

**389 Illawarra Rd, Marrickville**

**Heritage Assessment**

**Version 1.3**

**18 May 2020**



for

**Inner West Council**

by

**Hector Abrahams Architects**

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## 1. Introduction

Hector Abrahams Architects has been commissioned by Inner West Council to prepare this significance assessment of the Church of Christ at 389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville. The purpose of this report is to ascertain whether the church building merits listing as a heritage item in the Marrickville Local Environmental Plan 2011.



## 2. Description of Site

The subject site is 389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville.

The boundary of the site is the boundary of land title Lots 4, 5 and 6, DP 2595.



Figure 1: 389 Illawarra Rd, Marrickville (Source: NearMap.com with HAA overlay)

### 3. History

Unless otherwise stated, historical information below comes from Roy Dixon's 1968 Church of Christ, Marrickville: Seventy-Fifth Anniversary booklet.

The Church of Christ congregation at Marrickville formed in 1889 as an offshoot from the Enmore Church, the 'mother church' of the denomination in New South Wales.

The group met in a private home in View Street, Marrickville, for over four years, and in April 1893 became established as a separate organised church of eighteen members.

In January 1894, the first Marrickville Church of Christ building opened for worship. The weatherboard building on brick foundations was described as a "Schoolroom to be used for worship until the church is able to erect a more commodious and substantial building." The site had been purchased in 1891 by officials of the Enmore Church and handed over to Marrickville upon its formation.

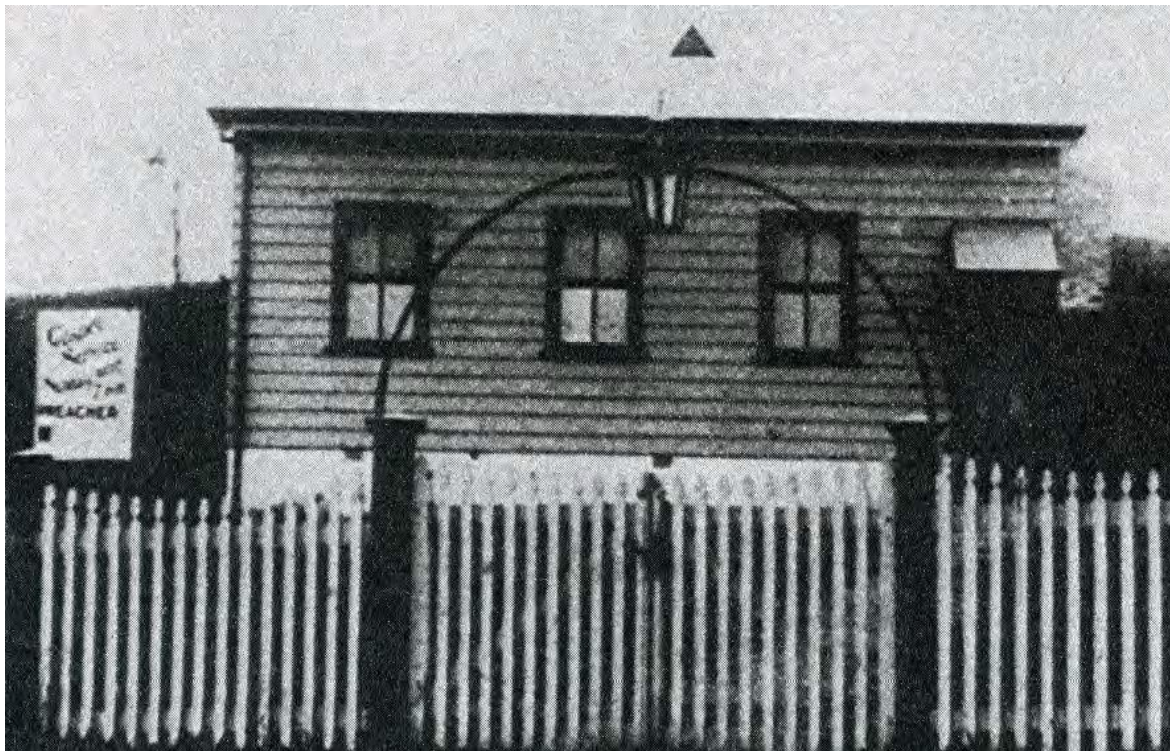


Figure 2: The original temporary wooden chapel (Dennis Nutt in Archnex Designs, *Heritage Assessment 389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville*, March 2017, p. 3).

About 1899, the church building was widened by 8½ feet along its entire length and a baptistry and two ante-rooms were added.

During the period 1900 to 1907, Marrickville returned to the oversight of the Enmore Church, which also had charge of a church in Petersham.



The current brick church building opened for worship in January 1912. It was designed by the architect Alfred G. Newman (1875-1921), who was reported to have plans for the new church in progress in February 1909.<sup>1</sup> When tenders were called in July 1911, the building was described as follows:

A new Church of Christ, to be erected on the Illawarra-road, Marrickville. It will be built adjoining the present church building, and will be carried out in brickwork in Romanesque style. The internal dimensions of the church will be 47ft by 36ft. The platform will be at the rear, with sliding doors at the back, giving access to the present church. There will be a porch in front, approached by two flights of stone steps. The floors will be sloping and the roof an open timbered one.<sup>2</sup>

