

Former Frank Paton Memorial Church and Hall (now Deepdene Uniting Church)

Prepared by: Context

Address:

958 Burke Road, Deepdene

Name: Former Frank Paton Memorial Church and Hall	Survey Date: October 2018
Place Type: Community	Architect: Henry Hardie Kemp (Hall); Scarborough, Robertson and Love (Church)
Grading: Significant	Builder: Not known (Hall); A.A. Meyer (Church)
Extent of Overlay: To title boundaries	Construction Date: c1922-23 (Hall); 1941 (Church)



Figure 1. View of Former Frank Paton Memorial Church at 958 Burke Road, Deepdene. (Source: Context, November 2017).



Figure 2. View of church hall, situated to the east of the Former Frank Paton Memorial Church (Source: Context, November 2018)

Historical Context

Deepdene is a small residential suburb situated 10 kilometres east of central Melbourne. The Deepdene area is situated in the deep 'dene' (a low valley) between the higher ground of Kew to the north and Balwyn to the east; an intermittent creek flowed through its lowest point. Deepdene was included as part of Balwyn until 2008, in which year it became a separate suburb. As such it shares much of Balwyn's history.

Interwar development

A number of significant infrastructure projects established from the first decades of the twentieth century provided opportunities for extensive residential development in Balwyn and Deepdene. A short section of the Outer Circle Railway, between East Camberwell and Deepdene, was reopened in 1900 and was serviced by the 'Deepdene Dasher' steam train until 1927. Close to the Deepdene Station, a hotel operated in Deepdene in the early 1900s. The Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust extended its electric tramway service from Malvern along Glenferrie Road and Cotham Road to Deepdene in 1913. Near the tram terminus the new Deepdene State School was erected in 1914. In 1916, the tram line reached Mont Albert, but was not through-routed to the city by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board until 1929. The Burke Road tram reached Camberwell Railway Station in 1917, and in 1918 reached Cotham Road, Deepdene. In 1920 sewerage and electricity were established, with sewerage extending to Balwyn by 1927, and reaching North Balwyn in 1938 (Built Heritage 2015:10). A number of small farms and orchards in Balwyn were carved up for suburban housing in the late 1920s and 1930s. Many new home-buyers erected affordable detached timber bungalows during this period under the credit foncier scheme provided by the State Savings Bank of Victoria. Californian Bungalows, English Revival and other interwar styles, which were built to designs provided in the State Bank pattern books, predominated across large areas of Balwyn, including that bounded by Whitehorse Road, Belmore Road, Burke Road and Balwyn Road. An elevated area on the north side of Whitehorse Road was developed in the 1930s as the prestigious Reid Estate.

Improvements in infrastructure coincided with several successive changes in municipal status. The former Shire of Boroondara (as it had been known since 1871) was renamed the Shire of Camberwell and Boroondara in May 1902, then upgraded to a Borough in April 1905, a Town in May 1906, and finally the City of Camberwell in April 1914 (Built Heritage 2015:10).

In 1925, Balwyn was described in *Australian Home Beautiful*:

Charming indeed is this new suburb of Balwyn, to the eastward of Melbourne, towards that spot where the morning sun rises over the top of the Dandenong Ranges to stretch its light across one of the most beautiful environs in the city. Here the land is undulating and the eye wanders for miles upon miles across farm and orchard land to the blue distance of the hills to the east, so to the northeast, where the Healesville and Warburton ranges lie – more distant still – in the faint blue of cloud-land. All this erstwhile farming land is revealing the urge of the expansion of the great city, and red-tiled roofs and new homes now dot (and in some places cover) the land of the Orchardist and the Farmer; but “the vistas” are there and there are miles upon miles yet to go before suburban settlement can reach the tall slopes of the Dandenongs. Just as the little farms and glades are varied, both in colour and form, so do the new houses show that pleasing variety which betokens individual interest in the problem of the new home. Gone are the old ideas of slate or iron roofs and party-coloured bricks and cast iron trimmings, and now, pleasing colour notes of red, brown and green nestle into the newly-formed gardens of these outer suburbs (cited in Built Heritage 2015:11).

The interwar period saw significant expansion of Balwyn and Deepdene. A weatherboard Church of Christ was built at the corner of Cherry Road (1922) and two brick Catholic church-schools were built in Whitehorse Road, Deepdene (1923), and in Brenbeal Street, Balwyn (1930). Around the same time, St Barnabas Anglican Church on Balwyn Road was also extended. There was extensive commercial development, including shops and banks, along both sides of Whitehorse Road in Balwyn. A shopping strip developed along Whitehorse Road, Deepdene, while smaller strips appeared along Burke Road (at Belmore Road, and later at Doncaster Road), and near the junction of Bulleen and Doncaster roads. Other new churches appeared during this period, while some of the older existing church buildings were entirely rebuilt to cater for enlarged congregations, notably the Balwyn Baptist Church on Whitehorse Road (1937), and the Frank Paton Memorial Presbyterian Church on Burke Road in Deepdene (1941) (Built Heritage 2015:11). Fintona Girls' School, which had opened in Hawthorn in 1896, relocated to David Syme's former mansion 'Tourmont' in Balwyn Road in 1936. The Anglican Mission of St James and St John opened a large babies' home on Whitehorse Road, Balwyn, in 1934. Hotels were prohibited in Balwyn and Deepdene following the Local Option vote of 1920, a reflection of the strong temperance views of the local population, but other opportunities for leisure included three picture theatres that operated in Whitehorse Road in the 1930s and 1940s, one of which (the Balwyn Theatre) survives. Beckett Park was well patronised as were the adjacent Maranoa Gardens. There was limited industrial development in Balwyn; an exception was the Oslo Bakery in Deepdene. The textile company Holeproof Ltd established a large factory in Whitehorse Road, Deepdene, in the early 1940s.

