

**Balwyn Road Residential Precinct
Place Citation**

15a Balwyn Road, Canterbury

Name	Uniting Church, Canterbury	Survey Date	Dec 2005
Place	Religious	Previous Grading	D
Type		Grading	D
Date	1928		
Architect	Louis Williams		
Builder	A Richardson		



Intactness Good Fair Poor

Heritage HV AHC NT BPS Heritage Overlay

History

This site was originally allotments 17-20 of the Ernst Carter's Heathfield Estate, which extended from Canterbury Road to Erica Street on the west side of Balwyn Road. The estate was subdivided in 1884 and John Maling purchased allotment 18 that year. In 1885, Henry Martin purchased allotments 17, 19 and 20. In 1887, the four allotments were sold to the Wesleyan Methodist Trustees.²

In 1890, a Methodist Church was built on the site with funding supplied by local residents.³ By 1905, the church and an adjacent building (possibly a hall) to the west of the church (towards Boronia Street) existed on the site.⁴ Limited details are known about the latter building.

1 The National Trust registration is of the organ only
2 R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct'
3 R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct'
4 MMBW detail plan 2111 (1905)

Balwyn Road Residential Precinct Place Citation

In 1928, the existing brick church, to the east of the original one, was constructed. It was designed by Louis Williams, who designed many churches in Melbourne and Victoria during a 40 year period. Two windows to the design of Christian Waller were installed in the east wall. Generous funding was provided by Aaron Danks of *Hazeldene*, 8 Balwyn Road.⁵ The foundation stone was laid on 15 December 1928 in memory of Danks, who had died earlier that year.

The year following the construction of the brick Methodist Church in Balwyn Road, a two-manual organ of 18 stops was built by W L Roberts incorporating the pipe work from an organ built in 1889 by George Fincham for the residence of S Stokes, Brighton.⁶

In 1977, the church became known as the Uniting Church, and at that time, decorative windows were transferred from the Congregational Church in Canterbury Road to the Uniting Church.⁷

By 1996, two buildings at the rear of the existing church were demolished: the original 1890 brick church (later used as a hall) and an adjacent timber hall.⁸ Subsequently a new, larger brick hall, designed by architects Keith Walter & Assoc, was constructed.⁹

Description & Integrity

This Interwar Period church has been designed in the Gothic Style but in a less ornate manner than would have been typical of earlier examples. The walls are of clinker brick with bands of grilles in the brickwork to the gable ends. The steeply pitched roof is clad in glazed tiles and has exposed rafters.

The corner tower has a parapet with crenellations and a hip roof surmounted by a weather vane. There is a rose window to the west elevation. The openings are generally pointed arches including windows, doorways and louvered screens to the tower. Many of the arched openings have brick string course mouldings but some of the larger windows to the south side have concrete lintels.

The organ retains its 1929 tonal scheme, attractive oak case and detached draw knob console.¹⁰

Statement of Significance

One of several Interwar Period buildings, which represent the third major period of development in the precinct. The clinker brick church is a fine, intact example of the work of noted church architect, Louis Williams.

5 R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct'; According to the *Architectural Index*, (M Lewis, 1979), there are plans of this building (probably held by the State Library of Victoria).

6 National Trust Citation, B6217

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

8 Planning file, 43667 & 1031:15A. In the files, the second hall is dated to the 1920s however it may have in fact been the earlier hall that had been constructed by 1905.

9 Planning file, 43667 & 1031:15A

10 National Trust Citation, B6217

Balwyn Road Residential Precinct Place Citation

According to the National Trust, the organ is of state significance. It is one of the few examples of George Fincham's work to remain intact and is the focal point of the building. The instrument incorporates the pipe work from an organ built in 1889 by Fincham for the residence of S Stokes, Brighton and retains its 1929 tonal scheme, attractive oak case and detached draw knob console.¹¹

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

G Butler, 'Camberwell Conservation Study', 1991, vol 5, p7 - church
National Trust of Australia (Victoria) - Roberts Organ

References

G Butler, 'Camberwell Conservation Study', 1991
R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct', January 2006
MMBW detail plan 2111 (1905)
National Trust of Australia (Victoria) citation, B6217
Planning files 43667 & 1031:15A
Victorian Heritage Register, H2008

11 National Trust Citation, B6217