

Heritage Overlay number: HO47

Place Name: Former Methodist Church
Other Names: Former Carnegie Uniting Church
Address: 254 Neerim Road, 1 and 1A Toolambool Road, Carnegie

Place Type: Religious/residential
Designer/architect: A. Phipps Coles
Construction dates: 1914
Architectural style: Arts and Crafts

Level of Significance: LOCAL

Recommendation: No change to HO schedule 47 and mapping 2HO.

Photo:

254 Neerim Road and 1A Toolambool Road, Carnegie. Photo by heritage ALLIANCE, 2019

Description:

254 Neerim Road and 1A Toolambool Road is an unusual, picturesque small church in red brick with stucco contrasting details. The building has been divided into two separate two storey residences. The prominent slate roof includes terracotta ridge tiles and a square bell tower on the Toolambool Road façade with upper openings, timber gable decoration and a copper fleche above a steeply pitched, hipped slate roof.

The asymmetrical arrangement of the facades and use of bays, buttresses, contrasting colours, decorative moulding over arched doorways and windows, and steep roof, adds to the Arts and Crafts details.

The roof has prominent gable verges and infill with decorative details, now altered with windows at each end of the gable. The rear faceted bay vestry has had its roof removed and replaced with a raised parapet hiding an open balcony to glass doors.

The flat roofed, square entrance porch on Neerim Road, is now converted to an upstairs balcony with new protruding windows above that have removed the original gable infill details. A new protruding, square cement sheet entrance covers the original arched doorway on the Toolambool Road side.

On the Toolambool Road façade a stucco two storey stair tower with slate dormer roof, has been recently added to provide a second entrance, obscuring what was a small arched porch over the entrance door.

A memorial stone is embedded in the Toolambool Road façade and stained glass windows in the Neerim Road entrance porch are extant.

The fencing is not original or significant.

At 1 Toolambool Road is a replica timber church from circa 2012 which has been constructed as a child-care centre, replacing the original (1886) church on this site.

History:

The City of Glen Eira lies within Boon Wurrung country, people of the Kulin Nation, who are the traditional custodians of the Port Phillip and Westernport Bays and South East Victoria. The Boon Wurrung Foundation represents the traditions and beliefs of the Boon Wurrung and cares for their country, people and language.

The land that 254 Neerim Road, Carnegie lies on was first sighted by Europeans at the turn of the nineteenth century with early surveys by Matthew Flinders in 1802 and then the first forays by Van Diemen's Land settlers in the 1830s. In September 1836, under pressure from the number of illegal occupations and squatting which had occurred, the Port Phillip land district was proclaimed open for settlement, allowing for the sale of Boon Wurrung lands, to be sold by the Crown to Europeans. This meant that access to traditional Boon Wurrung lands, resources and cultural sites was alienated without their consent.

Carnegie is a suburb within the municipality of Glen Eira Council. The growth of these suburbs in the 1870s was connected to the development of railway stations on what is now the Cranbourne line. A railway station was opened as Rosstown station just to the north of Toolambool Road, in 1879. The creation of the railway had an enormous impact on the place then called Rosstown. The laying of a private railway along the path of Railway Road and between Mimosa and Toolambool Roads created the curved arrangement of the streets today. This railway line was built to service the large sugar beet mill constructed by William Murray Ross in 1875. The failed venture folded and the private line was abandoned and later sold off for housing. The name of the suburb was changed from Rosstown to Carnegie in 1909.

A history of the property was compiled by Andrew Ward in January 1995 for the Caulfield Conservation Study. His information was taken from a local history pamphlet on the church, Volume 1 of Caulfield's Heritage by G Solomon and a history of Carnegie Primary School. It is reproduced verbatim here;

In 1886, the market garden district known as 'Rosstown', encouraged by the Oakleigh Circuit of the Methodist Church, resolved to establish its own Methodist Church. Land was purchased in Toolambool Road on the north-west corner of Neerim Road. The land had 66' frontage and cost 66 pounds. In December, 1886 a wood church measuring 30' x 20' was opened. A post and rail fence enclosed the property in 1887 and the church became the site of the Rosstown State School No.2897, subsequently Carnegie Primary School, for its inaugural year. A rent of 26 pounds was paid by the Education department.

