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# EAST CAMBERWELL BAPTIST CHURCH



Highfield Road, 137-139  
EAST CAMBERWELL  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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## Location

137-139 Highfield Road CAMBERWELL, BOROONDARA CITY

## Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO719

## Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 29, 2018

What is Significant?

East Camberwell Baptist Church complex at 137-139 Highfield Road Camberwell, built 1923, with the hall built in 1925 is significant.

How is it significant?

East Camberwell Baptist Church and hall is of historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Boroondara. The 1961 education building is of historic significance only.

Why is it significant?

East Camberwell Baptist Church is historically significant for its demonstration of the growth of non-conformist churches in the eastern part of Camberwell during the 1920s and 30s. The domestically scaled church and hall reflects the small but dedicated group of parishioners who purchased the large site and planned the building of the church and its adjacent hall. The complex formerly comprising church, hall and tennis courts (now removed) is historically significant for its demonstration of the role that churches played in social life, including kindergarten, sporting and youth activities, playgroups and after school clubs, continuing into the 1980s. The educational building dating from 1961 demonstrates the later activities of the parish and their intention to adapt to the needs of the community. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, East Camberwell Baptist Church is a modest example of Interwar church architecture, borrowing from the domestic style of the time through the use of face red brick and terra cotta tile in a simple rectangular form with a projecting porch. Decorative gable end strapping over render and fine lattice work are particular features of the gable ends to the porch and main body of the church. Other features that define the building include the projecting eaves supported on decorative timber brackets and the red brick fence on Highfield Road, featuring red brick piers and panels with bull-nosed capping and a pipe railing. The hall is significant for its large contemporary styled stained glass window in shades of blue and green and its complementary form and materials. The two buildings are complemented by their setting of lawn and plantings. The complex has a high degree of integrity when compared with some other examples of Interwar churches. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - Municipal-Wide Heritage Gap Study: Vol. 2 Camberwell, Context, 2018;
Construction dates	1923,
Hermes Number	202135
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

The East Camberwell Baptist Church complex occupies a large site at the corner of Highfield Road and Hunter Street and comprises two Interwar and one Post-war building and a carpark. Facing Highfield Road, the church is a simple Interwar structure with gable roof and projecting porch. The walls are of face red brick with stepped buttresses, between which are square headed sash windows with openable top light sashes. The gable ends have render, lattice and timber strapwork projecting forward of the wall plane and supported by small corbels. The eaves are supported on timber brackets and the terra cotta tiled roof has roof ventilators. The fence is in red brick with piers, a pipe railing and bull nosed capping. It appears to be contemporary with the church.

The hall, built soon after the church and facing Hunter Street, is in matching red brick gabled roof construction and is a plainer version of the church. It is enlivened by a projecting central panel with a large modern blue and green stained glass window set around a cross motif as the frame. Brickwork detailing is confined to the eaves where there is a corbelling of several rows of bricks to form an eave. The hall matches the church in scale and form but is less decorative in its architecture. To the rear of both buildings are small additions. The architectural character of the church and hall is more residential than ecclesiastical.

To the rear of the site is a 1961 building of simple modernist design. The whole complex has a high degree of integrity and is complemented by plantings and open space between the buildings

*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/>*