

BAPTIST CHURCH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Baptist Church
Other names	Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	2209
State Heritage Register:	
Other Listing:	Municipal Inventory Adopted 13 Nov 1995 Art Deco Significant Building Survey Completed

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	94-98 Hobart St
Locality	Mount Hawthorn
Survey	LOT: 205 D/P: 29554/LS1
Vol/folio	2218/334
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Considerable Very important to the heritage of the locality. High degree of integrity/ authenticity.
Management category	Category 2 Conservation of the place is highly desirable. Any alterations or extensions should minimise impacts on the original site or building and reinforce the significance of the place.
Statement of significance	<p>This place is a notable and unique place within the streetscape which demonstrates a rare example of the Federation Arts and Crafts style.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the establishment and development of Mount Hawthorn in the first half of the 20th century.</p> <p>The place has historic value for its association with the Baptist Church and its provision of services to the Mount Hawthorn, and wider Perth community.</p> <p>The place has social value for its longevity in the streetscape and its contribution to the community sense of place.</p> <p>The place has social value for the community for many who have used these buildings for religious and social activities.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Religious: Church, Cathedral or Chapel
Current use	Religious: Church, Cathedral or Chapel
Other use	

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1912; 1948
Walls	Brick Rendered Brick
Roof	Corrugated metal sheeting
Architectural Style	Federation Arts and Crafts
Physical description	The modest church, in a stripped Gothic style, has a gable roof, pointed arched buttresses and an entrance porch to which modern extensions have been added. The windows have Gothic arched headers and there are buttresses along the sides of the building. The brickwork has been painted. There have been two campaigns of hall extensions in different styles and finishes. The church is located close to both streets and there are some plantings on the Hobart Street frontage.
Condition	Good
Integrity	Moderate
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This portion of North Perth was subdivided in the early 1900s and was advertised by the owners 'Intercolonial Investment Land & Building Company Ltd of Sydney' as 'splendid mansion and villa sites' when offered for sale by public auction on 25 June 1902.

The lots were not rapidly taken up as there were only four residents recorded in 1910 in this street.

The first Perth Baptist church was established in Museum Street, Perth on 23 June 1895, and other churches were founded at Fremantle and Katanning. A division developed in the church of the issue of open (non-baptised) or close (baptised) membership. The group favouring close membership established a separate church in the William Street Oddfellows Hall while the open membership group remained at the Museum Street church. Both groups undertook mission work in the North Perth area, with the first services of the North Perth parish being held in the North Perth Municipal Chambers in February 1902.

In 1904, the Museum Street group built a church on the corner of Vincent and Fitzgerald streets to cater for the developing North Perth parish. The Museum Street group soon found the new church a strain on their financial resources, so they sold the church to the William Street group. The North Perth parish extended its work to Osborne Park, Mount Hawthorn and Maylands.

On 30th March 1912, a Foundation Stone was laid at the Hobart Street site with Rev E.M. Hall presiding. Construction progressed rapidly and on 9 June 1912, the Mount Hawthorn Baptist Church was opened. The design for the church was by architects Jefferys and Selby and largely funded by donations from the community. Volunteers also contributed to the construction of the church with one member donating his services as a painter.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

An item in the Western Mail described the building as follows:

The church is of brick in coloured bands with iron roof. The ceiling is lined with asbestos. The church is lighted with electricity. It is well ventilated, and the roof overhangs four feet, the walls being thereby sheltered from driving rain. The entrance is protected by a porch. The outside appearance of the church is very pleasing, and its Oriental character reminds one of Eastern lands.

The congregation quickly outgrew their church and a weatherboard hall was hastily erected at the rear of the building in 1915 by a group of volunteer builders. It was used for youth and children services

The weatherboard hall burnt down on 1 November 1944 and was replaced by the current brick hall in 1948.

The first Baptist Church aged person's hostel "Wybalena" opened on 23 July 1966, accommodating 12 people, was opened at No. 96 Hobart Street, on the east side of the church. These two buildings were joined together in 1988.

Aerial photographs from the mid 20th century indicate that there has been minimal change to the form and extent of the two buildings on the site. It is not known when the addition to the rear of the original church was undertaken.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 2006, the Council of City of Vincent resolved to grant conditional approval to the proposed Change of Use from Hospital to Institutional Building and Associated Additions and Alterations to existing premises. The subject place was renamed 'Hawthorn House' and has been operational since December 2006 as an intermediate mental health care facility.

The place continues to be used for medical services.

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Religion Peopling WA: Demographic Development	
Associations	Jeffereys and Selby	Architect
Sources	Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006. Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. The West Australian, 2 April 1912, p. 4.	

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS



ARCHIVAL IMAGES



Baptist Church, 1915. City of Vincent Library PH02331



Construction of the Baptist Hall in 1915.

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