

Camberwell Conservation Study 1991

BUILDING CITATION

**Linda House (former), Canterbury Family
Care Centre,
19 Canterbury Road**



Australian Heritage Commission: R
National Trust of Australia (Class/Rec.):
Classified

NTA File Number: 1665

Study Grading: A

Precinct: 16.00 Streetscape: 2

Construction Date: 1860-88

First Owner: Priestley, Alfred

History

Linda commenced as a single-storey house owned by Alfred Priestly, a Bank Manager and local road board member (1860-1).¹ Patrick Perkins, a Brewer, was the next owner, who leased what was described as a house and 12 acres to David Evans, Edmond Gleeson, and Tomas Willis.² He was followed by William John Craig, an importer, in 1885.³ The Craig family retained possession of what had become a seven and a half acre property until the 1920's.⁴ By 1928-9 Linda had become part of the Presbyterian Babies Home.⁵

An auction notice of 1876, described Linda as "a stuccoed brick residence with a 10 feet wide verandah to three sides...the villa retreat of Patrick Perkins, Delaney's Road, Upper Hawthorn"⁶. Rate book descriptions cite a valuation increase from £180 to £460 in 1888 and it is likely that the house had been expanded to 24 rooms in that era.⁷ In

fact, the architect, James Wood called tenders on behalf of Craig, for the renovation of Linda in 1885.⁸

Alfred Priestley was accountant to the National Banking Company of Australasia.⁹ He's also listed, in the early 1860's, as secretary to the Melbourne Gas and Coke Company; his private residence being cited as at Boroondara. As well as serving on the road board he was one of its auditors in 1867 and the new shire's auditor of 1872. He was also active in Anglican matters and elected to the Board of Advice for the Camberwell Common School (1888).

William Craig was in his late 40s when he extended Linda. At his death, in 1899, he was pronounced as having "...successfully built up one of the largest retail businesses in Australia..." (Craig, Williamson Pty. Ltd., drapers); branches existed in Elizabeth Street, Ballarat and Bendigo.¹⁰ Shortly before his death he was elected to the Melbourne City Council, having already been active in the Chamber of Commerce.

Description

Symmetrically composed about a pedimented central bay the stuccoed facade extends in a bayed form at either end of a two-level arcaded verandah. A massive hipped and slated roof follows the bayed plan-form. Balustrading and other typical Renaissance derived ornament is used together with an unusual serlian arch configuration in the verandah arcade. Reputedly the stair and entrance hall are notable interior elements, as is the superposed verandah arcade.

The original grounds are shared with 21 Canterbury Road (q.v.) and contain both mature and sympathetic plantings (boundary hedge, Moreton Bay Fig, Cedar), whilst an accompanying square-top picket and fence is related to the period, if not the original modified.

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

- 2, BERWICK STREET, 1859
- 9, BARNSBURY ROAD, 1861
- 18, BALWYN ROAD, 1863

1 NTA FN.1665
2 RB 1972-3, 208; NTA FN.1665
3 RB 1885-6, 644, 646; NTA FN.1665
4 NTA FN.1665
5 ibid.
6 *Argus*, 25.11.1876, p.2
7 ibid.; RB 787

8 MUAI
9 NTA FN.1665
10 *Australian Storekeeper's Journal*, July 1899, p.180

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

*8, AIRD STREET, 1870
35, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1873-4*

External Integrity

The house is generally externally original (front elevation); new visually unrelated structures have been added at the front of the block and adjacent to the house.

Streetscape

The house relates to its historical successor, number 21, by the set-back and extensive grounds and to lesser late Victorian houses in the vicinity.

Significance

Architecture, a distinctive, large, near intact, and successful adaptation of the Italian Renaissance style to villa design in Victoria which is enhanced by the survival of its grounds and elements of the garden: of state importance.

History, closely associated with a nationally prominent retailing figure (Craig) and community services within Camberwell: of state and local importance.

Australian Heritage Database

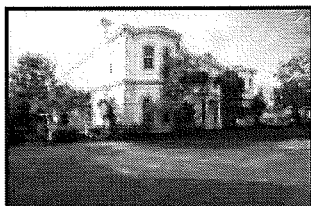
Place Details

[edit search](#) | [new search](#) | [about the Australian Heritage Database](#) | [Heritage home](#) | [Australian Heritage Council home](#)

Send Feedback

Linda Babies Home, 19 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury, VIC

Photographs:



List: Register of the National Estate

Class: Historic

Legal Status: Registered (21/03/1978)

Place ID: 5632

Place File No: 2/15/008/0002

Statement of Significance:

Linda Babies Home, 19 Canterbury Road, Camberwell, is a Boom style house that is important in a regional context and of note in that its grounds remain, although the gardens have not been kept up. Architecturally the house is fairly typical of its era. The arched treatment derives loosely from the serlian motif. Internally the staircase and windows and those surrounding the front door are of note and the dado panel to the hall remains. Various Art Nouveau decorations have enhanced The interior.

(The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)

Official Values: Not Available

Description:

Linda Babies Home, 19 Canterbury Road, Camberwell, is a large house architecturally of the 1880s, although an earlier structure (1860) may have been incorporated. The stuccoed, two storey house sits on a bluestone plinth and has a slate roof. Symmetrically arranged projecting end wings, with double storey bay windows, frame a triple arched colonnade with superimposed trabeated porch pediment at eaves level. Internally the staircase is distinctive.

History: Not Available

Condition and Integrity:

Linda Babies Home, 19 Canterbury Road, Camberwell, has been adapted to offices somewhat unsympathetically, but is reasonably intact and in fair condition. Externally the building is intact and in good condition.

Location:

19 Canterbury Road, Camberwell.

Bibliography:

PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION 1. NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA). KELLAWAY, C. 'RESEARCH INTO "LINDA" PRESBYTERIAN BABIES' HOME, 19 CANTERBURY RD, CAMBERWELL'. MARCH 1977.

Address: 19 Canterbury Road CAMBERWELL 3124 VIC 8



b1665 linda

Image By: Brian Hatfield

Image Date: 1977

Image Copyright: National Trust of
Australia (Victoria)

Statement of Cultural Heritage Significance:

Statement of Significance Linda, Babies Home, 19 Canterbury Road, Camberwell, is a large house architecturally of the 1880s, although an earlier structure (1860) may have been incorporated. The stuccoed, two storey house sits on a bluestone plinth and has a slate roof. Symmetrically arranged projecting end wings, with double storey bay windows, frame a triple arched colonnade with superimposed trabeated porch with pediment at eaves level. Internally the staircase is distinctive. Linda, Babies Home, 19 Canterbury Road, Camberwell, is a Boom Style house that is important in a regional context and of note in that its grounds remain, although the gardens have not been kept up. Architecturally the house is fairly typical of its era. The arched treatment derives loosely from the Serlian motif. Internally the staircase and windows and those surrounding the front door are of note and the dado panel to the hall remains. Various Art Nouveau decorations have enhanced the interior. Linda, Babies Home, 19 Canterbury Road, Camberwell, has been adapted to offices somewhat unsympathetically, but is reasonably intact and in fair condition. Externally the building is intact and in good condition. Of local significance.

Level: Local

Category: House

Group: Residential buildings (private)

Type: Heritage place