

PLACE IDENTIFICATION FORM

ADDRESS

Power Street

TYPE

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

TITLE

West Hawthorn Uniting 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 [X] Significant trees (palms)

SURVEY DATE

Oct. 91.

NEG FILE

33.26, 27

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 1910-1911.
Architect H.W. and F.B. Tompkins.
Builder J. Bennell & Sons
Elements (foundation stone laid 1910)



- Contributing garden
- Landmark tree
- Original or early hard landscape layout
- Original or early fence

NOTABLE FEATURES/SIGNIFICANCE

See attached

INTEGRITY	Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CONDITION	Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>		Fair	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>		Poor	<input type="checkbox"/>

CROSS REFERENCED INFORMATION

Associated significant garden []

POWER STREET

WEST HAWTHORN UNITING (FORMER PRESBYTERIAN) CHURCH

History

This former Presbyterian Church was constructed between 1910-1911 from the designs of the architects, H.W. and F.B. Tompkins.¹ The foundation stone of the church, built by J. Bennett and Sons, was laid in 1910.² An account of the completed building appeared in a contemporary journal in late December, 1911.³ The architects H.W. Tompkins and Christopher Cowper owned land in the prestigious Grace Park area during the period of Edwardian prosperity and were responsible for the design of a number of Edwardian residences there. Tompkins was associated between 1908 and 1910 with the design of brick villas at 22, 24 and 28 Linda Crescent.⁴

The history of the Presbyterian Church in Hawthorn is a long and important one. An inaugural meeting was held in the Town Hall in June 1864. A first modest brick church was opened in Glenferrie Road in March 1865 and extended in 1866.⁵ A new and more substantial Presbyterian Church, designed by the architect George Allan, was constructed in Glenferrie Road in 1891-92. The West Hawthorn Church commenced in 1891.

Description

A red brick and render church, of octagonal form, created by joining up the corners of a cross plan. Gables dominate each co-ordinate of the cross. At the front this includes half octagonal pilasters, terminating in pinnacles (of a device commonly used by Crouch and Wilson), a central pointed arch window and a flat arch main entry flanked by tiny gables. Parapets on the octagonal connections are executed in a squared pattern.

Assessment

The Tompkins Bros. were giants in commercial architecture in the central city in the first two decades of the twentieth century. They pioneered the use of the Baroque Revival, particularly at the Commercial Travellers Association of 1913 and the Centreway Building of 1913. Their domestic work was a secondary part of their practice, although like Christopher Cowper, they did indulge in some speculative Queen Anne at Linda Crescent in Grace Park. Churches are not a prominent part of their practice but they clearly had some connection with the Presbyterian hierarchy for this is one of at least three quite similar churches designed by them for the Presbyterian Church. The others are St. Andrews Sunbury and St. Andrews Maffra, both of 1904. Like the Hawthorn Church these two early buildings include a prominent gable with small turrets

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1. Foundation stone (1910); *Building* 12 December 1911 (p79).
 2. Ibid.
 3. Ibid.
 4. Information supplied by Gwen McWilliam.
 5. Gwen McWilliam, *Hawthorn Peppercorns*, pp. 73-74.

West Hawthorn Uniting (former Presbyterian) Church continued

flanking a three light window. this was a basic form much used by Crouch and Wilson. In front, is a horizontally emphasised entry porch, heavily buttressed and striped in render. The Maffra Church is embellished by a tower but otherwise almost exactly matches the Sunbury example. The basic entry form of the Hawthorn Church is clearly based on these early churches, but it is more adventurous in its octagonal form. The boldness of these three designs is typical Tompkins.

This building illustrates the architects robust styling, particularly in the strongly three dimensional design and octagonal form, but the gothic details are somewhat at odds with this and not a feature of their work elsewhere. The design is similar to the basic form of the earlier church by George Allan at Glenferrie Road of 1891. Although that building is executed in Romanesque styling, it incorporates a similar octagonal form and central entrance with flanking mini-pavilions (therehipped). The use of the preaching hall octagonal form with Gothic embellishment is somewhat incongruous here, but certainly striking and gives the Gothic references a refreshing new appearance.

Significance

Metropolitan

1. Architecturally significant as a rare ecclesiastical work by the twentieth century commercial giants, the Tompkins Brothers.
2. Architecturally significant for the unusual combination of octagonal preaching hall form and Gothic details.

