

Address: 60 Dalhousie Street		Item No. 39	Page No. 1/6
Name of Building: Ella Community Centre			
Former Name: Haberfield Methodist Church			
Owner:			
Lessee/s:		Current Use/s: Community Centre	
Date of Construction: 1908	Architect: A. M. Allan Summer Hill	Builder: A. M. Allan	
<p>History: The foundation stone for a new Methodist Church at Haberfield was laid on 15 February 1908. The new church was part of the Summer Hill-Lewisham Circuit, then in the charge of the Rev. J. G. Middleton. The church was formally opened on 6 May 1908, and a contemporary report said it was erected "after the modified Gothic style of architecture". The building cost £750 and the architect, Mr. A. M. Allan, gave his services "gratuitously". He also sold the church the land on which it was erected, but in this case the cost was £300. The choir at the opening service was conducted by F. O. Hedger, later a Mayor of Ashfield, whose memory is perpetuated by one of the stained glass windows in the building.</p> <p>The Ella Community Centre was established in the former church building in 1974.</p>			
<p>References: The Methodist, 29 February 1908 and 25 May 1908. <i>Speed the Plough.</i></p>			
<p>Description: The church was built as a simple free standing rectangular face brick form, four bays long with buttressed side walls. It had a parapeted roof gable at the street front, with prominent kneelers at the lower ends of the parapet coping and finial at the apex. There was small and shallow gabled entrance motif with a pointed arched doorway, flanked by a pair of two light pointed arch windows with label moulds. Above the entrance were two small round windows and, high in the gable, a pointed arched ventilator. At the front corners were two diagonal buttresses.</p> <p>Later the building was sympathetically extended to six bays in length, and a substantial lateral hall structure was erected at the rear. It is not known when the front buttresses were altered. The facade of the building, as refurbished in the 1970s, is an eaved gable with exposed purlin ends. A modern, larger, steel flat roofed lobby and two covered entries now extend across the front, flush with the building line. This ensemble has brick walling of dark hue, a metal framed central rectangular window with a base spandrel of sandstone veneer, a broad fascia, plant boxes and steel posts. Above this the main gable has a rectangular metal framed window in a panel of dark brickwork which projects slightly from the centre of the main brown brick wall. Beside the front lobby window a public noticeboard is mounted on the wall and a cantilevered sign projects from the fascia.</p> <p>It is of interest that much of the original interior decorative scheme, including handsome ceiling panels, has been retained.</p>			
<p>Modifications: No modifications are known since the 1970s refurbishment.</p>			

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INVENTORY

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Contribution To Streetscape:	<i>Appropriate Scale/mass</i>	<i>Compatible Form/shape</i>	<i>Harmonious Style</i>	<i>Compatible Materials</i>	<i>Existing Colour Scheme</i>	<i>Existing Shop Fronts</i>
	2	2	2(5)	2(5)	3	N/A
<i>1= Excellent 2= Good 3= Fair 4= Poor 5= Disruptive</i>						
Heritage Listings	LEP	NT	AHC	Heritage Study	Other	
Statement of Significance:						
Recommendations For Conservation Action:						
<i>(a) Immediate:</i>						
Adopt an appropriate colour scheme for all painted surfaces and details. Provide a sympathetic fence and gate link southwards to the adjacent shop.						
<i>(b) Medium Term:</i>						
<i>(c) Long Term:</i>						
The 1970s addition at the front is notably unsympathetic to the character of the original building. It is recommended that long term consideration be given to rectifying this and, towards that end, the following elements are thought to be worthy of attention:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The excessively wide metal fascia; b. The colour of the dark brickwork; c. The proportion and colour of the upper window surround; d. The sandstone veneer of the front window spandrel. 						
Desirable Planning Objectives:						
Additional Comments:						

