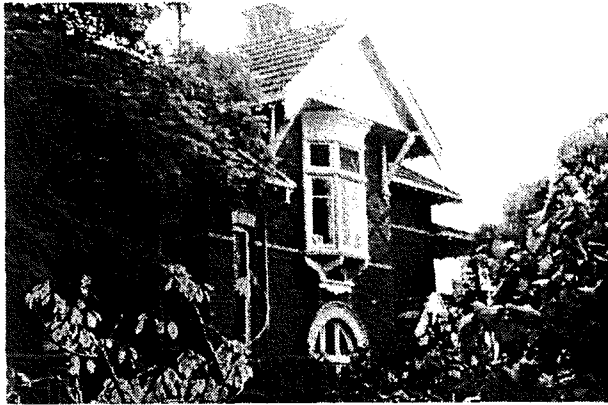


Camberwell Conservation Study 1991  
**BUILDING CITATION**

**Wiora,  
21 Irilbarra Road**



**Study Grading:** A  
**Construction Date:** 1889  
**First Owner:** Smart, Archibald W

#### History

Archibald W Smart, a civil servant, owned and occupied this twelve room brick house from its construction in 1889 until the difficult years of 1892-3<sup>1</sup>. John C Teare, a merchant, leased the house from Smart until c1895 when a succession of occupants commenced with Francis P Bolton and continued with Joseph Cheleyer and Alex Ross<sup>2</sup>.

Local councillor and importer, Alfred Bowley purchased Wiora from Smart c1901 and remained there for many years<sup>3</sup>. Subsequent to the new ownership, the valuation rose by 335% despite a loss of two-rooms in the description<sup>4</sup>. Given the style of the house, it is possible that it was rebuilt by Bowley on purchase or equally possible that the rate valuation was reviewed in the light of the purchase price: no permit was sought at this time.

Alfred Bowley and Co imported and manufactured clothing, particularly military uniforms and their accessories. They provided swords, belts gold braid and lace, and boasted the patronage of the Victorian Defence Department and Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Bowley was Camberwell mayor (1911-13).

Archibald Smart was chief clerk and later senior landing surveyor at the Customs House and it is conceivable that he and Bowley may have become

acquaintances through the course of business. Smart was born at Jerusalem, Tasmania in 1849 and commenced with the customs department in 1863, making his way through a number of positions to eventually administer over 100 officers in the landing section. Apart from intrepid adventures on the high seas, thwarting smugglers, Smart claimed to be among the first to board a bicycle in the Colony (1870 at Warrnambool)<sup>1</sup>.

The architect, E J Smart, of Reed Henderson and Smart later Reed Smart and Tappin, was also born in Tasmania, also in 1840's. It is possible that the two were related and that the firm designed the house, given its innovatory early use of the Queen Anne style.

One of the partnerships derived from this firm did reinstatement work for Bowley at his Flinders Lane premises. This further underscores their involvement with Wiora.

#### Description

Two-storeyed, of red patterned brick, clad with Marseilles pattern roof tiles and appointed with half-timbered gabled roof bays and a two-storey timber side verandah, Wiora has the Queen Anne villa style characteristics, more common in 1900 than 1889. An oriel window, placed above a major arched opening, provides a distinctive elevation to the main gabled bay whilst lesser gables, roof forms and windows aid the asymmetrical 'balance' of the Irilbarra Road elevation. A two-level timber verandah possessing the familiar chunky turned posts of the American Queen Anne faces Mont Albert Road.

Comparison with 13 Victoria Avenue yields some similarities with the French Chateaux manner of this example but the timber verandah details conclusively link Wiora with American Queen Anne. Another early example in this style is the Tudoresque North Park, Essendon (188).

#### 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

1 RB 1889-90, 60  
2 RB 1894-5, 141; RB 1892-3, 178; RB 1895-6, 141; RB 1898-9, 116; D1902  
3 RB 1901-2, 131; D1906; D1925  
4 RB 1899-1900, 113; RB 1900-1, 115; RB 1901-2, 131

1 *The Cyclopaedia of Victoria, pp.240-1*

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

33, ALMA ROAD, 1888  
19, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1888  
46, PARLINGTON STREET, 1888  
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, TRILBARRA 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, UNION ROAD, 1890/1900  
15, ALMA ROAD, 1890  
544, BURKE ROAD, 1890  
27, INGLEBY 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  
623, 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  
150, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1899  
26, VICTORIA AVENUE, 1899

**History.** Home of a senior public servant and successful industrialist, both typical of Camberwell's later population; of local importance and regional interest.

**Restoration**

Restore side verandah; rebuild fence as original or typical; investigate history further to confirm building date.

**External Integrity**

The fence has been replaced; part of the verandah has been glazed and some coloured glazing replaced.

**Streetscape**

The house is isolated and dominant within the streetscape.

**Significance**

Architecturally, among the first houses to utilize the American Queen Anne style which was to become the basis for the Queen Anne villa style so prevalent in Camberwell and the metropolitan area; of potential state importance.

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