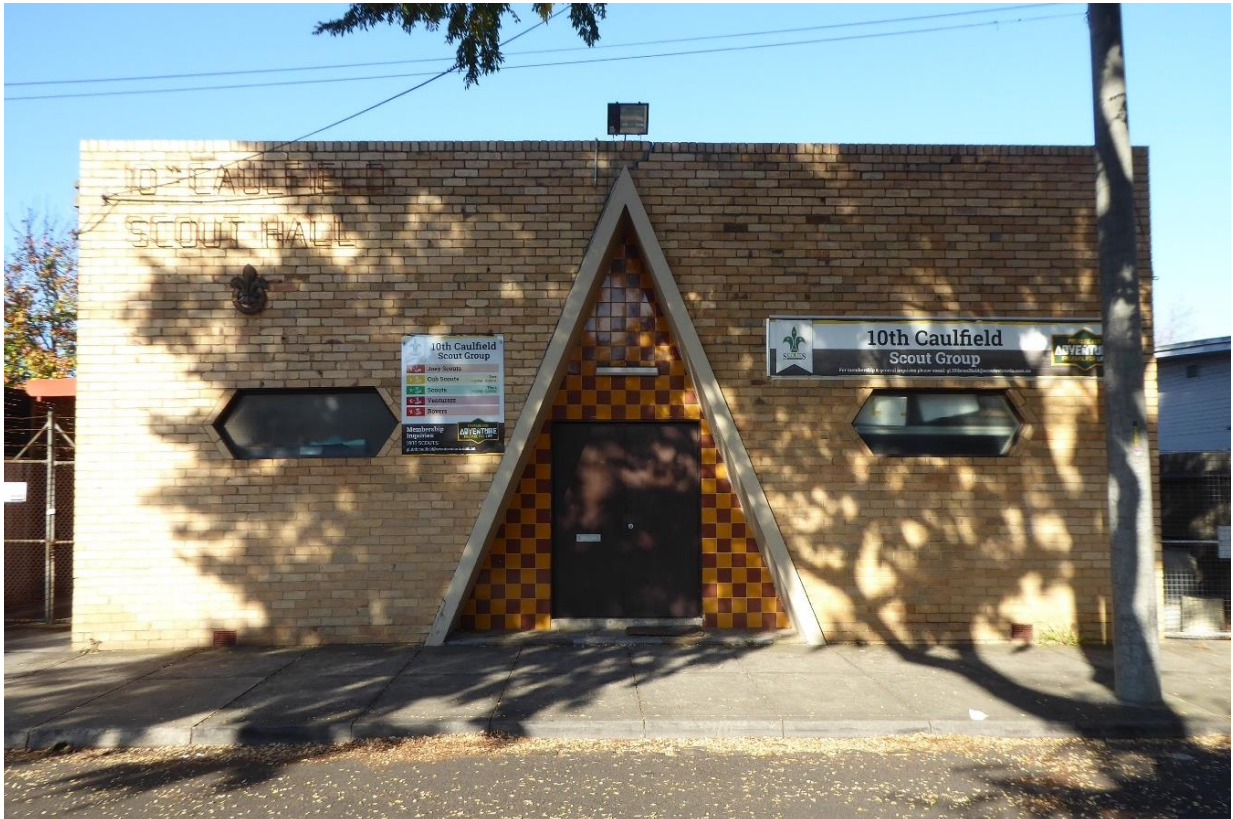


10th CAULFIELD SCOUT HALL

Address	2 Miller Street, Elsternwick
Significance	Local
Construction Dates	Circa 1959
Period	Post-WWII
Date Inspected	Late 2018



Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The single storey brick building, known as the 10th Caulfield Scout Hall, including raised metal sign and fleur-de-lys to the upper left part of the façade, at 2 Miller Street, Elsternwick, is significant.

How is it Significant?

The 10th Caulfield Scout Hall at 2 Miller Street, Elsternwick, is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Glen Eira.

Why is it Significant?

The 10th Caulfield Scout Hall at 2 Miller Street, Elsternwick is of historical significance as an illustration of the noted post-WWII expansion of the Boy Scout movement in the Caulfield district. The building was constructed in circa 1959 for the scout troop in the wake of an earlier timbered hall at the site (erected 1956) having been destroyed by fire. (Criterion A)

The 10th Caulfield Scout Hall at 2 Miller Street, Elsternwick, is of aesthetic significance as a striking member of the group of post-WWII scout halls built in the municipality. It is distinguished by the façade articulation of a central triangular tent-like entrance,

and flanking lozenge-shaped windows, reflecting the interest in pure or distinct geometric form and colour, which was a feature of contemporary Modernist design, particularly in Melbourne. (Criterion E)

The 10th Caulfield Scout Hall at 2 Miller Street, Elsternwick, is of social significance for its long-standing association with the 10th Caulfield Scouts and the enduring legacy of the movement in the municipality. (Criterion G)

Description

The 10th Caulfield Scout Hall is a single storey brick building that consists of two distinct sections – a striking cream brick façade to Miller Street and a red brick hall with broad gable roof to the rear, clad in corrugated sheet metal.