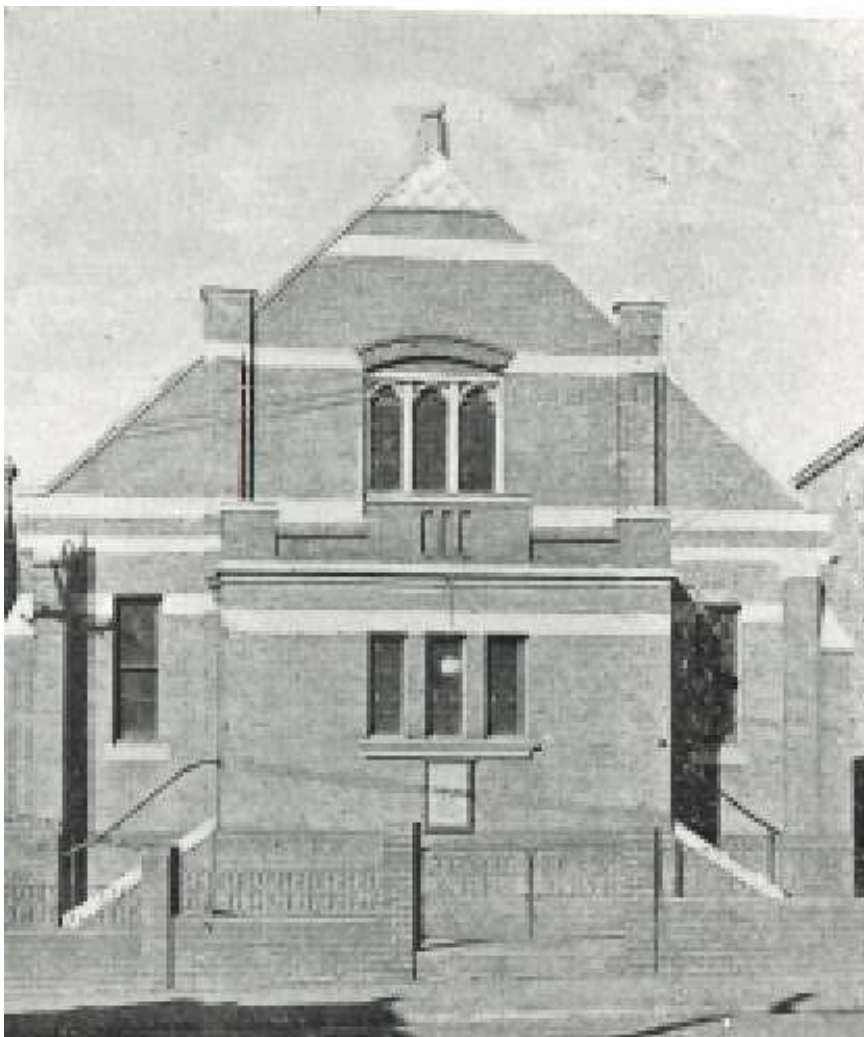


Figure 3: 389 Illawarra Rd, Marrickville, 1936.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "GENERAL NOTES." The Sydney Morning Herald 16 February 1909: 4.

<sup>2</sup> "GENERAL NOTES." The Sydney Morning Herald 25 July 1911: 14.

<sup>3</sup> *Marrickville, 75 Years of Progress 1861-1936*, reproduced in Weir Phillips, *Heritage Assessment*, p. 10.

The building was altered in 1940 to reverse the seating direction, add an entrance porch, and to create an elevated baptismal immersion pool over the existing platform.<sup>4</sup>

The original weatherboard church building was “practically” demolished in 1958<sup>5</sup> and the church hall was “reconstructed” by laypersons during a series of working bees over the course of nearly a year.

The nature of the hall before 1958 is unclear. A 1943 aerial photograph shows a similar roof form to that which exists today (see below). This may suggest that the structure of the original hall was retained in some form.



Figure 4: 1943 aerial image (left, maps.six.nsw.gov. au) and 2020 (NearMap.com). The present roof form appears to be similar to the 1943 form.

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<sup>4</sup> The 1940 date is confirmed by an entry in the Marrickville Council Building Register [Sept 1935-July 1945] for 9 August 1940; an addition to the Church of Christ, 389 Illawarra Road, valued at £200. Builder A. Rugrindyke. The full range of the building register from 1922-1957 was searched, this was the only entry found relating to the place.

<sup>5</sup> It is unclear exactly what is meant by the “practical” demolition and it is possible that some of the original church building remains. HAA observed no fabric that could be dated to earlier than the 1950s.

## 4. Physical Analysis

The Church of Christ at 389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville, is a free-standing church building in Illawarra Road, facing and terminating the end of Greenbank Street.

It is in the Arts and Crafts style with gothic details, constructed of face common brick, with cement rendered bands and a chequerboard render pattern at the apex of the gable wall. The 1940 side entry porch is constructed of red brick. There is a parapet of face brick with rendered coping and a finial at the apex. The roof is covered by glazed terracotta Marseille tiles.

The main interior is of plastered masonry with an open frame truss timber ceiling. There is a raked floor of timber, covered by carpet. To the rear and connected by a formal opening in the east wall of church is the church hall. It consists of a single large room with a tent form ceiling, fully lined in hardboard. It has a small stage and backstage area, and several small rooms opening off it to the east. It appear to be a light framed structure, with brick veneer walls to some elevations.

A detailed description of all fabric, including photographs, estimated date, and significance ranking of each element, is included in Appendix 1.



## 5. Summary of existing reports

389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville was identified in a report by Paul Davies which assessed significance and recommended listing – *Marrickville Local Government Area Southern Area Heritage Review*, April 2015. Since then, the place has been the subject of four heritage assessment reports, two memos, and a proposed heritage inventory for the place has been prepared. The findings of each report are summarised below.

### Inner West Council Draft Inventory

This was prepared by Inner West Council after the 2015 report by Paul Davies. It identifies the historical, aesthetic, and representative significance of the church and claims social significance for “its current congregation”. The draft inventory considers that the church does not meet any other criteria for listing.

### Archnex Heritage Assessment, March 2017

This report was prepared by Archnex Designs for the Church of Christ Property Trust. In the view of the author, the church does not meet any of the criteria for listing. It is argued that because the church cannot be seen “in-the-round” it is only “a façade within a streetscape”. It is also argued that the 1940 alterations “diminishes an ability to understand its designed function to a large degree.”

### Weir Phillips Heritage Assessment, February 2019

Prepared at the request of the owners of the site, this report concludes that the church “may reach the threshold for listing on the LEP on the basis of its integrity and construction during a significant period in the area’s development,” noting its historical, associative and aesthetic values.

### GBA Heritage Issues Review, March 2019

This report prepared by GBA Heritage, which also investigates the neighbouring house, concludes that neither building meets the criteria for local heritage listing. Despite this, the author notes that the subject site has been occupied by the Church of Christ since 1894 and “demonstrates the historical role of the Church of Christ in Australia’s cultural history of the temperance movement”. It also notes that it has “some historic significance” as development dating from a key period of development in Marrickville.

### Curio Projects Heritage Assessment, October 2019

Prepared by Curio Projects for Fresh Hope of the Church of Christ NSW, this assessment responds to those prepared by GBA and Weir Phillips. Some of the responses focus more on planning considerations and owner requirements than heritage issues per se. The report notes the decline of attendance at the church by its congregation and argues that this undermines its historic, associative, aesthetic and social significance of the building. It is concluded that the significance of the buildings does not outweigh the value of the proposed development.

## 6. Comparative analysis

### 6.1. Churches of Christ in New South Wales at 1902/3

Maston's 1903 history of the Churches of Christ in Australasia attempted to create a comprehensive record of every Church of Christ in Australia and New Zealand. It includes brief histories of each church and biographical details of influential church workers. The earliest Church of Christ organisations were founded in New South Wales in the 1850s, but it was not until the 1890s that the denomination was seen to gain any great momentum in the colony. Thus the churches identified by the Maston publication in 1903 represent the early proliferation of the denomination. Brief histories are given for the following churches:

- 1852 Enmore\*
- 1856 Fairfield; in 1883 transferred to Rookwood
- 1863 Chatham (Manning River)\*
- 1864 City
- 1866 Merewether (Newcastle)
- 1883 Rookwood established 1883
- 1884 Lismore\*
- 1884 Moree
- 1884 Bungawalbyn (Richmond River)
- 1884 Petersham
- 1889 Corowa
- 1890 Prospect
- 1892 Paddington\*
- 1893 Marrickville\*
- 1898 Canley Vale (Sunday School)

In addition, Matson gives membership statistics for churches at Broken Hill, Junee, Mungindi, Rockdale, Wagga Wagga\* and Wingham\*. Membership in New South Wales at this time totalled 1,936, 30% of whom (587) attended Enmore.

