

Knitlock balustrading to the stairway, with the pyramid-top posts at the stair's beginning.

### Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site but comparison shows how distinctive Griffin's house designs were, given little resemblance to mainstream housing.

19, THE RIDGE, 1916  
 12, HUNTER ROAD, 1918  
 9, SEFTON PLACE, 1919-20  
 6, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1919  
 718, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1919  
 33, BROADWAY, 1920  
 158, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1920  
 11, PRETORIA STREET, 1920  
 23, SUNNYSIDE AVENUE, 1920  
 286, UNION ROAD, 1920  
 44, CURRAJONG AVENUE, 1920c  
 6, IRAMOO STREET, 1920c  
 17, THREADNEEDLE STREET, 1920c  
 65, YARRBAT AVENUE, 1920c  
 42, SPENCER STREET, 1921-3  
 899, TOORAK ROAD, 1921  
 930, BURKE ROAD, 1922  
 210, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1922  
 16, ALMA ROAD, 1923  
 648, BURKE ROAD, 1923  
 21, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1923  
 31, DEEPDENE ROAD, 1923  
 7, WARWICK AVENUE, 1923  
 90, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1924-5  
 168A, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1924-5  
 9, ROCHESTER ROAD, 1924-6  
 630-638, BURKE ROAD, 1924  
 322-394, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1924  
 12, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1924  
 10, FITZGERALD STREET, 1924c  
 11, ALMA ROAD, 1925(?)  
 269, UNION ROAD, 1925-6c  
 10, DONNA BUANG STREET, 1925  
 2, MARTIN ROAD, 1925  
 4, ST. ANDRIES STREET, 1925  
 1, THREADNEEDLE STREET, 1925  
 931, TOORAK ROAD, 1925  
 118, WATTLE VALLEY ROAD, 1925  
 55, BATH ROAD, 1925c  
 77, GREYTHORNE ROAD, 1925c  
 1, THREADNEEDLE STREET, 1925c  
 359, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1925c  
 513, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1925c  
 146, YARRBAT AVENUE, 1925c

### External Integrity

Generally original, with the added buttresses on the south side, a carport on the west and a free-standing 'Barn' living area to the north<sup>1</sup>.

### Significance

Architecturally, the most complete Burley Griffin knitlock house with both tiles and walling in the system and hence important as the work of an

innovatory and prominent architect in the national architectural realm: of state importance.

Historically, the knitlock system is associated with the many remedies evolved for the post-war housing shortage, several of them by architects and a few using modular construction systems: of regional interest.

### Mirabella, 62 Wattle Valley Road, Canterbury



Study Grading: B

Precinct: 22.00 Streetscape: 2

Construction Date: 1907

First Owner: Zelman, Victor A.

Architect: Gordon Garrett & Co.

### History

Victor A. Zelman commissioned architects, Gordon Garrett & Co. of Northcote, to design a dwelling on Allotment 26 in Wattle Valley Road in 1907.<sup>2</sup> The two-storey, wooden house had six rooms and an area of 1600 square feet.<sup>3</sup> Zelman, variously described as an artist, musician and music teacher, owned and occupied Mirabella until the early 1930s.<sup>4</sup> The property was purchased by Frank H. Williams by 1935 and occupied by the Reverence H.H. Williams during the 1940s and early 1950s.<sup>5</sup> Frank Williams was again the occupant in the early 1960s.<sup>6</sup>

The Zelman family were associated with both music and painting. Alberto Zelman, Jr. and Snr., are perhaps the best known, with Signor Alberto Snr. (born in Trieste) arriving in Melbourne in 1872 and achieving fame as a musician and composer until his death in 1908.<sup>7</sup> His son conducted the Royal Melbourne Philharmonic

1 see *The Age* 10.11.79  
 2 BR1907, 828  
 3 *ibid.*  
 4 RB1925-6, 14983; D1910, D1920; D1930  
 5 D1935; D1940; D1950  
 6 D1962  
 7 *Weekly Times*, 4/1/08

