

## Heritage Citation – Individual Place

**Heritage Place:** St Catherine’s School including Sherren House, Campbell House and Elaine Haxton Mural

**Address:** 17-21 Heyington Place, Toorak

**Designer:** Sherren House – Unknown

Campbell House – Eric C. Beedham

Mural – Elaine Haxton

**Builder:** Unknown

**HO Reference:** HO50

**Citation status:** Draft

**Date Updated:** 23 November 2021

**Year of Construction:** Sherren House – c.1880s

Campbell House – c.1929

Mural – 1955



Photograph of Sherren House (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Location map and extent of HO50.

**Heritage Group:** Residential buildings

**Heritage Type:** Mansion

**Key Theme:** Building Suburbs and Education

**Key Sub-theme:** Creating Australia’s most ‘prestigious’ suburbs and Developing the private school system

**Significance Level:** Local

**Recommendation:** Retain as an individually significant place on the HO with paint controls; rename item; tree controls recommended in relation to the several remnant eucalypt plantings (red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), sugar gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*)) and a mature kauri pine (*Agathis robusta*).

<b>Controls:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> External paint colours	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal alterations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree controls
	<input type="checkbox"/> Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Incorporated Plans	<input type="checkbox"/> Outbuildings and fences exemptions
	<input type="checkbox"/> Prohibited uses may be permitted	<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Heritage Place	

## Statement of Significance

### *What is significant?*

St Catherine's School at 17-21 Heyington Place, Toorak is significant. Specifically the form, scale, setback and detailing of Sherren House and Campbell House are of local significance, along with the Elaine Haxton Mural (foyer of the Senior School Building), several remnant eucalypt plantings (red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldelensis*) and sugar gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*)), a mature kauri pine (*Agathis robusta*), and the original wrought iron gates and fencing with granite pillars at Sherren House. The remaining structures and landscaping across the site, as well as the front boundary wall of Campbell House, are not significant.

### *How is it significant?*

St Catherine's School is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington. The school also has associative significance, first for a mural attributed to renowned artist Elaine Haxton and second for its association with architect Eric C. Beedham who designed Campbell House.

### *Why is it significant?*

Sherren House at St Catherine's School is historically important in demonstrating the development of late Victorian mansions and estates by Melbourne's wealthiest citizens during the late 19th century gold rush era. Sherren House is also historically important for its use as St Catherine's School since 1922. Campbell House is of historical importance in demonstrating the development of early 20th century mansions and houses within the Toorak and its use as part of St Catherine's School since 1958. As a whole, the school is also historically significant for producing notable social figures, including Dame Elizabeth Murdoch, the former Lieutenant Governor Marigold Southey, and the Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau. (Criterion A)

Sherren House is of aesthetic significance as an intact and high-quality late 19th century boom era mansion. The scale of the building combined with features such as the highly detailed chimneys with stucco strapwork, corbels, dentils and cornice mouldings, polygonal bays, decorative bracketing under the eaves, timber joinery, Doric columns, Corinthian columns, arcaded loggia and dentilled cornice are some of the elements which contribute to the setting of the place and signify the original stature and status of the mansion. The deep setback and the original wrought iron gates and fencing with polished granite piers accentuate this character. Campbell House is also of aesthetic significance as an intact early 20th century interwar Georgian Revival mansion with pillared portico, harling render, terracotta tiled roofing, and a decorative Palladian window over the portico. Of other notable aesthetic significance are the remnant plantings, including the kauri pine (*Agathis robusta*) and several remnant eucalypt plantings, red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldelensis*) and sugar gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*). (Criterion E)

St Catherine's School has associative significance with notable artist Elaine Haxton who painted a mural in the foyer of the Senior School Building. (Criterion H)





Location map and extent of HO50, showing contributory elements.

