
Wanganella (formerly St. John's Wood)



Camberwell Conservation
Study 1991

Location

8 Aird Street CAMBERWELL, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO165

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Architecturally, one of four Camberwell houses from the early Victorian period which possess open cement colonnaded terraces attached to a conservative Renaissance revival base also a near original and successful early use of the Italian manner, more impressive given its distance from a major township: of state importance.

Historically, linked for a decade with the renowned pastoralist and merino sheep' breeding Peppin family but otherwise, with its distinctive scale and orientation, is a visible reminder of the first wave of house' building in

Camberwell: of local importance and regional interest.

Heritage Study/Consultant Boroondara - Camberwell Conservation Study, Graeme Butler, 1991;

Other Names Wanganella, St. John's Wood,

Hermes Number 14956

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Today locked in by subdivision, the house bravely faces riversdale road and a dozen or so villas between. The house's entrance faces the former Peppin Street driveway whilst the formidable iron carriage gates (once in Peppin Street) now face Aird.

In the tradition of Camberwell's large homes of the 1860s -1870s the house is parapeted (part), two-storey, stuccoed and has a Doric order colonnade. A distinctive aspect of this colonnade is that it supports an open, balustraded terrace, with connotations of Tara (1859) and its contemporary, Dr. Fitzgerald's house (Rostella), both designed by architect, J. M. Barry. As a trio, these are all grand houses, styled after the Italian Renaissance manner, which are surprisingly substantial given their distance from Melbourne and their early construction dates.

St. John's Wood foregoes the pronounced symmetry of its north elevation, with a two-level room bay on the west, which adjoins a one-level porch, with an inaccessible balustraded terrace. A lofty hall, set behind this porch, has a stair which ascends to the south immediately at the doorway, suggesting that the stair may have been once approached from a different direction. The grand north colonnade appears more suited to cover a central entrance, although the existence of the two large dining and drawing rooms across the front does not support this. A minor entrance to the dining room has been provided onto the verandah presumably for after dinner smoking. Another internal anomaly is the narrow width of the hallway which divides the bedrooms on the upper level.

The main M-hip roof line of the house falls to a deep protruding eaves line, with paired brackets and a cornice moulding, but the western room bay attempts this symmetry, needing a balustraded parapet to screen the change in roof line. A similar device is used over a much shallower bay set into the north facade.

Other comparable examples include Oberwyl, St.Kilda and Merchiston Halt Geelong (1856).

Integrity

Generally externally original, excepting alterations to the rear former servants wing and replacement of the verandah's timber floors; the basalt fence to Aird Street is inappropriate.

Internally, folding doors have been removed, new cornices and ceiling roses installed.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>