

# MOUNT HAWTHORN COMMUNITY CENTRE, MOUNT HAWTHORN



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Mount Hawthorn Community Centre
Other names	Mount Hawthorn Main Hall Mount Hawthorn Lesser Hall Braithwaite Community Centre
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	27565
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	197 Scarborough Beach Rd
Locality	Mount Hawthorn
Survey	LOT: 273 D/P: 3642
Vol/folio	679/58
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	<b>Considerable</b> Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/authenticity.
Management category	<b>Category 2</b> Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place.
Statement of significance	<p>The place has aesthetic value for its demonstration of the Post War International Style applied to a Community facility and a landmark in the streetscape.</p> <p>This place and its setting within mature and expansive gardens provide a marked contrast to the adjacent built up urban environment and Scarborough Beach Road.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the development of the Mt Hawthorn community in the period following World War Two as the land north west of the city of Perth was subdivided and developed.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the Braithwaite family who made a significant contribution to the management and design of the parks and gardens in the area now overseen by the City of Vincent.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with architects Ean McDonald &amp; Whittaker who were prominent architects in the post war period.</p> <p>The place has social value for many members of the community as it has been the venue for a wide range of community and private events since its construction.</p> <p>The hall has social value for its ongoing presence in the streetscape and therefore contributes to the community sense of place.</p>

PLACE USE	
<b>Original use</b>	Social/Recreational: Community Hall
<b>Current use</b>	Social/Recreational: Community Hall
<b>Other use</b>	
CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
<b>Construction date</b>	c1961; 1990s
<b>Walls</b>	Painted Brick Concrete Block
<b>Roof</b>	Corrugated Sheet Metal
<b>Architectural Style</b>	Post War International
<b>Physical description</b>	<p>The Mount Hawthorn Community Centre is a two storey brick construction featuring a shallow pitched roof clad with corrugated sheet metal. The building presents with a strong horizontal elements and blocks of contrasting coloured bricks and glass walling. It is consistent with the typical features of the Post War International style. A later addition on the north east corner is reflective of the original colour palette but uses concrete block rather than bricks.</p> <p>The building is set within the well established Braithwaite Park Gardens that features many mature trees around the perimeter of the building.</p>
<b>Condition</b>	Good
<b>Integrity</b>	High
<b>Authenticity</b>	High

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The land on which the Mount Hawthorn Community Centre is located was acquired by the City of Perth in 1928 and 1929. It comprises two lots which are designated separately to the remainder of the site which is reserved for public recreation. Braithwaite Park in which the centre is located was named to recognise the City of Perth Gardener George John (Jack) Braithwaite (c1865-1936) from 1896 to 1936, and his son Henry Norman (John) Braithwaite (1899-1959) who took over from his father as head gardener for the City of Perth. John Braithwaite, and his wife Bessie lived in Fairfield Street Mount Hawthorn and his death in 1959 may have been the impetus to name the park in honour of the Braithwaite family.

The City of Perth recognised the degree of development in the region in the post war period and in 1958 secured a loan to build a community centre.

Architects Ean McDonald & Whitaker were engaged in 1958 to prepare plans for the community centre, and its design is similar to other community centres constructed in this period. On 21st November 1960, the tender of W.H. Ralph and Son for £45,444 was accepted and construction occurred throughout 1961 with structural engineers Leon Halpern part of the consultancy team.

In 1961, the Mount Hawthorn Community Centre was opened and the building was used regularly since then for a diverse range of community and civic events, and private functions.

In the 1990s, the community centre was refurbished to bring the building up to contemporary standards, and add a library for the community.

Aerial photographs since the mid 20th century indicate that there have been additions to the north of the building to accommodate new functions and services offered to the community.

The building continues to be used for a wide range of regular events and activities as well as providing a function space for hire.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION		
<b>Historic theme</b>	Cultural Life: Recreation - Arts, Culture and Entertainment	
<b>Associations</b>	Jack Braithwaite Henry Norman Braithwaite Ean McDonald & Whittaker W.H.Ralph and Son Leon Halpern	City of Perth Head Gardener City of Perth Gardener and Mt Hawthorn resident Architects Builder Structural Engineer
<b>Sources</b>	Landgate aerial photographs City of Vincent Local History Collection Mount Hawthorn Community Centre, pamphlet for opening ceremony, 1961. City of Vincent Local History Collection	

### ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGES



**Community Centre 1968. City of Vincent Local History Centre, image 1031331**