## HERCON Criteria Assessment

A	<i>Importance to the course, or pattern of our cultural or natural history</i>	<p>Sherren House at St Catherine's School is historically important in demonstrating the development of late Victorian mansions and estates by Melbourne's wealthiest citizens during the late 19th century gold rush era. Sherren House is also historically important for its use as St Catherine's School since 1922. Campbell House is of historical importance in demonstrating the development of early 20th century mansions and houses within the Toorak and its use as part of St Catherine's School since 1958. As a whole, the school is also historically significant for producing notable social figures, including Dame Elizabeth Murdoch, the former Lieutenant Governor Marigold Southey, and the Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau.</p>
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B	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
C	<i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
D	<i>Important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics</i>	<p>Sherren House is of aesthetic significance as an intact and high-quality late 19th century boom-era mansion. The scale of the building combined with features such as the highly detailed chimneys with stucco strapwork, corbels, dentils and cornice mouldings, polygonal bays, decorative bracketing under the eaves, timber joinery, Doric columns, Corinthian columns, arcaded loggia and dentilled cornice are some of the elements which contribute to the setting of the place and signify the original stature and status of the mansion. The deep setback and the original wrought iron gates and fencing with polished granite piers accentuate this character.</p> <p>Campbell House is also of aesthetic significance as an intact early 20th century interwar Georgian Revival mansion with pillared portico, harling render, terracotta tiled roofing, and a decorative Palladian window over the portico.</p> <p>Of other notable aesthetic significance are the remnant plantings, including the kauri pine (<i>Agathis robusta</i>) and several remnant eucalypt plantings, red gum (<i>Eucalyptus camaldehysis</i>) and sugar gum (<i>Eucalyptus cladocalyx</i>).</p>
F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.
G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for</i>	This place does not meet this criterion.

	<i>social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions</i>	
<i>H</i>	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history.</i>	St Catherine's School has associative significance with notable artist Elain Haxton who painted a mural in the foyer of the Senior School Building.

## Description

### • Physical Analysis

#### **Sherren House (17-21 Heyington Place)**

Sherren House is a two-storey structure built in the Victorian Italianate style. The mansion was originally used as a residential property. It is currently incorporated and used as an educational administration building within the grounds of St Catherine's School. Several internal rooms have been retained including the dining room, drawing room and ballroom. The masonry structure is finished in a natural cement render. The structure has a complex pitched and flat roof. The pitched roof is clad in a slate tile and the flat roof sections in corrugated galvanised iron. The main east and north elevations present in a highly detailed fashion and asymmetrical form. There are five wide stuccoed chimneys extending from the main roof. The chimneys are highly detailed with stucco strapwork, corbels, dentils, cornice mouldings.

The east elevation of the structure addresses Heyington Place. While it faces the main street, there is only one secondary entrance to the structure with the main entrance located at the north elevation. The east elevation features extensive high loggias on both levels that wrap around to the east elevation. The east elevation loggia has since been infilled with grey steel framed windows but retains the original arched form. The main central section features a group of three arches flanked at the sides by wide Doric pilasters. The centre two pilasters are presented by half round Corinthian pilasters painted red. The form of the arches is emphasised by decorative arched label moulding. Additional arch detailing includes an engraved keystone with a floral motif, string course and festoon moulding. Flanking infilled high arched openings beside the central bank includes stylised Doric pilasters with similar arched label mould, festoons, and pateras with shield mouldings.

The levels are demarcated on the façade by floor mouldings which form the base of the balustraded parapet. The central section of the upper level presents arched windows with mirroring the detailing of the ground level. The flanking windows consist of wide square infilled windows with stylised Doric pilasters. The upper-level pilasters terminate at the dentilled cornice. The dentil form is mirrored as circular mouldings with string courses at the central section that leads up to the closely spaced bracketed cornice. The roof level is presented as a flat parapet with short extruded interspaced projecting dentils on the façade.

