
23-25 and part 27 Canterbury Road Camberwell

Location

23-25 and part 27 Canterbury Road CAMBERWELL, BOROONDARA CITY

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO617

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The house at 23-25 and part of 27 Canterbury Road, Camberwell, and its setting including the front garden, the curved concrete entrance drive, and the garage at part of 27 Canterbury Road situated behind the tennis court. The house was designed by architectural firm Chris A Cowper, Murphy & Appleford and constructed in 1923 for married couple Lena Mary Vial and George Oliver Vial and their children. George Vial was the Managing Director of Frank Vial & Sons, founded by his father, which was a manufacturer of machine belting for industrial use.

How is it significant?

The place is of local historical, architectural and aesthetic significance to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

Architecturally and historically, the house is significant for its associations with prominent Melbourne architect Christopher Cowper, and his practice Cowper, Murphy & Appleford formed in 1921. Christopher Cowper was a significant architect in early 20th century Boroondara, best known for his extensive Queen Anne residential development in Grace Park, Hawthorn, as well as many other mid to large-sized houses for the well-to-do residents of Kew and Camberwell, and other suburbs of Melbourne. (Criterion H)

Architecturally, the house is an elegant and well-preserved example of a substantial Interwar Mediterranean villa. The style was most often seen in the domestic architecture in upper and upper-middle class suburbs from the 1920s, becoming widespread in the following decade for small bungalows. At the time it was seen as a potential basis for a future national design, due to the similarity in climate and the quality of light in Australia and the Mediterranean. This was symbolically expressed by the use of the style for the Prime Minister's Residence and housing for public servants in Canberra in the mid-1920s. (Criterion D)

Aesthetically, the house exhibits a graceful combination of features that would come to define the Interwar Mediterranean style, including a symmetrical composition, the use of a loggia as a main design feature, planar surfaces stripped of ornament relying on voids and textured solids for visual interest, a dominant hip roof providing a horizontal emphasis punctuated by tall chimneys, and multi-light sash windows set beneath decorative tympani. It is enhanced by the retention of its setting, including a large front garden, curved concrete entrance drive and original or early garage. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - Individual Heritage Citations, City of Boroondara, 2016; Boroondara - Camberwell Conservation Study, Graeme Butler, 1991;
Other Names	Vial House,
Hermes Number	199743
Property Number	

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/>