389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville, in terms of the use of the site by the Church of Christ, is therefore evidence of the significant growth in the denomination in the 1890s.

\*Denotes churches still active in 1983 (Stephenson 1984: 95-96)

## 6.2. Inner Suburban Churches of Christ

The Sydney Church of Christ left its 1869 church building in Elizabeth Street (presumed demolished) for the former Freethought Hall, 69 Campbell Street, Surry Hills, in 1895. The building was sold into private ownership in 1983.<sup>6</sup> Built in 1890, the former Freethought Hall is still standing but does not have any physical characteristics that denote its former use as a Church of Christ.



Figure 5: Former Freethought Building, 69 Campbell Street, Surry Hills, photographed in 2001.  
Source: Photographer Mark Stevens, courtesy City of Sydney Archives A-01129883

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<sup>6</sup> Thorp 1998: 12



The Enmore Tabernacle, 17-21 Metropolitan Road, was constructed in 1886 and enlarged in 1905. It is currently used as a Seventh Day Adventist Church.

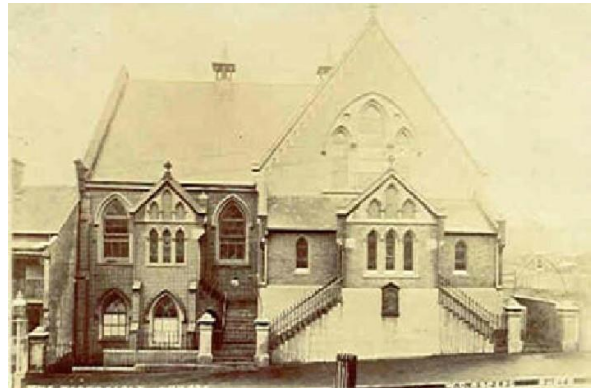
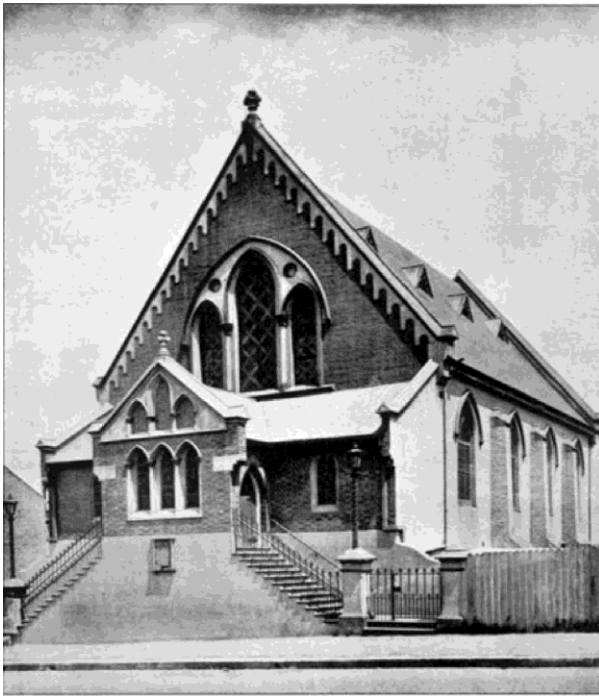


Figure 6: Enmore Tabernacle. Above, circa 1903 (source Maston: 310); Right top, post-1905 (source Inner West Council Library Service; Robert Hutchison, donor); Right bottom, present-day appearance (source State Heritage Inventory)

Tenders for the construction of the Petersham Church, 2a Cannon Street, were called by John Halliday in June 1885.<sup>7</sup> The building was enlarged by 1915, and is now in commercial use, substantially altered.



Figure 7: Petersham, top left: circa 1903 (Maston: 327). Top right: circa 1915. (Inner West Council Library Service; Robert Hutchison, donor) Bottom: August 2019 (Google)

<sup>7</sup> "IMMIGRANTS." The Sydney Morning Herald 9 June 1885: 2.

The Paddington Church, 116 Paddington Street, was constructed in 1901 and has been enlarged with a porch at an unknown (early) date. It continues to function as a Church of Christ.

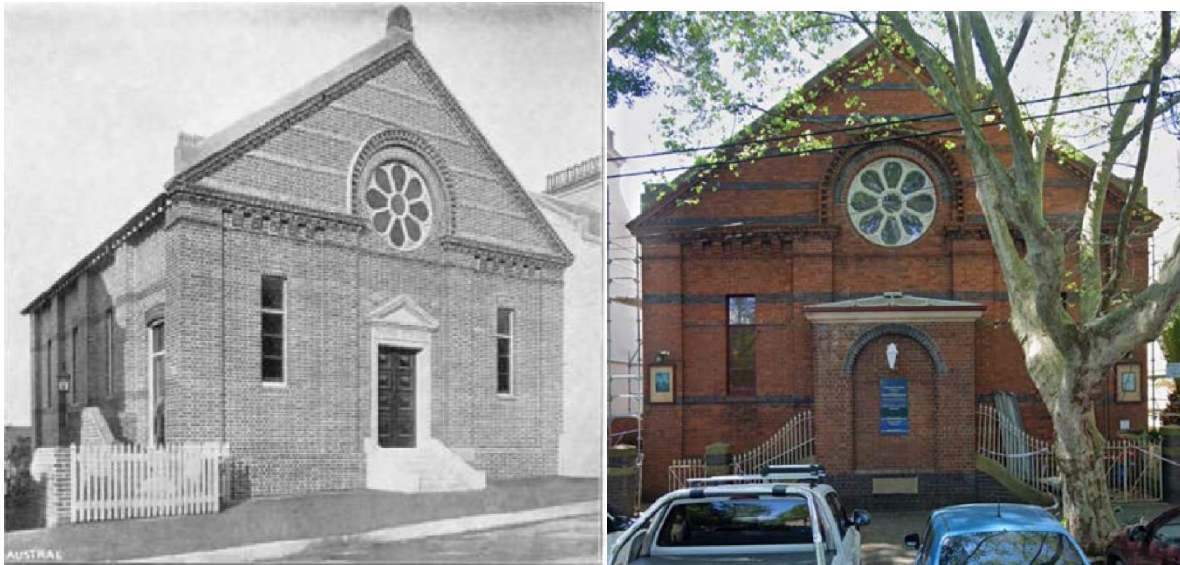


Figure 8: Paddington. Left, circa 1903 (*source* Maston: 325) Right, September 2019 (*source* Google)

## Conclusion

The above summary shows that there are relatively few purpose-built Churches of Christ still extant in inner suburban Sydney. In the Inner West, there was historically a group of churches of which only Enmore and Petersham (much altered) remain. The below map illustrates the location of these churches.