The façade includes the main entrance situated within the raised open ground level loggia which is accessible via a set of wide sweeping steps. The loggia is partially infilled at the last end bay. The loggia

entrance is high detailed with a tall arched entry supported by two flanking round red Corinthian columns. The arched form is emphasised by an arch label mould with keystone and two flanking round stucco moulds with a floral emblem. The entrance portico pediment is high detailed with Doric pilasters, console with a shell shaped moulding and a centred festoon and shield mould. The rest of the open loggia consists of three arched bays with stylised square Doric columns and centred pateras with shield mouldings. Like the east elevation, the levels are demarcated by floor mouldings with festoons that lead to the balustraded parapet. The upper-level infilled openings are also square in form with the continuation of the square Doric columns. The upper level of the main entrance above the extruded pediment also mirrors the flanking Doric pilasters and round red but thinner Corinthian columns of the ground level. The dentilled flat parapet of the entrance bay is capped with two decorative stylised urn finials.

The wide bay to the left of the main entrance features a projecting bay window at ground level. The bay features three single hung sash windows detailed with string courses, label mould and engraved keystone. The festoon and floor moulding leads up to the balustraded parapet of a small balcony on the first level. The balcony features an arched window with two flanking narrow arched windows. The windows are detailed with stylised Doric pilasters, label mould and keystone. The cornice and parapet detailing of the façade mirrors the east elevation with the wide bay left of the main entrance pediment featuring the bracketed cornice.

The west and south elevations have been modified to include service areas. There is a second storey extension at the west elevation over the ballroom with a flat roof. The extension includes an open balcony externally accessible via stairs from the ground level. An additional contemporary structure is located south of Sherren House and directly adjoins it at a service wing projection. Additional contemporary school buildings are located around the main structure enclosing it to its south, west and north sides.

The grounds around Sherren House extend from the main gate and asphalt driveway from Heyington Place. The driveway leads to a turning circle on the north elevation. The turning circle is edged in grey brick and features a centred circular concrete pond and fountain. The embellished fountain has two vertically placed urns with a highly detailed base and shaft mouldings. The fountain is surrounded by a circular lawn and two flanking garden beds with boxwood and shrub planting. The front driveway is located beside an extensive lawn area with rose (*Rosa*) standard and boxwood (*Buxus*) edging. There are flagpoles and several young and mature trees located within the lawn.

The front gates and sections of the street front wall consist of granite piers, granite wall with palisade fencing and gate. The piers, palisade fencing, and gate are highly detailed. The tall piers are incised with recessed textured vertical face with end circular forms. The carved pier caps also feature circular motifs and topped with a decorative black wrought iron valance. The black wrought iron palisade fence sits atop the low granite wall consisting of large blocks. The palisade fencing and gates are highly detailed featuring quatrefoils and high pointed arches within the ironwork. The two centre piers flanking the car entrance gates are capped with decorative cast iron detailing encircling a round glass light. The centre piers include the moulding reflecting the school emblem painted in gold. The original fencing has been greatly reduced to the main entrance area. Surrounding street fences have been replaced with concrete blockwork walls with timber paneling or high timber panel walls.



Sherren House has been extensively altered starting from the early 20th century. The most noticeable alteration is shown in the infilling of the loggias. The structure has been extended at the south and west elevations, resulting in an highly altered form. The main structure has also been incorporated with a large contemporary structure to its south. The interior of Sherren House has been partially retained. The grounds of the original property have been severely reduced and altered although some original fabric remains in the extant turning circle fountain. Sherren House and fence are considered to be in good condition. However, taking into account the changes to the grounds and main structure, Sherren House is considered to be of moderate integrity while the fence is considered to be of high integrity.

### **Elaine Haxton Mural (foyer of the Senior School Building)**

The mural is located on a reinforced concrete wall in the foyer of the Senior School Building. It occupies an area approximately twenty-two feet high by eighteen feet wide, and is situated directly in front of the building's main entrance doors.

