

Balwyn Road Residential Precinct
Place Citation

30 Balwyn Road, Canterbury

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|-----------|--------------|------------------|----------|
| Name | Cranston | | |
| Place | Residential | | |
| Type | | | |
| Date | 1903 | Survey Date | Dec 2005 |
| Architect | Not known | Previous Grading | C |
| Builder | A G McKenzie | Grading | C |



Intactness ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Heritage ☐ HV ☐ AHC ☐ NT ☐ BPS Heritage Overlay

History

This site was part of allotments 21 and 22 of the original Shrublands Estate which was subdivided by Ernst Carter in 1883. Allotment 22 was purchased by John Hindson in 1887 and allotment 21 was purchased by Frederick Werrett in 1889.¹

The land was subsequently sold to merchant, Thomas Crowther Plante. He had a substantial house of 10 rooms built on the site by A G McKenzie in 1903 for a cost of £2,000.² In 1905, the house was identified as *Waitahuna* (a town in south-eastern New Zealand).³ At that time the site was larger than the current size, incorporating part of the land which is now 32 Balwyn Road and adjoining land in Rochester Street. There was also a timber stables to the rear.

- 1 R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct'
- 2 R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct', building register and rate book entries
- 3 MMBW plan no. 2221 (1905)

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In 1911, Dr Moore bought the site and soon after undertook alterations and additions. The works were by the builder, Ballantyne, in 1913. Moore, who renamed the house *Woodstock*, was a founding member of Carey Grammar School.⁴

In 1927, the site was purchased by Mrs G W Wragg. Thirty years later, Wragg subdivided the property. At the time of the subdivision there was a weatherboard building near the south-east corner of the site and the front fence was made of pickets.⁵ Wragg subsequently sold 30 Balwyn Road and moved next door to a newly constructed house at 32 Balwyn Road.

In 1958, G A Mason bought the property and renamed the house *Cranston*. He remained at the site until his death in 2001. The house has subsequently been renovated by the Caddy Brothers but the ballroom was demolished and a tennis court and pool built. The rooms at the southern end of the house have been converted to garages and a secondary entrance was created.

Description & Integrity

The site is wider than most in the street and has a semi-circular driveway. The building is a substantial single storey red brick, Transitional style house with rendered and painted banding. The slate clad roof has ornamental, terracotta ridge capping, finials, and exposed rafters. The roof has hips and gable sections, the later with timbering in the gable ends. The chimneys are a mixture of face brick and painted pebbledash finish and have a distinctive bulbous form to the upper part.

The return verandah is of substantial and detailed timber members including turned posts, deep ornate frieze and decorative brackets.

Statement of Significance

One of the substantial, late Victorian era brick villas which represent the first major period of development in the precinct. The house is mostly intact externally and is notable for being an example of the Transitional style.

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

References

G Butler, 'Camberwell Conservation Study', 1991
R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct', January 2006
MMBW plan no. 2221 (1905)
Subdivision Plan LP35692

4 R Da Costa-Adams, 'Notes of Balwyn Road, Canterbury Heritage Precinct', building register

5 Subdivision Plan LP35692