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QUEENSBURGH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 27-31 CORONATION RD, QUEENSBURGH

Lindsay Napier was approached by the Church to prepare a Heritage Assessment of the church buildings and adjacent house for the purposes of an Amafa application for additions and alterations.



HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Malvern Congregational Church at 27 Coronation rd: Built 1911

Church Hall : Built 1936

Additions – foyer and link : date unknown

House at 31 Coronation rd : unknown estimated 1910-20

The church building was listed by Prof.W.Peters in 2010

Described as

“Church with corner and side buttresses, entrance porch, end hood moulds to the lancet windows facing Coronation Rd. The gable is distinguished by a group of three windows under a common hood mould with year of construction astride the tallest. Outer finish is plaster with ruled joints to the scale of blocks.”

It is listed as “contributing” to the streetscape and for social religious significance.

It’s statement of significance : **“A surviving building still used for it’s purpose”**.

The church building is the oldest building on the property, the foundation stones were laid in June 1911 and the church opened on 30 September 1911. It was followed by a church hall of similar proportion, built to the rear of the church in 1936. The two buildings were joined in later years and extensions added to the hall. The ground falls away from the street and the surface has been hardened to provide off-street parking.

The church retains it’s important original features in the stained glass windows and entrance portico facing the street. The lower panes of the side windows have been replaced with pvc frames and clear glass, but the arched lead-light fanlight remains intact. The 3 foundation stones are still visible to the street centered on the entrance portico.

The original leaded glass and frames are in need of repair or replacement.

The orientation of worship was reversed with the addition of a new foyer where the vestry used to be, making the portico into a “sanctuary” space.

The original architect and congregation were innovative enough to construct the East wall of the church so that it could be removed and the space extended without damage to the roof.

The ceiling is dark stained boarding as originally designed.

Original external and internal detailing is minimal probably due to budget constraints, being a suburban congregation. Fortunately, there are a printed records of the congregation and the building of the church, naming the people who contributed to the formation and building of the church. (see below).

The Church buildings are therefore significant for the social value in the community, especially since it is still serving it’s original spiritual congregation and the purpose for which it was built.

Architecturally, although simply detailed, the oldest portion of the church is significant as a record of the first congregation’s investment and for it’s position close to the street.



The house at **31 Coronation rd** has less recorded history, it is thought to have been built between 1910 and 1920 and not connected to the church until much later. It is a modest 3-roomed cottage with verandas. Utility rooms have been added under the veranda roofs. It was built far back from Coronation road and may have been behind another cottage or had a market garden in front.

The property was bequeathed to the Queensburgh Historical Society in 1988 by an elderly resident, the late Mrs Barrat and leased to the Church for the welfare of the aged. It is currently used for Sunday school and the grounds used for parking.

The house has social significance in the history of Queensburgh as a connection to a previous resident of Queensburgh, but functionally it has it’s limitations due to it’s size.

Architecturally it is low in significance and represents a working-class house, examples of which can be found elsewhere in the area.

L.Napier Architectural Heritage Consultant

References :

A Suburban Sanctuary –Thirty-six years in Malvern : The story of the Congregational Church 1900-1936. Published by the Board of Deacons Malvern, 1936

Born to be a Queen...Queensburgh; A.W.Jones pg86-69