The rectangular façade has a short return, and is slightly wider than the hall, so that directly in front it is obscured and the impression is of a cuboid form. The façade is two bricks in depth with the outer skin being cream brick and the inner skin being red brick, evident from the side, as per the main hall. The brickwork is in stretcher bond with the coping course being a rowlock course (headers).

The façade is symmetrical with bold articulation, featuring a central triangular, tent-like entrance bay flanked on each side by a lozenge (elongated hexagon) shaped window, orientated horizontally, with translucent glass. The tall triangular entrance is framed in concrete, which projects forward of the wall. Recessed within are flush, double doors surrounded by square brown and orange tiles in a checkerboard pattern. The step is clad in irregular stone ('crazy') paving. The design is indicative of post-WWII Modernism when there was an interest in pure or distinct geometric forms, particularly in Victoria. In addition, a bold use of colour was another feature associated with the Melbourne brand of Modernism.¹

To the upper left corner of the façade is raised metal signage identifying the place and the fleur-de-lys (the insignia of the Scouts association). There is a small metal vent either side of the entranceway to the lower part of the wall. Non-original features of the façade include a spotlight that has been introduced over the entranceway, and a metal framed placard above the window to the right of the entrance.



From the east



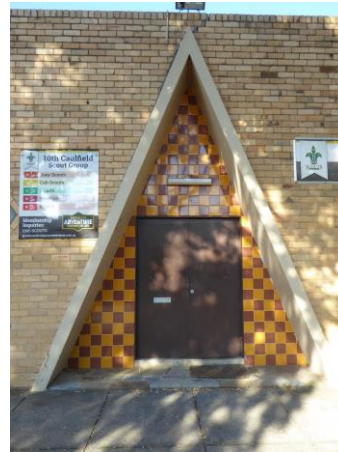
From the west

The western elevation is divided into six bays by brick piers with each bay featuring a timber framed window with brick lintels. There are metal grilles attached to the northern two windows and the fourth bay features a chimney. The rear half of the elevation is obscured by a row of tall conifers located on the adjacent lot. The eastern elevation appears to have the same format of that to the west, except for the chimney, although it is obscured from view by a series of cantilevered skillion roofed carport awnings. Since its construction, the Hall has been little altered.

¹ Modernism was inspired by the declarations of the *Congrès internationaux d'architecture moderne* (international congress of modern architecture, CIAM), an organisation of prominent architects – dominated by Le Corbusier – active in Europe between 1928-56. Adopted internationally (hence, often referred to as the International Style in Australia), it was originally characterised by the rejection of historical associations, employment of planar forms and embracement of non-traditional materials. Several strands evolved. By the late 20th century, it could also refer to design that referenced historic examples of modernism.



Signage and insignia



Front entry



West elevation



West elevation, north end
Outer red brick skin of façade evident

History

The subject allotment initially belonged to a 2 acre (0.8 ha) part of Section A of Elsternwick Village, which was reserved for the Church of England in 1852; a common practice in 19th century town planning.² Elsternwick Village was surveyed in 1851 by Robert Hoddle and again in 1856 by Henry B Foot, and is now roughly split between the suburbs of Brighton and Elsternwick.³ It consisted of a compact and elongated section of 'level wet land' bound by Davis Street in the north, Glenhuntly Road in the south, a public reserve in the west (over the late 19th century Elsternwick Racecourse, before being developed as Elsternwick Park) and the St Kilda and Brighton railway (Sandringham) line in the east.⁴

While initially situated on the periphery of suburban Melbourne, beyond the more settled environs of Prahran and St Kilda, the ready availability of considerable allotments in Elsternwick and the early private establishment of its railway station (1859) proved attractive to the genteel and affluent. Alongside dairies and market gardens, a patchwork of prestige estates, 'private houses of a superior character standing in pleasure grounds',⁵ were erected from the 1860s. The government takeover of the railway line (1878), which improved services, and speculative activities of the land boom stimulated a more intensive phase of subdivision and development in the suburb over the 1880s. Along the major roads and across the former grounds of handsome mansions, rows of generally high-quality detached houses multiplied and dedicated shopping strips emerged. Following the general building hiatus of the 1890s Depression, a decidedly middle-class suburb consolidated with little unused land available by the early