Much of the neighbouring land was swamp, but after this was drained in 1889, settlement developed such that the church needed enlarging. In 1893 a 12' extension was affected to the east wall and the entrance porch moved. At the same time a stable was built for the minister's horses, the total cost of the improvements being 49 pounds. The church was enlarged again in 1912 and connected to mains water in 1913.

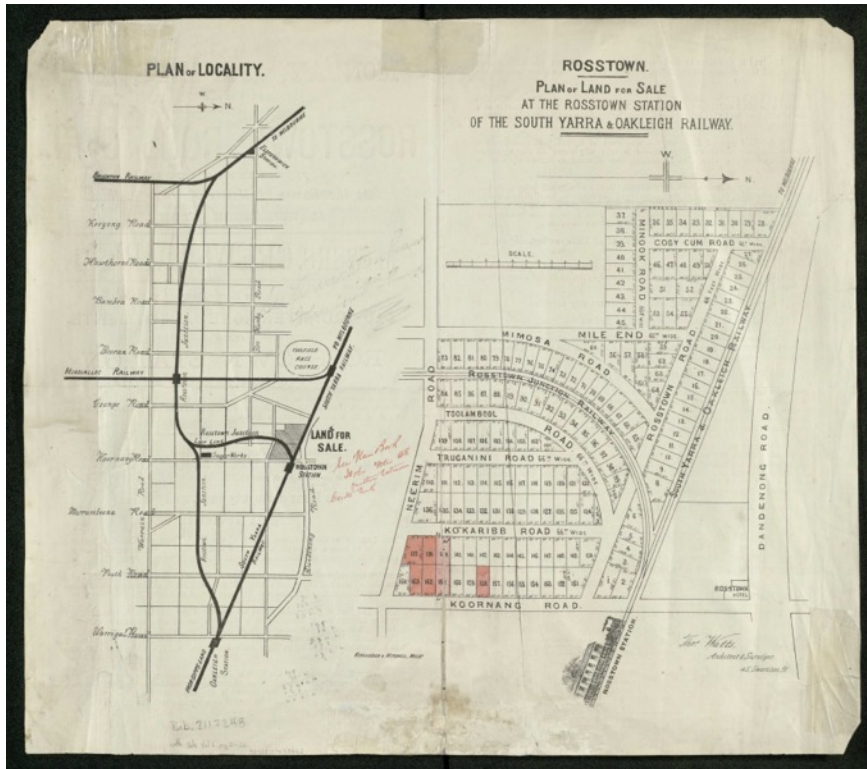
In 1914 a new brick church designed by architect A. Phipps Coles was erected by builder, LC Broadbent for approximately 1,100 pounds. Two adjoining blocks in Neerim Road were purchased for later development, a wood kindergarten hall was built and a caretakers residence next door was purchased.

The Neerim Road land was developed in two stages. In 1921 a large parsonage was built and in 1933 (since demolished), a large brick school hall (since demolished), designed by JF Snell, architect, and built by G Reid was completed in a style sympathetic to the church. Presently this hall is home to the Rosstown Theatrical Company. A front porch was added to the church in 1955. The interior of the church was remodelled at the same time. [Andrew Ward, Caulfield Conservation Study, January 1995]

Albert Phipps Coles was an architect and structural engineer, who according to his obituary, was born in Kyneton. He studied architecture in Melbourne and worked for the MMBW. Later he studied in London and then practised in South Africa for three years. He worked in Melbourne and Sydney and won the competition for plans for the new Melbourne City Markets in 1911. He designed the Carnegie Methodist Church in 1914. He died in Deniliquin. [The Argus, 29 Oct, 1940]