The mural presents five figures playing musical instruments and dancing in a close group. The figures represent art, music, song, dance, comedy and tragedy. The five figures include four women and a man dressed in blue and white togas playing instruments including the flute, tambourine and a lute. The muted colours of the mural are also associated with the school colours of grey, light and dark blue and gold. The figures, colours and portrayed activities are reminiscent of ancient Roman and Greek mosaic murals.

### **Campbell House (27 Heyington Place)**

Campbell House is a two-storey Interwar building in a Georgian Revival style. The masonry structure is finished in a grey roughcast stucco. The structure has a complex asymmetrical hipped roof clad in terracotta Marseilles tiles. There is one chimney projecting from the main roof. The roughcast chimney has a simple form with a single recessed corbel. The main east street front façade addressed Heyington Place, and the base of the main structure and portico is emphasised by a red brick course.

The east elevation presents symmetrically. The main east elevation is dominated by the projecting portico where the main entrance is located. The raised portico is supported by multiple square Tuscan pilasters, paired columns. At the upper level, the open balcony includes a projecting cornice, flat parapet and black metal balustrade. The balcony is accessed from a centred arched door with leadlight glass in a Gothic pattern. The door is flanked narrow sidelights. The form of the arched door and sidelights are expressed in a white rendered masonry and moulding detailing with Tuscan pilasters and a keystone motif. The upper-level balcony is flanked by wide pilasters with a detailed console the supports the projecting eaves emphasising the distinct pediment form of the elevation. The portico, balcony fenestration and upper-level pilasters are rendered in a white stucco contrasting the grey roughcast of the main structure.

The east elevation ground level windows present as a bank of paired single hung sash windows and flanking sidelights. The windows have a painted concrete sill and have multiple panes on the top sash and sidelights. The levels are demarcated by a floor course finished in a white stucco. The upper-level windows present as a bank of paired single hung sash windows with a concrete sill and six pane top sash. Additional windows at the north and south elevation includes single, paired, and Venetian windows in a similar form to the east elevation. There is a bay window on the ground level of the south

elevation. The west elevation includes extensive two-storey additions, integrated into the main structure. The extensions have a sympathetic roof form and finish but includes a central zone clad in a flat roof with a hipped roof skylight.

The street front boundary of Campbell House is demarcated by a short masonry wall. The wall is roughcast in a white stucco. The cavetto curved form of the wall addresses the slightly sloping site. Tall piers are located at the ends of the wall and along the recessed original main entrance. The piers consist of open face brown brick with a decorative stuccoed corbel cap. The recessed entrance is emphasised by an ogee curved wall in an open face brown brick laid in a header bond. Black metal fencing demarcates the rest of the perimeter of the site including behind the original wall. Campbell house is set back from the main street with the rear of the main structure forming the west boundary. The extensive front yard has been converted to a landscape play area which includes contemporary play equipment, a timber shelter structure and several storage sheds. There are several young and mature trees located in the play area. Additional planting located around pathways include native shrub grasses.

Campbell House is also known as the Ilhan Family Centre and is used for early learning. The structure has been extensively altered at the rear. The front façade appears largely intact except for the recent removal of the timber louvred window shutters. The large former front yard has been relandscaped to become a play area for the early learning centre. Recent freestanding additions to the front yard detracts from the view of Campbell House. Campbell House is considered to be in good condition and of overall moderate integrity.

- **Alterations and Additions**

**Sherren House (17-21 Heyington Place):**

- Ground and first level loggias on the east elevation infilled (c.1920 and 1964).
- First level loggia on the west elevation infilled (1964).
- Last bay of the ground level loggia on the front façade infilled with concrete blockwork (c.1920/1964).
- Loggias infilled with a glazed steel frame including single hung sash windows and louvred shutters.
- Loggia roof reclad in galvanised corrugated iron.
- Flat roof sections clad in galvanised corrugated iron.
- Air conditioning units and services added to the main roof.
- Flat roof second storey extension over the Billiard Room and Ballroom (1978).
- Original landscape severely reduced and high altered.
- Sections of the original front street wall removed.
- Concrete blockwork and timber panel fencing added.
- Tall timber panel fencing added to south side of the school grounds.