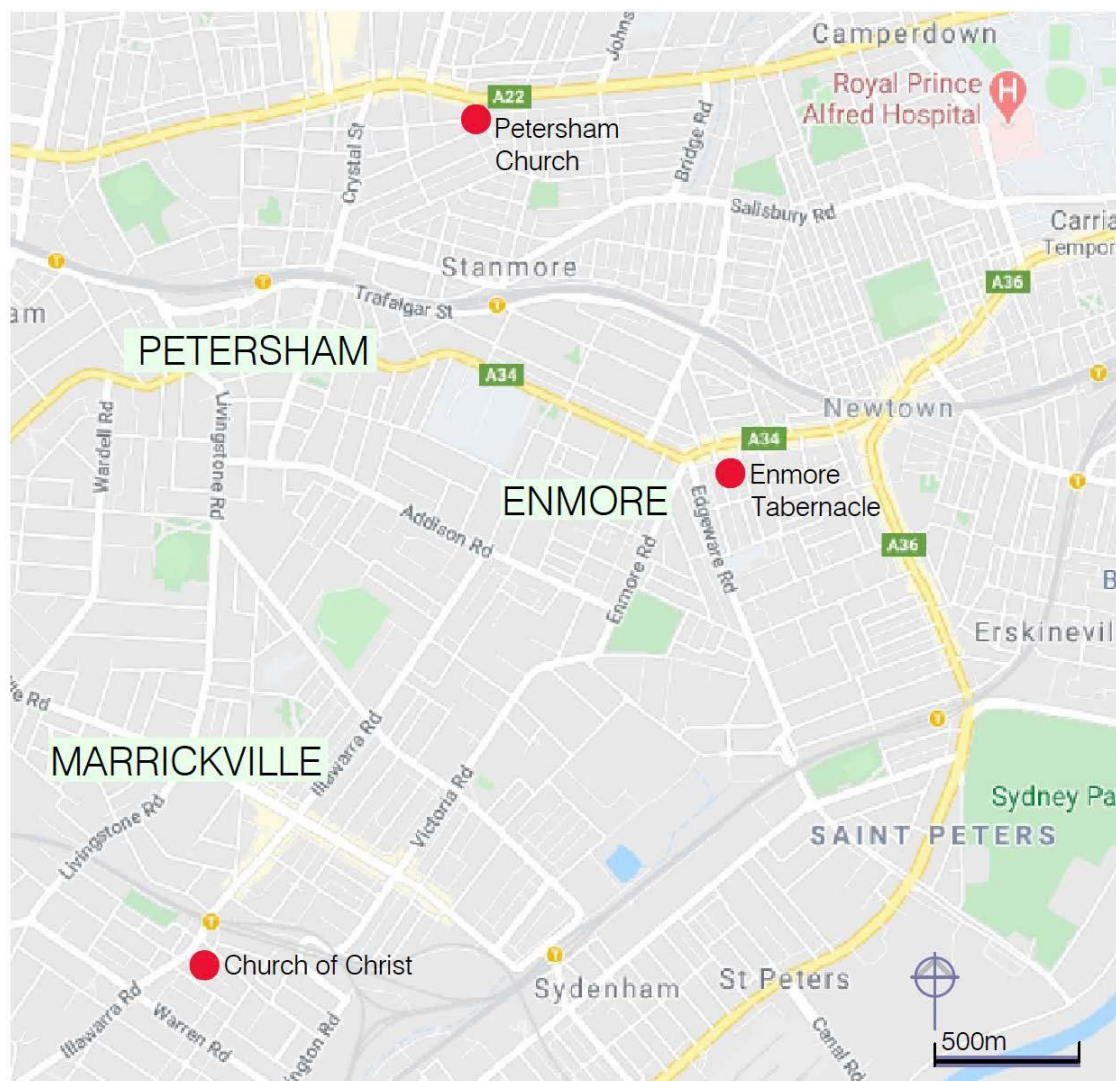


Figure 9: Map showing the location of the Churches of Christ in the Inner West (Google Maps with HAA overlay).

### 6.3. Foundation Churches of Marrickville

The formation of the Marrickville Church of Christ in 1893 places it at the later end of the proliferation of worship places in the suburb, brought about largely by the residential development of the suburb following the construction of the railway station. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the civic and commercial centre of Marrickville formed at the junction of Illawarra and Marrickville Roads and spread to the railway station. In this main part were founded over a short period churches from a particularly large number of denominations in prominent positions. The sequence of Marrickville's Christian denominational churches was established as follows:<sup>8</sup>

Congregational Now known as the Hepisipa Congregation Tongan Parish of the Uniting Church, the building was initiated in 1871 and extended in 1883. 388 Illawarra Rd.

<sup>8</sup> Information largely drawn from Australian Christian Church Histories [www.churchhistories.net.au](http://www.churchhistories.net.au)

Anglican Original church-school building 1883. St Clement's (90 Petersham Road) was built circa 1909. The building is extant and identified today as Marrickville Road Church.

Methodist The Warren Methodist Church began with a Sunday school in 1885. The church building on Illawarra Road was built in 1907 to a design by Alfred G. Newman; it has been demolished and the site is now a carpark in the corner of Calvert Street.

Catholic The parish was created in 1887. The foundation stone for the first church was laid in the same year at a site on Despointes Street. The current church (St Brigit's) at 153 Livingstone Road was built 1918-1921; a new facade and bell tower were added in the 1950s.

Baptist Congregation formed in 1887; initially met in Winkie's Hall, Illawarra Road. First church on the current site was built in 1889; this was added to in 1909 and again with a new worship building in 1961.

Presbyterian St Andrew's Church was founded in 1888 on Illawarra Road. The building was demolished following Union in 1971.

Church of Christ (subject building): Established in Marrickville 1893, the original church was built in 1894. A second church was built in 1911 and altered in 1940. Extant.

Greek Orthodox A house was converted to church use 1961; the current church (St Nicholas) opened 1965. 203 Livingstone Rd

#### **6.4. Buildings designed by Alfred Gambier Newman**

A number of Newman's buildings are listed in local heritage registers throughout New South Wales. They demonstrate that Newman produced a full body of individual designs in church architecture in the Arts and Crafts style. They include the following.

Former "Cenef House" Including Interiors, 201 Castlereagh Street, Sydney – now known as Scientology House, this is a five storey Federation Free Classical building completed in 1908 and modified in the 1940s. The building is listed for its aesthetic, historic, social and representative significance.<sup>9</sup>

Uniting Church, Cnr Helena and Harrow Street, Auburn – Designed by Newman in 1910<sup>10</sup> as a Methodist church, it is constructed of brick, rendered at the front, with a high decorative parapet at the façade and piers defining the entrance porch. Listed on the local heritage register for its historic, aesthetic, social and rarity values.

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<sup>9</sup> NSW Heritage Inventory, 'Former "Cenef House" Including Interiors', <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2424181>

<sup>10</sup> Australian Institute of Architects Biographical Information – Alfred Gambier Newman, citing Sydney Morning Herald, 10 August 1910, p. 7.



