

Camberwell Conservation Study 1991
BUILDING CITATION

**Coorinyah,
150 Mont Albert Road**



Study Grading: A

Precinct: 24.00

Construction Date: 1899

First Owner: Mellor, Alfred

Architect: Ussher & Kemp

Builder: Turner, Edward

History

Alfred Mellor of A Mellor & Co, accountants and auditors, owned lots 50 and 51, at the Hopetoun Avenue corner of Mont Albert Road, in 1898-9¹. By 1899-1900 he owned a ten room brick house on the site². Architects, Ussher & Kemp acted for Mellor when the house was connected to the MMBW sewer, in 1907, and it appears that they were also the designers³. James Butler builder, added a shed to the property during 1900 and it is likely he built the house also⁴. Reputedly the contract drawings survive, dated 1898, and give Beverley Ussher as architect and Edward Turner, builder⁵.

Sir Robert Best, barrister and eminent politician, lived at Coorinyah early this century, for a brief period but it was Alfred Holtz, journalist, who resided there through the 1920's- 1930's⁶. He became general manager of *The Australasian* and *The Argus* in 1920 and was appointed chairman to a number of national and international committees, both work-related and charity based⁷.

Description

George Tibbitts in his article 'The So-Called Melbourne Domestic Queen Anne' describes this and the Woods house as '...grand expositions of the hipped genre', combining Tudoresque English references and American late 19th century timber ornament, into '...a novel style'. Ussher and others had, however, already developed the Queen Anne villa style in designs as early as 1889 (ie. 200 Maribyrnong Road, Ascot Vale, 1892). Coorinyah was seen as the culmination of this style, with much of the late Victorian formality removed from it.

At Coorinyah, the broad hipped roof is the dominant backdrop for a number of gabled roof forms, chimneys and the unusual shingle- spired look-out, with its attached chimney. Below the eaves line giant arched timber supports spring between gabled verandah or room bays, almost removing the visual support for the large roof expanses above it. A matching 'moon-gate' or Chinese arched entry occurs on the east, punctuating a series of room bays which extends around the south elevation and relates to a dormer set high above it.

The Victorian attached-verandah principal is disbanded here for the flared verandah roof-hip of the Oriental tea-house which is continuous with the main roof form. The oriental theme continues in the d'oyley like lace in the arch spandrels and the solid square-section duplex posts, at corners and portals. This almost two-dimensional layering of timber verandah detail has similarities with Annear's The Eyrie houses, Eaglemont.

The fence is sympathetic in general type if not so in its height and stepped profile and the landscaping mature and supportive of the period.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

- 35, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1881
- 630, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1882
- 2, BERWICK STREET, 1885c
- 53, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1886-7
- 320, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1886
- 3, FERMANACH ROAD, 1887
- 57, SEYMOUR GROVE, 1887
- 33, ALMA ROAD, 1888
- 19, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1888
- 46, PARLINGTON STREET, 1888

1 D1899; RB 1898-9, 179
2 RB 1899-1900, 193
3 MMBW DPA 56779; NTA FN.2524
4 BA 1900, 120
5 NTA FN.2524
6 D1915; NTA FN 2524; D1925; D1935
7 NTA FN 2524

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BUILDING CITATION (Continued)

635, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1888
89, UNTON ROAD, 1888
2, PEPPIN STREET, 1889 (?)
25, ALMA ROAD, 1889(?)
54, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1889-9
36, ALMA ROAD, 1889
208, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1889
15, IRLBARRA ROAD, 1889
21, IRLBARRA ROAD, 1889
43, KENT ROAD, 1889
2, MOLESWORTH STREET, 1889
137, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1889
32, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1889
10, TRAFALGAR ROAD, 1889
26A, WANDSWORTH ROAD, 1889
50, WANDSWORTH ROAD, 1889
42, WARRICAL ROAD, 1889
322-394, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1890-1
262, UNTON ROAD, 1890/1900
15, ALMA ROAD, 1890
544, BURKE ROAD, 1890
27, INCLESBY ROAD, 1890
7, VICTORIA AVENUE, 1890
13, VICTORIA AVENUE, 1890
57, YARRBAT AVENUE, 1890c?
7A, ALMA ROAD, 1891-2
13, BALWYN ROAD, 1891-4
73-79, BALWYN ROAD, 1891
320, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1892
622, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1892
6, TRAFALGAR ROAD, 1892
125, WATTLE VALLEY ROAD, 1892
136, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1893
668-670, BURKE ROAD, 1895
680, BURKE ROAD, 1895
816-822, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1895
30, HOWARD STREET, 1895c
29, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1897
52, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1897
15, KASOUKA ROAD, 1898
26, VICTORIA AVENUE, 1899

External Integrity

The fence has been replaced (gates and some posts may be remnants); some reglazing may have occurred.

Streetscape

One of the large, stylistically diverse houses in Mont Albert Road, relating closely to number 142 on the next corner.

Significance

Architecturally, beyond typifying the suburban Queen Anne style this house is both its penultimate development and extension into areas never touched by the style; of national importance.

Historically, associated with regionally and nationally prominent persons; of state importance.
