

Balwyn Road Residential Precinct
Place Citation

2 Balwyn Road, Canterbury

Name	Melrose		
Place	Residential		
Type			
Date	c1890	Survey Date	Dec 2005
Architect	Not known	Previous Grading	Not graded
Builder	Not known	Grading	C



Intactness ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Heritage ☐ HV ☐ AHC ☐ NT ☐ BPS Heritage Overlay

History

This site was part of allotment 28 of the Shrublands Estate when it was purchased by George Mercy in 1886. At the same time, Mercy also purchased adjacent land (4, 6, 8 and 8a Balwyn Road). The original driveway for the *Shrublands* mansion had extended across the rear part of this site.¹

The house, one of a pair with 4 Balwyn Road, was built c1890 as an investment property for Mercy. In 1903, the property was described as a six room house, occupied by Reverend Norwood of the Canterbury Baptist Church (opposite the site).²

By 1905, the house was identified as *Melrose*.³

Description & Integrity

The single storey brick Victorian house is rendered and painted with a decorative cornice. The façade is symmetrical with a projecting bay

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- 1 R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct'
 - 2 Rate books entry cited in R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct'
 - 3 MMBW detail plan no.2221 (1905)

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either side of the central entry. The front verandah has timber posts with a decorative cast iron frieze and brackets. The hip roof is clad in slate and has two chimneys with ornate capping. The rear of the building has a weatherboard clad section with a sheet metal skillion roof which is likely to be original.⁴ The house is partially obscured by a modern high timber and sheet metal fence.

Statement of Significance

One of several modest, late Victorian era houses which represent the first major period of development in the precinct. The house is largely intact externally and is one of a pair with no. 4 Balwyn Road.

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

R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct', January 2006

D Gibb & S Warmington, *Visions of a Village*, fig. 5 (1907 photograph of rear)

MMBW detail plan no.2221 (1905)

4 D Gibb & S Warmington, *Visions of a Village*, fig 5 a 1907 photograph of the building shows a timber clad skillion at the rear.