Figure 10: Auburn Uniting Church, NSW Heritage Inventory.<sup>11</sup>

Uniting Church Strathfield, 13 Carrington Avenue, Strathfield – Designed by Alfred G Newman as a Methodist Church in 1907-08.<sup>12</sup> This is perhaps the most impressive of Newman’s buildings, with strong repeated use of the same rendered bands and chequerboard pattern as seen at 389 Illawarra Road. Listed on the local heritage register for its aesthetic and historical value.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>11</sup> ‘Auburn Uniting Church and Victory Hall’, NSW Heritage Inventory,

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1030023>

<sup>12</sup> ‘METHODIST CHURCH, STRATHFIELD’ *Sydney Morning Herald*, Tuesday 10 December 1907, p. 4.

<sup>13</sup> NSW Heritage Inventory, ‘Uniting Church Strathfield’,

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2450048>





Figure 11: Strathfield Uniting Church.<sup>14</sup>

Uniting Church, 60 Howard Avenue, Dee Why – A 1921 former Methodist Church designed by Alfred G Newman.<sup>15</sup> It is a simple and very modest church, listed for its historical and social significance.<sup>16</sup>

Uniting Church, Cnr Strafford Street and Northbrook Lane, Manilla – Though attributed in the State Heritage Inventory to Sydney architect I F Rowse, the below sketch appears to confirm that this Methodist church was designed by Newman. Decorative bands of render on face brick are seen here as in other examples. Listed for its historic and aesthetic significance.

<sup>14</sup> 'Carrington Avenue Uniting Church', SydneyOrgan.com, <https://www.sydneyorgan.com/StrathfieldUC.html>

<sup>15</sup> 'Tenders', Sydney Morning Herald, Wednesday 6 October, 1920, p. 8.

<sup>16</sup> NSW Heritage Inventory, 'Uniting Church', <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2610050>



Figure 12: Drawing of Manilla Methodist Church, 1910.<sup>17</sup>

Young Uniting Church, 82 Lynch Street, Young – Constructed 1908-9, a landmark building in the Federation free style designed by Alfred G Newman. Features similar rendered bands as at Marrickville. Listed for its historical, aesthetic, associative, and social significance.<sup>18</sup>

Woodford Uniting Church, 68A-68B Great Western Highway, Woodford – Designed by Alfred G Newman and completed in 1911, this church also features rendered bands and a parapeted wall.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>17</sup> Australian Institute of Architects Biographical Information – Alfred Gambier Newman, citing Sydney Morning Herald, 24 December 1910, p. 8.

<sup>18</sup> NSW Heritage Inventory, 'Young Uniting Church', <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=2760116>

<sup>19</sup> NSW Heritage Inventory, 'Woodford Uniting Church', <https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageItemDetails.aspx?ID=1170188>

## 7. Assessment of Significance

### 7.1. Ability to demonstrate

Guidelines from the NSW Heritage Office emphasise the role of history in the heritage assessment process. A list of state historical themes has been developed by the NSW Heritage Council, in *New South Wales Historical Themes Table showing correlation of national, state and local themes, with annotations Dated 4 October 2001*.

The table below identifies fabric, spaces and visual relationships that demonstrate the relevant historic themes in evidence at 389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville.

Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Notes	Example
4 Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages	Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	389 Illawarra Road is one of a number of civic buildings in Marrickville remaining from the development of the suburb in the late 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> century. Together with the neighbouring houses and shop-top buildings, it is part of an intact block of Edwardian buildings that contribute to the street scape.
8 Developing Australia's cultural life	Religion	Activities associated with particular systems of faith and worship	389 Illawarra Road has a long ongoing association with the Church of Christ, from 1894, before the construction of the existing building, until the present. The building has been an integral part of that association since 1912 and remains so despite the absence of a congregation.
9 Marking the phases of life	Birth and Death	Activities associated with the initial stages of human life and the bearing of children, and with the final stages of human life and disposal of the dead.	The immersion baptismal font within the church provides evidence of the practice and importance of baptism as practiced by the Church of Christ.



Australian Theme	NSW Theme	Notes	Example
9 Marking the phases of life	Persons	Activities of, and associations with, identifiable individuals, families and communal groups	The building has an association with its architect Alfred G Newman. It is a good representative example of his work and intact in most of its detail.

## 7.2. Assessment against NSW heritage assessment criteria

Criterion (a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville, is one of a number of foundational churches of Christian denominations in the suburb of Marrickville, constructed in an important period of the suburb's development.

It is also one of a set of three or four Church of Christ congregations that were founded in the late nineteenth century in what is now the Inner West, under the mother congregation at Enmore. This is the only group of its kind in New South Wales. The Marrickville building is the latest to be built and, whereas the others are in back streets, it is in a prominent location at the top of Greenbank Street on Illawarra Road.

Inclusion Guidelines	Check
Shows evidence of a significant human activity	Yes
Is associated with a significant activity or historical phase	Yes
Maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity	No
Exclusion Guidelines	
Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes	No
Provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance	No
Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association	No

Level of Significance: Local

Criterion (b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

389 Illawarra Road is associated with the Church of Christ in Marrickville and with its architect Alfred Gambier Newman, who designed a number of significant Methodist churches throughout New South Wales. It is a fine example of his work, though not exceptional.

Inclusion Guidelines	Check
Shows evidence of a significant human occupation	No
Is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons	Yes
Exclusion Guidelines	
Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events	No
Provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance	Yes
Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association	No

Level of Significance: Not significant

Criterion (c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or in local area)

389 Illawarra Road is a good example of an Arts & Crafts church with Gothic detail built in the Federation period. It is a good example of the work of Alfred G Newman, architect, who is notable as a designer of protestant churches over a long career. It has moderate landmark qualities, being sited facing up Greenbank Street. Together with the neighbouring houses and shop-top buildings, it forms a block of highly intact Edwardian buildings which make a positive contribution to the streetscape of Illawarra Road.

Inclusion Guidelines	Check
Shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement	Yes
Is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement	No
Is aesthetically distinctive	Yes
Has landmark qualities	Yes
Exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology	Yes
Exclusion Guidelines	

Is not a major work by an important designer or artist	Yes
Has lost its design or technical integrity	No
Its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded	No
Has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement	No

Level of Significance: Local

Criterion (d) An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

Considering that it is no longer used by the congregation, the social significance of the place has been lost – though could be recovered if a congregation were to use the building in future.

Inclusion Guidelines	Check
Is important for its associations with an identifiable group	No
Is important to a community's sense of place	No
Exclusion Guidelines	
Is only important to the community for amenity reasons.	No
Is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative	No

Level of Significance: Not significant

Criterion (e) An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

It is unlikely that 389 Illawarra Road has the potential to yield further information. It is possible that there may be some remnants of the foundations and structure of the original 1894 weatherboard church at the rear of the site.

Inclusion Guidelines	Check
Has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information	Yes
Is an important benchmark or reference site or type	No
Provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere	No



Exclusion Guidelines	
The knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture	No
Has little archaeological or research potential	Yes
Only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites	Yes

Level of Significance: Not significant

Criterion (f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area)

389 Illawarra Road is a rare example of an Arts & Crafts church with Gothic detailing in Marrickville. It is a relatively rare example of a historic Church of Christ building in New South Wales, though the LGA also contains the foundational Enmore Tabernacle, which is an associated place.

