
Name	<i>Ericstane</i>	Reference No	
Address	136 Canterbury Road, Canterbury	Survey Date	17-18 November 2005; inspected
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	1893	Previous Grading	B



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness Good Fair Poor

Heritage Status HV AHC NT Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

History

John Grieve, who was described as a gentleman (retired), owned and occupied this nine room brick house, on allotments 1 and 22 of the Griffin Estate, from 1893 until 1898 when it was leased to manufacturer Burdett Laycock¹. After a short period of re-occupation by John Grieve, the *Melbourne Directory* replaces him with Mrs Annie Grieve, possibly after his death².

Graeme Butler has noted that Grieve may have been of Connibere, Grieve and Connibere, warehousemen of Melbourne, however this has not been confirmed. There is equally no evidence for the inferred link between this house and the prominent architect, Beverley Ussher, who Butler notes worked for the Grieve family in the area during 1907.³

The timber structure shown on the MMBW Detail Plan No. 70 of c. 1905 at the north-west corner of the house is thought to have been a conservatory; this has been demolished. Minor alterations and additions have been made to the house; these are noted below under Description and Integrity.

The rear section of Ericstane's allotment has been subdivided and developed for a separate residence (date unknown).

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

Description & Integrity

Ericstane is a substantial house in the Italianate manner, set well away from the street on its primary (Canterbury Road) street frontage. It is a single-storey brick residence with an asymmetrical front elevation with projecting canted bay and return bull-nosed verandah set clear of the roof eave line with cast iron columns and cast iron lace frieze. The site drops away to the south with the result that

the main wing extending along Marlowe Street appears two-storey. In fact it houses an extensive undercroft cellar with stairs up into the main house, now sealed off, and some sleeping accommodation for servants. This is lit from the south by a set of undercroft windows directly below the living room. *Ericstane* has a hipped slate roof ridged in galvanized iron, and regular-spaced brackets. The verandah springs from just below the eave brackets, and is of galvanized iron supported on a set of cast-iron columns and fitted with a decorative frieze in cast iron lace. A conservatory was on the northeast corner of the main house, but this had deteriorated structurally and has been demolished pending a replacement. Walls and chimneys are in umber Hawthorn brick picked out in an energetic polychrome with cream stripes, impost, and quoins, red brick window surrounds, red patterning below the eaves and alternating red and cream brick voussoir-bricks over each window. The quoins are set out marginally from each wall corner.

The house appears to be generally intact externally, the main addition being a bathroom and associated verandah (the reference is to Bath Rm Ver.) in 1964. An outside laundry has been refurbished more recently and screened by a lattice, and the neighbouring toilet has been renewed. A freestanding dual carport was added in 1992, with roller doors facing onto Marlowe Street. The other alterations are not easily visible from Marlowe Street, however.⁴ The interior has been completely refurbished in a manner compatible with the original house, and intended to reinstate the original décor. This includes the provision of William Morris wallpaper throughout the living and sleeping rooms, careful maintenance of the joinery, much of which is in a Queen Anne pattern of detailing, and a modified kitchen and scullery area with an additional toilet. The bathrooms have been refurbished in an early twentieth century manner with exposed chromium shower plumbing and 1900s-1920s pattern furniture. The living room has a spectacular arcade of windows, with beveled patterning and leadlighting dating from the 1920s. The fireplaces have been refurbished with renewed tiling from other sites, and have almost all their mirrored Queen Anne mantels intact.

Extensive garden plantings in recent years and raising the hedge screen have largely obscured the house from the street, though some details can be viewed from Marlowe Street to the immediate east. The main trees- a palm and conifers, are long-standing, as are most of the garden plantings.

The property has a new timber picket fence, added in 1986. The gate posts incorporate what appear to be reused cast iron finials from the original fence.⁵

Historical Context

By the early twentieth century, this section of Canterbury Road had developed with a mix of residences and commercial buildings, the latter concentrated around the railway line.⁶ The c. 1905 MMBW Detail Plan No. 71 shows No. 136 (*Ericstane*) as one of the more prominent residences in the immediate area.

Comparative Analysis

Butler reports that the renowned architect Beverley Ussher was working for the original clients around 1907, but *Ericstane*, completed much earlier, looks like another's design. The vigorously woven polychrome is a distinctive element, visibly different from the Joseph Reed-derived polychromy of 1885-91 elsewhere in Boroondara, and differs also from the stripped High Victorian of 12 Vincent Street, Surrey Hills (q.v., B-graded), completed around the same time, or the nearby *Tarawarra*, 13 Victoria Avenue, of 1890 (q.v., B-graded).⁷ In general form and details it looks closer to the 1888-91 houses in Alma Road Camberwell (15, 25, 33, 36, q.v., all B-graded). The interior has been largely refurbished, but in a sympathetic manner that emphasizes the extensive arts and crafts and Queen Anne fittings that evidently marked out the original house. This combination of an Arts and Crafts-Queen Anne interior, coupled with an Italianate exterior, compares with Charles Webb's *Mandeville Hall* in 10 Mandeville Crescent Toorak, of 1876-8.⁸

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.

Ericstane is a handsome and externally relatively intact example of a polychrome Italianate house, typical of medium-to-large residences in the Camberwell area just prior to the shift to the Federation styles. It has a dignified sense of command on its hill site.

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.

The polychrome brickwork, vigorously patterned and woven, is *Ericstane*'s most distinctive element, and the house is accomplished and well-crafted in its details.

Statement of Significance

Ericstane, at 136 Canterbury Road, Canterbury, is of local historical and architectural significance as a handsome and externally relatively intact example of a polychrome Italianate house, typical of medium-to-large residences in the Camberwell area just prior to the shift to the Federation styles. It has a dignified sense of command on its hill site, and its well-placed in its rich garden. The polychrome brickwork, vigorously patterned and woven, is *Ericstane*'s most distinctive element, and the house is accomplished and well-crafted in its details.

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.

Specific:

¹ Shire of Camberwell Rate Books, 1893-4, 1123; 1898-9, 1036; 1899-1900, 1114.

² Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria, 1905; 1906.

³ Reference is to Miles Lewis Index of Australian Architecture.

⁴ Details sourced from the City of Camberwell Building Index, # dated 21 April 1964.

⁵ Details sourced from the City of Camberwell Building Index, # 34987, dated 21 April 1964 (new bathroom and verandah); #79541, dated 8 January 1986 (fence); #95304, dated 13 July 1992 (garage). The garage permit is listed as a carport but it is now, at least, an enclosed garage with automatic doors.

⁶ See Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria, 1901, MMBW Detail Plan No. 71, c. 1905.

⁷ Outlined in G Butler, City of Camberwell Conservation Study 1991, vol. 4, pp. 291 (Tarawarra) and 295-6 (12 Vincent Street).

⁸ See Philip Goad, *Melbourne Architecture: a Guide*, Watermark, Sydney, 1999, p. 60. Illustrated extensively in Suzanne Forge, *Victorian Splendour*, Oxford, Melbourne, 1985.