
DUNCRAIG (FORMER HAMPTON VILLA), 31-33 Hampden Road, Armadale



HAMPDEN VILLA

Location

31-33 HAMPDEN ROAD ARMADALE, STONNINGTON CITY

Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO48

Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2021

Hampden Villa was designed by the prominent Arts and Crafts architect, Walter Richmond Butler, who was responsible for the 1890s additions to the original 1850s house.

The building is the prototype for later Butler buildings. Hampden Villa is of special interest because Butler designed it for himself.

The stained glass at Hampden Villa is both outstanding and exceptional. It is outstanding in its virtuoso and innovative treatment of domestic leadlight, both in the aesthetic appeal of the designs themselves and in their thoughtful treatment of the needs of the window space. The glass is exceptional not only in its innovativeness but in its extreme rarity as an example of the work of August Fischer, and as a very rare example of Australian Arts and Crafts lead lighting. In addition, the location of this glass in Butler's own house is of primary significance in the history of Australian decorative arts.

Hampden Villa has important historical associations with a number of prominent, urbane citizens. In addition to Butler, they were its first owner, David Butler Long, who is one of Victoria's earliest and most successful pharmacists; his wife, Helen, who was a notable pioneer in her own right; and Professor Sir Baldwin Spencer, an outstanding Australian scientist and anthropologist, during whose ownership the building housed one of the richest collections of art painted by Australians. The property is substantially intact from the Butler period.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - Prahran Conservation Study Identification of Buildings & Areas of Major Significance, Nigel Lewis & Associates, 1983;
Construction dates	1857, 1899,
Architect/Designer	Butler, Walter Richmond,
Hermes Number	30593
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The large Arts and Crafts villa is constructed of brick, with rough cast and cement render trimmings, and slate roof with terracotta ridge cresting. A series of projecting gabled porches articulate the door openings. The house is enclosed by a two-storey veranda with coupled timber post supports at ground level, and ornate turned timber posts and balustrading to the first floor (3). The building has a very large entrance foyer with important, unusual stained glass windows.

Dr Miles Lewis' report notes some interesting internal fittings and external features. There is patterned linoleum in the butler's pantry, kitchen and glazed back veranda which may date to Butler's alterations. Two upstairs bathrooms are largely intact to 1904-5. There are some unusual English-made push light switches which are original to Butler's renovations.

During Butler's ownership a new stable block was built behind the house and a splendid garden pavilion or summerhouse, an example of a type that is becoming very scarce, was erected against the north boundary (4). Many early garden elements survive and are enclosed by an extensive picket fence (5). Butler could have been responsible for the layout of the garden as he was an expert garden designer and wrote upon the subject (6).

The property had been subdivided by Butler. It originally comprised five acres (2.03ha), but the architect reduced the site to its present dimensions (.4ha) and two houses were built on what had been the back portion, fronting onto Denbigh Road (7).

The building was named Hampden Villa during the residency of the Longs and also probably during Butler's ownership; it was apparently renamed Darley during Professor Sir Baldwin Spencer's occupancy according to Mulvaney' and Calaby's 'So Much That is New' (op. cit.) See Appendix 11 for a photograph of the building.

The name Duncraig may have been adopted by the Sutherland family, the owners from the 1930s.

References

(3) *Nigel Lewis and Associates, Prahran Conservation Study, p15-4.*

(4) *Miles Lewis, "'Hampden Villa' Now 'Duncraig' 31 Hampden Road, Arnadale" April 1989 (Historic Buildings Council File OI1210), pp13-14.*

(5) *Nigel Lewis and Associates, op.cit.*

(6) *Miles Lewis, op.cit. p 14.*

(7) *Kellaway, op.cit; Miles Lewis, op.cit p 4; Auction Pamphlet by K & Burton Pty Ltd, South Yarra, 1988.*

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.

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