Inclusion Guidelines	Check
Provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process	No
Demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost	No
Shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity	No
Is the only example of its type	No
Demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest	Yes
Shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community	No
Exclusion Guidelines	
Is not rare	No
Is numerous but under threat	No

Level of significance: Local

Criterion (g) An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or environments (or a class of the local area's cultural or natural places or environments)

The church at 389 Illawarra Road is a good example of an Arts & Crafts church with Gothic detailing of the Federation period. It is also representative of a collection of foundational churches in Marrickville. Further, it is a representative example of the work of Alfred Gambier

Newman, who was a church architect. Finally, it is the most prominent of the set of Church of Christ churches built in the Inner West, the others being located in side streets.

Inclusion Guidelines	Check
Is a fine example of its type	Yes
Has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items	Yes
Has attributes typical of a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity	Yes
Is a significant variation to a class of items	No
Is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type	Yes
Is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size	No
Is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held	No
Exclusion Guidelines	
Is a poor example of its type	No
Does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type	No
Does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type	No

Level of Significance: Local

### 7.3. Statement of Significance

The Church of Christ at 389 Illawarra Road is a good example of an Arts & Crafts church with Gothic detailing, and one of the foundational denomination churches in Marrickville, dating from the end of an important period in the suburb's development.

It has historical significance in Marrickville as a foundational church in the area, and one of a distinctive group of such churches in the Inner West and for its long association with the Church of Christ.

It has aesthetic significance as a good example of an Arts & Crafts church with Gothic detailing in the area. It has landmark qualities from its siting at the end of Greenbank Street, and also forms part of a group of intact Edwardian buildings which contribute positively to the streetscape along Illawarra Road, together with the neighbouring houses and shop-top buildings.

It has some associative significance with its architect Alfred Gambier Newman. Newman designed a number of significant churches, largely for the Methodist denomination, throughout New South Wales.

## 8. Listing Recommendations

The Church of Christ at 389 Illawarra Road, Marrickville, is of significance to Marrickville for its historic and aesthetic values and in the Inner West as one of a group of Church of Christ congregations and buildings, of which it is the most prominent. It is also significant for its rarity and representative values. It is locally significant to Marrickville and the Inner West more broadly, and therefore does warrant being listed as a heritage item in the Marrickville Local Environmental Plan (2011).

Further research may reveal the historical importance of Alfred Gambier Newman as a church architect. It is recommended that information about the church's relevance to his work be included in the listing, though not as a criterion meriting listing.

It is noted that the significance of the church is most embodied in the fabric of the 1912 church building, including its 1940 modifications, baptismal font, joinery furniture, and raked floor. The 1958-9 hall addition at the rear, while somewhat significant due to the nature and quality of its construction, evidencing the historical importance of the place as a whole for the congregation, would not on its own satisfy criteria for listing. The primary significance of the hall is embodied in the spatial relationship it has to the church, rather than the fabric itself.

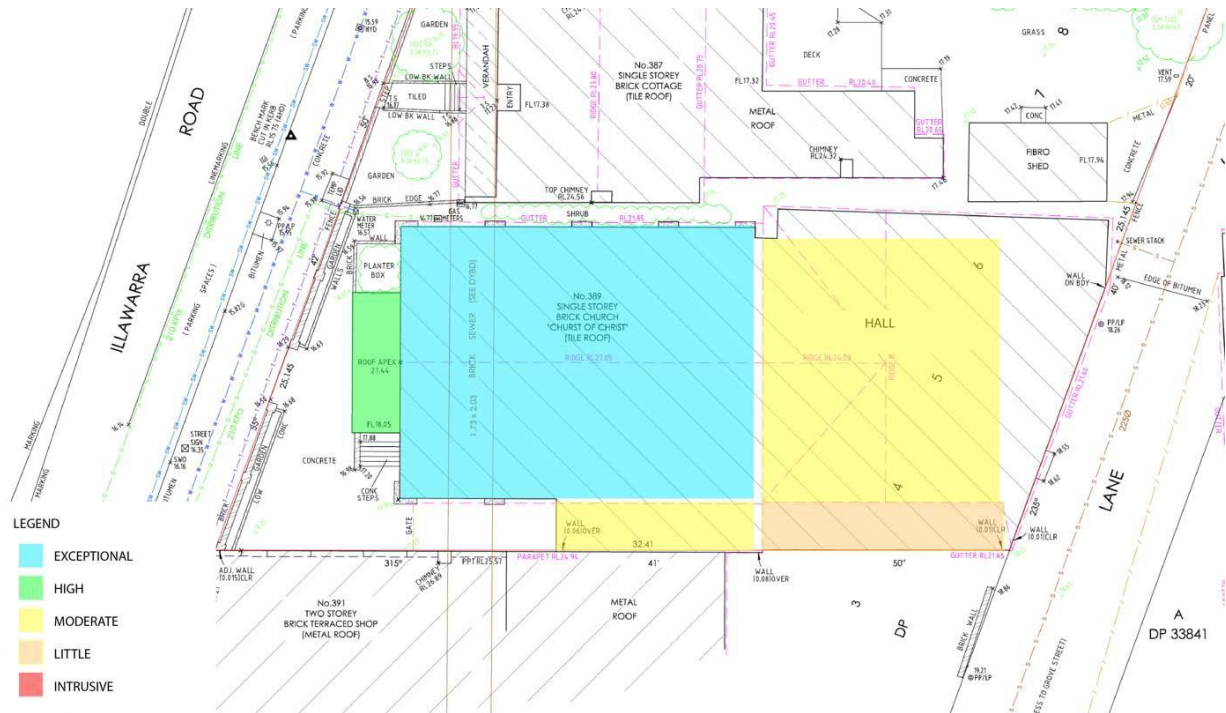
It is recommended that the listing incorporate the entire site as defined by Lots 4, 5 and 6, DP 2595.



## 9. Appendices

### 9.1. Grading of spaces

The key spaces within the building are graded as follows. Areas that are not coloured are considered to be neutral.





## 9.2. Significant views






The above view of the church, looking east along Greenbank Street, shows it as a landmark. This is the most significant view of the church.

