

## Camberwell Conservation Study 1991

### BUILDING CITATION

#### House, 9 Rochester Road



**Study Grading:** A  
**Streetscape:** 1  
**Construction Date:** 1924-6  
**First Owner:** Thomas, H Darby  
**Architect:** Plaisted, A W  
**Builder:** Plaisted, W B

#### History

Builder W B Plaisted constructed this large two-storeyed house for physician, H Darby Thomas, in 1924, to the design of A W Plaisted<sup>1</sup>. Thomas remained there at least until the late 1930's after which a W J Rawlings occupied the house<sup>2</sup>. Ian R Gray another physician, resided and practised there in the 1960's. Architect, A W Plaisted designed many flat blocks in the Tudor style during the 1930s-40s.

The house was illustrated in the *Australian Home Builder* of June, 1925, as one of the early Spanish provincial designs in the country... 'Situated on a pleasant hillside, with ample sunlight, it is a conspicuous and beautiful example of recent domestic architecture.' It was noted as suitable for Melbourne's sunny climate.

#### Description

A steep gable rises, off-balance, to an outrigger apex slightly to the south of centre, as the main elevation to this Spanish provincial styled villa. Cordova tiles and coarse, fan-pattern stucco provide the Mediterranean touches, along with deep, bracketed eaves and a side porch with a

balcony nested above it. Entrance archways, a steep stair flight and wrought iron gates could easily be at Capri whilst the mature garden they contain spills over the adjoining footpath.

#### Comparative Examples

The following Camberwell sites may be compared with this site.

19, THE RIDGE, 1916  
12, HUNTER ROAD, 1918  
9, SEFTON PLACE, 1919-20  
6, CHRISTOWEL STREET, 1919  
718, RIVERSDALE ROAD, 1919  
33, BROADWAY, 1920  
158, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1920  
11, PRETORIA STREET, 1920  
23, SUNNYSIDE AVENUE, 1920  
286, UNION ROAD, 1920  
44, CURRAJONG AVENUE, 1920c  
6, IRAMOO STREET, 1920c  
17, THREADNEEDLE STREET, 1920c  
65, YARRBAT AVENUE, 1920c  
42, SPENCER STREET, 1921-3  
899, TOORAK ROAD, 1921  
930, BURKE ROAD, 1922  
210, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1922  
16, ALMA ROAD, 1923  
648, BURKE ROAD, 1923  
21, CANTERBURY ROAD, 1923  
31, DEEPDENE ROAD, 1923  
7, WARWICK AVENUE, 1923  
90, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1924-5  
168A, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1924-5  
630-638, BURKE ROAD, 1924  
322-394, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1924  
12, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1924  
10, FITZGERALD STREET, 1924c  
11, ALMA ROAD, 1925(?)  
269, UNION ROAD, 1925-6c  
10, DONNA BUANG STREET, 1925  
2, MARTIN ROAD, 1925  
4, ST. ANDRIES STREET, 1925  
1, THREADNEEDLE STREET, 1925  
931, TOORAK ROAD, 1925  
118, WATTLE VALLEY ROAD, 1925  
55, BATH ROAD, 1925c  
77, GREYTHORNE ROAD, 1925c  
1, THREADNEEDLE STREET, 1925c  
359, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1925c  
513, WHITEHORSE ROAD, 1925c  
146, YARRBAT AVENUE, 1925c

#### External Integrity

The house is generally externally original.

#### Streetscape

The house shares the gabled profile of the neo-Tudor next north, the scale and general siting of the adjacent residences.

1 MMBW DPA 136280; D1926; AHB 15.6.25, p.60  
2 D1935; BA 1940, 12776

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

**Significance**

Architecturally, a near original early and accomplished example of the Spanish/Italian/Mediterranean styles which swept Victoria for a brief period in the late 1920s; of regional importance.

Historically, long associated with medical practitioners, over and beyond that of a private residence; of local importance.

---