In the 1970s the Methodist church became part of the Uniting Church in Australia and the site was used by them for services until circa 2009. The Methodist Church originally owned the land currently known as 252-254 Neerim Road and 1-1A Toolambool Road. The land was subdivided and sold thereafter as follows: 252 Neerim Road was sold, the brick school hall was demolished and an apartment complex was constructed on this site in 2010. The original 1886 timber church and adjacent timber hall were converted to a child care centre at 1 Toolambool Road. Over time, and subsequent permit approvals, the timber church and hall has been demolished and a replica of the original church (2012) now faces Toolambool Road.

In 2019 the wider site which originally had a number of buildings of historic interest contains only the replica wooden church, and the brick and stucco Arts and Crafts former church on the corner of Neerim and Toolambool Roads.



Plan of lands for sale at Rosstown circa 1879, source, State Library of Victoria

MONDAY, 12th MAY, 1879,
AT TWELVE O'CLOCK.

ROSSTOWN. ROSSTOWN.

FOR SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION,
At the Rooms of Messrs. C. J. & T. Ham,
45 SWANSTON STREET.

MESSRS. CREWS & ARKLE

Have received instructions from MURRAY BROS, Esq., to sell, as above,
146 QUARTER-ACRE ALLOTMENTS,
AT THE
ROSSTOWN STATION
OF THE SOUTH YARRA AND OAKLEIGH RAILWAY.

Plans to be had at the Office of Messrs. CREWS and ARKLE, 45 Collins Street East, and 25 Grenville Street, Prahran; and at the Office of Messrs. C. J. & T. HAM, 45 Swanston Street.

To Investors, Speculators, and Parties on the look-out for Building Allotments which, by reason of their being next the Railway Station, are sure to double and triple in value in a year or two.

See Plans of Property and Locality inside.

SPECIAL ADVANTAGES.

The Land is at the Rosstown Station of the South Yarra and Oakleigh Railway, which is to have a double set of rails, and is to be worked as a Suburban Passenger Line, with frequent trains—the Gipps Land traffic passing over it as well.

The land is also close to the junction of the proposed Meredith Railway with the South Yarra and Oakleigh Railway. It is in the first Schedule of the Government Railway Construction Bill, and will be made out of the New Loan.

The Plan of Subdivision shows the layout of the Rosstown Junction Railway passing through it. It connects the South Yarra line with the Rosstown Junction—the Bill authorizing the construction of which, was passed in the last session of Parliament. The Rosstown Junction line will connect the Melbourne & Joy Railway at Eastmead with the Gipps Land Railway at Oakleigh. It will also form a junction with the Meredith line.

It will thus be seen by the Plan of Locality that never has a piece of land been presented for competition which is so thoroughly surrounded by rail-road facilities. It need become what Crewe has become in England. The purchasers on entering a carriage at their own doors will be carried in every direction throughout Victoria—and in a year or so to Adelaide, Sydney, &c.

THE TERMS will be either cash, or a fourth cash, and the balance by Bills at six, twelve, eighteen and twenty-four months, bearing eight per cent. interest; or, a quarter cash, and the balance—provided it amounts to £100—by weekly, monthly, or quarterly payments spreading over any term of years up to twelve, according to the Tables of the Victorian Permanent Property Investment and Building Society who will receive those payments at their offices in Collins Street East, Melbourne.

Messrs. DAVIES and CAMPBELL, Solicitors, Collins Street East, will power all papers as to title.