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1993 PHOTOGRAPH

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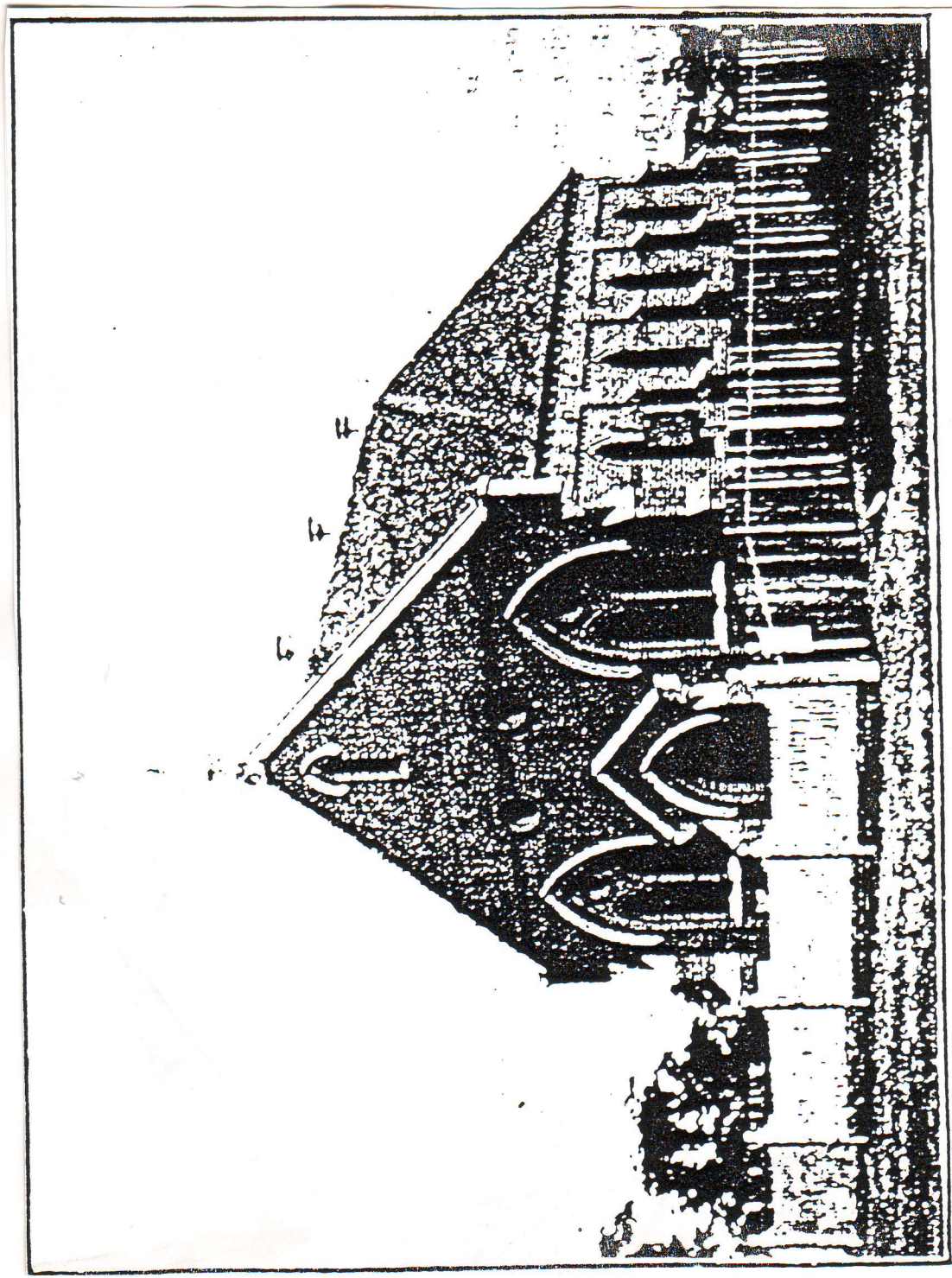
Photograph taken by
Robert Irving

Roll No. 92-084-2

Neg No.

Frame No. 13 see also
frame 14

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NEW METHODIST CHURCH, HABERFIELD.