Postwar development

Deepdene was largely developed through the interwar period, but there was some new homes built in the postwar years as well as modest commercial development along Whitehorse Road. Several new churches were constructed, extended or rebuilt to provide for burgeoning congregations in Balwyn and Deepdene (Built Heritage 2015:12). This included a new Catholic church at Deepdene.

Presbyterian (Uniting) churches in Boroondara

Presbyterian churches can be considered as part of a wider group of Nonconformist denominations, and from 1977 as part of the Uniting Church in Australia (a union of the Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists). However the particular strength of the Presbyterian Church in the City of Boroondara makes it valid to consider the denomination on its own. The Presbyterian Church built an early church in Hawthorn in 1865. During the booming years of the late nineteenth century, the Presbyterians erected a number of fine churches in the new



Figure 4. Western elevation of the church hall built to serve the Frank Paton Memorial Church, in 1936. (Source: Hall and Loxton 1991).

Two classrooms, built of 'fibro and tile', were added to the site in 1927 and 1929 (BP). These were most likely built for the use by the well-attended Sunday School, which had an attendance of 124 students in 1924. In 1933 the church's kindergarten building, which had been located in front of the hall, was relocated to a site at the rear (east) of the hall (BP; Hall and Loxton 1991:10). The kindergarten is not evident in the MMBW detail plan of 1926 so presumably it was erected after this date (MMBW 1926). In aerial photography from 1945, two rectangular buildings can be seen immediately to the east of the church hall (BP; Melbourne 1945).

By 1921, members of the Deepdene Presbyterian Church were competing in lawn tennis on Saturdays as part of the Presbyterian Association, but the church did not initially have its own courts for matches (*Argus*, 16 August 1921:5). Two tennis courts were laid out at the eastern-most end of the site after 1923 (Head and Loxton 1991). Tennis had experienced great popularity in the early 1900s in middle-class Melbourne, with tennis parties, dances and concerts being popular. Tennis was an important social activity through much of the twentieth century, which encouraged both male and female participation. Being a game popular amongst the middle class and those with private school backgrounds (Kinross-Smith 2005), there was a large number of church tennis clubs in the predominantly middle-class suburbs that now constitute the City of Boroondara. It was typical for parish churches to establish their own tennis club, complete with courts.

An imposing new church was erected at the western end of the site in 1941 to a design by Melbourne architects Scarborough, Robertson and Love. This replaced the smaller original church building of 1916. The new church was built using pink oatmeal (a deep apricot-toned cream) bricks with Hawkesbury freestone dressing. Symbolic carvings that ornamented the main arch are associated with the early Church and the Celtic heritage of the Scottish Presbyterian Church (*Building and Architecture*, 12 February 1943:11). The builder was A.A. Meyer of Heidelberg (Head and Loxton 1991, p. 12). The new church was designed with a north-south orientation, which maximised the length of the nave, in contrast to the east-west orientation of the earlier church building. The new church was named in honour of Rev. Frank Paton who had been appointed minister to the Deepdene Presbyterian Church in 1925. Paton was Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria, and served as the church's Foreign Mission Secretary from 1907 to 1935. He resigned as minister at Deepdene in 1936 and died in 1938 (Head and Loxton 1991: 8, 10-12). The doors to the church were officially opened on 29 November 1941 by his widow Mrs Paton. Amongst those in attendance at the opening ceremony was (Sir) Robert Menzies (*Age*, 1 December 1941: 9).

