
Name	<i>Glenholm; Ngarwee</i>	Reference No	
Address	36 Alma Road Camberwell	Survey Date	26 September 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	1889	Previous Grading	B



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness Good Fair Poor

Heritage Status HV AHC NT Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

History

James H.B. Crook, of Crook, Busst and Co., wire manufacturers, was the first owner-occupier of this house after its construction in 1889; he also owned adjoining allotments (71,70)¹. Crook had joined Busst in 1871 at age 22, but stayed with the business for just ten years, before retiring due to bad health. He died in 1893.²

The house was known in the 1890s as 'Glenholm,' but was subsequently renamed 'Ngarwee' by Edward Rigby, a solicitor, who occupied the house in the early twentieth century.³

A detached sleepout was constructed at the rear of the site in 1950 and a swimming pool was added in 1976.⁴ More recently a detached carport has been constructed at the front of the site. A large addition constructed in matching materials has been added on the eastern side of the house set well back from the street; the origins of this are unclear.

(G Butler, Camberwell Conservation Study 1991, additional research by Lovell Chen, 2005)

Description & Integrity

36 Alma Road, variously named *Glenholm* or *Ngarwee*, is broadly typical of its period, a double-fronted single-storey villa of 1889 in a dichrome brick Italianate mode made popular by Joseph Reed and Frederick Barnes in the late 1860s. It is a double fronted brick villa in brown brick with a vigorous striping and keystone-patterning in cream brick. The roof, eaves, brackets, wall surfaces - with their pairing of brown and cream Hawthorn bricks - valance and verandah columns, window sashes and verandah tiling all appear to be original. The front door looks original and uses richly patterned leadlight glass.

The origins of the large extension to the rear of the house (on its eastern side) are unclear. Though constructed using matching materials, it seems likely to date from the post-WWII period. This addition is clearly visible from the main drive on the eastern side. There is a timber carport of recent construction on the eastern side of the house.

The front path appears to have repeated the verandah tiling, albeit probably in newer materials. The fences and driveway are all of recent origins. The driveways are of recent origins and are in a red-brown cement block laid in diamond pattern. The front fence is in brown Hawthorn brick, with a grey-blue moulded cornice characteristic of masonry fences in Melbourne in the 1980s and early 1990s; it screens most of the house and garden details from the street.

A swimming pool at the rear was added in 1976⁵.

Historical Context

Numerous suburban brick villas were constructed across Camberwell from the 1880s. Alma Road was located off Burke Road and just a short distance south of Camberwell Junction; by 1890, residences had been constructed on both sides of the street.⁶

Comparative Analysis

The rich consistency of *Glenholm's* prevailing dichrome brick walling compares interestingly with 25 Alma Road opposite, also of 1889. While in most respects it typifies the Melbourne suburban Italianate then in general use, the vigor of *Glenholm's* patterning, particularly over the windows and doors, gives the house some individuality and hints at a grainy High Victorian *wildness*- something seldom seen in Boroondara but frequent in Clifton Hill's polychrome houses of this period.

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

CRITERION D: The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as a part of a class or type of places or objects.

Glenholm typifies Melbourne's suburban Italianate of the late 1880s, typical features include its roof, use of dichrome brickwork, iron verandah and cast iron valance, tiled verandah flooring, front door box and stained fanlight glass.

CRITERION E: The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

While a relatively conservative design in general, *Glenholm* exhibits a high degree of consistency and richness in its main street presentation, and has an individual quality which derives from the vigorous voussoir patterning of its dichrome brick.

Statement of Significance

Glenholm is of local historical and architectural significance as a representative and relatively externally intact example of a suburban Italianate brick villa of the late 1880s which is distinguished by its decorative dichrome brickwork. Its canted bay, slate roof, verandah with decorative lacework, and frontality on its site all mark the house as typical of the later period of nineteenth century suburban Italianate. While a fairly conservative design in general, *Glenholm* exhibits a high degree of consistency and richness in its main street presentation, and has an individuality which derives from the vigorous voussoir patterning of its dichrome brick.

Grading Review

Unchanged.

Recommendations

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Boroondara Planning Scheme.

Identified By

G Butler, Camberwell Conservation Study, 1991.

References

General: G Butler, *Camberwell Conservation Study*, 1991.

¹ Shire of Boroondara Rate Books 1889-90, 73; 1888-9, 65, 66.

² *Australasian Ironmonger*, 1894, Vol. IX No. 1, p.8, by 1900, Crook, Busst and Co. had broadened their interests to include furniture and wire mattresses having two establishments, one at South Melbourne and one in Condell's Lane.

³ G Butler, *Camberwell Conservation Study*, 1991, vol. 4, p. 13, *Sands and McDougall Melbourne Directory*, 1906.

⁴ Details sourced from the City of Camberwell Building Index, # 4655, dated 1950.

⁵ Details sourced from the City of Camberwell Building Index, #59446, dated 23 July 1976.

⁶ *Sands and McDougall Melbourne Directory* 1890.