

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

536 Burwood Road

TYPE

- Single Residence
- Shop
- Office
- Landscape feature
- View
- Multiple Unit Res.
- Outbuildings
- Industrial Building
- Public building
- Other Church

TITLE

Zion Particular Baptist Church

EXISTING DESIGNATION

HBR [ ] GBR [ ] AHC [ ] NT [ ] VAS [ ]

STREETSCAPE LEVEL

1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3 [X]  
 SIGNIFICANT [ ] SIGNIFICANT [ ]  
 STREET TREES KERB & GUTTERS

GRADING

A [ ] B [X] C [ ] D [ ] E [ ]  
 KEYNOTE BUILDING [ ]

RECOMMENDED FOR

HBR/GBR [ ] AHC [X] URBAN CONSERVATION AREA [X]  
 VAS [ ] PLANNING SCHEME PROTECTION [X]  
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE [ ] OTHER [ ]

SURVEY DATE June 91.  
 NEG FILE 04.18.19.  
 Title  
 Vol.  
 Fol.

THEME

- Early Settlement
- Mansions
- Victorian Garden Suburb
- Municipal dev.
- 1870s growth
- Garden villas
- Working enclaves
- Commercial Centres
- Edwardian Prosperity
- Interwar Housing
- Flats and Offices

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Date 1884  
 Architect  
 Builder  
 Elements



- Contributing garden
- Original or early hard landscape layout
- Landmark tree (cypress pair)
- Original or early fence

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY Good [X]  
 Fair [ ]  
 Poor [ ]

CONDITION Good [X]  
 Fair [ ]  
 Poor [ ]

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden [ ]

536 BURWOOD ROAD

ZION PARTICULAR BAPTIST CHURCH

History

This building, which dates from circa 1884,<sup>96</sup> has associations with an influential group of early colonial Baptists, the Particular (or Strict) Baptists. The Zion Particular Baptist Church at 536 Burwood Road (still used for its original purposes)<sup>97</sup> is a rare survivor of this denomination. Although there were once several Particular Baptist churches in Victoria, both in urban and country areas, only a very few remain.

Recent research suggests that the Particular Baptists, a Calvinist denomination, was most probably responsible for the establishment of Melbourne's two earliest Baptist chapels - the first in Collins Street in 1862 and the second on the corner of Lonsdale and Exhibition Streets.<sup>98</sup> Only the first remains. The distinction between General and Particular Baptists came early in the history of the denomination. General Baptists believed in a general or universal atonement while the Particular Baptists held the Calvinist doctrine that the Atonement was only for the Elect. In 1633 a Particular Baptist Church was constituted in London. When Melbourne was founded, members of both Churches were among the early colonists. J.J. Mouritz of Fitzroy was a Particular Baptist. In 1856 a Zion Particular Baptist Church was built in Little Ryrie Street, Geelong. Also, during this decade, Particular Baptist Churches were opened at Preston (1853), Collingwood (1859) and Richmond.<sup>99</sup>

Baptists and Congregationalists sometimes co-operated to form Union Churches as a result of their common policy and principles. Members of the two denominations, for example, formed a Union Church in Hawthorn in 1852. This congregation continued until 1864, when the Congregationalists formed a separate fellowship and built their own church. They replaced this with a larger building in 1881, known as the Augustine Congregational Church, and in 1888 handed over their original building to the Hawthorn Baptists.<sup>100</sup>

A separate Particular, or Strict Baptist Church was formed in Henry Street, Hawthorn, by Pastor Perrin, who was succeeded by Pastors S. Ward, James Hicks and H.A. Fletton.<sup>101</sup> In June 1882, it was reported in the *Boroondara Standard*

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<sup>96</sup>. *Hawthorn and Kew Express*, 4 Nov. 1885 (Anniversary).

<sup>97</sup>. Conversation with Mrs. Fry, wife of Mr. R.E. Fry, 2 Elizabeth Street, Burwood (Particular Baptist Trustee).

<sup>98</sup>. Basil S. Brown, *Members One of Another, the Baptist Union of Victoria*. 1862-1962, Melb., 1962, p. 32.