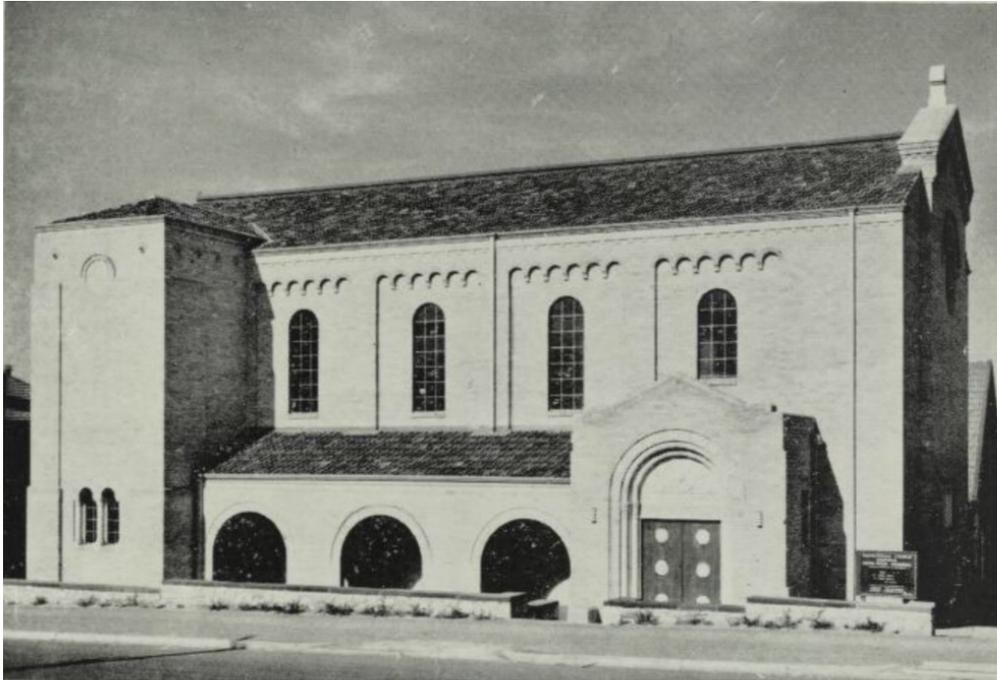


Figure 5. Frank Paton Memorial Church soon after its completion in 1941. (Source: *Building and Architecture*, 24 February 1943).

The style of the church was Romanesque Revival, defined by round-arched windows and a low-pitched roof, which was an unusual choice for a Presbyterian church. As John W. East in his history of Romanesque Revival architecture in Australia claims, there were 'almost no Protestant Romanesque churches' built in Victoria during the period 1915-1945 (East 2016:45). A newspaper article of 1941 claims that the Romanesque style of architecture was selected for practical reasons. It was thought to be the most appropriate style for the slope of the site, whereas the use of Gothic Revival would have made the steeply pitched roof appear too prominent (*Argus*, 6 March 1941:8). The use of cream (or oatmeal) brick was very up-to-date in 1941. In the 1950s a pipe organ was acquired from the well-known Nicholas family of 'Burnham Beeches', Sherbrooke, and was installed in the church (Head and Loxton 1991:18).

In 1945 a wing containing new lavatories was added to the rear (east) elevation of the church hall (BP). Another new building was constructed at the rear of this in the 1950s, presumably for the kindergarten as this followed a fire in 1951 that badly damaged the existing kindergarten building (BP; *Launceston Examiner*, 23 July 1951:3). The kindergarten had a relatively large enrolment at this time, with 90 pupils in 1951 (*Herald*, 21 July 1951:3). In 1964 new building works at this site amounted to £31,500. The published history notes that these works constituted a 'renewal and extension of buildings' (Head and Loxton 1991:18). The council records notes that 'additional classrooms' were erected at a cost of £28,000 (BP), presumably for the Sunday School. Though the building permit plans for these works have been lost, it would seem most likely that the 1964 building works refer to the double-storey brick addition that was made to the northern end of the church hall, and potentially some of those made to the rear. It appears that part of the laneway that ran alongside the southern boundary of the property was acquired at some stage for the use of the church.



Figure 6. Map identifying key elements of the subject site and their corresponding build dates. (Source: Vic Planning Maps 2014, Department of Environment Land Water and Planning)

In 1977, the Presbyterian Church voted to join with the Methodist and Congregational churches to become part of the newly created Uniting Church in Australia.

Henry Hardie Kemp

Henry Hardie Kemp (1859-1946) was born in Lancashire, England, before training at the Manchester Mechanics' Institute, and later entering the architectural firm of Corsen & Aitken as an articled pupil. At this time, Kemp studied the vernacular architecture of Lancashire and contributed to published works on English houses and furniture (Edquist 2012:380).

Kemp went on to study at the Royal Academy in London, and was a medallist of the London Architectural Association in 1881. Kemp arrived in Melbourne in 1886 (Edquist 2012:380).

Kemp became a partner of Oakden, Addison and Kemp in 1887, the firm became Oakden & Kemp in 1892 and was dissolved by 1896 when Kemp moved to Sydney, following the financial crash. In the years before the crash, Kemp had played a role in major building works around Melbourne, including large buildings around the Hoddle Grid and notable large houses such as 'North Park' in Essendon (Edquist 2012:380). Returning to Melbourne, Kemp joined Beverly Ussher in partnership in 1899 as Ussher & Kemp. The firm became known for its large, picturesque Queen Anne style villas. Notable examples of these villas are still standing, including the former 'Dalswraith' on Studley Park Road in Kew (now 'Campion House') as well as many large homes in the Western District of Victoria (Edquist 2012:380).

Ussher died in 1908, after which Kemp had a brief partnership with George Inskip before continuing to practice alone. Later works by Kemp include the Assembly Hall for the Presbyterian Church on Collins Street in Melbourne, as well as the Quadrangle and other early buildings for Scotch College, Hawthorn. Kemp retired from practice in 1929 (Edquist 2012:380).

Scarborough, Robertson and Love

Architects John Scarborough, John Robertson and Allan Love are best known for their competition-winning design for the Littlejohn Memorial Chapel at Scotch College. The design was based on the fifteenth-century Albi Cathedral in southern France. The three architects formed a partnership immediately after their win and the Chapel was built in 1935-36 (Context 2016:15-16).