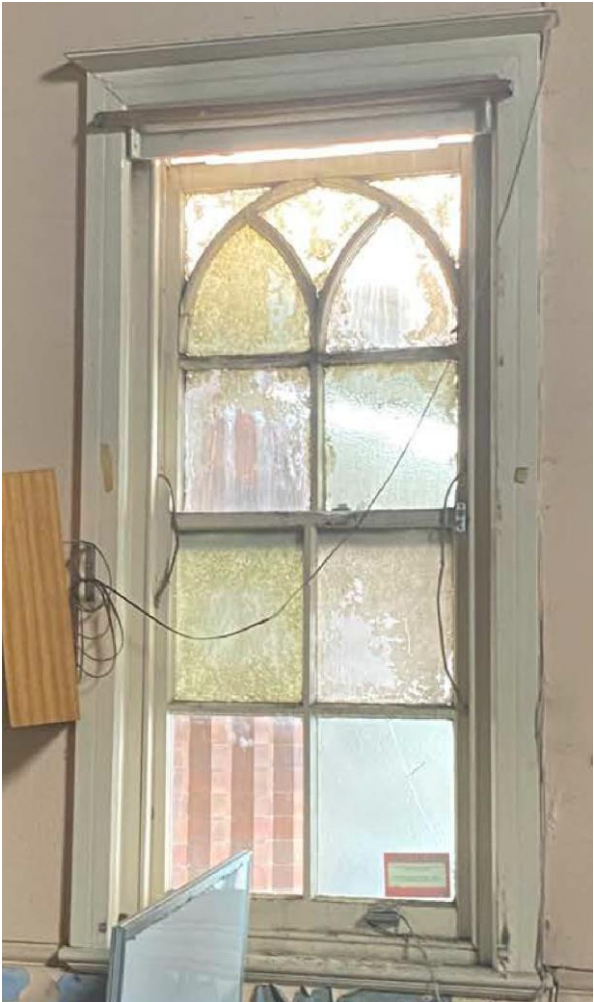
### **9.3. Fabric survey and significance grading**



Element	Description	Date	Significance	Images
<b>Interior</b>				
Main chamber				
Ceiling lining	<p>Open frame timber truss purlins rafters lined with boards on the lower slope and the primary truss horizontal. All presented as clear finish.</p> <p>The lower bracing of the truss formed into a half Oval. The three trusses are supported on knee braces and rendered or stone corbels.</p> <p>Tie rods connect the small hammer beam horizontally and vertical to the main beam of the truss.</p> <p>The centre of each of the four ceiling bays are diamond shaped grills for ventilation in perforated metal</p>	Original	E	
Lights	On the primary trusses are fluorescent light fittings mounted to the inclined member.	Late 20 <sup>th</sup> century	I	




	Floodlight mounted on the middle truss, Southern side and the top of that truss	Early 21 <sup>st</sup> century	I	
Walls	Rendered and set masonry, painted, with inscribed dado rail at the level of the windowsills, scribed out in ashlar coursing above the dado.	Original	E	
	At the west end niche formed by a pointed arch and infilled	Architrave and niche original  Infilling 1940	E  L	


	At the east end an elaborate entry way to the hall framed as pilasters with a parapet between buttresses	Original	H	
Skirting	Timber Quad 50 mm	1940	H	
Floor	Timber framed raking from Highpoint in the east and low point in the west. In the west is a raised stepped platform.	1940	H	
Carpet	Broadloom blue	Mid/late 20th century	N	

Windows	North and south wall (7) West wall (2) timber box frame double hung windows. The lower sashes divided in four with horns, the upper sash is divided into a Gothic tracery. Beaded and chamfered architrave bullnose sill board with overload bed mould, deeply chamfered headboard	Original	E	
	West wall central – three light trace read window with plate tracery in the form of three lancets. Each has three sheets of fixed coloured leaded glass in a simple floral pattern	Original	E	

<p>Doors</p>	<p>West wall (2) solid timber rebated jamb lining, beaded and chamfered architraves, four panelled leaf on cast-iron hinges with decorative knobs, the leaf is three panels and very high waisted.</p> <p>On the vestry side the lower panel is boarded vertically with jointed boards, the upper two panels are devised with sunk moulds. On the main chamber side the doors are four panelled with stop chamfered details boarding to the lower and solid to the upper panels. Each door leaf has a mortise lock and Florentine brass decorative knob set with large backplate. Yale night latch.</p>	<p>Original</p>	<p>E</p>	
<p>Door east end</p>	<p>Polished timber solid timber jambs flush architraves with moulded headboard. A set of three steps in the thickness of the wall. Three semi glazed leaves. The middle leaf swings as a door leaf. Each leaf is two-panelled with an arch in the frieze panel. Polished Maple.</p> <p>The glazed panels have been inserted and trimmed in Pacific Maple more recently. The centre panel has a mortise lock and late 20th century brass lever set. The two side panels are removable they are held in place by four straight bolts of the 1930s in character.</p>	<p>1940 with modifications from the late 20th c</p>	<p>H</p>	
<p>South east corner entrance doors</p>	<p>Timber lining, flat architrave to the vestibule, chamfered and beaded architrave and chamfered headboard to the chamber. A pair of</p>	<p>The architrave to the chamber</p>	<p>H</p>	



	<p>pivoted timber frame glazed doors. The glazing consists of one sheet of stippled glass. Each leaf has a pair of chromed pull handles in the arts and craft art deco blended style</p>	<p>appears to be original in its style the door leaves and architraves to the hall hardware and glass appear to date from 1940</p>		
<p>Baptismal immersion pool</p>	<p>At the west end fitted full immersion baptismal pool in masonry. The exterior is lined in timber panelling in character matching the door set at the east end. The sides are rendered and painted. The interior is tiled out in glazed white brick tiles on the walls and hexagonally tiles on the floor the steps at either end and the coping are lined in Carrara marble there is a large chrome tap, Chromed floor waste and rubber plug with a bronze counterweight. On the outside is a crudely built mobile set of three steps in timber</p>	<p>1940</p>	<p>H</p>	

				
Reading desk	<p>Located on the forward platform is a Polished Australian cedar reading desk in the Victorian Gothic revival style. The shelf has been augmented by a velvet covered mounted top.</p>	<p>Mid to late 19 century with 1930s top</p>	H	



Communion table

Located centrally on the main level of the platform a small timber communion table designed for the celebrant to be on the rear side. Constructed of English oak the front is presented as three panels with carved arts and crafts tracery and floral design. The text presented in Arts and Crafts lettering is this “do in remembrance of me”. On the top is a heavy glass sheet under which are two brass plaques that read as follows:

1. “To the glory of God and in sacred memory of Muriel M Chriswick A member of this church and Bible school for 17 years. Called to higher service 17th of January 1938. A tribute of love from her sister in Christ Dorothy L Giles. 5th February 1939”
2. “To the glory of God / In loving memory of our dear sister / Dorothy Giles / A member of Marrickville church for 47 years / Raised to higher service / 7th October 1968 / A tribute of love from her family”

