

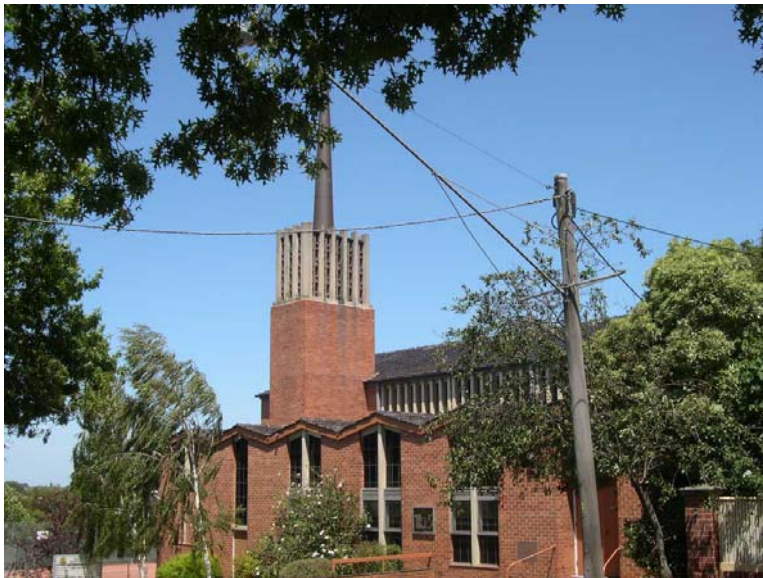
Balwyn Road Residential Precinct  
Place Citation

## 1a Balwyn Road, Canterbury

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Name	Canterbury Baptist Church		
Place	Religious		
Type			
Date	1962	Survey Date	Dec 2005
Architect	Keith Reid	Previous Grading	Not graded
Builder	Grills	Grading	D

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Intactness ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Heritage ☐ HV ☐ AHC ☐ NT ☐ BPS Heritage Overlay

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### History

This site was part of Ernst Carter's Heathfield Estate, which extended from Canterbury Road to Erica Street on the west side of Balwyn Road. It was subdivided in 1884. The site consists of allotment 6 and part of allotment 7 to Balwyn Road and allotment 31 and part of allotment 30 to Boronia Street. These allotments were purchased along with other adjoining allotments, by Eliza Colville in mid-1887.<sup>1</sup>

In February 1891, eight local men met to discuss the establishment of a Baptist Church. A public meeting was held a week later and a unanimous decision was made to pursue the proposal. Foundation members included several Balwyn Road residents including Henry Martin (no 15), the Duncan family (no 5 and 9), and Doery family (65 Mont Albert Road, later 21 and 35 Balwyn Road).<sup>2</sup>

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1 Certificate of Title, vol. 1943/fol. 462 provided by R Da Costa-Adams  
2 'Canterbury Baptist Church: 75 years, 1891-1966', pp1-5

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Land was purchased soon after and the foundation stone for the original church was laid on 20 June 1891 by Mr Robert Reid of *Belmont*, Balwyn. The existing church, which was built in 1962, includes the original foundation stone. The earlier Gothic Style church consisted of a small, central front porch and was orientated to the street. The walls were brick with rendered banding. The upper part of the arched openings and capping were also rendered. There were a series of dormer vents to the upper part of the steeply pitched roof and flues along the ridge. The building was substantially covered by a creeper in a 1958 photograph. The last service in the original church was held on 12 November 1961.

The capacity of the original church was insufficient with increasing attendances during the 1950s. An anonymous donation allowed for the construction of the existing church to the design of Keith Reid. The foundation stone was laid by S J Wortley, life deacon, on 24 February 1962 and it was dedicated on 24 November 1962. The first service was held on the following day.<sup>3</sup> The original organ, which had been installed in the earlier church in 1926, was transferred to the new church. Fergusson was responsible for the stained glass windows.

A brick Sunday school building with Gothic openings was completed in mid-1933. A youth hall was built on the site in 1958 to provide a dedicated space for the youth in the parish, whose activities had been increasing during the 1950s.

The land on which the adjoining tennis courts are located corresponds to allotments 4 and 5 of the Heathfield Estate, which were purchased by George Mercy in 1886.<sup>4</sup> The land was acquired by the Baptist Church in 1911 but remained unused for some 30 years. Consideration had been given to selling the land for residential development but two anonymous donors allowed for the construction of the two tennis courts in 1940.<sup>5</sup>

### Description & Integrity

The church is located at the north-east end of the site. It is a brick building, with the form reflecting the plan such that it is clearly recognisable as a church, consisting of aisles either side of the nave with clerestory lighting. The detailing however is indicative of a common approach to ecclesiastical architecture during the Post-War period that is designing in a simplified Modernist version of a traditional church idiom.

There is a lack of applied surface decoration however the building has been articulated in the structural materials, for example the deep ribbing to the crown (with an inner grille of crosses) and the simplified flèche on the tower, and the accentuated mullions of the clerestory and aisle windows. The pointed Gothic arch forms have been reduced to a shallow inverted V for the roofing to the aisles. The large window to the south elevation has stained glass panels.

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3 'Canterbury Baptist Church: 75 years, 1891-1966', pp31-2

4 R Da Costa-Adams, Certificate of Title, vol. 1822/fol. 354

5 'Canterbury Baptist Church: 75 years, 1891-1966', p21

## **Balwyn Road Residential Precinct Place Citation**

There are two tennis courts to the corner of the site with en-tous-cas surface. The fences have metal framing and wiring. Because of the slope, there is also a stone retaining wall to the southern end.

### **Statement of Significance**

One of several buildings within the precinct constructed post WWII which is representative of a lesser phase of development. This lesser phase of development extends to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The style of the intact church is indicative of the Post-WWII approach to ecclesiastical architecture with its simplified Modernist detailing.

Residents of the precinct were among the founding members, and the site has been in use by the Baptist Church since 1891.

### **Grading and Recommendations**

The site is part of the identified Balwyn Road Residential Precinct, which is recommended for inclusion within the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

### **Identified By**

RBA Architects + Conservation Consultants Pty Ltd

### **References**

G Butler, 'Camberwell Conservation Study', 1991  
Camberwell Library, LHCPH 1113  
Canterbury Baptist Church, 'Canterbury Baptist Church: 75 Years, 1891-1966' 1966  
R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct', January 2006