

<b>IDENTIFER</b>	ST BARNABAS' ANGLICAN CHURCH		
<b>Other/s</b>	St Barnabas' Church of England; St Barnabas' Episcopalian Church		
<b>Address</b>	86 Balwyn Road BALWYN	<b>Date/s</b>	1872 (original building) 1884, 1887, 1930, 1966 (addns)
<b>Designer/s</b>	Charles Barrett (1872)	<b>Builder/s</b>	John Butler Maling (1872)
<b>Theme/s</b>	2.7.2 Developing townships and villages 8.1.1 Establishing early churches for the mainstream denominations	<b>Heritage Group</b>	Religion
		<b>Heritage Category</b>	Church
		<b>Heritage status</b>	National Trust (B2724)
<b>Intactness</b>	Fair (sympathetic additions)	<b>Significance</b>	Regional
<b>Condition</b>	Good	<b>Recommendation</b>	Include in HO as individual place



<b>Extent</b>	Building and curtilage to street	<b>Survey date</b>	11/13/12
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## History

Balwyn Anglican Church (formerly St Barnabas' Church of England, Bawlyn) was erected in 1872. Prior to its completion, the pioneer residents of what is now Balwyn were obliged to worship at the nearest Anglican church, St John's in Camberwell, which opened in 1863. Five years later, the first local Anglican services were held in the Athaneum Hall on Balwyn Road under the Reverend Roland Hayward, Vicar of Holy Trinity in Kew. In 1870, the Balwyn area was officially absorbed into the Parish of St John, Camberwell. Herbert Taylor was appointed as lay reader, and held services for the next two years. During this period, he collected the sum of £200 for the erection of a new purpose-built church. Charles Barnett was appointed as honorary architect, and plans were drawn up for a modest stone building to accommodate 80 parishioners. Construction was undertaken by local builder (and district pioneer) John Butler Maling. The new building was officially opened on 22 December 1872. Soon after completion, the building was enlarged with the addition of a small front porch and belfry. In 1876, the church acquired and installed a pipe organ that had been originally constructed seven years earlier for a private residence in Warrnambool.

The church remained under the auspices of the Parish of St John (Camberwell) until 1883, when, consequent to the degree of settlement in the vicinity, a separate Parish of Balwyn was created. Fittingly, the church's first resident vicar was Herbert Taylor, erstwhile lay reader, who had recently returned to Melbourne after a stint as Bishop of Goulburn in New South Wales. Taylor erected a house for himself alongside the new church on Balwyn Road, which was acquired by the church to become its official vicarage. On 15 May 1884, a foundation stone was laid for additions to the church (also built by Maling), comprising an extended nave that increased capacity to 140 people, and a new timber chancel. Three years later, further additions were made: transepts were added and the wooden chancel was relocated to the new east end, which almost doubled the capacity to 240 people. A Parish Hall was added in 1896, which served as a temporary place of worship when the church proper was renovated five years later. The extent of the church reserve in the early twentieth century, and the various buildings thereon, can be seen on the MMBW plan prepared in April 1907. This shows the church with its original four-bay nave, transepts and small chancel and front porch, with the considerably larger Parish Hall to the rear. The original vicarage occupied land to the south, set well back from Balwyn Road via a long circular driveway, so that it was more or less in alignment with the Parish Hall.

It was also during 1901 that the original kerosene lamps in the church were replaced with gas burners; these, in turn, were superseded when electricity arrived in the district in 1913. That same year, a detached kindergarten hall was built at the rear of the church. The next major change to the church was the addition of a new chancel in 1930. The work was partly funded by an anonymous gift, on the condition that construction be undertaken yet again by the Maling family. The expanded church, now capable of accommodating some 400 people, was consecrated by Archbishop Head on 3 December. Facilities were further upgraded during the early post-war period. In 1950, a new kindergarten hall was erected to replace the original hall, which had been destroyed by fire four years earlier. In 1954, the original vicarage was also replaced by a new purpose-built counterpart. The new building was erected in front of the old one, which was adapted for use as church offices and meeting rooms. A few years later, in 1960, the old pipe organ was removed and replaced by a newer model, originally built in 1910, which was acquired from the North Carlton Presbyterian Church. New tennis courts were laid out in 1961 and, six years later, the small front porch of the church replaced by a larger one. Designed in a style that matched the original building, the new porch also incorporated stained glass windows that had been salvaged from the recently demolished St Barnabas' Church in South Melbourne.

In 1993, the land to the south and east of the church, which included the tennis courts, two vicarages and a brick hall, was sold off for private residential development, and a new Parish Centre was erected. To facilitate access to the new building, the pipe organ and its related infrastructure was dismantled and removed from the south transept.

## Description and Integrity

The church is a single-storey gable-roofed bichromatic brick building in the Gothic Revival style, exhibiting the traditional plan form of Western ecclesiastical architecture: a long central nave with chancel at one end and porch at the other, with flanking transepts to create a cruciform footprint. While the current form of the building is the result of several phases of expansion over a period of nearly a century (1872, 1883, 1887, 1930 and 1966), a consistent stylistic vocabulary and palette of materials has ensured a generally cohesive whole. External walls are of brown brick laid in English bond, with contrasting cream brick to the gable corbels, eaves brackets, buttresses and window surrounds.

The nave, transepts and porch have a steep pitched roofs clad in Marseilles pattern terracotta tiles, with small dormer vents near the ridge. Gable ends have rendered coping. The apex of the porch gable is crowned by a Latin cross, and the nave gable by a rendered belcote with another Latin cross. Window openings to nave, transepts, porch and chancel have chamfered reveals, splayed sills and pointed arches with drip moulds. Some windows contain stained glass, while others have plain lozenge glazing. There are large trefoil vents (also with drip moulds) to the two transept gables, and the front porch has a small circular vent with quoin surround. The porch itself formerly provided ingress from both sides via doorways with timber-framed sidelight and highlight windows; today, the north doorway has been infilled, and entry is restricted to the south doorway, which is now accessed via a flat-roofed covered walkway on brown brick piers.