² *Elsternwick Village and Allotments of N & S Elwood*, 1851, PROV, VPRS 8168, P0005

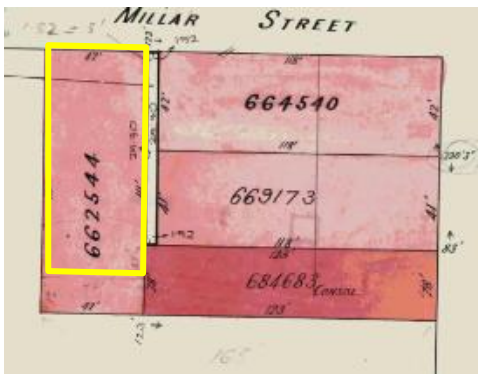
³ Peter Murray and John C Wells, *From sand, swamp and health: a history of Caulfield*, Blackburn, J & D Burrows for City of Caulfield, 1980, p109

⁴ *Village of Elsternwick*, Parish of Prahran, Department of Crown Lands Office, 8 August 1857, SLV, <<http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/156244>>, accessed 26 August 2019

⁵ Andrew Garran, *Picturesque atlas of Australasia*, Sydney, Picturesque Atlas Publishing Company, 1888, p148

1930s.⁶ While infill and redevelopment was relatively limited in post-WWII period Elsternwick, where it did occur it often reflected the contemporary modernist aesthetic, which is a noteworthy subtheme in the development of the municipality.

In 1878, the Church of England trustees of Section A requested and were granted permission to 'dispose' of the property, at time of which it was recorded as vacant.⁷ The reserve was then progressively broken up in a series of subdivisions, some of which were developed residentially or continued to be utilised by the church (St Clement's, the existing church was erected in 1915) 1915). The subject allotment was demarcated in circa 1911.⁸ By 1922, following multiple owners, it was transferred from John Lee Anderson of 7 McCombie Street to Caulfield City Council.⁹ Whether this was a sale or some type of donation/gift is unclear.



1911 subdivision of the Church reservation at corner of Millar and McCombie streets
Subject allotment outlined in yellow
(Source: Certificate of Title, vol. 3529, folio 652)

The first Scout Hall

The subject site remained vacant until 1956, when a timber hall to the design of local architect, John William G Haller, was constructed with an address to Miller Street.¹⁰ This action appears to have been prompted by the committee of the 10th Caulfield Scout Group, who two years prior had requested tenders for the 'erection of a timber scout hall and amenities building'.¹¹ Haller's hall (the predecessor to the existing hall) cost £5,000 and was identified as being 'a contemporary style wooden building'.¹²



1945 aerial photograph
The subject allotment, indicated by the red arrow, appears undeveloped
(Source: Landata, *Melbourne and Metropolitan Area Project*, Run 15, Frame 57787)

⁶ Peter Murray and John C Wells, *From sand, swamp and health: a history of Caulfield*, Blackburn, J & D Burrows for City of Caulfield, 1980, p110

⁷ NB – date for the reservation of the land herein ('Application for Leave to Dispose of Church Lands: Victoria, Act 391, First Schedule, *Victorian Government Gazette*, 10 May 1878, p1041)

⁸ Certificate of Title, vol. 3529, folio 652 – Annie Wise acquired the subject allotment in 1911 and sold off a small section of its southern end (Certificate of Title, vol. 3538, folio 455)

⁹ Certificate of Title, vol. 4206, folio 164

¹⁰ 'Scout Equipment Lost in Blaze', *Age*, 3 November 1958, p10

¹¹ 'Advertising: 10th Caulfield Scout Group Committee', *Argus*, 16 January 1954, p29

¹² 'Scout Equipment Lost in Blaze', *Age*, 3 November 1958, p10

The existing Scout Hall

In November 1958, this timber hall was damaged by an accidental fire.¹³ Although repairs were made, it was again devastated by a second fire just a few months later in January 1959, along with the nearby original St Clement's church and hall (erected 1886), which required the demolition of the original hall.¹⁴

By late 1959 however, a new Scout Hall – this time of brick – was reported as having been constructed and in use at the site.¹⁵ The swiftness of the built response was indicative of the strength of the organisation in the municipality, and presumably the high esteem in which the 10th Caulfield Scout Troop were held in locally.