<sup>99</sup>. Rev. F.J. Wilkin, *Baptists in Victoria*. Our First Century. 1838-1938, East Melb. 1939, pp. 51-55.

<sup>100</sup>. *Ibid.* pp. 129-130.

<sup>101</sup>. *Ibid.* p. 55.



### 536 Burwood Road continued

and correct accompanying classical detailing. Gill had undertaken a Gothic hall behind the church in East Melbourne. The Maldon Church of 1865 employed colonial Georgian styling. The Armadale church of 1898 is more akin to this example, but it is a much more complex church and includes Romanesque detailing rather than the dominant Gothic used here. This building is much more like the simple country preaching boxes of the methodists. The basic form is similar to the Coburg Wesleyan Church of 1858 which also has no porch, the Wesleyan Church at Nerring of 1865 by Doane, and the Primitive Methodist Church by McIver of 1869 at Greenvale. The simple polychrome brick detailing however owes more to the nearby Augustine Congregational church of 1880 by James Webb, which though substantially more elaborate, incorporates similar arch banding and central opening details.

Given the previous association of these groups and their close proximity it seems likely that the Augustine Church inspired this Baptist design.

### Significance

1. This circa 1884 building (which replaced two earlier Particular Baptist Chapels in Henry and Thomas Streets) has historical significance as a rare survivor of a denomination which was most probably responsible for the establishment of Melbourne's two earliest Baptist Chapels. The Baptists and Congregationalists played an important role in Hawthorn's early history, co-operating to form a Union Church there in 1852.
2. The Zion Particular Baptist Church at 536 Burwood Road illustrates the importance of religion in middle-class suburban Hawthorn in the 1880s and the wide range of religions congregating in the municipal focus around the Hill.
3. Architecturally a simple but substantially intact example of free decorated Gothic commonly applied to Wesleyan (Methodist) chapel in the nineteenth century.



### 536 Burwood Road continued

that the railway line was so close to this building that it was causing the walls to crack.<sup>102</sup> Later, in August 1883, the building was regarded as so damaged and the noise of the trains so annoying, that the Particular Baptists decide to move to a quieter site. The Railways Department paid 300 pounds for the use of the Henry Street land.<sup>103</sup> Meanwhile, since 1878, a Zion Church was listed in the Directories off Burwood road in Thomas Street<sup>104</sup> and was shown, still, in 1901-2 M.M.B.W. drainage plans. The substantial brick building at 536 Burwood road (near Hepburn Street) most probably dates from November 1884, its Anniversary being celebrated on 4 November 1885.<sup>105</sup> Although this building is listed in the 1885 Directories, it was not named the Zion Particular Baptist Church until 1896. The Thomas Street building retained the name of the Zion Church until 1889. The present Particular Baptist Church is set well back on its allotment to reduce the noise level.<sup>106</sup> Previously listed as 326 Burwood Road, it changed to its present numbering in 1918.

### Description

A polychrome brick preaching hall, austere composed without porch or covering to the entry, and with a simple rectangular nave. The principal elevation comprises an entrance door with gothic arch and implied gable, flanking lancet windows, and the principal decorative feature above the door in the form of an arched panel containing an orb and three lancet windows. The arches to all openings are banded in Romanesque form using alternating groups of three cream and red bricks. Dark brick courses, run through the facade at the two sill levels, and at the springing point of the arches.

The church is set well back from the road, and hidden behind a dense garden. In combination with the close setback to adjoining properties, these features give the overall site a mysterious quality.

### Assessment

The Baptists are recognised for a classical approach to their architecture. Joseph Reed's Collins Street Church of 1861 (1845 by Gill), the Baptist Church at Ballarat of 1866 by S.A. Doane, and the Albert Street East Melbourne church by T. Watts of 1859 all incorporate imposing classical orders

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<sup>102</sup>. *Boroondara Standard*, 1 June 1882.

<sup>103</sup>. *Ibid.* 2 August 1883.

