

Restoration:

Restore fence as evidence allows.

**Pitsligo, Formerly Kirsdale,
635 Riversdale Road**



Study Grading: B

Precinct: 29.03

Construction Date: 1888

First Owner: Murdoch, Helen

History

On allotment 2 of the Riversdale Estate Mrs. Helen Murdoch built this eight room brick house in 1888 and the name Kirsdale is allotted to this property in rate books of that period but changes to Pitsligo in later descriptions¹. Apart from a brief occupation by lessors such as Alex Lawson, Marcus von Steiger and Thomas Connor, the Murdoch family resided there until the first decade of this century: Miss Grace Murdoch teaching the piano and violin from the premises². Later occupiers were Percy Walker, also Ernest and Mrs. M W Hunt during the 1920-30's³.

A connection may exist with the famous progeny of the Rev. James Murdoch, Walter and Patrick John; the latter (Rev. P. J. Murdoch) residing farther west along Riversdale Road at the Presbyterian manse.

Description

Two storeyed, stuccoed and asymmetrically planned, this Italianate villa has a two-level iron verandah and simple cement ornament, as hood-moulds to windows or the atypically strong string mould at the first floor level. Sited close to Riversdale Road and at a corner, the house is prominent.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

35, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1881
630, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1882
2, BERWICK STREET, 1885c
53, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1886-7
320, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1886
3, FERMANAGH ROAD, 1887
57, SEYMOUR GROVE, 1887
33, ALMA ROAD, 1888
19, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1888
46, PARLINGTON STREET, 1888
89, UNION ROAD, 1888
2, PEPPIN STREET, 1889 (?)
25, ALMA ROAD, 1889(?)
54, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1889-9
36, ALMA ROAD, 1889
208, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1889
15, IRILBARRA ROAD, 1889
21, IRILBARRA ROAD, 1889
43, KENT ROAD, 1889
2, MOLESWORTH STREET, 1889
137, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1889
32, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1889
10, TRAFALGAR ROAD, 1889
26A, WANDSWORTH ROAD, 1889
50, WANDSWORTH ROAD, 1889
42, WARRICAL ROAD, 1889
322-394, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1890-1
262, UNION ROAD, 1890/1900
15, ALMA ROAD, 1890
544, BURKE ROAD, 1890
27, INGLESBY ROAD, 1890
7, VICTORIA AVENUE, 1890
13, VICTORIA AVENUE, 1890
57, YARRBAT AVENUE, 1890c?
7A, ALMA ROAD, 1891-2
13, BALWYN ROAD, 1891-4
73-79, BALWYN ROAD, 1891
320, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1892
622, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1892
6, TRAFALGAR ROAD, 1892
125, WATTLE VALLEY ROAD, 1892
136, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1893
668-670, BURKE ROAD, 1895
680, BURKE ROAD, 1895
816-822, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1895
30, HOWARD STREET, 1895c
29, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1897
52, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1897
15, KASOUKA ROAD, 1898
150, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1899
26, VICTORIA AVENUE, 1899

External Integrity

The fence has been replaced; a verandah, living room and stair at the south-east corner appear to have been added.

Streetscape

Adjoins the Queen Anne styled 633 Riversdale Road and opposes a row of villas, commenced by no. 639, which is also Queen Anne.

1 RB 1887-8, 419; RB 1888-9, 478
2 D1901; D1899; D1897; D1895; D1904; D1906; RB 1905-6, 353
3 D1915; D1935; BA 1929, 775; BA 1937, 7963

Significance

Architecturally, a typical and generally original late Victorian era villa which has interesting details, a prominent corner site and a complementary role in an Edwardian streetscape; of regional interest and local importance.

Historically, a possible connection to the important Murdoch family of Camberwell and of potential state interest and regional importance.

Restoration

Research further for family connection; restore corner as evidence allows and rebuild fence as typical or original.

House, 660 Riversdale Road, Camberwell



Study Grading: B
Construction Date: 1938
First Owner: Whitehead, S
Builder: Whitehead, H R

History

In 1938, Samuel Whitehead, himself a builder of Hope Street Camberwell, commissioned builder L.R. Whitehead of Kew to construct a dwelling on this property¹. The two-storied brick and timber dwelling was of seven rooms and was estimated to cost £1,400². The property was vacant in 1940 but by 1944-45 had been acquired by Harold G. Williams³. A. Ambrose Erswell occupied the property in 1950 but Arthur Louey Gook had purchased and occupied the residence by September of that year⁴. During his ownership, the house was extended by one room⁵. By 1962 the property again had a new owner, F.L. Phelan⁶.

Description

This a large and striking house in a busy street, with brightly coloured brickwork set in patterns against the dark timbering and nostalgic Old English styling contrasting with the Modernist Boyd House at number 666. Two storey, with attics and full upper levels, the massing of the house is fragmented to achieve the traditional informal elevations of the revived style. Windows are multi-paned and window heads outlined in dark header coursing.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

9, BOSTON ROAD, 1930
 396, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1930
 460, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1930
 16, MUSWELL HILL, 1930
 3, BRENEAL STREET, 1930c
 177, DONCASTER ROAD, 1930c
 816-822, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1930c
 454, WARRIGAL ROAD, 1930c
 359, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1930c
 397-399, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1930c
 497, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1930c
 35, BALWYN ROAD, 1931-2
 1292, TOORAK ROAD, 1931-2
 11, CHATFIELD AVENUE, 1932-3
 27, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1932
 3, FINSBURY ROAD, 1932
 7, MURIEL STREET, 1932c
 4, FINSBURY WAY, 1933
 125, HIGHFIELD ROAD, 1933
 1, MAPLE CRESCENT, 1933
 14, STODDART STREET, 1933
 7, MANGAN STREET, 1933c
 11, FAIRMONT AVENUE, 1934-5
 87-87A, BOWEN STREET, 1934
 458, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1934
 201, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1934c
 45, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1935
 46, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1935
 56, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1935
 1, FAIRMONT AVENUE, 1935
 9, MARLBOROUGH AVENUE, 1935
 13, MARLBOROUGH AVENUE, 1935
 3, SAUSBURY STREET, 1935
 177, GLEN IRIS ROAD, 1935c
 361, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1935c
 361, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1935c
 796-798, BURKE ROAD, 1936
 23, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1936
 9, JUDD STREET, 1936
 49, THE RIDGE, 1936
 20, WALSH STREET, 1936
 716, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1937
 517, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1937c
 31-39, COOKSON STREET, 1938-39
 311-317, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1938
 2, FAIRMONT AVENUE, 1938
 24, FINSBURY WAY, 1938
 32, HORTENSE STREET, 1938
 4, MARLBOROUGH AVENUE, 1938
 26, REID STREET, 1938

1 BA 1938, 10990; ER 1938
 2 BA 1938, 10990
 3 D1940; D1944-45
 4 D1950; BA 1950, 5632
 5 ibid.
 6 D1962; BA 1963, 32434