The partnership, or Scarborough within the partnership, undertook many commissions for the Presbyterian Church during the interwar period, including:

- 1934 Upland Road Presbyterian church hall (Strathmore) in Primitive Gothic Revival style (Moonee Valley HO443),
- 1935 re-location and redesign of elements of the former Free Church of Scotland at West Melbourne, built in 1866-7, to Box Hill to become St Andrews Presbyterian church (Lewis, 59),
- 1937 North Essendon Presbyterian church in an “Academic Perpendicular Gothic” style unusual in Melbourne for the period. The design is comparable to the Littlejohn Memorial Chapel. (Moonee Valley HO336),
- 1938 Elwood Presbyterian Church (*Argus*, 4 June 1938:2),
- In 1941 Paton Memorial Presbyterian Church in Balwyn, in a simplified Northern Italian Byzantine/Romanesque style.

The partnership of Scarborough, Robertson & Love dissolved in 1942 (*Argus*, 14 February 1944:11). John Scarborough subsequently practised as John F.D. Scarborough and Associates. Later church commissions include at Bentleigh in 1958 (Hermes no.29741) and a new church at Strathmore in 1962 (Hermes no.196126).

Description and Integrity

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church and Church Hall, 958A Burke Road, Deepdene, occupy a deep allotment on the eastern side of Burke Road, a major arterial road running north-south, just north of its intersection with Whitehorse Road. Moving from the west to east, the site can be seen to comprise four elements: the church building (1941), with oatmeal brick walls and a broad, low-pitched gabled roof, fronting Burke Road at the western end of the allotment; to its rear sits the large red-brick hall (1923), with a steeply-pitched gabled roof; adjoining the hall, at its east, is a flat-roofed, red-brick structure (1950s) and small asphalted carpark; at the eastern end of the allotment are a pair of tennis courts (c1924) enclosed with a high cyclone fence.

At the front (western) edge of the allotment, the church has a shallow setback behind a low, original, rustic fence of stone with dressed bluestone capping, and forms part of a significant vista when travelling south down Burke Road, with the adjacent red brick Deepdene Primary School (1922) to its north. These views are enhanced by the steep fall of the land to the east, and gentle slope to the north. At the northern boundary is a utilitarian timber-paling fence, while the rear (east) property line abuts parklands associated with the Anniversary Outer Circle Trail. A long concrete drive (a former laneway) extends down the southern edge of the church, terminating at the western edge of the tennis courts, where a bluestone lane continues.

The church (1941)

The substantial, late interwar-era church, designed in an austere Romanesque Revival style by architects Scarborough, Robertson and Love, has oatmeal brick walls and a low-pitched gabled roof of brown terracotta tiles. A band of dentillation sits beneath the eaves, with arched corbel tables above each window.

The building comprises carefully articulated forms including a polygonal apse, broad nave with a prominent clerestory, and side aisles incorporating a partially closed loggia. At the north end of the building, a quasi-tower, used as an organ chamber, is placed over a vestry and linked to the main entrance by a cloister.

At the south (front) end of the building, a highly decorative freestone door portal, with intricately carved lintel, tympanum, moulded arches and voussoirs marks the principal entrance to the church, and contrasts with the general simplicity of the building's monumental massing. Overall ornamentation is restrained, with visual interest provided through circular terracotta vents punctuating the high-quality brickwork, as well as the articulated brickwork to vertical piers, the corbel table, shallow dentillated eaves and understated buttressing to the quasi-tower.



Figure 7. Detail of the highly decorative door portal. (Source: Context, October 2018)



Figure 8. View of the front garden setting with salt-glazed tile paving, and quasi-tower with expressed brickwork detailing in the slight buttressing effect. (Source: Context, October 2018)

The tall nave and apse are lit with large semi-circular arched multi-paned windows of yellow glass. A wheel window marks the southern elevation, and this end of the building is punctuated with a stylised chunky Maltese-style cross atop a characteristic parapet rising to a triangular summit and decorated with a corbel table.

The church building sits within a picturesque garden setting, incorporating many native plantings and original variegated salt-glazed tile paths and edging.



Figure 9. View of the southern elevation. (Source: Context, October 2018)

The hall (1923)

The large hall to the rear of the church, designed in the Arts and Crafts style by architect Henry Hardie Kemp, has red brick walls and a steeply-pitched dominant gabled roof of terracotta tiles. The building comprises a main gabled structure with an enclosed porch projecting to the east toward the church, which originally served as the principal entrance to the building. It has prominent eaves resting on exposed rafters and these are supported on decorative pierced timber brackets at the gable ends. Decoration to the gable ends incorporates half-timbered detailing resting on exposed purlins. Windows are timber-framed, and generally comprise multi-paned sashes within a main round-arched frame. Each arch is expressed in brick. Buttresses are used as defining elements of the composition dividing window bays and marking corners.



Figure 10. Detail of the church hall, where the porch projects from the main hall building. (Source: Context, December 2018)

A later addition constructed in 1945, in red brick with roof of terracotta tile hipped to the rear (east) elevation of the hall building, incorporates similar detailing to that of the hall building, including exposed rafters with lambs tongue profile and similar multi-paned windows (see Figures 12 and 13). A series of later single-storey additions (1950s and 60s) abut the rear of this wing (see Figure 14). Constructed in sympathetic red brick with similar detailing and built into the sloping landscape, these additions step down considerably from the main hall building and hence have little visual impact on the building. At the north is a double-storey addition (1964), also of red brick and sympathetic overall appearance (see Figures 15 and 16).