**Elaine Haxton Mural:**

- Moved to the foyer of re-developed Senior School Building in 2015.

**Campbell House (27 Heyington Place):**

- The construction of an additional storey to the rear of the north elevation (1964)



- Additional storey added at the southern end of the east facing elevation (1964)
- Classical porches demolished.
- Timber louvered window shutters removed (after 2019).
- Walkway leading to the upper level of the south elevation from Wiltondale.
- Walkway connects the south elevation to the neighbouring building to the north via the west elevation at the upper level.
- Steel vents added to the main roof.
- Sections of the west elevation infilled with a flat roof and skylight.
- Repair to sections of the roughcast façade (2021).
- Tall metal panel fence added to the front boundary behind the original front wall.
- Timber gate added to the original front wall.
- Shelter structure and sheds located along the south boundary of the front yard.
- Former front yard converted to play area.

## History

### • Historical Context

For thousands of years preceding European colonialism, the area now known as Stonnington was the traditional home of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung people of the Eastern Kulin Nation. This environment would have provided Traditional Owners with access to pre-contact plains, grassy woodland, and floodplains on the banks of the Yarra River (Birrarung), Gardiners Creek (Kooyong Koot), and Hawksburn Creek (now channelised), in a rolling landscape on the northern shore of Port Phillip Bay. It is important to note that the rich cultural heritage of Traditional Owners in Stonnington did not end with colonialism—it has a rich presence to this day.

Following the establishment of Melbourne in 1835, squatter John Gardiner and many others like him sought out land in what would become present day Toorak and surrounds on account of its densely timbered landscape, undulating terrain and proximity to water. By 1840, crown land sales marked the area's transition to pastoral settlement, and later in 1851, with the purchase of land in Hawthorn by Thomas Herbert Power, the surrounding environments gradually became a place where the early merchant and squatter elite of Melbourne built their homesteads. In Toorak, this is best represented by the purchase of lot 26 by James Jackson, associate in Jackson, Rae & Co. soap and candle merchants. Jackson was described by politician William Westgarth as 'Melbourne's greatest merchant of this early time' (Forster 1999, 10). It is only fitting that his house, called Toorak House, would be the namesake of what would become arguably the most affluent suburb in Melbourne. Following the discovery of gold in the 1850s and the wealth this produced for ancillary trades, the Toorak area drew in Melbourne's newly wealthy. Today, over a century later, Toorak still has connotations of wealth and prestige as best represented in its history and built environment (Forster 1999, 5–26).

### • Place History

A detailed history of Sherren House, the Elaine Haxton mural and Campbell House have previously been authored by Context Pty Ltd and the National Trust of Australia for the City of Stonnington. The following account of these two structures have been drawn from these existing studies and is augmented by revisions and archival research by Extent Heritage.

### **Sherren House (17-21 Heyington Place)**

The land on which Sherren House at St Catherine's School sits initially featured a substantial fifteen room brick and slate dwelling with extensive outbuildings. Later known as Beaulieu, the dwelling was owned by prominent retailer and founder of the drapery store Buckley and Nunn's, Mars Buckley and his wife Elizabeth Maroon (née Neville) from 1863 (City of Prahan Rate Books 1863; Ann Hone 1969). A successful Irish-born businessman, Buckley would go on to assist in the founding of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (Hone 1969). Extensive additions were later made to Buckley's dwelling in 1871, and tenders were called in 1881 for decorations to the interior of the residence (The Argus 1871, 3; The Argus 1881).

