMBW Detail Plan 3390, Municipality of Box Hill, 1930

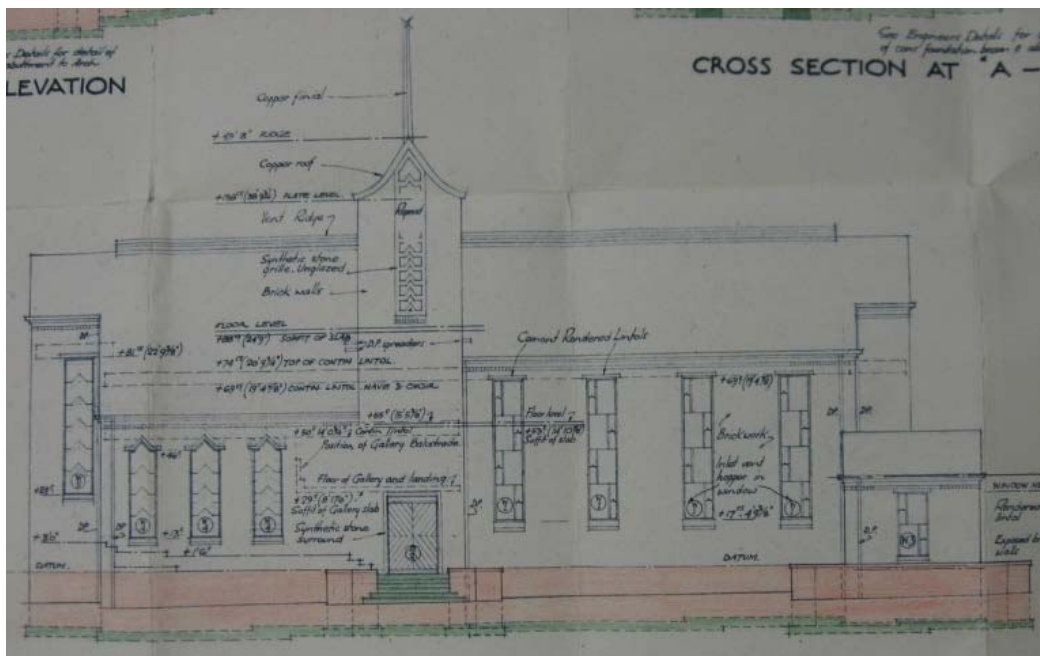
M Lewis, Australian Architectural Index at www.mileslewis.net/australian-architectural/;

Public Building Files VPRS 7882/P0001/852 & 1428, Public Records Office Victoria

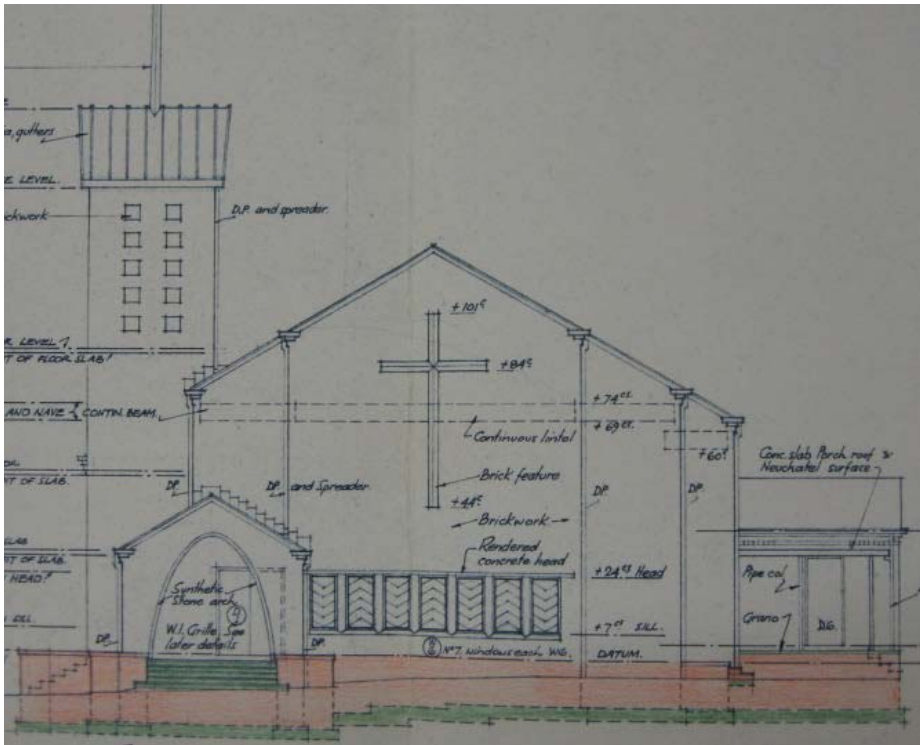
I & R Coleman, 'Twentieth Century Churches in Victoria', A study for the Historic Buildings Council 1996

W Orange, 'Saint Augustine's Hall: 1929-2004', in *Box Hill Historical Society Newsletter*, August 2004, pp 6-7

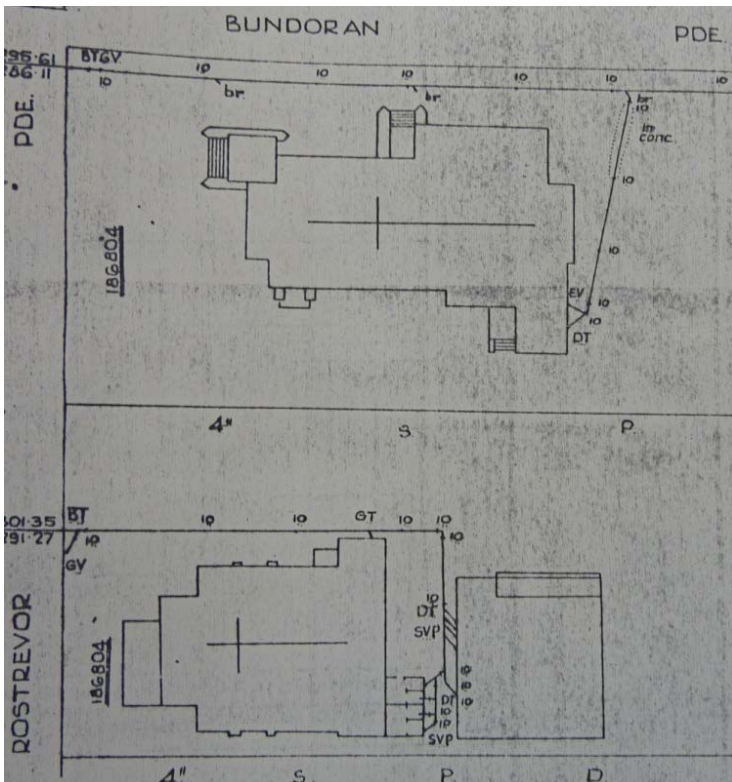
Historical Images



North elevation, from Public Building File VPRS 7882/P0001/1428, Public Records Office Victoria



West elevation, from Public Building File VPRS 7882/P0001/1428, Public Records Office Victoria



Site plan 1971, from Public Building File VPRS 7882/P0001/1428, Public Records Office Victoria