The decidedly modernist character of the new scout hall is suggestive of an architect. However, no individual or practice has been identified. It is possible that Haller, known to be active into the 1970s, could have again been commissioned or, in an approach witness at other scout sites in Caulfield around the time, the Scout Building Committee (VIC) may have overseen the design.¹⁶

This last development at the subject place occurred within a broad and, of late, increasingly recognised theme of progressive architecture which was in operation across the municipality during the post-WWII period. While predominantly associated with Melbourne's eastern suburbs, Modernism also formed a key thread in the development of the City of Glen Eira, particularly Elsterwick and Caulfield proper, between the 1950s and 1970s. As architectural historian Phillip Goad makes clear, the district was not just a 'safe haven for the speculative house builder'. Crucial to the introduction of non-traditional design into the area was the influx of Jewish residents from the Interwar period, many of whom were immigrants and familiar with European examples of Modernism. This provided commissions for émigré architects (many of whom were themselves Jewish) as well as progressive Australian-born designers and practices.¹⁷



1970 aerial photograph
The existing Scout Hall is identified by the red arrow
(Source: Landata, *Traffic Survey*, March 1970 Project, Run 3B, Frame 115)

Boy Scout movement in Caulfield

The Boy Scout movement had been founded in Britain as a youth organisation by Robert S S Baden-Powell (1857-1941), a British officer who had achieved international status for his defence of the town of Mafeking during the Second Boer War. A series of his popular publications, notably *Scouting for Boys* (1908), became the catalyst for the formation of a new body that

¹³ 'Scouts Equipment Lost in Blaze', *Age*, 3 November 1958, p10

¹⁴ '£10,000 Fire at Elsterwick', *Age*, 30 January 1959, p3

¹⁵ 10th Caulfield Scout Group, 'History', <www.10thcaulfieldscouts.org.au/about-us/history/>, accessed 26 August 2019

¹⁶ For example, a building committee was responsible for the design of the 12th Caulfield Boy Scouts Hall at 1 Beavis Street, Elsterwick (PROV Public Building File, VPRS 7882, P1, Unit 1289)

¹⁷ Goad comments, 'Such domestic architecture, gleaming, 'maintenance-free', and decidedly non-referential in its language and forms, must have at the time, seemed almost alien in the otherwise conventional suburban setting'. (Phillip Goad (curator), *Notable and Modern: Postwar Domestic Architecture in the City of Glen Eira*, catalogue [exhibition held at Glen Eira Art Gallery], 2001)

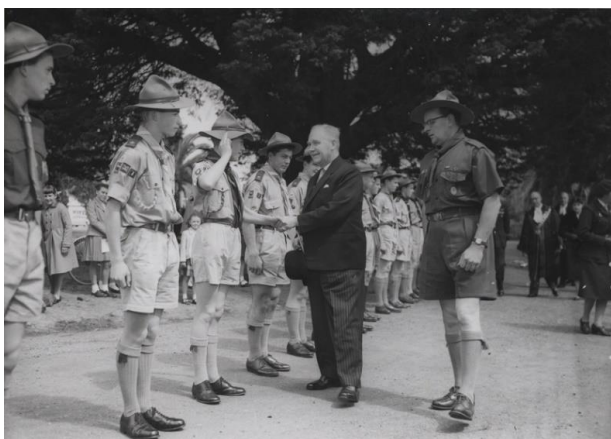
would consolidate as The Boys Scout Association in 1910 (Baden-Powell also helped establish the Girls Scouts with his sister). With a focus on the promotion of practical self-reliance for adolescent males and the cultivation of empire loyalism, the Scouts had 'exploded into a world-wide movement' within several years of its founding.¹⁸

In Victoria, an ad hoc troop was in action at the Tooronga Road State School, Caulfield, by 1907 (informed by the instructions/ethos of Baden-Powell's publications).¹⁹ By June 1908, this group had formed officially as the 1st Caulfield Scouts and is recognised as the state's first scout body. The movement spread progressively across urban and country regions so that by the close of the Inter-war period, the Victorian Branch of the British Boy Scouts (now Scouts Victoria) was considered both a prominent and populous organisation within the state.²⁰

Following the disruptions of WWII, the Scouts engaged in a period of conscious expansion, particularly in regard to the construction of purpose-built scout halls. In Victoria alone, twenty new Scout troops had been proclaimed by 1951, most of which were accompanied by a new hall.²¹ The Caulfield district was a microcosm of this wider growth.

