

Heritage Inventory Sheet

Item Name	Uniting Church Auburn Parish and adjacent Victory Hall		
Recommended Name	Uniting Church Auburn Parish and Victory Hall		
Site Image			
Address	Northeast corner of Helena Street and Harrow Road, Auburn NSW 2144		
Lot/Section/DP	24	11	68372
	25-27	11	982836
Current LEP ID	I11 (Cumberland LEP)		
Former LEP ID	I21 (Auburn LEP)		
Heritage Conservation Area	Not included		
Date Updated	March 2020		
Significance Level	LOCAL		
Site Type	Level 1	Built	
	Level 2	Religion	
Ownership	Uniting Church NSW Trust Association		

Curtilage Map



Revised curtilage – refer below.

Statement of Significance

The Uniting Church is of local significance for its historic, aesthetic and representative values. The Church is historically significant as evidence for the development of local social and cultural institutions which accompanied the inter-war residential growth of Auburn. It has social significance as a continuous focal point of religious activity for a group of people in the community from 1888 onwards. The building is an aesthetically significant and intact suburban Inter-War Mission style Church with a prominent street-addressing façade. The church appears to retain much of its original character and fabric and is a good representative example of its type.

Criteria Assessment

a) Historic	The Church is historically significant as evidence for the development of local social and cultural institutions which accompanied the inter-war residential growth of Auburn.
b) Associative	The item does not meet this criterion.
c) Aesthetic/Technical	The item is aesthetically significant as good example of suburban Inter War architecture. It has a prominent façade character, and externally appears to retain much of its original character and fabric.
d) Social	The item is socially significance as a continuous focal point of religious activity for a group of people in the community from 1888 onwards.
e) Scientific	The item does not meet this criterion.
f) Rarity	The item does not meet this criterion.
g) Representativeness	The item is a representative example of suburban Inter War architecture.

Physical Description

The building is constructed from brick with a number of engaged piers dividing the structural bays. The roof is a simple gable with a steep pitch, tiled with slate roof tiles. In the centre of the main façade is a small brick antechamber which is essentially a fully enclosed brick porch. The antechamber has a tiled hipped roof which is partially covered by tall engaged piers with a squared parapet at the top, which borders the front double doors. The piers project above the parapet line, with moulded ends. A small, moulded finial is situated at the apex of the gable, possibly a former cross.

The main façade of the church is a large, gable-ended, oversize façade element with a prominent parapet, with engaged piers. In the gable above the centralised door is a window opening with a moulded pointed arch and two smaller, narrow stained-glass windows with pointed arches. The side and rear facades are unpainted brick, with narrow windows with pointed arches located between the engaged piers of the main side walls of the Church. The cement sills span between the buttresses.

The Victory Hall, built in the 1920s of weatherboard, was destroyed by fire in 2005. It has since been replaced by a new, modern church hall building to the immediate east of the church, fronting Helena Street.

Overall, the Church is in a good condition.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor
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Alterations and Additions

- The integrity of the church building is highly intact with few modifications evident to the external façade.
- A disabled access ramp has been installed in front of the building leading up to the front entrance.
- The adjacent Victory Hall was destroyed by fire and replaced with a modern building for the Uniting Church.

The church itself is highly intact and thus is of a high integrity.

Integrity	High	Moderate	Low
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** element detracts from the overall cultural significance of the place*

Historical Notes

Construction years	1901-1925
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The land which forms part of the modern suburb of Auburn was first developed in the 1790s when a track from Sydney to Parramatta was first developed and early land grants were given to free settlers and ex-convicts in the area. Most early land grants were small, measuring between 30-100 acres and were awarded to people such as Edward Gould, Henry Marr, Thomas Bates and John O'Donnell. Larger grants were given to established merchants and officials, such as James Chisholm, a merchant, who received a 600-acre grant, and Joseph Hyde Potts, who was given 410 acres.

In 1855, the first railway line from Sydney to Parramatta Junction allowed for suburban development around the area. The suburb of Auburn developed in the 1860s-80s from the subdivisions by John Yelverton Mills near the railway station. Mills named the suburb after the village in Oliver Goldsmith's poem 'The Deserted Village'. During this period, several main roads were built through the area and by 1880 it was reported that there were about 40 residences and a population of 200 people living in Auburn. By 1912-13, Auburn had established itself as suburb with the 11th largest number of new buildings in the metropolitan area for that year, with 268 approvals.

