

St Linus Anglican Church Statement of Significance



Heritage Place	St Linus Anglican Church, 21 Glyndon Avenue, Coburg North	
PS ref No	HO86	April 2024

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The St Linus Anglican Church at 21 Glyndon Avenue, Coburg North, is significant. The elements that contribute to the significance of the place include:

- the church building designed by Charles Heath and constructed in 1932;
- clinker brick walls and terracotta-tiled roofs;
- overall built form and massing of the church building including two sloped roofs flanking the main nave with steeply pitched gable roof;
- external buttressing on side (north and south) elevations;
- stained glass windows and pointed arched fenestration;
- original gabled, brick entry porch fronting Delta Avenue with stepped arched opening and double timber doors with wrought iron hinges;
- foundation stone on the Delta Avenue elevation;
- metal crosses on the apex of gable ends;
- internal spatial volume and arrangement of main nave and side aisles;
- views into and within the church of important interior elements including the Moyle pipe organ, baptismal font and altar;
- original 1932 interior features including pointed arched openings, light brackets, timber lined ceiling and roof trusses, timber flooring, and pendant light fittings;
- original interior joinery and doors;
- the 1978 addition to the church building including the three-dimensional steel and glass framed window to eastern elevation designed by architect Vanne Trompf; and
- The mature Canary Island Date Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) in the northwest corner of the property fronting Delta Avenue, planted between 1945 and 1963 contributes to the significance of the church.

Movable objects within the church such as the Moyle pipe organ registered on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR H2159) on permanent loan from the National Trust (since 1985) and the carved marble baptismal donated in 1932 by a member of vestry HJ Thornton also contribute to the significance of the church.

How is it significant?

The St Linus Church complex is of local historical and representative significance to the City of Merri-bek.

Statement of Significance

Why is it significant?

St Linus Church is historically significant for its association with the continuing development of religion and the Anglican Church in Merri-bek when new places of worship were constructed during the interwar period with parish funds to serve growing congregations. It provides evidence of the growth of the new locality of Merlynston (now part of Coburg North) to the west of the Upfield railway line. The residential development in this area followed the re-opening of the Merlynston railway station (then known as 'North Coburg' station) in 1914 and subsequent large-scale land subdivisions in the interwar period. The establishment of the church in 1926 is associated with the early residential development in the Station Heights Estate, which was subdivided and sold in 1921 by Captain Donald Stuart Bain. The complex has significant historical connections to Coburg North and the Anglican Church community, having been an important place of worship for the local Anglican congregation for over 90 years. (Criterion A)

The 1932 brick church is significant as an example of the work of prominent architect Charles R Heath, who was also responsible for other important buildings within the municipality. The 1978 glass and steel three-dimensional window on the eastern façade is a demonstration of the continuous use of the building and the strong association with the congregation into the late twentieth century. As it was always the intention that alterations be made to this opening, this insertion aligns with the original design intention. Other early elements including the altered hall built in 1926 and Canary Island Date Palm in a prominent location on the Delta Avenue frontage, planted between 1945 and 1963 (at 21 Glyndon Avenue), as well as the adjacent former vicarage built by 1925 (at 19 Glyndon Avenue) contributes to the historical significance as it demonstrates the site's long-term association with the church. (Criterion A)

St Linus Church, constructed in 1932 to the design of architect Charles Heath, is of representative significance as an example of interwar ecclesiastical architecture with influences of interwar Gothic style. Original elements representative of an interwar church include the built form that follows the ecclesiastical tradition of a central nave with high-pitched gabled roof oriented east-west, and flanked by sloped roofed aisles. The use of clinker brick and terracotta tiles is also typical elements of an interwar period church. Key stylistic elements from this period include the buttresses with stepped engaged brick piers, lancet headed gothic windows with original stained glass; porch fronting Delta Avenue with a stepped brick pointed archway and timber doors; and metal crosses on the apex of gable ends. Designed by architect Vanne Trompf, the 1978 window exhibits modernist attributes, in its use of a combination of fractal-like geometric shapes. This window allows views into the church's original 1932 interior features designed by Heath and other important objects including the Moyle pipe organ, baptismal font and altar in the interior. The lofty and well-proportioned interior of the church and its minimal ornamentation to the interior are also representative of the interwar ecclesiastical architecture. (Criterion D)

Primary Source

- Merri-bek Heritage Assortment Project (GML Heritage, February 2024)

Images



Figure 1. St Linus Church at 21 Glyndon Avenue, viewed from Glyndon Avenue (upper) and Delta Avenue (lower). Note the 1978 three-dimensional steel and glass framed window on the Glyndon Avenue elevation and Canary Island Date Palm on the Delta Avenue side. Source: GML Heritage (October 2023)



Images



Figure 2. Internal view of church looking northwest showing interior volume and timber lined roof and trusses.
Source: GML Heritage (October 2023).