At the rear of the site two clay tennis courts laid out in c1924 remain.

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church and Hall site has a high degree of integrity. The church building exhibits a high level of intactness, retaining key original elements of the place including its picturesque, asymmetrical massing, broad roof form, original pattern of fenestration and understated detailing in shallowly expressed brickwork patterns and motifs. The integrity of the place as a whole is enhanced by the retention of the church hall and tennis courts. While the church hall has later additions, they do not disrupt appreciation of its two main elevations (west and south) and have been designed sympathetically to the original architectural style and materials of the building.



Figure 11. View of the later additions that abut the rear (east) of the main hall building. (Source: Context, December 2018)



Figure 12. The wing containing lavatories constructed 1945 incorporates similar detailing to the main hall building, including red face brick and timber joinery details. (Source: Context, December 2018)



Figure 13. View of the 1945 addition, where the 1950s/60s extension adjoins. (Source: Context, December 2018)



Figure 14. View of the 1964 double-storey addition looking south toward the main hall building. (Source: Context, December 2018)



Figure 15. The 1964 addition is not overly visually intrusive when viewing the church hall from the south. (Source: Context, December 2018)



Figure 16. Clay tennis courts laid out in c1924 remain at the rear of the site. (Source: Context, December 2018)

Comparative Analysis

Many churches were built in suburbs such as Deepdene, Glen Iris, Balwyn and Ashburton during the interwar period. In these developing areas of the eastern half of Boroondara new churches of the non-conformist denominations, including Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Congregationalist, outnumbered those built for the Anglican and Roman Catholic denominations. Comparisons for the Former Frank Paton Memorial Church and Hall are discussed with reference to other churches by Scarborough and Love and more generally with other interwar suburban churches.

Scarborough and Love Architects

As architects of the Littlejohn Memorial Chapel at Scotch College (HO608) and many other churches, including some within Boroondara, Scarborough and Love provide several points of comparison for the Former Frank Paton Memorial Church.



HO608 Littlejohn Memorial Chapel, Scotch College, Hawthorn (1934-36) (Source: Scotch College Melbourne)

The Littlejohn Memorial Chapel is of local historical, architectural (rarity), aesthetic, technical, associative (historical), and social significance. It relies on a sculptural modelling of forms for its effect and its spectacular setting within the spacious grounds (Context 2016). The Littlejohn Memorial Chapel is considered an exemplar in the state for its Gothic characteristics, popular for seminary and college chapels during the 1930s. It was highly acclaimed at the time of its construction and is still appreciated for its striking massing and stripped-back interpretation of Albi Cathedral in France.



(Recommended for HO) East Kew Uniting Church and former Citizen's Hall (church: 1938; hall: 1952 and additions 1959) (Context)

The East Kew Uniting Church and former Citizen's Hall (hall designed by architect Keith Reid) at 142 and 142A Normanby Road, Kew East is of local architectural significance. It is a representative Interwar Gothic Revival church, however what distinguishes this building is its original masterplan of three wings around a courtyard. This example is at the modest end of their spectrum and does not show the brilliance of composition or the scholarly adaptation of the Romanesque tradition that underpins the Littlejohn Memorial Chapel or the former Frank Paton Memorial Church.

Suburban interwar churches

Throughout the first four decades of the twentieth century, the use of revived medieval styles for ecclesiastical buildings was popular throughout Australia. The styles were a continuation of the nineteenth century Gothic Revival and, to a lesser extent, the Arts and Crafts tradition. A variant on the Gothic Revival form was the polygonal or cruciform church plan, reaching its peak popularity in the 1920s. The polygonal or cruciform plan was frequently used in suburban church design and was favoured by Presbyterian and Methodist denominations during this period. The Arts and Crafts style was also applied to church buildings, particularly in the work of Louis Williams whose Canterbury Uniting Church is illustrated below. Whilst several Catholic churches were designed in

the Romanesque Revival style in the interwar period, few, if any Protestant churches designed in this style exist in Boroondara and wider metropolitan Melbourne.



The Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Surrey Hills is a Gothic Revival-style church with square tower to one side. This church has a new glazed porch and corridor across the front and has lost much of its integrity.

HO534 Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 175 Union Road, Surrey Hills (1921) Contributory in Union Road Residential precinct (Source: Google Maps)



The Canterbury Uniting Church is an elegant clinker brick church of asymmetrical composition and monumental height, designed in a restrained Gothic Revival style. It is a fine, intact example of the work of noted church architect, Louis Williams.

HO264 Canterbury Uniting Church, 15a Balwyn Road, Canterbury (formerly Methodist) (1928) Contributory in Balwyn Road Residential precinct (Google Maps)



HO724 Siena Convent, 815 Riversdale Road, Camberwell (1940) (Source: Context)

Siena Convent is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance and is comparable as an interwar church of the same period and style as the Former Frank Paton Memorial Church. It is distinguished by its very fine brickwork, evoking the Lombardic Romanesque style, and particularly in its unusual use of the Byzantine compound domed form that characterised Byzantine Revival churches in Eastern and South-eastern Europe in the late 19th and early 20th century. The complex is largely externally intact apart from the concrete

upper storey extension added to the cloister in 2004.