From the 1870s, industrial development had a significant impact on the Auburn's development. This process began in the 1860s when the New South Wales government began buying small lots of railway rolling stock locally. Some notable industries that came to Auburn include Henry Vale & Co. who built locomotives around Auburn, car and tractor maker Caldwell Vale, and Purcell Engineering. As the area was known for its clay-based soil, pottery and brickmakers flourished in the area, such as the Auburn Brick, Tile & Pottery Company who took over Duck River Brickworks.

Prior to the Uniting Church's use of the site, Methodist services were held in the Auburn Hall in 1887 until a church was built at the corner of Helena Street and Harrow Road in 1888. This was superseded by a new Church completed in 1910 which had a Victory Hall added in 1922.

In December 2005, the weatherboard Victory Hall adjacent to the Church was completely destroyed by fire. A new hall was built in its place, larger in footprint and a completely modern deviation from the original, more traditional style of church building. Historically, it was a Methodist Church, however today it continues as a place of worship for the Uniting Church.

Recommendations					
Heritage Management		Existing Built and Landscape Elements		Future Development and Planning	
1. Maintain this item's heritage listing on the LEP.	X	6. Original fabric is highly significant and should be maintained.	X	12. Alterations and additions should respond to the existing pattern of development, with careful consideration of the setting (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).	
2. Maintain this item's listing as part of the Heritage Conservation Area.		7. Unsympathetic alterations that detract from the cultural significance of the item should be removed.		13. New alterations and additions should respect the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	X
3. Consider delisting as an individual item from the LEP.		8. Maintain heritage landscape elements and schemes.		14. Future uses for this item should be compatible with its historical functions/ associations.	
4. Consider additional research to nominate this item for the State Heritage Register.		9. Maintain the existing setting of the heritage item, informed by the historic pattern of neighbouring development (form, scale, bulk, setback and height).	X		
5. The heritage curtilage for this item should be revised/reduced.	X	10. Maintain the historic aesthetic/character of the item and area (e.g. paint scheme, materiality, style, landscape elements).	X		
		11. The condition of this item is poor. Condition and maintenance should be monitored.			

Other recommendations and/or comments:

- Due to construction the contemporary Victory Hall it is recommended the curtilage be revised to embody the Church and the garden landscape alone. The heritage curtilage shown below should be considered as a revised curtilage for the Cumberland LEP.
- Should the revised curtilage be adopted, this listing sheet does not reflect the current Lot/DP which will need to be altered.



Listings		
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number
Heritage Act – State Heritage Register	N/A	-
Local Environmental Plan	Uniting Church Auburn Parish and adjacent Victory Hall	I22
Heritage Study	Uniting Church Auburn Parish and adjacent Victory Hall	I22
National Trust Australia Register	N/A	-

Previous Studies

Type	Author	Year	Title
Heritage Study	Extent Heritage Pty Ltd	2019	Cumberland LGA Heritage Study
Heritage Review	DPC	2007	Auburn Town Centre Heritage Review
Heritage Study	Neustein & Associates	1996	Auburn Heritage Study
Heritage Study	Terry Kass	1995	Draft Historical Context Report: Auburn Heritage Study

Other References

- Kass, T 2008, *Auburn*, retrieved 27 March 2019, <https://dictionaryofsydney.org/entry/auburn>
- Jervis, J 1933, *The story of Parramatta and district*, Sydney.
- Liberty Plains Parish Map, no. 235, Sydney NSW.
- New South Wales Real Estate Annual, 12 Nov 1913, p 9.
- Post Office file, *Auburn Part 1*, National Archives of Australia, CRS SP 32/1

Limitations

1. Access to all heritage items was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not assessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. Unless additional research was required, historical research for all heritage items was based on an assessment of previous LGA heritage studies, the Thematic History (prepared by Extent Heritage, 2019) and existing information in former heritage listing sheets.

Additional Images



New Victory Hall.



Uniting Church.



Side elevation of Uniting Church.



Rear and side elevations of New Victory Hall.