It is not known how much, if any, of the 1860s house was incorporated into the later building. However, a large jump in valuation occurred in the 1880s, when it increased from 400 pounds in 1877 to 1,200 pounds in 1884. From this date, Buckley's house was described as a thirty room house. It seems most likely that the residence remaining today dates substantially from the early 1880s. An 1895 MMBW drainage plan shows the property extending as far south as Toorak Road, with many outbuildings and a large garden (MMBW 1895). Three years later, the garden was described in these words: 'Passing out of Lansell - road into Heyington - place we come on the fine mansion and grounds of Beaulieu, owned by Mr. Mars Buckley. The garden is always a grand sight, and at all seasons is full of the choicest flowers. The interior is very comfortable and artistic, and the entrance-gates are extremely handsome' (Australasian 1892, 323). A later 1904 article further describes the interior decoration and makes note that 'no item of expense had been spared to make this home one of the finest in the Southern Hemisphere; (Punch 1904, 78-79). Recent restoration in the drawing room has been based on the design from this period including ornate plaster cornices in the ceiling and timber paneling in the walls.

Mars Buckley resided at Beaulieu until his death in 1905. Ownership was subsequently passed onto his wife Elizabeth Maroon, who occupied it for several more years. By 1911, ownership was transferred to notable newspaper proprietor and manager Lachlan Scobie MacKinnon. He was the general manager of The Argus and was later knighted in 1916 (Serle 1986). Major internal refurbishments were carried out for MacKinnon in 1915 by the architects Klingender and Alsop, and included restorations to the vaulted ceilings in the vestibule, side passages and stairwell (MMBW House Cover). The staircase was also rebuilt at this time, and the work eradicated most of the earlier Buckley fittings and internal finishes. It is possible that Buckley's billiard room was converted into a ballroom during this period (Nigel Lewis and Richard Aitkin 1990).

In 1922, Kilbride, as MacKinnon renamed the mansion, was purchased by Flora Templeton and Minnie Langley for 17,000 pounds (Prahan Rate Books). The property was then run as a girl's school, St. Catherine's, that was founded in Castlemaine in 1903 (Chatham 1985). Some minor alterations, including limited infilling on the upper level of the loggias, were made in the 1920s to designs prepared by Clegg and Morrow of Ballarat (Nigel Lewis and Richard Aitkin 1990). In 1942, during World War II, the building was requisitioned as a training base for the Women's Auxiliary Australian Airforce (WAAAF), while St Catherine's was temporarily relocated to Warburton until 1943 (St Catherine's School 2011).

Following the war, further alterations were made to the building. A masterplan prepared in 1950 by Melbourne architects, Yuncken, Freeman Brothers, Griffiths and Simpson, showed sportfields and courts in front of the former mansion with new school buildings confined to the south west corner of the site.

In 1964, Melbourne architects Mockridge Stahle and Mitchell prepared plans for infilling the remainder of the loggias. There was more extensive work conducted in 1978 by the architects, McGlashan and Everist, which included the construction of an upper storey over the former billiard/ballroom (Nigel Lewis and Richard Aitkin 1990).

Today, St Catherine's School is a well regarded education institution, and has continuously produced notable graduates, including Dame Elizabeth Murdoch, the former Lieutenant Governor Marigold Southey, and the Governor of Victoria Linda Dessau.

### **Elaine Haxton Mural**

A fresco on white cement, a mural was painted by Elaine Haxton in 1956 following the establishment of the new Assembly Hall by architects Mockridge Stahle and Mitchell. Originally painted in more brilliant hues characteristic of Haxton's other work, the artist was forced to modify the colouring to comply with the wishes of the school. The completed work incorporates the school colours of grey, light and dark blue and gold. The location of the work required Haxton to use two tiered scaffolding, and working through mid winter in Melbourne required considerable determination and perseverance.

The five figures in this work represent the Arts – Music, Song, Dance, Comedy and Tragedy – and the theme and imagery relates clearly to Haxton's involvement in theatre design in which she was principally engaged at the time of this commission. Other notable works by Haxton include the murals at Moorilla Winery (1963), Claremont Café (1940), and the cabin of a HMAS Battler (1945).

