

Name	<i>The Knoll</i>	Reference No	
Address	50 Wandsworth Road, Surrey Hills	Survey Date	20 September 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	1888-9	Previous Grading	B



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

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

History

Constructed in 1888 for Augustus and Peter Barbeta, it was afterwards leased to Ms J.W. Galbraith.¹ Captain Joseph Bradshaw a pastoralist occupied and owned the house by 1909 until a solicitor, Thomas Henderson acquired it in 1915, remaining there until his death.²

Augustus Barbeta with the Parer family was the licensee of Hosies Hotel, Melbourne whilst Peter was the manager of the Havana, Manila and New York Cigar Co. Ltd., situated beside the hotel in Elizabeth Street. Another A. Barbeta ran Turkish baths in Bourke Street. There were a number of Spanish families living in this area of Surrey Hills, including the Parer family, who had *Guilford* (q.v. 26A Wandsworth Road, B-graded).

After 1891, the house was leased to D.C. Archer, a customs agent.³ After 1896, Archer was gone and the bank had foreclosed.⁴ Later residents included the Bradshaw and Henderson families, both associated with the Presbyterian church in Surrey Hills.

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

Description & Integrity

The Knoll, of 1888-9, had its original frontage to Union Road, though its main orientation was actually toward Mont Albert Road and the view of Surrey Hills and the Dandenong Ranges. *The Knoll*, as its name suggests, was sited on a low ridge that even now still allows views over the roofs of its neighbours around the Union Road- Mont Albert Road corner. Following the subdivision of the eastern section of its original allotment, the house is accessed from Wandsworth Road, with the current front elevation originally a side elevation.

The MMBW Detail Plan No. 72 of 1909 shows the extent of the original site, including three outbuildings of which one at the north-west still appears to be there.⁵

50 Wandsworth Road is a single-storey double-fronted rendered brick house with hipped roof clad in slate with galvanized iron ridge capping and rendered chimneys. The projecting north wing has a canted bay with three arch-headed sash windows. A return verandah with cast iron columns and lace frieze extends along the east and south sides below a concave spirelet and a second canted bay projects to the south. The original entry was from the south. The building was unpainted in 1991, but has subsequently been overpainted in an apricot-buff. The original mouldings, an impost on the north elevation, bracketing on the chimneys, remain.

A weatherboard outhouse by the car court is of uncertain age.⁶ The garden appears mature on its south side, however the metal picket fence, hedge, massive bluestone gateposts, gates and garden on the near north side are all of recent origins, being completed between 1975 and 1988.⁷

Historical Context

The 1909 MMBW Detail Plan no. 72 shows a series of houses facing Mont Albert Road (ie: facing away from Wandsworth Avenue, with a cluster of smaller timber residences in the block bounded by Chertsey and Weybridge Streets and Wandsworth Avenue. Further development occurred in the late Edwardian and interwar periods, with numerous bungalows constructed in the surrounding area.

Comparative Analysis

The Knoll is a substantial single storey stuccoed Italianate house related to several in the area, such as *Hazeldene* at 8 Balwyn Road Canterbury (q.v., B-graded)⁸. In composition it leans toward the characteristic type of the Federation period, having a return verandah which wraps round a corner bay with a conical tower immediately above it. In other respects it is characteristic of the later nineteenth century suburban Italianate.

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

CRITERION A: The historical importance, association with or relationship to Boroondara's history of the place or object.

The association of 50 Wandsworth Road with the Barbeta family is of historical interest but is not considered to elevate the significance of the house.

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.

The Knoll is a relatively intact example of later nineteenth century suburban Italianate style in a substantial-sized Camberwell house. Though it has lost its original frontages to Union Road and Mont Albert Road, the diagonal address of the house to its garden is still evident.

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 Knoll is a good example of later Italianate design on the eve of the Federation period, and shows some proto-Federation characteristics in the elaboration of its corner bay into a conical roof.

Statement of Significance

The Knoll, at 50 Wandsworth Road, Surrey Hills, is of local historical and architectural significance as a relatively intact example of later nineteenth century suburban Italianate style in a substantial Camberwell house. Though it has lost its original frontage and is now sited on a truncated allotment, the diagonal address of the house to its garden is still evident. *The Knoll* is a good example of later Italianate design on the eve of the Federation period, and shows some proto-Federation characteristics in the elaboration of its corner bay into a conical roof.

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 Boroondara Rate Book, 1887-8, 1184; Shire of Boroondara and Camberwell, 1904-5, 1157; *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1906.

² Town of Camberwell Rate Book, 1911-12, 1337.

³ Shire of Boroondara Rate Books, 1891-2, 1605; 1894-5, 1350.

⁴ Shire of Boroondara Rate Book, 1896-7, 1181.

⁵ MMBW Plan No. 72, dated 1909.

⁶ It does not appear on the 1909 MMBW Plan No. 72.

⁷ Details sourced from City of Camberwell Building Index, # 58316, dated 22 December 1975 (house extensions); 58726, dated 19 March 1976, (swimming pool); and 23 November 1988 9 ('Alts.-owner'). This last appears to refer to the fence and gate alterations.

⁸ G Butler, City of Camberwell Conservation Study 1991, vol.4, p. 15.