

Camberwell Conservation Study 1991
BUILDING CITATION

**Canonbury,
9 Barnsbury Road**



National Trust of Australia (Class/Rec.):
Classified

NTA File Number: 3383

Study Grading: B

Precinct: 18.00 Streetscape: 2

Construction Date: 1861

First Owner: Lamont, Edward H

History

Edward H. Lamont, a broker and commission agent, purchased lot 18, the land surrounding this property, in 1861¹. He mortgaged it in 1870 and gave it over to his trustees three years later who immediately resold a house and fifteen acres on the site to Edward Waters, discharging the mortgage². Waters eventually subdivided the land in 1884 when William Sewell, civil servant, became the new owner-occupier of a house and around 4 acres, until his death in 1912³. Edward Fetherston Hargh owned it in the 1920-30's and Thelma Matthews until 1960⁴.

The Boroondara Shire plan of c1875 shows a square allotment facing Mont Albert Road, owned by E. Waters: no house is shown. However, rate descriptions give a constant description from 1864 and modest valuation until a slight rise in the latter during 1868-9⁵. It was rented to Thomas Osmond on that occasion until 1871-2 when Alex Duncan leased it⁶. Lamont was no longer the accredited owner in that year, his trustees being listed instead in 1872-3⁷. Valuation rises occurred in 1869-70

(near 100%) and remained steady until 1875-6 when Edward Waters, a patent agent, was the owner-occupier (and had been since c1873)⁸.

By 1882-3, the property was leased to distinguished government surveyor, Clement Hodgkinson, prior to its subdivision and resale in 1884⁹. It was called Canonbury during Waters' tenure¹⁰.

Sewell, the new owner after 1884, was rated for a house and near one quarter of the acreage: his valuation however increased by 20%¹¹. It is likely that alteration of, or addition to, the original house occurred then. The property value remained constant, with a dwindling supply of land, until 1894-5 when it decreased¹². It decreased again in 1898-9, then described as of ten rooms¹³.

MMBW *Detail Plan* 1841 (1904) shows the house and carriage sweep linked by serpentine driveway from the Salisbury Road corner. The house is verandahed on four sides (now part removed) and linked by a yard to stables on the west boundary. Nearby, the construction of the Outer Circle Railway had already created a cutting under Barnsbury Road.

William Sewell served as an officer in the treasury and later became chief clerk of the Premier's office¹⁴. Waters' business address was, for a long period, the 'international patents office' in Little Collins Street, where he advised on patent law, patent and trade marks, and provided an agency for their application.

Description

1

A stuccoed brick house with slated hipped roofs and an encircling iron post verandah with panelled iron friezes and carved timber brackets. The house is in a conservative Italianate manner; the sparse detail including eaves brackets and chimney cornices. What may be an early post and rail fence (part), follows Barnsbury road, enclosing a dominantly exotic mature garden. The roof forms give some evidence of sequential construction but the overall appearance supports the c1884 reconstruction date.

1 NTA FN.3383
2 *ibid.*; RB 1872-3, 269; RB 1873-4, 278
3 RB 1884-5, 609
4 NTA FN.3383
5 RB 1868-9, 270
6 *ibid.*; RB 1871-2, 271
7 RB 1872-3, 269

8 RB 1869-70, 270; RB 1875-6, 283
9 RB 1882-3, 409
10 NTA FN.3383
11 RB 1884-5, 609
12 RB 1894-5, 456
13 RB 1898-9, 319
14 NTA FN.3383
1 further inspection required

Camberwell Conservation Study 1991 BUILDING CITATION (Continued)

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

2, BERWICK STREET, 1859
19, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1860
18, BALWYN ROAD, 1863
290, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1868-
8, AIRD STREET, 1870
35, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1873-4

External Integrity

Additions have replaced the verandah on the north elevation; the stable brickwork has been painted.

Streetscape

Isolated by landscape from a dominantly 20th century built neighbourhood the landscape form and planting associated with the adjoining rail reserve lend to the expression of a 19th century environment.

Significance

Architecturally, a near externally intact and large house which reflects its early date and subsequent construction by the conservative stylism and diverse roof forms: of potential regional interest and local importance.

Clement Hodgkinson and Sewell were both senior civil servants; Hodgkinson in particular was influential in the shaping of many areas within the colony and played a part in the design of public gardens and in street plantings. The gardens of Canonbury may reflect some of these interests. Along with a few other local properties it represents the style in which senior colonial administrators lived over several decades and the type of resident attracted in its transition from rural retreat to outer suburb.
