

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 47 Cole Street Sorell 7172		UPI: 2902503	PID: 7365416
Name: SORELL MEMORIAL HALL			
Feature Type: Hall	Structure Type	Site Feature Type	Dating: 1945 - 1952
			Access Restrictions: Restricted
			Inspection Date: October 96 P Davies
			Style: Post War Modern
		Grid ref: 5426 545800 5263200	
Indication of Significance: Probable Significance		Theme: Halls Entertainment	
Material:	Brick	Corrugated iron	Listings:
Condition:	Good	Fair	
Integrity:	Intact		
National Estate Criteria:	A4 B4 C2 D2 G1		Photograph Index: 1:16, 19-20; 3:19
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☒	Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The only 'modern' building to be constructed in Sorell in the post war years reflecting the confidence in the future. The form of the building while somewhat clumsy in execution contains the key elements of the style including the round end bays of brick with long narrow windows without mullions, the strong horizontal bands of brickwork, particularly the band above the windows which is supported on a concrete slab and overhangs the other elements, the use of parapeted form to hide roofs (unsuccessfully done as the main auditorium roof is clearly visible destroying the strong linear aspect of the building) the detail around the entry, the asymmetrical design of the building, the central massing of the entry. The entry doors have been altered to aluminium units. The building is a very strong architecture element in the streetscape and is set behind a formal drive, lawn and monuments.

HISTORY:

The foundation stone of the Sorell Memorial Hall was laid by Governor Sir Ronald Cross in January 1952 and opened in 1954 with a debutantes' ball with the debutantes being presented to the Governor, Sir Gerald Strickland. The hall was conceived by the Council as a memorial to Sorell men and women who had served during World War II and the various war memorials from other conflicts were moved to the front of it after its opening. The hall has been an important social gathering place, particularly in its early years with dances being held there on Saturday nights. Until increased leisure time, wealth, motor vehicle usage and television ownership the hall was an essential social outlet and venue for the people of the town and the surrounding district.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by the street frontage to Cole St, the property boundary to the east, a line following the access road to the west and a line approximately 10 metres behind the building to the north. The site is within a conservation precinct.

COMMENTS:

Sorell Hall is the only building of its type in the Municipality and represents the movement of the area into modern architecture following the Second World War. The building while somewhat clumsy in design contains key elements of the modern movement with round end bays, parapets and strong horizontal lines. It is also significant the modern elements of the building only pertain to the facade structure with the main hall behind in traditional form.

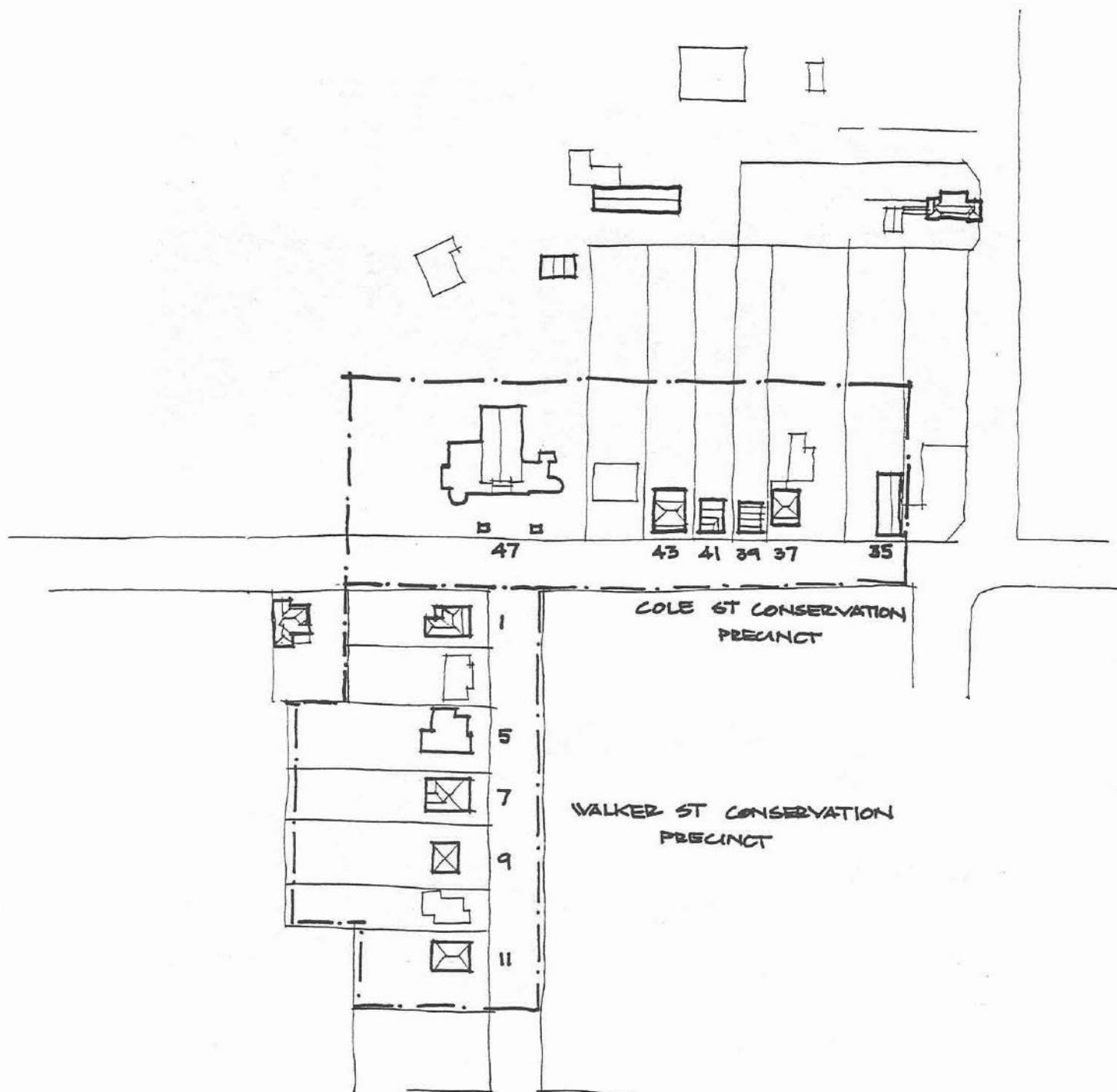
It meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, D2 and G1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. It should be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

Sorell Council Minutes AB 763/7, p307, p564

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