Society (1910-27) and was claimed as the founder of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.<sup>1</sup> Victor Zelman (born Melbourne 1877) was a landscape painter, having studied at the Melbourne National Gallery School. His work ('colourful impressionistic landscapes') apparently met with popular acclaim in the 1920-30s. His work is in the Victorian National Gallery.<sup>2</sup>

### Description

A steeply pitched terra-cotta tiled roof and low eaves line, lends this timber house a northern European character. Unlike the contemporary Queen Anne and Federation Bungalow styled houses, the house is simply treated with half-timbered gables and projecting boxed windows supported on quadrant brackets. An attic dormer creates another picturesque gabled form next to the projecting gabled wing. The dormer has a balcony and unusual brick-nogging (?) in the front wall. The verandah has turned timber posts and segment arches and the front picket fence may be original. The garden has some mature plantings.

### Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

69, BROADWAY, 1900-1  
20, BRYSON STREET, 1900  
608, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1900  
1, SALISBURY STREET, 1900  
5, VICTORIA ROAD, 1900  
11, LUENA ROAD, 1900c  
42, BRYSON STREET, 1901  
58, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1901  
6, KINTORE STREET, 1901  
23, ROYAL CRESCENT, 1901  
35, BROADWAY, 1902  
39, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1902  
169, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1903-4  
6, LOGAN STREET, 1903  
142, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1904  
7, MANGARRA ROAD, 1905-6  
24, CHAUCER CRESCENT, 1905  
633, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1906-8  
27, BALWYN ROAD, 1906  
58, BROADWAY, 1906  
65, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1906  
73-75, BROADWAY, 1907  
31, CHAUCER CRESCENT, 1907  
17, THREADNEEDLE STREET, 1907  
18, PEPPIN STREET, 1907c  
138, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1908-9  
41, INGLESBY ROAD, 1908-9  
10, SEFTON PLACE, 1908  
41, INGLESBY ROAD, 1909-10  
71, BROADWAY, 1909  
73, BROADWAY, 1909  
31, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1909  
206, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1909  
22, VICTORIA ROAD, 1909  
1293, TOORAK ROAD, 1910  
8, ST. GEORGES CRESCENT, 1910  
2, CLAYTON STREET, 1910c  
199, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1910c  
24, ALBION STREET, 1911

17-19, BROADWAY, 1911  
96-98, UNION ROAD, 1911  
24, KENT ROAD, 1912-13  
54, BROADWAY, 1912  
35, MATLOCK STREET, 1912  
648, BURKE ROAD, 1913-18  
6, KITCHENER STREET, 1913  
8, FITZGERALD STREET, 1915-20c  
127, WINMALEE ROAD, 1915-20c  
27A, ALMA ROAD, 1915  
76, ATHELSTAN ROAD, 1915  
347-349, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1915c  
353, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1915c  
150, WINMALEE ROAD, 1915c

### External Integrity

Balcony details have changed (?) and one verandah bay glazed in. A new garage is visible from the street.

### Streetscape

Contributing part of an Edwardian and Victorian era residential precinct.

### Significance

Architecturally, a distinctive house design which was presumably influenced by the first owner's origin. It is generally original and retains most of its period setting; of regional interest.

Historically, built for the artistically prominent Zelman family and hence of metropolitan significance. For Camberwell it is one of the few houses built for an artist or a music teacher and may demonstrate a particular approach to house designs. As a custom-designed house, it can comprehensively reflect the personal tastes and work routines of a popular artist in the inter-war period; of regional importance.

### House, 118 Wattle Valley Road, Camberwell



Study Grading: B  
Precinct: 7.00 Streetscape: 2

1 *Table Talk*, 16/9/1926, p.8; *Melbourne Punch*, 2/10/1924, p.3, etc.  
2 McCulloch, *Encyclopedia of Australian Art*, p.598