N.B.—The following Prices of Land within half-a-mile of the various Railway Stations mentioned, are quoted to show intending purchasers what they are certain to reach at Rosstown before long:

HOBSON'S BAY LINE.		SOUTH YARRA AND OAKLEIGH LINE.	
Station.	Price per Acre.	Station.	Price per Acre.
South Yarra	£15 - £7 to £8 per R.	Toolbo.	£4 7 -
Prickins	50 - 6 - 7 -	Melbourn	2 - 4 -
Windsor	30 - 6 - 7 -	HAWTHORN LINE.	
Belconnen	2 - 4 -	Hawthorn	£39 - £2 to £3 per R.
Elsternwick	2 - 3 -	North-Kewton Line.	
Brighton (three Stations)	3 - 6 -	Asno Vale	£2 to £4 per R.
		Kewton	2 - 4 -
		Moorab Wood	2 - 4 -

Prepared and Printed, by Messrs. CREWS and ARKLE, 45 Collins Street East, Melbourne.

Auction notice of land for sale at Rosstown, 1879, source State Library of Victoria

Statement of Significance:

What is significant?

254 Neerim Road and 1A Toolambool Road, Carnegie, the former Carnegie Methodist Church, is a small Federation Arts and Crafts inspired red brick and stucco building, with picturesque details. The former church

retains some of its original fabric but has undergone internal and external alterations to accommodate two residences, including; the addition of a stair tower, the addition of windows to all facades, the removal of the slate roof over the rear vestry and the creation of balconies and the removal of gable infill detail.

The prominent corner setting contributes to the significance of the place but the adjacent developments and the conversion to residential use and removal of architectural details have reduced its aesthetic significance.

As the rendered elements of the former church façade are painted, it is appropriate to implement paint controls to ensure a complementary colour scheme is applied to the exterior of the building.

The original timber church building and hall at 1 Toolambool Road, have been demolished and a replica has replaced it (2012). Although not original, the replica has interpretive value in the context of the arrangement of the overall site and the former complex of buildings located here. How is it significant?

The former Carnegie Methodist Church is of local historical, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Glen Eira.

Why is it significant?

The former Carnegie Methodist Church, built 1914, is historically significant at a local level as it shares the site of the first timber Methodist Church (1886) in Carnegie, (now demolished and replaced with a replica) which it supplanted as the main Methodist church, as the suburb became more established and populated during the Federation period. It reflects this period of growth in Carnegie and the Methodist origins of many of the early Carnegie settlers. [Criterion A]

The small red brick and stucco church building is aesthetically significant as an unusual and picturesque design in the Arts and Crafts style. [Criterion E]

The former Methodist church (1914) is socially significant for its role in celebrating important life events in the Carnegie community for a number of generations and different congregations from 1914 till 2009. [Criterion G]

Thematic Context/Comparative examples:

City of Glen Eira Heritage Management Plan 1996 – vol. 1 (Historical Background):

- Suburban Expansion and Consolidation (1920s -1930s)

Known comparable places in the City of Glen Eira:

- H067 Carnegie Primary School, 51 Truganini Road, Carnegie has 1909 additions which are in the Arts and Crafts style, with steep roof pitches, dormer gables and stucco decoration over red brick walls.
- HO8 St Stephens Church, 158 Balaclava Road Caulfield North, circa 1910 is a red brick and stucco church in Arts and Crafts style by the architect Robert Haddon.
- HO110 St Johns Presbyterian church, 563-567 Glen Huntly Road, Elsternwick was built 1915 with both gothic and Arts and Crafts detailing.

Known comparable places outside of the City of Glen Eira:

Benalla Holy Trinity church, is a more pared down version of a red brick Arts and Crafts inspired church with an elaborate and unusual bell tower built in 1907, clad in wooden shingles with an open timber, arched belfry.

Ivanhoe Baptist Church was consecrated in 1925 and has a steeply pitched roof, ornate bell tower with copper steeple and contrasting decoration in stucco.

Recommended extent of overlay:

Recommended schedule:

External Paint Controls	Yes
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Trees Controls	No
Fences and Outbuildings	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Historic Photos:





Carnegie Methodist Church, [1982], John T Collins 1907-2001 photographer, State Library of Victoria