

Camberwell Conservation Study 1991  
BUILDING CITATION

**Cullymont & Eyrecourt,  
2 Molesworth Street & Selwyn Street**



Historic Buildings Register R  
National Trust of Australia (Class/Rec.):  
Classified

NTA File Number: 1517  
Study Grading: A  
Precinct: 22.00 Streetscape: 2  
Construction Date: 1889  
First Owner: McCully, Alex

**History**

The Rev Alexander McCully was the first rated owner of the suitably named Cullymont, on one acre of grounds, in 1889-90<sup>2</sup>. Three years on, both Alex

McCully and John J McCully were listed side by side in Molesworth Street only to be eventually replaced with the Equity Trustees and Executors Co, as the owner of both properties<sup>3</sup>. The ownership of what was described as a grand 11 room brick house, then passed to the Commercial Banking Co who leased John's former house to Walter McNicol company secretary to the Silverton Tramway Co Ltd.<sup>4</sup>. He called the house Eyrecourt. Edward Goode, a railway storekeeper, continued the houses' association with rail travel into this century in leasehold of Cullymont<sup>5</sup>. The owner was again the Equity Trustees Co.<sup>6</sup>

A John James McCulley was described in *Victoria & Its Metropolis* as a native of Aughnacloy, Tyrone county, Ireland who had arrived at Port Phillip in

1853 and joined the civil service under the Post Master General. Over the years he rose in seniority, eventually supervising the ship's mail despatch room<sup>7</sup>. This may be the same 'J J McCully'. Alex McCully subdivided the land surrounding the Horsfall property at Surrey Hills, during 1886. At Cullymont, he described himself as Rev Alexander McCully MA, LLB (Professor of Elocution)<sup>1</sup>.

The MMBW Detail Plan 1978 (1907) shows the two houses as a pair sharing a verandah and divided, terrace style, through to the servants wings at the rear. An extensive complex of outbuildings, including a 'plant house' lined a thoroughfare which connected Salisbury and Selwyn Streets at the rear of the properties. Louis L Jensen, and later, Mrs. Elizabeth

The Jensen family owned Cullymont for a long time this century<sup>2</sup>.

An 1980 article in *House and Garden* illustrated extensive internal renovations, with the conversion of a 'potting shed' to a sun room at the side of the house<sup>3</sup>.

**Description**

A grand Italianate styled stuccoed brick mansion composed of two opposing two-storeyed bayed wings between which an arcaded verandah extends on two levels. Near the verandah corner is a parapeted tower dividing the two houses as if two comfortable suburban villas had been joined back to back. Cement balustrading is used to decorate both the tower parapet and verandah levels, while paired brackets, string and impost moulds provide more conventional ornament. Impressive leaded fanlights over boldly paneled doors, with generous leaded side lights face both upper and lower verandah levels at the north and west elevations as augmented by other minor entrance doors onto the verandahs showing plainly the former dual occupancy.

Mature exotic planting mainly 20th Century in character supports the house era, aided by a perimeter hedge joined onto an impressive cast and wrought iron gateway in Molesworth Street bearing the McCully crest (as seen on the building), matched by another in Selwyn Street.

2 RB 1889-90, 1661  
3 RB 1892-3, 1520 & 1521; RB 1893-4, 1393 & 1394  
4 RB 1896-7, 1534  
5 RB 1899-1900, 1537  
6 *ibid.*

7 Sutherland, p.524  
1 D1890, Alpha listing  
2 BA 1940, 12884; BA 1969, 46119  
3 *House and Garden* 6.80, p.70-1 (NTA File)

## Camberwell Conservation Study 1991 BUILDING CITATION (Continued)

### 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  
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, IRILBARRA ROAD, 1889  
21, IRILBARRA ROAD, 1889  
43, KENT ROAD, 1889  
137, MONT ALBERT ROAD, 1889  
32, PROSPECT HILL ROAD, 1889  
10, TRAFALGAR ROAD, 1889  
26A, WANDSWORTH ROAD, 1889  
50, WANDSWORTH ROAD, 1889  
42, WARRIGAL 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, 1890a?  
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  
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

### External Integrity

The house is generally externally original with the exception of eastern additions, new brick fences and garages and painted brickwork to the south face.

### Streetscape

The pair is a prominent representative of an earlier age in an Edwardian and later, residential area.

### Significance

Architecturally, perhaps Victoria's largest row house pair, this near intact version of the popular Italianate style is distinguished by its former dual occupancy and towered form; of regional importance.

Historically, little is known of the McCulley's in the Camberwell context.