

Balwyn Road Residential Precinct Place Citation

4 Balwyn Road, Canterbury

Name	Rosslyn		
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 (2, 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 2 Balwyn Road, was built c1890 as an investment property for Mercy. In 1900 the property was described as a six room house, occupied by Reverend James Sowerby, the Canterbury Congregational Minister. Later it was occupied by Mercy's daughter, Nellie, and son-in-law, Rev George Gunson, another Congregational Minister.² The Congregational Church was located at 29 Balwyn Road

1 R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct'
2 Camberwell rate book entries cited in R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct'

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for about 2 years from 1890. It was then relocated to the nearby corner of Hopetoun Avenue and Canterbury Road.³

By 1905, the house was identified as *Rossllyn*.⁴ In 1907, the brick building had a timber clad, skillion roofed section at the rear.⁵

Description & Integrity

The single storey brick Victorian house is rendered and painted with a decorative cornice. The façade is symmetrical with projecting bays either side of the central entry. The front verandah, which was probably the same as that of 2 Balwyn Road, has been removed. The hip roof is clad in slate and is punctuated by two chimneys with decorative capping. The rear of the building had a weatherboard clad section with sheet metal skillion roof,⁶ and it is not known if it still exists. The house is mostly obscured by well-established planting and a modern high basalt 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, a pair with no.2 Balwyn Road, is mostly intact externally, except for the removal of the verandah.

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)

3 Sands & McDougalls and Certificate of Title, R Da Costa-Adams, personal communication 17 March 2005. The church building was timber but was demolished about 1980.

4 MMBW detail plan no.2221 (1905)

5 D Gibb & S Warmington, *Visions of a Village*, fig 5

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