H




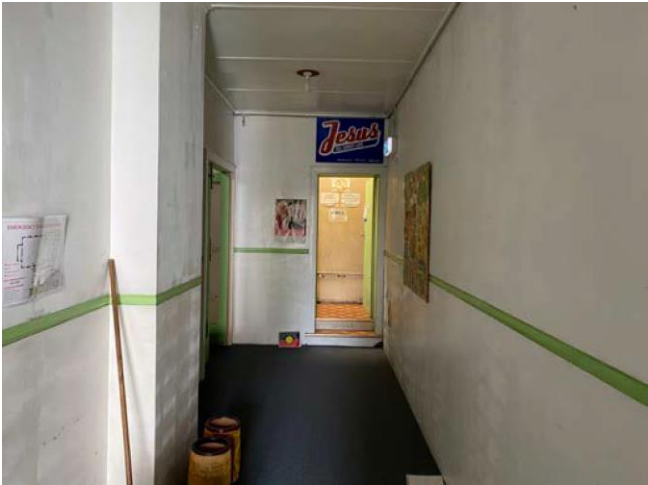
Side table	<p>Currently placed on the raking floor a small side table oak, with panels very similar but not identical to the communion table. Evidence of a glass top now missing. A brass plaque reads:</p> <p>“In loving memory of / Hazel May Linford/Died 27 August 1944. / Albert Henry Linford./ Died 17th November, 1954. / Albert John Linford (RAAF)Died 4 January 1945. / Victory in death.”</p>	1930s or 40s	H	
Pew	Queensland or Pacific Maple, Loose but and located against the east wall.		M	
Hall interior				
Ceiling	Tent form 19 hardboard with half round timber cover beads. Three ventilating panels in the flat	1950s	L	




	section trimmed in mould and timber architraves and the main grill in pressed metal		
Walls	Hardboard with rounded timber cover batons	1950s	L
Skirting	Timber chamfered 25 x 50 19 quad to the floor	1950s	L
Floor	Masonite	1950s?	L
Lights	Seven fluorescent light fittings on the fact of the ceiling	1950s	N
Stage	On the south side are proscenium stage in timber and hardboard details to match the interior of the room sliding doors at the back of the stage admit to a backstage	1950s	L
Cupboards	In the west wall bank of eight cupboards fitted into the stud framing with flush plywood doors and original chrome and plastic pushbutton knobs. One door appears to have been reversed no badly damaged it has lost its facing	1950s	L
Noticeboard	On the west wall solid timber and plywood dark stained	1950s	L
Doors	Four on the east wall one on the south. Solid timber repainted jam lining, bullnose architrave, hollow core framed extra thick doors. Chrome plated hardware. Steel hinges	1950s	L
Windows	Three in north wall one in the west wall Timber box frame double hung. Bullnose architraves bullnose still bored quad bad mould. Separate glass timber and aluminium venetian blinds	1950s the Venetian blinds on one of the windows is the 1950s but on three of them	L





		would be late 20th century		
Windows	South wall above stage. Solid frame three Awning hung sashes. Square architrave Rope and chrome painted opening mechanism Curtain on continuous aluminium track across all three	The curtain 1950s The curtain and track maybe late 20th century There is a pulley system so that all indicating all three windows were open with the one were integrated into one system.	L	
Store room, kitchen, lavatories, rear vestibule, backstage,				
Ceiling generally	Hardboard with timber semicircular cover battens	1950s	L	
Walls generally	Hardboard with timber semicircular cover battens. External walls are rendered masonry	1950s	L	
Lights generally	Ceiling mounted plastic batten holder on timber mounting block	1950s	L	
Floors generally	Timber framed cypress pine flooring 90 mm	1950s	L	
Fitments	The storeroom has and coat hook board fitted mirror, decorative light fitting In the lavatories fitted cupboards matching the style of those in the whole cast iron enamelled basins, chromed coat hooks, porcelain lavatory sets, Moravian tiles, fitted mirrors		L	

	<p>In the kitchen fitted cupboards and stainless-steel sink detail rails laminate splashback, fitted shelf unit, fitted server unit with passthrough with sliding door, medicine cabinet</p> <p>In the back passage linoleum on the floor</p> <p>In the backstage a two large doors hung onto sliding mechanism to open into the stage</p> <p>In the external doors to outside threshold</p> <p>Double hung windows as for the whole</p>			
Plaque	<p>There is a plaque on the door to the backstage area:</p> <p>“This room is dedicated to the memory of / Gladys Pope / for many years beloved leader / of the youth of this church”</p>		M	
Side entry				
Ceiling	Hardboard with square timber battens and 50 mm overflow corners	1940	M	
Walls	Rendered masonry with inscribed dado at window height	1940	M	
Floor	Suspended timber not seen		M	
Carpet	Broadloom blue	Late 20th century	N	
Doors to Street	Framed and sheeted solid rebated jamb lining square architrave chrome plated pull night latch, second deadbolt	1940 except for the night latch and deadbolt	M	



		which are late 20th century		
Fitted desk top	Adjacent to the front door a small timber inclined to top nicely detailed suspended off the wall clear finish	1940	M	
<b>Hall at West End</b>				
Ceiling	100 mm the jointed timber with 50 mm Scotia Cornice	Original	H	
Lights	Two, bakerlite cord grips woven cord pendant grip glass shade timber mounting block	Original	H	
Walls	Rendered masonry with incised dado. The walls are lined out in ashlar	Original	H	
Niche	On the east wall a shallow niche with a marble shelf and water piping. It would appear that there was this provision for a water heating device for the front the flu goes through the ceiling in a conscious way	Original. Water heater not current late 20th century	M	
Doors	As before described to external doors which match those that lead into the main chamber	Original	H	
Floor	Solid not seen		Unknown	
Carpet	Broadloom blue	Late 20th century	N	



<p>Windows</p>	<p>In West wall three solid timber frame timber elbow lining chamfered and beaded timber architraves fixed coloured letter glass</p>	<p>Original</p>	<p>E</p>	
<p>Exterior</p>				
<p>Roof</p>	<p>Glazed terracotta tile Marseille pattern main building on the hall colour bond</p>	<p>Mid and Late 20th century</p>	<p>M</p>	

Eaves gutters	Quad pattern colour bond	Late 20th century	L
Eaves fascia	Timber 31 x 200 approximately beaded	Original	E
Parapet	Face common brick with rendered cement moulded coping. The coping to the buttresses projects above the parapet and it's finished in moulded cement. The apex has a cement finial with a sphere on top.	Original	E
Walls	Face common brick stretcher bond as for cavity construction. Cement rendered bands at the level of the door height window head eaves parapet base and upper parapet. The apex of the parapet is decorated with a panel of chequerboard floral designs carried out in render	Original	E
Base	Face common solid brick in English bond with special moulded chamfered step in course	Original	E
Front steps	Brick wall, rendered To wall, pipe handrail shapes with special and fitments to the post and the wall, marble trades and rises,	Original	H
1940 entry porch	Face red brick with a Deco style stepped parapet to right side steps pipe handrail aluminium awning	1930s the awning maybe 1950s.	M



<p>Front fence</p>	<p>Solid face brick piers and inside wall with bullnose. The piers are capped in Sydney sandstone quarry faced. Above the brick wall is a wrought steel decorative panel. Behind the fence is a brick planter box.</p> <p>There is a terrazzo tread at the gates.</p>	<p>The wall, tread and gates appear to be 1930s. The planter box, 1950s.</p>	<p>M</p>	
<p>Other</p>	<p>To the former northern entry door the steps have been bricked up in common brickwork in the middle late 20th century</p>		<p>I</p>	
	<p>Timber framed church sign board</p>	<p>1930s?</p>	<p>M</p>	

	Metal pipe signboard in front of the main windows	Late 20th century	I	
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