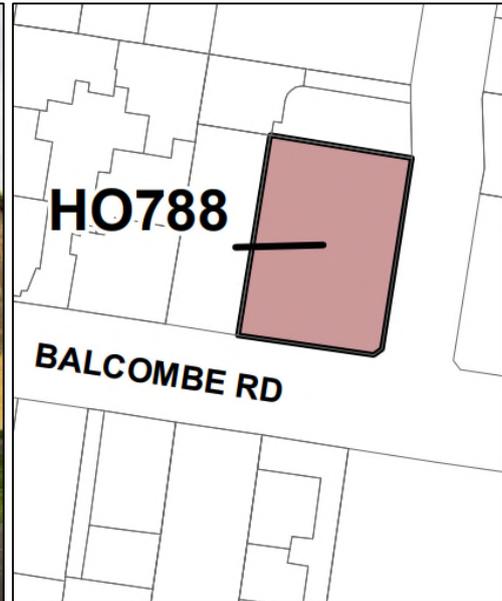


Statement of Significance: Black Rock Hall - 574-576 Balcombe Road, Black Rock, November 2020

Heritage place: <i>Black Rock Hall</i> 574-576 Balcombe Road, Black Rock	PS ref no: HO788
--	-------------------------



What is Significant?

Black Rock Public Hall at 574-576 Balcombe Road, Black Rock, constructed in 1962 to designs by Bates Smart McCutcheon, is significant. The generous setback from Balcombe Street and landscaping along the eastern portion of the site also contributes to the significance of the place.

Significant elements include:

- The original built form and scale of the building;
- The original pattern of fenestrations, unpainted face brickwork with clinker brick base;
- The generous setback and flagpole;
- The mature Elm (*Ulmus* sp.).

The alteration to the western wall of the foyer (secondary wing) is not significant.

How is it significant?

Black Rock Public Hall is of local historical, representative (architectural) and social significance to the City of Bayside.

Why is it significant?

The Black Rock Public Hall is historically significant as tangible evidence of the municipal improvements program commenced by the former City of Sandringham in the late 1950s, which saw the local council establish new facilities for community use across the municipality. The new interest in contemporary architecture during this period saw councils across Victoria engaging prominent architectural firms, and often commissioning the same architects, to design multiple buildings throughout their municipalities. The Black Rock Public Hall is also historically significant as one of a limited number of civic buildings that Bates, Smart & McCutcheon designed, as preferred architects for the former City of Sandringham. (Criterion A)

The Black Rock Public Hall is a largely intact, good representative example of a Modernist architect-designed civic building. With its simple composition of box-like forms with flat roofs, expressed structure, large areas of cream face brick and glazing, it demonstrates principle characteristics of the International Modern architectural style employed by Bates, Smart & McCutcheon during the 1950s and 1960s. It is notable as an example of Bates, Smart & McCutcheon's existing civic work in the former City of Sandringham and is distinguished from their other commissions as a more intact and refined example of their work. This is particularly evident in the use of a red clinker brick foundation level with the above blond brick projecting slightly over it, giving a sense that the building is floating, and refined brick work detailing and finishes. (Criterion D)

The Black Rock Public Hall is of social significance for its long and continuing associations with the local Black Rock and wider Bayside community. Since its construction in 1962, the Black Rock Public Hall has been an important gathering place for local community groups for a range of activities and events, including exhibitions, performances and community meetings. This longstanding use by local community groups consistent with the original purpose of the place demonstrates a strong social association with the Black Rock community. (Criterion G)

Primary source

Mid-Century Modern Heritage Study – Council-owned places 2020