HO680 Canterbury Presbyterian Church, 146 Canterbury Road, Canterbury (1927) (Source: Context)

The Canterbury Presbyterian church is of local historical, aesthetic, architectural (rarity) and social significance comparable as a representative and externally intact example of an interwar church designed in the Romanesque Revival style. Constructed to designs by W. H Ford, this church is large and imposing, and presents an aesthetically pleasing and well composed example of the revival style.



HO48 Hawthorn Presbyterian Church, 580 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn (1892) (Meredith Gould, Conservation Architects)

Hawthorn Presbyterian Church is of local aesthetic and historic significance. An earlier example, the Hawthorn Presbyterian Church is a competently designed, generally original and early example of a rarely used ecclesiastical style in the 19th century, that of the Byzantine revival.

While not as monumental in siting as their Littlejohn Memorial Chapel (H0608), the Former Frank Paton Memorial church is a fine example of the work of Scarborough, Robertson and Love, as a substantial church designed in the Romanesque Revival style. It compares well to the above examples in terms of its intactness and architectural detailing and has a much higher degree of integrity than the Robert Beckett Memorial Church, Canterbury and the Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Surrey Hills.

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church is notable as one of three Presbyterian churches constructed between 1915 and 1945 designed in the Romanesque Revival style. This style of architecture, which dominated Catholic church architecture in the interwar period, was selected for this commission as a matter of practicality: it was thought to be the most appropriate style for the slope of the site, whereas the use of Gothic Revival architecture would have made the roof too tall and too prominent. As a fine and highly intact example of a Romanesque Revival church, it compares particularly closely to the Siena Convent in Camberwell (HO724), a church of the same architectural style and period. The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church demonstrates key design elements of the Romanesque Revival style, including picturesque massing, broadly pitched roof and dominant wall areas. It retains a high level of intactness of typical, albeit restrained, detailing associated with the style, notably its highly decorative freestone door portal, with intricately carved lintel, tympanum, moulded arches and voussoirs, which creates an interesting contrast with the general simplicity of the building's monumental massing. Other key details include the visual interest provided through circular terracotta vents punctuating the high-quality brickwork, as well as

the articulated brickwork to vertical piers, the corbel table, shallowly expressed dentillated eaves and understated buttressing to the quasi-tower.

Church Hall

The church hall, designed by prominent Melbourne architect Henry Hardie Kemp, has served the community for almost 100 years for various church functions and activities.

HH Kemp became the school architect in 1917 for Scotch College, Hawthorn, an elite Presbyterian school founded in 1851. He was responsible for a significant building program at the school between 1917 and 1926. These buildings are designed in Kemp's distinctive picturesque Queen Anne style being built in red brick with multi-pane windows, roughcast and half-timbering to upper storeys, gable ends and steeply pitched roofs. The subject church hall was commissioned during this period of development at Scotch College and, whilst the hall is more modest in scale, displays similar design elements in its design as listed above, and notably the pierced curved timber eaves brackets. In comparison, the hall is a fine albeit modest example of the work of HH Kemp.



Figure 17. Gymnasium at Scotch College (Source: Scotch College 2016)

The following interwar church halls are also comparable:



HO483 St Mark's Anglican Church Hall, 1 Canterbury Road, Camberwell (1914) (Source: Libby Blamey)

Included in the same listing as the main church building, this hall, designed by Louis R Williams and Alexander North, was built in 1914 and acted as the church until main church building was constructed in 1927-1928. It is of red brick construction with terracotta roof tiles, and a refined aesthetic, incorporating Gothic details such as the arch detail over entrance and lancet windows.



HO220 Christ Church Memorial Hall, 2 Denham Street, Hawthorn, contributory in West Hawthorn Precinct (c.1920s) (Source: Victorian War Heritage Inventory)

The Christ Church Memorial Hall is historically significant for its association with Christ Church and adjacent first Anglican Church on the Hawthorn side of the Yarra River. It incorporates fine Gothic Revival detailing.



HO735 (interim) Camberwell Methodist Church Hall, 58 Cooalongatta Road, Camberwell (1933) (Source: Google Maps)

This church hall, designed by architect Harold Bladen and built by R Moor, of brick with a tiled roof, was opened in October 1933 by the president of the Methodist Conference, the Rev HW Frederick. Further brick veneer additions to the building were made by builder AL Ackland in 1948.



HO719 (interim) East Camberwell Baptist Church, 137-139 Highfield Road, Camberwell (1923) (Source: Context)

The East Camberwell Baptist Church is a modest example of interwar church architecture, and is historically significant for its demonstration of the growth of non-conformist churches in the eastern part of the locality during the 1920s and 30s.

The subject church hall compares well to the above examples. Its massing and plan are typical of interwar church architecture and community halls, including the simple rectangular form with projecting entrance porch, main gabled roof, and terracotta tiles and red brick construction. However, its distinctive picturesque Queen Anne detailing sets it apart from the above examples, notably the pierced curved timber eaves brackets

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Uniting Church (1941), church hall (1923) and tennis courts are an important example of a Nonconformist church developed in the City of Boroondara during the interwar era, on a large site with a range of facilities. The site, as a whole, is an example of a place that has strong associations with the Deepdene and Balwyn community for its ongoing role in the spiritual and social life of the area since 1916.