The church is set back from Balwyn Road behind an asphalted circular driveway with concrete kerbing, with the front boundary marked by a low wall in red clinker brick. The church reserve (reduced since the sale of land in 1993) includes several outbuildings, notably the large gable-roofed weatherboard Parish Hall (now known as Maling Hall) to the rear of the church, and a hip-roofed brick Parish Centre to the south.

### Historical Context

St Barnabas' Anglican Church sits in the broader historical context of the Village of Balwyn, and, specifically the early appearance of community facilities, as distinct from commercial or retail services. The erection of the church in 1872 marked the beginning of a new era of formalised development with smart purpose-built community buildings, as opposed to the somewhat makeshift structures, namely the Athenaeum Hall (1861) and Common School (1869) that had predated it. The new church, which superseded the need to hold religious services in the old hall, was soon followed by a new purpose-built state school building, which similarly rendered the old common school defunct.

### Comparative analysis

The church is the oldest surviving church in the study area. It is predated by two other examples from the mid-1860s that have both long since disappeared: a makeshift timber building that was erected by the Roman Catholics in an unverified location in Elgar's Survey, and a more prepossessing brick chapel on Bulleen Road that briefly served as a mission church for the Kew Congregationalists. While several other churches were established along Balwyn Road in the later nineteenth century, all of these post-dated St Barnabas and were, in any case, located on the Canterbury side – that is, south of Mont Albert Road. Moreover, none of these early churches, which include those built for the Wesleyan (1886), Baptist (1891) and Congregationalist (1894) denominations, remain standing. St Barnabas, Balwyn, can thus be considered one of the oldest of a very small number of nineteenth century churches that still survive not in the former City of Camberwell. In this broader context, it is predated only by the former Wesleyan Methodist Church in Glen Iris (1865), which admittedly survives only in a partly-demolished state. Camberwell's original Anglican church (1863) and Roman Catholic church (1887) buildings have both long since been replaced, and the few remaining nineteenth century places of worship in the area, such as the Wycliff Congregationalist Church in Surrey Hills (1889), tend to be both of smaller scale and later date than St Barnabas, Balwyn.

Considered in the more specific context of the Village of Balwyn, St Barnabas remains as the only non-residential building to survive from its earliest phase of development. None of the pre-1900 shops survive. The Athenaeum Hall (1861) was demolished in 1954 (although parts of the wall are said to survive inside the replacement building on the site) and the Survey Hotel (1868) has long gone. The original Common School (1869) has also disappeared, and its replacement, the original State School (1880) was destroyed by fire in 1951. Today, St Barnabas remains as the oldest purpose-built non-residential building not only in the Village of Balwyn, but in the entire study area.

### Assessment against Criteria

The church is associated with the early development of the Village of Balwyn (*Criterion A*)

The church demonstrates rarity as the only surviving nineteenth century church in the study area (*Criterion B*)

The church is a modest but representative example of the Gothic Revival style (*Criterion E*)

The church, and parish hall, retain associations with the family of local pioneer J B Maling, who built them (*Criterion H*)

## Grading and Recommendations

St Barnabas Anglican Church is an individually significant heritage place in the City of Boroondara.

### Statement of Significance

#### *What is Significant?*

St Barnabas' Anglican Church, at 86 Balwyn Road, Balwyn, is a bichromatic brick church in the Gothic Revival style, with tile-clad pitched roof, rendered copings and belcote, and quoined pointed arch windows with drip moulds. Originally erected in 1872 as a three-bay nave, the building was gradually enlarged over the following century with a small front porch (c.1873), an expanded nave (1883, 1887), two transepts (1887), a chancel (1930) and larger front porch (1967), all of which were designed to match the original building in materials, style and detailing. The church reserve also includes the former parish hall (now Maling Hall), a weatherboard building at the rear, added in 1896. Several other early outbuildings, including the original vicarage (1883) and kindergarten hall (1913) are no longer extant.

#### *How is it significant?*

The church is of historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Boroondara

#### *Why is it significant?*

Historically, the church is significant for its associations with the early development of the study area and, more specifically, with the early development of what was once known as the Village of Balwyn – an important hub of residential, commercial, retail and community activity that emerged at the intersection of Balwyn and Whitehorse Roads from the early 1860s. Completed in 1872, the church is significant as the oldest surviving building in the former village and more broadly, as the oldest surviving church (and the oldest surviving public building of any sort) in the entire study area. The church retains important historic associations with the Maling family, whose patriarch, local pioneer John Butler Maling, not only constructed the original building but was also responsible for several subsequent phases of addition. This connection is perpetuated in the naming of Maling Hall, the former parish hall at the rear of the church.

Aesthetically, the church is significant as a representative example of the Gothic Revival style, which is not otherwise well represented in the study area. The church displays many of the typical characteristics associated with that style, including the cruciform plan, bichromatic brickwork, buttresses, rendered coping and pointed arch windows with drip moulds. The small rendered belcote, on the apex of the nave gable facing the street, is a particularly distinctive and rather less common unusual motif to find in a small suburban church of this era. Set back from Balwyn Road, the church remains a distinctive element in the streetscape otherwise dominated by residential and commercial development.

### Identified by

Built Heritage Pty Ltd

### References

Timothy McLellan Thorn, *A History of St Barnabas' Church of England, Balwyn, 1872-1972*.

Gwen McWilliam, *A Balwyn Survey*, pp 110-111.

National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No B2724.