The 10th Caulfield Scout Troop were established in 1952 with a specific aim of catering for Jewish boys.²² Caulfield's Jewish population, which had expanded gradually over the 20th century from the 'spill over' of St Kilda's large and historic community, grew rapidly over the late 1940s and 1950s, augmented by a national program of post-WWII immigration.²³ Prior to the building of the first hall at the subject site, the 10th Caulfield troop – with a membership of around 28 (and a long waiting list) – had been accommodated in the halls of the 4th and 5th Caulfield troops (respectively 1A Birch Street, Elsternwick, built in 1950, and 1232R Glenhuntly Road, Glen Huntly, erected in 1932).²⁴

The Boy Scouts maintain an enduring presence within the municipality, with several troops – including the 10th Caulfield Scout Troop at their 1959 built hall – still active.



(Left to right) 1957 photographs of Caulfield-based Boy Scouts taking part in celebrations to mark both 50 years of scouting in the area as well as the centenary of the Caulfield Road District (established 1857)

(Source: Glen Eira Historical Society, Victorian Collections, 024)

¹⁸ Olave Baden-Powell, *Window on my Heart: The autobiography of Olave, Lady Baden-Powell G.B. E as told to Mary Drewery*, London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1973, p88

¹⁹ Wayne Murdoch, 'Boy Scouts', *eMelbourne*, School of Historical & Philosophical Studies, The University of Melbourne, July 2008, <<http://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM00226b.htm>>, accessed 26 August 2019

²⁰ A R Milne and C B Heward, *Those Boy Scouts: a story of scouting in Victoria*, Hawthorn, Victorian Scout Archives in association with Huson Publishing, 1987, passim

²¹ Milne and Howard, *Those Boy Scouts*, p131

²² Boy Scouts' Association (Australia): Victorian Branch, *Scouting in Caulfield, 1957-1958 jubilee year*, Caulfield, Boys Scouts' Association, 1958, p5

²³ Jill Barnard, 'Caulfield', *eMelbourne*, School of Historical & Philosophical Studies, The University of Melbourne, July 2008, <<http://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM00310b.htm>>, accessed 26 August 2019

²⁴ Boy Scouts' Association *Scouting in Caulfield*, p20

Thematic Context/Comparative Analysis

City of Glen Eira Heritage Management Plan – vol. 1 (Historical Background):

- Epilogue (1940s onwards)

Known comparable places in the City of Glen Eira

Caulfield witnessed a relative surge in the establishment of Boy Scout infrastructure in the post-WWII period, a number of which employed a Modernist idiom. Two scout halls, constructed at a similar time to the subject site in the municipality are included within precincts listed in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay but are both identified as non-contributory. Whilst largely intact, they are also less distinctive:

- 12th Caulfield Boy Scouts Hall, 1 Beavis Street, Elsternwick (non-contributory in HO72, Elsternwick Estate & Environs) – cream brick hall built in circa 1958 with the 12th Caulfield Building Committee responsible for overseeing its design.²⁵ It has a broad gable roof and inset entrance area with random stone cladding.
- 2nd Caulfield Scouts, 702 Inkerman Road, Caulfield North (non-contributory in HO14, Caulfield North Estate and Environs) – similar, although smaller to the 12th Caulfield Scout Hall, it has a broad roof and an inset entrance.

There are also other post-WWII Scout Halls in the municipality that are not included in a heritage overlay:

- 4th Caulfield Scouts Hall, 1A Birch Street, Caulfield South – a smaller cream brick building with a tall parapet that obscures the rear part. It is similar to the subject site however the façade has regular openings. Built 1950.²⁶
- 15th Brighton Scout, 6 Wolsley Street, Bentleigh – erected in circa 1966,²⁷ this single storey Scout Hall features a similar flat façade with tall parapet in front of a long rectangular hall. The building, well setback from the street, has a stone like articulation (presumably in concrete) with a side entrance.

Condition

Excellent

Integrity

Highly intact

Previous Assessment

N grade, not significant – Andrew Ward, *Glen Eira Heritage Management Plan*, Field Survey Sheet 12, 1996

Heritage Overlay Schedule Controls

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Outbuildings and/or Fences	No

²⁵ Public Building File, PROV, VPRS 7882, P1, Unit 1289

²⁶ *Sands and McDougall's Directory*, 1950

²⁷ Public Building File, PROV, VPRS 7882, P1, Unit 1918

Extent of Heritage Overlay

The proposed extent of the heritage overlay would be the parcel of land associated with 2 Miller Street, Elsternwick.



Recommended extent of the heritage overlay
(Source: Nearmap, February 2019)