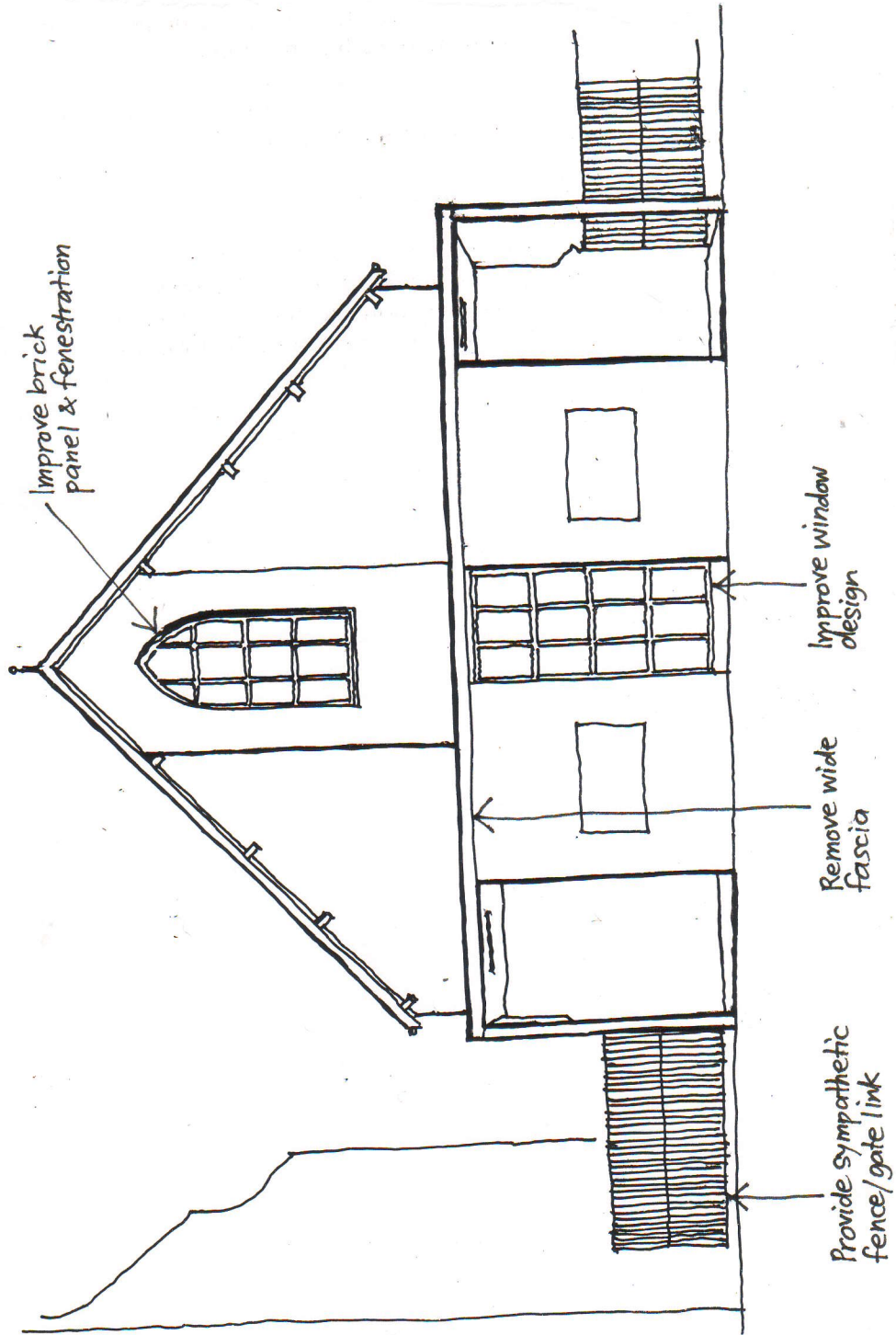
Source Methodist	Photographer Not Known	Date 25/5/1908
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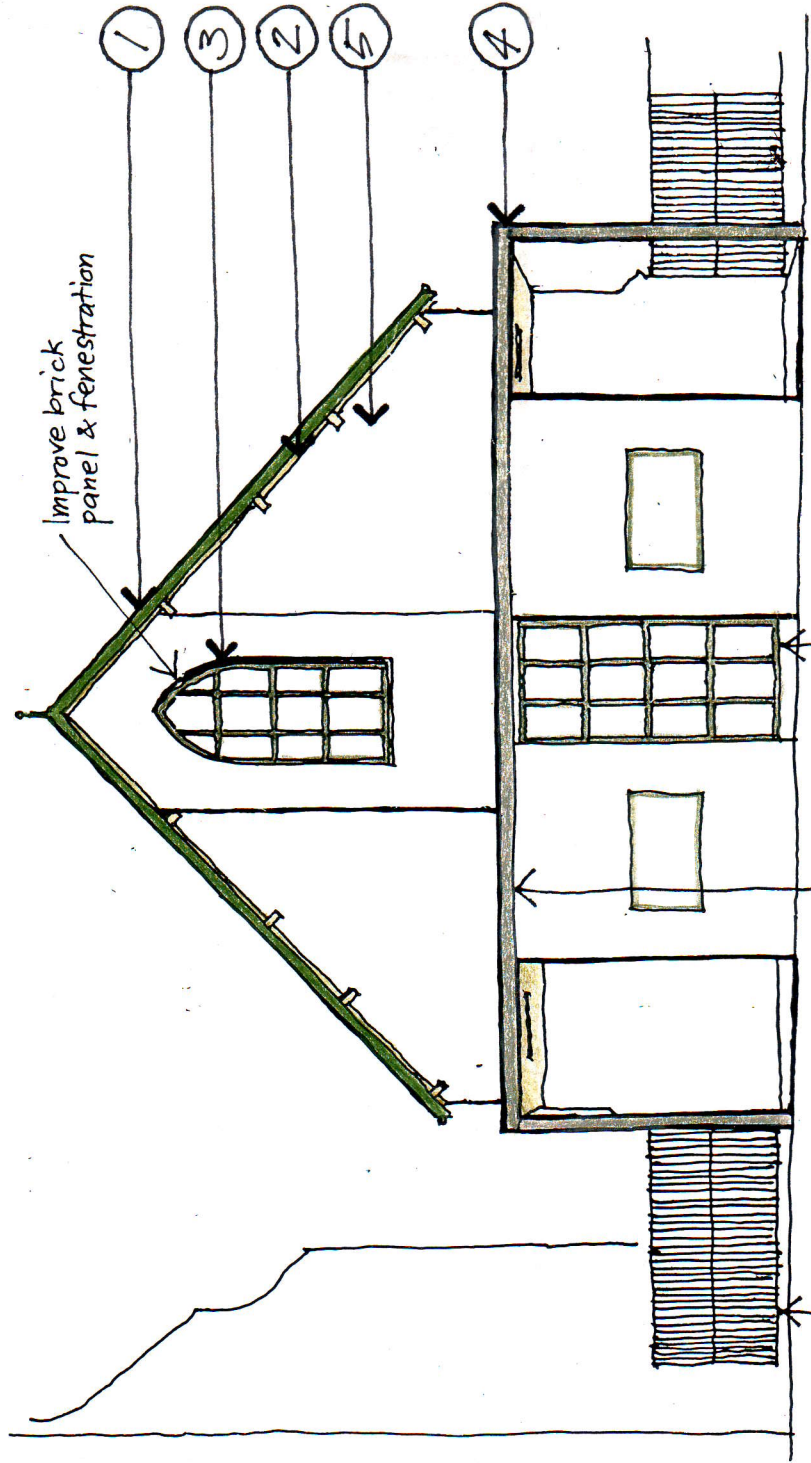
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1. MID BRUNSWICK GREEN. fascia, finial.
 2. GREY GREEN. gable soffit, perlin's, verandah soffit.
 3. SKY. window, notice board frames.



Improve brick panel & fenestration

Improve window design

Remove wide fascia

Provide sympathetic fence/gate link

FERNWOOD. porch fascia & posts. existing unpainted brickwork.