

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

RSTCA No: R072

Name of Place: Canberra Baptist Church and Manse

Other/Former Names:

Address/Location: Currie Crescent KINGSTON 2604

Block 1 Section 23 of Kingston

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| Listing Status: | Registered | Other Heritage Listings: | |
| Date of Listing: | 1986 | Level of Significance: | |
| Citation Revision No: | 2 | Category: | Religious |
| Citation Revision Date: | July 1987 | Style: | Gothic/Old English |

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|----------------------|---------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Date of Design: | 1928 | Designer: | FW Peplow |
| Construction Period: | 1929-69 | Client/Owner/Lessee: | Canberra Baptist Church |
| Date of Additions: | | Builder: | RE Midson |

Statement of Significance

The church is an example of the Inter-war Medieval Revival style and has interiors of 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 manse is related in style to the Church, the two buildings form, a compatible group.

Description

A simple red-brick Church with gabled roof covered in terracotta tiles, supported on elegant black timber and iron trusses exposed internally. The porch, vestries etc have flat roofs with some crenellated parapets. It was the first of Canberra's Churches to open on the "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. Part of the site was left for the construction of a cathedral.

Condition and Integrity

Good.

Background/History

Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

(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 or 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 person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history

(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

References

Other Information Sources