

NATIONAL TRUST REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT PLACES

CITATION

NAME OF PLACE: CANBERRA BAPTIST CHURCH AND MANSE, KINGSTON, ACT

LOCATION OF PLACE: Currie Crescent, Kingston, 2604

Section and Block Suburb: Block 1, Section 23, Kingston,

Area bounded by: Currie Crescent and Telopea Park

FEATURES INTRINSIC TO THE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PLACE:

The features intrinsic to the heritage significance of the place are:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Church is typical externally of the 1920's gothic revival architecture in Australia. The interiors have exceptional character and intactness. It was the first church built on the sites allocated by Canberra's planners for cathedrals or appropriate monumental churches in line with the importance of the Federal Capital. The Federal style architecture of the manse forms a compatible group with the church. The group has architectural, townscape and historical significance, especially in the context of the development of Canberra.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

The following requirements are identified as essential to the conservation of the heritage significance of this place. These requirements are prepared to implement the following conservation policy for the place:

1. Requirements Relating to the Building

1.1 Not applicable

1.2

2. Requirements Relating to the Setting

2.1

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

In assessing this place for the interim Heritage Places Register, the Trust recommends that the following actions and activities should be undertaken which will enhance the heritage values of the place.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

1. date Draft citation considered by Council at Meeting (number)
2. 24/11/86 Revised citation for Council Meeting (100-91).....APPROVED
3. 6/12/83 CLASSIFIED -
3. 3/88 Submitted for inclusion in interim Heritage Places Register

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

A simple red brick church in the inner-war medieval revival style. The gable-ended roof is covered with terracotta tiles supported on elegant black timber and iron trusses exposed internally. The porch, vestries etc have flat roofs with some crenellated parapets. The architect was FW Peplow and the builder, RE Midson, both of Sydney. Contract let and foundation stone laid 21 March 1928 opened 23 February 1929. The first of Canberra's churches opened on 'cathedral' sites allocated in 1926 by the Federal Capital Commission. The intact interior has the baptistery for total immersion centrally behind the sanctuary and beautifully crafted woodwork detailed by the architect. Stained glass is extensive, enhancing the interior. The pipe organ was later built above the lobby while not detracting from the character of the interior.

The hipped roofed brick manse, also designed by Peplow, is contemporary with the church and complements it, having similar interiors. A modern hall has been built on the site of the planned 'cathedral'. This hall is not included in the nominated group.

The condition is excellent the only change from the original form is the addition of the pipe organ.

2. STATUS OF PLACE AT NOMINATION DATE:

3. BACKGROUND:

4. RELEVANT PRINCIPAL NATIONAL HISTORIC THEMES:

5. ANALYSIS AGAINST THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SCHEDULE 2 OF THE LAND (PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT) ACT 1991

Under Section 56 the criteria for the assessment of the heritage significance of places are:

- (i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure, or representing a new achievement of its time;
- (ii): a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group;
- (iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest;
- (iv): a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations;
- (v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type;
- (vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class;
- (vii): a place which has strong or special associations with a person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history;
- (viii) a place which represents the evolution of a natural landscape, including significant geological features, landforms, biota or natural processes;

- (ix) **a place which is a significant habitat or locality for the life cycle of native species; for rare, endangered or uncommon species; for species at the limits of their natural range; or for district occurrences of species;**
- (x) **a place which exhibits unusual richness, diversity or significant transitions of flora, fauna or natural landscapes and their elements; or**
- (xi) **a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site.**

6. **REFERENCES:**

Author Title date publication

1. *Fifty Capital Years* - Baptist beginnings in the ACT - edited by RK Robb, Pub. Canberra Baptist Church - 1979
2. *Federal Capital Architecture* by K Charlton, R Garnett and M Fowler 1983.