Assessment Against Criteria

Criteria referred to in *Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay*, Department of Planning and Community Development, revised August 2018, modified for the local context.

CRITERION A: Importance to the course or pattern of the City of Boroondara's cultural or natural history (historical significance).

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Uniting Church (1941), church hall (1923) and tennis courts are historically significant as an important example of a Nonconformist church site developed in the City of Boroondara during the interwar era, notable for its large land size and range of facilities, serving the local community for almost 100 years. The church, opened in 1941 at Deepdene, reflects the need to meet suburban growth in that locality as significant development in the outlying areas of Boroondara, such as Balwyn and East Kew, in the interwar period saw demands for new Presbyterian churches.

The church hall is historically significant having served the community for almost 100 years for various church functions and activities, including Scottish country dancing, and as a meeting place of the 2nd Deepdene Girl Guides. Shortly following its construction in 1923 it was used by many local church groups, including the Presbyterian Girls' Association, the Boys' Club, and the Young Men's class. It was also used by Presbyterian Deepdene Dramatic Club and a men's gymnastics club. It also housed the well-attended Sunday School, which had an attendance of 124 students in 1924.

The tennis courts represent the great popularity of the game in the early 1900s in middle-class Melbourne, with tennis parties, dances and concerts being popular. Tennis was an important social activity through much of the twentieth century, which encouraged both male and female participation. Being a game popular amongst the middle class and those with private school backgrounds, there was a large number of church tennis clubs in the predominantly middle-class suburbs that now constitute the City of Boroondara. It was typical for parish churches to establish their own tennis club, complete with courts.

CRITERION B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City of Boroondara's cultural or natural history (rarity).

N/A

CRITERION C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Boroondara's cultural or natural history (research potential).

N/A

CRITERION D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church is a fine example of the work of architectural practice Scarborough, Robertson and Love, as a substantial church designed in the Romanesque Revival style. It demonstrates key design elements of this style, including its picturesque massing, broadly pitched roof, polygonal apse, and entrance porch with ornate door portal, as well as characteristic decorative details including a corbel table and dentillation, wheel window and triangular parapet.

The church hall is a fine example of the work of Henry Hardie Kemp, as a modest hall designed in the Queen Anne style. It incorporates typical design elements of the style, including the steeply pitched roof, exposed rafters and beams, moulded timber joinery and wide overhanging eaves. While the hall has had later additions, they do not disrupt appreciation of its two main elevations

(west and south) and have been designed sympathetically to the original architectural style and materials of the building.

CRITERION E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church is notable as a Presbyterian church constructed before 1945 designed in the Romanesque Revival style. This style of architecture, which dominated Catholic church architecture in the interwar period, was selected for this commission as a matter of practicality: it was thought to be the most appropriate style for the slope of the site, whereas the use of Gothic Revival architecture would have made the roof appear too high and prominent. Its highly decorative freestone door portal with intricately carved lintel, tympanum, moulded arches and voussoirs, creates an interesting contrast with the general simplicity of the building's monumental massing. Other key details include the visual interest provided through circular terracotta vents punctuating the high-quality brickwork, as well as the articulated brickwork to vertical piers, the corbel table, shallowly expressed bracketed eaves and understated buttressing to the quasi-tower. Its aesthetic quality is enhanced by its prominent siting, the retention of its original rustic fence of stone with dressed bluestone capping, and garden setting, which incorporates many native plantings and original variegated salt-glaze tile paths and edging.

CRITERION F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

N/A

CRITERION G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church and Hall are significant for its strong and ongoing associations with the Deepdene and Balwyn community. The site as a whole has played an ongoing role in both the spiritual and social life of the local community since 1916, when the first timber church building was erected on the site. The hall has served the community for almost 100 years for various church functions and activities, including Scottish country dancing, and as a meeting place of the 2nd Deepdene Girl Guides. There have been long and close ties between the church and the neighbouring Deepdene State School, demonstrated by the pedestrian gateway in the boundary fence between the two properties.

CRITERION H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Boroondara's history (associative significance).

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church and Hall are significant for their association with Reverend Frank Paton, who had been appointed minister to the Deepdene Presbyterian Church in 1925. Paton laid the commemorative stone tablet for the 1923 church hall and the 1941 church was named in his honour. Paton was Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria, and served as the church's Foreign Mission Secretary from 1907 to 1935. He retired as minister at Deepdene in 1936 and died in 1938.

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church and Hall at 958A Burke Road, Deepdene, is significant.

Significant elements of the site include the:

- Former Frank Paton Memorial Church, built 1941 by A. A. Meyer to designs by architects Scarborough, Robertson and Love, front fence to the Burke Road frontage and early garden setting including slat-glazed tile paths;
- Church hall, built in 1923 to designs by Henry Hardie Kemp;
- Clay tennis courts laid out in c1924.

The 1945 wing abutting the rear (east) of the hall is a contributory element of the site.

