

## Camberwell Conservation Study 1991 BUILDING CITATION

### Medlow, Formerly Willycrus, 42 Warrigal Road



National Trust of Australia (Class/Rec.):  
Classified

NTA File Number: 1802

Study Grading: A

Construction Date: 1889

First Owner: Cairncross, Major William

#### History

Major William Cairncross owned lot 14 on the 'Boundary Road' in 1888<sup>1</sup>. He had augmented his land with a nine room brick house and two extra allotments (12, 13) by the following year. Mary Jane Cairncross survived William as owner, selling to physician, Richard J Bull, after a period of leasing out in c1910<sup>1</sup>. The listed occupier, Catherine Bull was there from the 1930's until recently<sup>2</sup>. Reputedly both Catherine and Richard Junior were musically inclined. Norma, their daughter, became a painter, secretary to the fellowship of Australian Artists (1960), won local art prizes and achieved representation in the Imperial War Museum, London, and Australian State and provincial galleries. Her studio overlooked the Willycrus ornamental lake.

Cairncross, in line with his military appellation, was controller of stores for the defence department at the Treasury Building when this house was built, remaining in this post until the late 1890's.

A plan of 1927 shows the house fronting Varzin

Avenue midst a number of fortunately unrealized, suburban allotments. An ornamental pond and nearby croquet lawn occupied the largest lot down in the gully.

#### Description

Like Astolat, this two-storey stuccoed brick house is of the common, iron verandahed Italianate mode and has been little changed since construction. The large land holding, mature planting in painted stucco and secluded position, provide an evocative expression of the period. The iron friezes are ornate and The Widow's Walk is intact.

#### 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, FERMANAGH ROAD, 1887  
57, SEYMOUR GROVE, 1887  
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, 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  
322-394, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1890-1  
262, UNION ROAD, 1890/1900  
15, ALMA ROAD, 1890  
544, BURKE ROAD, 1890  
27, INGLESBY 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

1 RB 1888-9, 1214

1 RB 1893-4, 1945, 1946; RB 1894-5, 1829; RB 1915- 16, 3202

2 D1935

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

680, BURKE ROAD, 1895  
816-822, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1895  
30, HOWARD STREET, 1895  
29, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1897  
52, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1897  
15, KASOUKA ROAD, 1898  
150, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1899  
26, VICTORIA AVENUE, 1899

**External Integrity**

The house is generally externally original.

**Streetscape**

Unrelated to the prevailing 20th Century housing surrounding the house but obvious, by its extensive grounds and mature trees, as a precursor of the current subdivision.

**Significance**

Architecturally, because of the integrity of the house and grounds the property is perhaps the most expressive in Camberwell (and possibly the metropolis) of the late 19th Century upper middle class suburban life style; of regional potential state importance.

Historically, highly expressive of the large houses and grounds dotted throughout Camberwell (and the other middle class suburbs) late 19th Century; of regional importance.

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