

Name	Warrawee	Reference No	
Address	626-8 Riversdale Road, Camberwell	Survey Date	18 November 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B (Provisional)
Date	1884-5	Previous Grading	B



#### Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

Heritage Status ☐ HV ☐ AHC ☐ NT ☒ Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

#### History

A maltster, Thomas A. Fielding was the first owner of Warrawee when it was erected on four acres in 1884-5.<sup>1</sup> This followed closely the construction of the adjoining *Astolat* (q.v., A-graded) for the Derham family, reputedly by the same builder, James Swan.<sup>2</sup> Graeme Butler has noted that signatures on the internal plaster wall and remnant wallpaper make reference to dates of February 1885 and 1891 respectively<sup>3</sup>.

The first detailed rate description (1898-9) of the house was for a brick house of 8 rooms, still on 4 acres<sup>4</sup>. By the mid-1920s, the land had shrunk to 152 x 404 feet and the ownership changed to Arthur E. Fielding, solicitor<sup>5</sup>.

The next owner was Arthur S. Cudmore, an investor, who owned the property for some 22 years. He replanted the garden using many Australian native plants; creating today's dense front garden<sup>6</sup>. A later long-term owner was the radiologist, Dr Boyard Taft, (34 years)<sup>7</sup>. By the 1980s the house had grown to some 50 squares, but with only 3 bedrooms. Its coachhouse was used for a four-car garage, sited next to the old stables<sup>8</sup>. A swimming pool had been added on the west side.

A building permit was issued for a new fence in May 2000.<sup>9</sup>

(G Butler, Camberwell Conservation Study 1991, additional research by Lovell Chen, 2006)

#### Description & Integrity

*Note that the following description is based on information contained in the Camberwell Conservation Study and limited photographic<sup>10</sup> and documentary evidence and that its accuracy would need to be confirmed on site. Access to the site was not available during the review.*

Warrawee, 626-628 Riversdale Road, Camberwell, is a large single-storey double-fronted Italianate villa constructed of brick on an asymmetrical plan. The hipped slate-clad roof features bracketed

eaves, moulded entablature, carved serrated fascia and rendered brick chimneys with moulded caps. The façade includes a prominent projecting canted bay and was noted in 1991 as retaining its unpainted render finish. It is encircled by a concave corrugated galvanised steel verandah supported by cast iron columns with cast iron frieze and brackets. The verandah floor has been replaced with brick paving and the verandah is accessed via wide bluestone steps. The main entrance appears to contain a panelled timber door with glazed surrounds. Fenestration includes tall timber-framed double-hung sashes and windows are surrounded by moulded architraves and consoled sills.

It appears that former outbuildings may have been incorporated into later garaging and extensive additions have been constructed along the western side of the house as well as a smaller canted bay on the rear south elevation.

The frontage is fenced by a non-original steel and timber plank fence with brick gate piers. The garden is mature, screening the house with a range of large trees, most of long standing.

### Historical Context

*Warrawee* and its neighbour *Astolat* provide evidence of the first phase of development of this portion of Camberwell, considered far-flung until the advent of the Outer Circle railway in the last years of the nineteenth century. Despite later development in the area and the encroachment on its original grounds of four acres, *Warrawee* retains enough of its setting today to provide evidence of the era of the 'garden villa', when the middle classes settled in the district, ahead of the subdivision boom in the later 1880s.

### Comparative Analysis

*Warrawee* can be compared with a number of substantial single-storied Italianate villas in Boroondara, notwithstanding there are variations within this general typology in terms of planning, details and finishes. The house is similar in many respects to the stuccoed 8 Balwyn Road, Canterbury and 50 Wandsworth Road, Surrey Hills (both B-graded, q.v.), and with the polychrome 25 Alma Road Camberwell (q.v., B-graded), 136 Canterbury Road, Canterbury (q.v., B-graded), and 26A Wandsworth Road, Surrey Hills (q.v., B-graded), all of which date from the same period. The large, single-storied Italianate house was a popular building type in Camberwell, its homestead overtones emphasizing the possibility of country life in the city. Like 8 Balwyn Road, Canterbury, the house is distinctive for the manner in which its verandah extends around the canted bay. It is also relatively unusual in retaining an unpainted render finish (assuming it survives in its unpainted condition).

### 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.*

*Warrawee* is a fine, representative and relatively externally intact example of the large, single storey Italianate villas which appeared in the Camberwell-Canterbury-Surrey Hills areas in the middle to late 1880s. The house is set in a mature and impressive garden.

**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.*

*Warrawee* is distinctive in this group for the manner in which its verandah extends around the front canted bay, and for the retention of its original unpainted render finish.

### Statement of Significance

#### *Provisional only*

*Warrawee*, at 626-628 Riversdale Road, Camberwell, is of local historical and architectural significance. It is a fine, representative and relatively externally intact example of the large, single storey Italianate villas which appeared in the Camberwell-Canterbury-Surrey Hills areas in the middle to late 1880s. *Warrawee* is distinctive in this group for the manner in which its verandah extends around the front canted bay, and for the retention of its original unpainted render finish. The house is set in a mature and impressive garden.

## Grading Review

B (Provisional)

## Recommendations (Provisional)

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Boroondara Planning Scheme on a provisional basis.

It is recommended that a further site inspection be carried out to confirm the provisional grading.

## Identified By

G Butler, Camberwell Conservation Study, 1991.

## References

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

*Specific:*

<sup>1</sup> C. Kellaway, National Trust of Australia (Vic.) Research notes, 1980, FN970, cites Shire of Boroondara Rate Book, 1883-4, # 214-215.

<sup>2</sup> G Butler cites pers.com. owners, 1991.

<sup>3</sup> See D Derham 'Frederick Thomas Derham', in B Nairn, G Serle and R Ward (eds), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 4, MUP, 1972, pp. 56-58.

<sup>4</sup> Shire of Boroondara Rate Book, 1898-9, # 296.

<sup>5</sup> City of Camberwell Rate Book, 1925-6, # 13956.

<sup>6</sup> *The Age*, 21 May 1983; D Saunders, *Historic Buildings of Victoria*, p.151.

<sup>7</sup> *The Age*, 21 May 1983.

<sup>8</sup> *The Age*, 21 May 1983.

<sup>9</sup> Building permit (Allied Building Services) # 1078002585, demolition of wall and construction of new fence, 12 May 2000, City of Boroondara Building file, no. 40/408/13143.

<sup>10</sup> Including photographs taken in 1965 and 1983 by John T Collins and held in the collection of the State Library of Victoria.