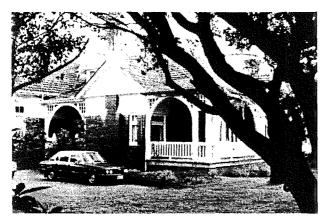
Camberwell Conservation Study 1991 **BUILDING CITATION**

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, builder.

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's. 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 based'.

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

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 CROVE, 1887 33, ALMA ROAD, 1888 19, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1888 46, PARLINGTON STREET, 1888

D1899; RB 1898-9, 179 RB 1899-1900, 193

RB 1899-1900, 193 MMBW DPA 56779; NTA FN.2524 BA 1900, 120 NTA FN.2524 D1915; NTA FN 2524; D1925; D1935 NTA FN 2524

Camberwell Conservation Study 1991 **BUILDING CITATION (Continued)**

635, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1888 89, UNION 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, IRILBARRA ROAD, 1889 21, IRILBARRA ROAD, 1889 43, KENT ROAD, 1889 2, MOLESWORTH STREET, 1889 137, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1889 32, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1889 10, TRAFALCAR ROAD, 1889 26A, WANDSWORTH ROAD, 1889 50, WANDSWORTH ROAD, 1889 42, WARRICAL ROAD, 1889 322-394, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1890-1 262, UNION ROAD, 18901900 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, TRAFALCAR 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 AVENTIE, 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.