<sup>104</sup>. *Argus* 15 Dec. 1877 (p. 10) J.F. Matthews invites tenders for the erection of Infant School-room, offices, at the new Independent Church, Hawthorn; *Argus* 23 Feb. 1878 (p. 3) Matthews, architect and surveyor, tenders invited for offers and fencing at New Independent Church, Thomas Street, Hawthorn.

<sup>105</sup>. *Hawthorn and Kew Express*. 4 Nov. 1888. The designing architect is unknown but Parker and Bird, well-known Burwood Road timber merchants, supplied the interior timbers (Mrs. R.E. Fry).

<sup>106</sup>. Conversation with Mrs. Fry.



## 544 Burwood Road continued

late 1880s, his son George was managing the family business. The city repository was in Latrobe Street, there was a factory in Fitzroy and a branch in Sandhurst.<sup>68</sup>

The building at 544 Burwood Road was listed in the 1889-90 Hawthorn rate book as a factory and two wooden rooms (NAV 60 pounds) in Burwood Road, owned by John Donnelly, coach builder.<sup>69</sup> By 1894, this building was described as an iron factory (NAV 42 pounds).<sup>70</sup> Thirza (or Theresa) Donnelly of Riversdale Road<sup>71</sup> owned two small adjacent buildings, originally listed as 334/336 and later, 540/542 Burwood Road.<sup>72</sup> On the other side of the coach factory stood a brick shop/residence (now 546 Burwood Road), owned and occupied by Harry William Baker, painter.<sup>73</sup> Donnelly's factory was listed in the Directories at the time as the Auburn Carriage Company, 338 Burwood Road. It was shown in a 1901-2 M.M.B.W. drainage plan with a front section facing Burwood Road and a rear section extending to a backlane. At this date, the adjoining shop/residence (then owned by the Australian Mutual Provident Society)<sup>74</sup> seemed to form part of the coach factory complex. Thirza Donnelly was owner still of the pair of small buildings on the other side of the coach factory.<sup>75</sup>

The association of the Lion Rubber Works with the coach factory dates from c1918 when Frederick Betteridge became its occupier. By 1920, Frank Betteridge and James Horton, of the Lion Rubber Works, were owners/occupiers.<sup>76</sup> From 1924, the rear section became the property of James Mc Culloch, manufacturer.<sup>77</sup> There seemed to be considerable alterations/additions, or rebuilding of, the front of the building in 1929-30, when the Lion Rubber Works were owners/occupiers still.<sup>78</sup> Horton was running the No. 544 as a motor tyre retreading business during the late 1930s

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<sup>68</sup>. *Victoria and Its Metropolis*, Vol. 2 (1888) p. 616.

<sup>69</sup>. Hawthorn RB 1889-90. No. 2221.

<sup>70</sup>. *Ibid.* 1894-95 No. 3730.

<sup>71</sup>. Thirza (Theresa) may have been John Donnelly's wife.

<sup>72</sup>. Hawthorn RB. 1889-90 No. 3731, 3732.

<sup>73</sup>. *Ibid.* 1884-85 No. 1462 (first listing).

<sup>74</sup>. *Ibid.* 1901-2 Glenferrie Ward No. 3745.

<sup>75</sup>. *Ibid.* Nos. 3747, 3748. Thirza's address was given in Riversdale Road.

<sup>76</sup>. See footnote 4 above.

<sup>77</sup>. See footnote 5 above.

<sup>78</sup>. See footnote 6 above.

#### 544 Burwood Road continued

and 1940s.<sup>79</sup> By 1957, No. 544 was listed in the Directories as the Lion Rubber Works service station and Associated Optical Industries P/L, spectacle frame makers. Today, the building is occupied by Jet Ski.

#### Significance

This building, although much altered, has historical significance as an industrial building, its earliest section possibly dating from 1888 or earlier. It has associations with two important local Hawthorn businesses - the Auburn Carriage company from c1888 to c1917 and the Lion rubber Works from 1918 until the 1940s. No. 544 Burwood Road is located near the 1884 Zion Particular Baptist Church, a rare survivor, and Hawthorn's important commercial/civic precinct.

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<sup>79</sup>. Melbourne Directories.