

Camberwell Conservation Study 1991
BUILDING CITATION

House,
39 Avenue Athol, Canterbury



Study Grading: A
Precinct: 24.00 Streetscape:
Construction Date: 1924-25
First Owner: Reynolds, William A
Architect: Griffin, W B or Nicholls E (?)

History

William A Reynolds, a former resident at Wanstead also in Mont Albert Road, was the first owner-occupier with Evelyn Reynolds, of this eight-room stuccoed masonry house in c1921¹

D1921, D1922. Reynolds was an engineer with the Babcock & Wilcox Incinerator Company who later were opposition tenderers to the Burley Griffin and Eric Nicholls designed reverberatory incinerators². This did not hinder Reynolds in writing a congratulatory letter to Griffin used in Knitlock company advertising in c1928 which pictured this house. Later owners included G & D Field who renovated the house in the 1960's³.

Description

Textured stuccoed Knitlock walls are divided here, in modular fashion, with deep smooth knitlock piers on all elevations including the north where they are symmetrically arranged about a central and a deeply recessed porch. Window groups, attic skillions and two chimney shafts are also symmetrically arranged; the windows being set between the wall piers. The roof is a simple

east-west gable, like the contemporary Bungalow style but more Japanese in its simplicity, and distinctively clad with the Walter Burley Griffin Knitlock cement tile.

It is this, the house form and the knitlock tiles which suggest the design was by Griffin or one of his collaborators. The house faces north and has tennis courts.

Roy Lippincott's house at Glenard Drive (1917) Heidelberg is similar in form and aspect to this, as is a previous American design by Lippincott, published in c1922. Edward

Billson and Lippincott left for New Zealand in 1912 so it is possible Lippincott designed Reynolds' house. However, Reynolds' Knitlock advertisement dedication, addressed to Griffin, may indicate otherwise. Completion of the patenting of both tile and block was as late as April 1919, making this example one of the first group of houses to use the system (refer Griffin House, Darebin Rd, Heidelberg).

Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

354, BURKE ROAD, 1926
92, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1926
14, PINE AVENUE, 1926c
452, BURKE ROAD, 1927-28
2, BARNSBURY ROAD, 1927
360, BURKE ROAD, 1927
47, CAMPBELL ROAD, 1927
38, HIGHFIELD ROAD, 1927
1, MUSWELL HILL, 1927
294, WARRICAL ROAD, 1927
3, ROCHESTER ROAD, 1928-30
7, ROCHESTER ROAD, 1928-30
2, HIGHTON GROVE, 1928-9
27, YARRBAT AVENUE, 1928-c
21, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1928
26, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1928
17, LANSELL CRESCENT, 1928
12, STODDART STREET, 1928
8, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1928c
226, DONCASTER ROAD, 1929
19, FAIRMONT AVENUE, 1929
300, WARRICAL ROAD, 1929
34, ELLIOTT AVENUE, 1929c
15, FREEMAN STREET, 1929c

External Integrity

Generally externally original except for details such as glazing, trim colours and an added air unit. The

1 MMBW DPA 130120;
2 P. Navaretti (1986)
3 BA 1966, 38749; BA 1967, 41383

Camberwell Conservation Study 1991
BUILDING CITATION (Continued)

fence is new.

Streetscape

Screened by a tennis court from Mont Albert Road with a narrow side elevation only to Athol Avenue.

Significance

Architecturally, identified with a noted Australian school of architectural design which in turn relates to the internationally notable Prairie School. By its early all-Knitlock construction, it is innovative as Australia's bid in the world's move towards international modular Modernism; of regional and State importance.

Historically, one of three structures to exemplify the internationally known Prairie School of architecture in Camberwell; of local importance.

Restoration

Restore fence as original, as evidence allows.
