

---

<b>Name</b>	House	<b>Reference No</b>	
<b>Address</b>	138 Canterbury Road, Canterbury	<b>Survey Date</b>	17-18 November 2005
<b>Building Type</b>	Residence	<b>Grading</b>	B
<b>Date</b>	1908-9	<b>Previous Grading</b>	B



**Extent of Overlay**

To title boundaries.

---

**Intactness**     Good     Fair     Poor

**Heritage Status**     HV     AHC     NT     Rec.    BPS Heritage Overlay

**History**

Preston architect, C. H. Richardson, designed and built this house for his own use in 1909, remaining there until c1914.<sup>1</sup> The house was to be of brick, 26 squares area and two storeys.<sup>2</sup> A series of owners followed, including William McCleary, William Bedford, a Mrs L. Talbot and Percy K. Watts.<sup>3</sup>

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

**Description & Integrity**

138 Canterbury Road is a representative example of a late Federation villa. It has a terracotta tiled roof in the characteristic Marseilles pattern, with a central hip and integrated flared verandahs framed by a short projecting wing facing Canterbury Road and a longer wing facing Marlowe Street. The combination of these with a corner bay and conical tower above that was again typical of Federation design, in the wake of Alfred Dunn, Evander McIver and Beverley Ussher's seminal essays in the mode, 1889-91.<sup>4</sup> In this example the corner tower has been shifted from its customarily central placing, possibly to allow for views of the Dandenong Ranges. The verandah valances are in solid fretwork arch patterns of a type common in Melbourne's suburbs, and the verandah posts have several Art Nouveau flourishes. The wall treatment, in red brick with rough-cast stucco, friezes, is also characteristic.

While they may not be the original, the fence and diagonally braced gateposts are in an appropriate style. A red brick garage was added in 1981 and is of sympathetic design.<sup>5</sup> A swimming pool was planned in 1989 but was not proceeded with.<sup>6</sup>

## 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.<sup>7</sup> The c. 1905 MMBW Detail Plan was prepared some years prior to the construction of No 138, though on the other side of Marlowe Street, No. 136 (*Ericstane*) was standing at this time.

## Comparative Analysis

Though more modest, this corner composition by Richardson compares with Ussher and Kemp, Christopher Cowper and other better-known architects active in Boroondara in the Federation period. The house is smaller than most of these better-known architects' designs, and the main corner view has a simplicity in form and line, without a strong vertical element such as an accentuated set of gables or a conspicuous drum for its tower. This, plus a regular and conspicuous accentuation of rafters, suggests an early drift toward bungalow form.<sup>8</sup> A larger but formally direct counterpart was Ward and Carleton's *St Hilary's* of 1904 at the Mont Albert Road- Victoria Avenue corner, now demolished.<sup>9</sup>

## 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.*

138 Canterbury Road is a fine and externally intact example of a middle-to-late brick Federation period house which is shown to advantage on this corner 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.*

138 Canterbury Road is of minor interest for the suggestion, albeit subtle, of a shift towards an emerging Australian bungalow form within what is still very much a Federation house, and for the general dominance of its roof form over the more usual vertical relieving or counterbalancing elements seen in Federation architecture.

## Statement of Significance

138 Canterbury Road, Canterbury is of local historical and architectural significance as a fine and externally intact example of a middle-to-late brick Federation period house which is shown to advantage on its corner site. It is of minor interest stylistically in its anticipation of an emerging Australian bungalow form within what is still very much a Federation house, and for the general dominance of its roof form.

## 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:*

<sup>1</sup> *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1914; MMBW Drainage Plan Application # 66078; Camberwell Building Permit Applications 1899-1918, 1108.

<sup>2</sup> Camberwell Building Permit Applications 1899-1918, 1108.

<sup>3</sup> *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1915; 1920; 1925; 1935.

<sup>4</sup> McIver's *Elderslie*, 15 Alma Road Camberwell, is discussed elsewhere in this review. For the Dunn and Ussher's contributions to the approach see *Australasian Builder and Contractor's News*, 1889 (for

Dunn's houses on the Irving Road Estate, Windsor) and *The Building and Engineering Journal*, 8.184, 9 January 1892, p. 14 (*Ussher's Cottage by the Sea*).

<sup>5</sup> Details sourced from the City of Camberwell Building Index, # 69519, dated 17 August 1981.

<sup>6</sup> Details sourced from City of Camberwell Building Index, # 89255, dated 17 October 1989, and #89563, dated 30 November 1989.

<sup>7</sup> See *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1901, MMBW Detail Plan No. 71, c. 1905.

<sup>8</sup> The shift toward the bungalow was under way by about 1906, as suggested by Reginald Prevost's *Australian Bungalow and House Designs* of that year, modelled as a 'bungalow book' on the Californian or Craftsman pattern. The relative plainness of the house also coincides with a reaction against the formal complexity of contemporary Federation architecture, seen in professional journals such as *Art and Architecture* and their contemporary criticism. Arguably, Australia's emergent 'bungalow' of the period 1908-1915 was as much a transformation of Federation architecture and a response to the British Edwardian free styles as it was to any specifically Californian or Craftsman precedent.

<sup>9</sup> No 147 Mont Albert Road, demolished in the c. late 1990s was B-graded building in the Camberwell Conservation Study. Its demolition and replacement with stuccoed townhouses provoked a wide outcry and stimulated Save our Suburbs action in the Camberwell area.