

Victorian Heritage Database place details - 16/11/2011
19 Canterbury Road



Location:

19 Canterbury Road CANTERBURY, Boroondara City

Heritage Overlay Number: HO171

Listing Authority: HO

Extent of Registration:

Statement of Significance:

Architecture, a distinctive, large, near intact, and successful adaptation of the Italian Renaissance style to villa design in Victoria which is enhanced by the survival of its grounds and elements of the garden: of state importance.

History, closely associated with a nationally prominent retailing figure (Craig) and community services within Camberwell: of state and local importance.

History

Linda commenced as a single-storey house owned by Alfred Priestly, a Bank Manager and local road board member (1860-1).[1] Patrick Perkins, a Brewer, was the next owner, who leased what was described as a house and 12 acres to David Evans, Edmond Gleeson, and Tomas Willis.[2] He was followed by William John Craig, an importer, in 1885.[3] The Craig family retained possession of what had become a seven and a half acre property until the 1920'S.[4] By 1928-9 Linda had become part of the Presbyterian Babies Home.[5]

An auction notice of 1876, described Linda as Ita stuccoed brick residence with a 10 feet wide verandah to three sides...the villa retreat of Patrick Perkins, Delaney's Road, Upper Hawthorn,[6]. Rate book descriptions cite a valuation increase from £180 to £460 in 1888 and it is likely that the house had been expanded to 24

rooms in that era[7]. In fact, the architect, James Wood called tenders on behalf of Craig, for the renovation of Linda in 1885[8].

Alfred Priestley was accountant to the National Banking Company of Australasia[9]. He's also listed, in the early 1860's, as secretary to the Melbourne Gas and Coke Company; his private residence being cited as at Boroondara. As well as serving on the road board he was one of its auditors in 1867 and the new shire's auditor of 1872. He was also active in Anglican matters and elected to the Board of Advice for the Camberwell Common School (1888).

William Craig was in his late 40s when he extended Linda, At his death, in 1899, he was pronounced as having "...successfully built up one of the largest retail businesses in Australia..." (Craig, Williamson Pty. Ltd., drapers): branches existed in Elizabeth Street, Ballarat and Bendigo[10]. Shortly before his death he was elected to the Melbourne City Council, having already been active in the Chamber of Commerce.

1 NTA FN.1665

2 RB 1972-3, 208:NTA FN.1665

3 RB 1885-6,644,646; NTA FN.1665

4 NTA FN.1665

5 Ibid.

6 Argus 25.11.1876, p.2

7 ibid.:RB 787

8 MUIA

9 NTAFN.166S

10 Australian Storekeeper's Journal. July 1899, p.180

Description

Symmetrically composed about a pedimented central bay the stuccoed facade extends in a bayed form at either end of a two-level arcaded verandah. A massive hipped and slated roof follows the bayed plan-form. Balustrading and other typical Renaissance derived ornament is used together with an unusual serlian arch configuration in the verandah arcade. Reputedly the stair and entrance hall are notable interior elements, as is the superposed verandah arcade.

The original grounds are shared with 21 Canterbury Road (q.v.) and contain both mature and sympathetic plantings (boundary hedge, Moreton Bay Fig, Cedar), whilst an accompanying square-top picket and fence is related to the period, if not the original modified.

The house is generally externally original (front elevation); new visually unrelated structures have been added at the front of the block and adjacent to the house.

Heritage Study	1991 - Boroondara - Camberwell Conservation Study
Year Construction Started	
Architect / Designer	
Architectural Style	
Heritage Act Categories	
Municipality	BOROONDARA CITY
Other names	Canterbury Family Care Centre, Linda House
History	