### **Campbell House (27 Heyington Place)**

Designed by the noted architect Eric C. Beedham, Campbell House at 27 Heyington Place was initially erected in c.1929 for couple William H. and Annie Roddick (Prahan Rate Book). Born in Hobart in 1895, Beedham practiced as an architect in Tasmania before permanently relocating to Melbourne by 1927. His projects upon settling in Melbourne were varied, and included houses, flats, shops, factories, hotels and banks. He later entered into a partnership with architect John W. Wright, resulting in the establishment of the firm Beedham & Wright in 1934 (Built Heritage n.d.). Notable works by Beedham throughout his career included the English Domestic Revival residence Stallwood House at 8 Monaro Road, Malvern (1929), Art Deco flats Avila at 15 Cowderoy Street, St Kilda West (1935), as well as the Jex Steel Wool Factory at 77 Burnley Street, Richmond (1937).

The original design of the dwelling, as evident in undated drawings held by St Catherine's School, reveals a single storey south side wing and two-storey north wing. Classical porches are also shown on either side of the symmetrical central section, which have since been demolished (reproduced in Lovell Chen 1992, 2-3). The Roddick's owned the dwelling until the early 1950s, yet by this period, the rapidly expanding St Catherine's School had already owned the buildings at 17/21 Heyington Place (Sherren House), as well as 29, 31 and 33 Heyington Place (Prahan Rate Book). In 1958, ownership of Campbell House was ultimately succeeded to St Catherine's School for use as a boarding house. It was subsequently given the name Campbell House in recognition of Mr J. C. E. Campbell, Chairman of the School Council from 1952-1967 (St Catherine's School 2021).

This transfer of ownership saw several alterations and additions to the building in 1964 by the architects Mockridge, Stahle and Mitchell, who had designed the school's assembly hall in 1956. These works included the construction of an additional storey to the rear of the north façade, as well as an additional

storey at the southern end of the east facing façade. These additions are identifiable by the different colour of the exposed render finish which is similar to that of the northern façade additions. While the east (main) façade alterations have created a symmetry in the façade which was not part of the original design, it has been remarked on by Peter Lovell as having ‘altered, and to a degree falsified, the appearance of the building’ (Lovell 1992, 2). Several more contemporary alterations have since taken place at Campbell House, and the building is currently used by the school as the Ilhan Family Centre (ELC).

### Comparative Analysis

Sherren House and Campbell House have two distinct histories, however their origins derive from being private residences that were later integrated into the St Catherine’s School site as educational facilities. As Sherren House is the most important structure on the site, this comparative analysis focuses on late Victorian mansions have been purchased and converted into schools.

Comparative examples include:

- **Mandeville Hall (10 Mandeville Crescent, Toorak) (HO80 and VHR No. H0676).** Mandeville Hall was originally constructed in 1869 for Alfred Watson and comprised twelve rooms. The original austere mansion was redesigned following Joseph Clarke’s purchasing of the property in 1876, by renowned architect Charles Webb. The additions expanded the mansion from eleven rooms to thirty rooms and provided the building with the boom era façade it has today. These renovations assist in providing a comparable aesthetic element between both Mandeville Hall and Sherren House. Aesthetically, Mandeville Hall’s façade comprises a double-storey wrap around arcaded loggia with balustrading and curved arches. Stucco render pilasters support a pediment over the centred entrance, and a parapet, complete with additional balustrading and urns, conceals the slate roof. Many of these characteristics are comparable to Sherren House as well, the main features being the use of loggia, stucco render, and pilasters – though Mandeville Hall has a parapet and Sherren House has exposed bracketed eaves. However, the main comparable element is that both sites are late Victorian mansions within the City of Stonnington that have been converted into schools. Mandeville Hall was converted into a school and convent in 1924 when it was purchased by the Loreto Sisters.
- **Larnook House (519 Orrong Road, Armadale) (HO85).** Larnook, constructed in 1881, is comparable to Sherren House as another example of a late Victorian mansion within the City of Stonnington that has been converted into a school. Larnook was converted between 1949-1952 into a school, nearly two decades after Sherren House was repurposed as a school. In addition, common features evident at both sites include the double storey rectilinear form of each mansion, the use of slate as a roofing material, the hipped rooves, bracketed eaves, the polygonal bays, and the use of stucco rendering. Differences between both sites include the verandah designs, where Sherren House has an arcaded loggia, and Larnook has a wrought iron lacework and brick verandah.
- **Moorilim (Former) (373 Dandenong Road, Armadale) (Individually significant in the broader HO136 Hampden Road Precinct).** The mansion formerly known as Moorilim was constructed in 1875 and is comparable to Sherren House as another example of a late Victorian mansion in the municipality that was purchased and converted into a school. Moorilim is now part of the campus of the King David School, the same owners of Larnook House. Aesthetically, Moorilim

