
8 Balwyn Road



Balwyn Road Residential
Heritage Study Review 2006

Location

8 Balwyn Road CANTERBURY, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO264

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Significance of Individual Property

The place is of historical and architectural significance. It is of historical significance for its associations with George Mercy and Sir Aaron Danks. George Mercy, an importer by trade, was a prominent local citizen and was elected Mayor of Camberwell in 1906-07. Aaron Danks was a hardware merchant, committee member of numerous public institutions, magistrate of the Children's Court and philanthropist. He was knighted in 1925.

Hazeldene and was built in 1889 for George Grenville Mercy. It is a typical house of the late 1880s, of architectural note for its unusual cast iron balustrading and friezes (assumed to be original) and the substantial semi-basement which is uncommon.

Hazeldene was enlarged by the subsequent owner, Sir Aaron Danks in two stages. The second phase of work was undertaken in 1909, and included the large music room which has Arts and Crafts detailing. It was designed specifically to accommodate an organ, which remains *in situ*.

According to the National Trust, the two-manual organ is also significant as it is believed to be the only organ in a residence of its period to remain in its original location. It is of interest for its symphonic tonal design, incorporating two sets of undulating ranks on the swell and a Vox Humana stop placed beneath the music room floor.

HO264 Balwyn Road Residential Precinct, Canterbury

Reference - *Balwyn Road Residential Precinct, Canterbury: Stage 2 Heritage Precinct Review* (August 2006)

The Balwyn Road Residential Precinct is of historic significance because the pattern of development reflects that of Boroondara generally. In much of Boroondara one or two periods might be represented in any one precinct, however in the Balwyn Road Residential Precinct all periods are nearly equally represented. As such, the precinct is a microcosm of the broad sweep of development across the City. The relative consistency in the allotment width and/or size across the different phases of development serves to unify the precinct.

There are historical associations with several eminent families (Danks, Goldings, Marfleets, McAlpins, etc). Of further interest is the profile that some residents have had at a broader level (either State, national or international) and the manifold connections between various residents within the precinct and the City of Boroondara.

The Balwyn Road Residential Precinct is of aesthetic significance for the many high quality buildings, some of which are of individual significance at the broader level, and others that are generally good examples of their architectural style. The buildings are remarkably intact to their period of construction and have been well maintained. There has been limited change of building stock. A high proportion of the buildings have been architect designed. Although there are a range of styles evident, there is a consistency in scale and setbacks.

The extensive and well maintained landscaping both to the street (with trees and wide reservations) and the private gardens provides a level of cohesion. One of the gardens (no. 17) is a rare example of a late nineteenth century intact suburban garden. In addition, some of the early road and paving infrastructure is intact.

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|---------------------------|---|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Boroondara - Balwyn Road Residential Heritage Study Review, RBA Architects & Conservation Consultants, 2006; Boroondara - Camberwell Conservation Study, Graeme Butler, 1991; |
| Other Names | Hazeldene, |
| Hermes Number | 14529 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Hazeldene is a single storey rendered and painted masonry house with a decorative slate clad hip roof. The Victorian era detailing includes a number of decorative features such as paired brackets to the eaves and string course mouldings. The extensive verandah has cast iron columns, frieze, brackets and distinctive balustrade panels. There is a large basement to the southern side of the building. The windows to the north projecting room

(1905) have lead lighting and stained glass.

The music room to the rear on the north side (added in 1909) has Arts and Crafts influences being Tudor Revival in form with a steeply pitched, timber lined ceiling and bay windows with *Art Nouveau* glass and timber brackets.[1] The music room was built to accommodate a two-manual organ of 17 speaking stops, built in 1909 by George Fincham & Son. The organ remains intact, retaining its original tubular-pneumatic action, attached stop key console, pipe work, and blackwood case containing diapered pipes.[2]

Hazeldene, which was constructed in stages, remains mostly intact to its early twentieth century form. One known subsequent alteration is the relocation of the front stair from the southern end of the facade to the north-west corner.

[1] Register of the National Estate, place ID - 5636

[2] National Trust of Australia (Victoria), citation B2414

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>