The 1950s/60s red brick additions to the north and rear (east) of the main hall building are not significant.

How is it significant?

The site is of local historic, architectural (representative), aesthetic, social and associative significance to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Uniting Church (1941), church hall (1923) and tennis courts are historically significant as an important example of a Nonconformist church site developed in the City of Boroondara during the interwar era, notable for its large land size and range of facilities, serving the local community for almost 100 years. The church, opened in 1941 at Deepdene, reflects the need to meet suburban growth in that locality as significant development in the outlying areas of Boroondara, such as Balwyn and East Kew, in the interwar period saw demands for new Presbyterian churches. (Criterion A)

The church hall is historically significant having served the community for almost 100 years for various church functions and activities, including Scottish country dancing, and as a meeting place of the 2nd Deepdene Girl Guides. Shortly following its construction in 1923 it was used by many local church groups, including the Presbyterian Girls' Association, the Boys' Club, and the Young Men's class. It was also used by Presbyterian Deepdene Dramatic Club and a men's gymnastics club. It also housed the well-attended Sunday School, which had an attendance of 124 students in 1924. (Criterion A)

The tennis courts represent the great popularity of the game in the early 1900s in middle-class Melbourne, with tennis parties, dances and concerts being popular. Tennis was an important social activity through much of the twentieth century, which encouraged both male and female participation. Being a game popular amongst the middle class and those with private school backgrounds, there was a large number of church tennis clubs in the predominantly middle-class suburbs that now constitute the City of Boroondara. It was typical for parish churches to establish their own tennis club, complete with courts. (Criterion A)

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church is a fine example of the work of architectural practice Scarborough, Robertson and Love, as a substantial church designed in the Romanesque Revival style. It demonstrates key design elements of this style, including its picturesque massing, broadly pitched roof, polygonal apse, and entrance porch with ornate door portal, as well as characteristic decorative details including a corbel table and dentillation, wheel window and triangular parapet. (Criterion D)

The church hall is a fine example of the work of Henry Hardie Kemp, as a modest hall designed in the Queen Anne style. It incorporates typical design elements of the style, including the steeply pitched roof, exposed rafters and beams, moulded timber joinery and wide overhanging eaves. While the hall has had later additions, they do not disrupt appreciation of its two main elevations

(west and south) and have been designed sympathetically to the original architectural style and materials of the building. (Criterion D)

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church is notable as a Presbyterian church constructed before 1945 designed in the Romanesque Revival style. This style of architecture, which dominated Catholic church architecture in the interwar period, was selected for this commission as a matter of practicality: it was thought to be the most appropriate style for the slope of the site, whereas the use of Gothic Revival architecture would have made the roof appear too high and prominent. Its highly decorative freestone door portal with intricately carved lintel, tympanum, moulded arches and voussoirs, creates an interesting contrast with the general simplicity of the building's monumental massing. Other key details include the visual interest provided through circular terracotta vents punctuating the high-quality brickwork, as well as the articulated brickwork to vertical piers, the corbel table, shallowly expressed bracketed eaves and understated buttressing to the quasi-tower. Its aesthetic quality is enhanced by its prominent siting, the retention of its original rustic fence of stone with dressed bluestone capping, and garden setting, which incorporates many native plantings and original variegated salt-glaze tile paths and edging. (Criterion E)

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church and Hall are significant for its strong and ongoing associations with the Deepdene and Balwyn community. The site as a whole has played an ongoing role in both the spiritual and social life of the local community since 1916, when the first timber church building was erected on the site. The hall has served the community for almost 100 years for various church functions and activities, including Scottish country dancing, and as a meeting place of the 2nd Deepdene Girl Guides. There have been long and close ties between the church and the neighbouring Deepdene State School, demonstrated by the pedestrian gateway in the boundary fence between the two properties. (Criterion G)

The Former Frank Paton Memorial Church and Hall are significant for their association with Reverend Frank Paton, who had been appointed minister to the Deepdene Presbyterian Church in 1925. Paton laid the commemorative stone tablet for the 1923 church hall and the 1941 church was named in his honour. Paton was Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Victoria and served as the church's Foreign Mission Secretary from 1907 to 1935. He retired as minister at Deepdene in 1936 and died in 1938. (Criterion H)

Grading and Recommendations

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Boroondara Planning Scheme as an individually Significant place.

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Boroondara Planning Scheme:

External Paint Colours <i>Is a permit required to paint an already painted surface?</i>	No
Internal Alteration Controls <i>Is a permit required for internal alterations?</i>	No
Tree Controls <i>Is a permit required to remove a tree?</i>	No
Victorian Heritage Register <i>Is the place included on the Victorian Heritage Register?</i>	No
Incorporated Plan <i>Does an Incorporated Plan apply to the site?</i>	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions <i>Are there outbuildings and fences which are not exempt from notice and review?</i>	Yes—front fence and tennis courts

Prohibited uses may be permitted <i>Can a permit be granted to use the place for a use which would otherwise be prohibited?</i>	No
Aboriginal Heritage Place <i>Is the place an Aboriginal heritage place which is subject to the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006?</i>	No

Identified By

Built Heritage Pty Ltd 2015, 'Balwyn and Balwyn North Heritage Study', prepared for the City of Boroondara.

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