and Sherren House are comparable as two late Victorian mansions comprising double storey construction, loggias, use of stucco render, projecting polygonal bays and decorative pediments. Both structures use hipped roof forms, though Moorilim conceals its eaves with a decorative parapet and Sherren House decorative dentil bracketing.

## References

(1871, February 3). *The Argus*, 3.

(1881, August 4). *The Argus*, 4.

(1892, July 30). *The Australasian*, 323.

Ann Hone, J. (1969). *Buckley, Mars (1825-1905)*  
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### Limitations

1. Access to all heritage places was limited to a visual inspection from the public domain. The interiors of buildings and inaccessible areas such as rear gardens were not accessed as part of this heritage study.
2. Condition and site modification assessment was limited to a visual inspection undertaken from the public domain.
3. The historical notes provided for this citation are not considered to be an exhaustive history of the site.

### Further Images



Sherren House gates and piers, as viewed from Heyington Place (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Detail view of Sherren House gates (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Sherren House, as viewed from Heyington Place (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Detail view of Sherren House front façade (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Oblique view of Sherren House, looking north west (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Accretion behind Sherren House, looking west (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).





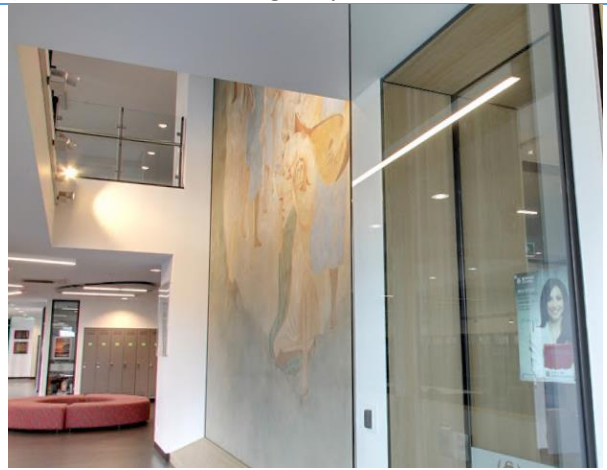
Campbell House, looking west from Heyington Place (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



View of the chimney design at Campbell House (source: Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, 2021).



Original location of Elaine Haxton Mural at the St Catherine's School Assembly Hall. Photo taken shortly after the construction of a wing addition in 1959 by Messrs Mockridge, Stahle & Mitchell (source: University of Melbourne Department of Architecture. 1959. *Cross-Section*, August 1959 issue no. 82, 1. Library Digitised Collections, The University of Melbourne).



Current location of Elaine Haxton mural (source: Google Street View, 2017).



Photograph of Elaine Haxton Mural, n.d (source: *Saint Catherine's Girls School*. Photograph. Elaine Haxton: A Comprehensive Guide (website). Accessed July 2021 <https://elainehaxton.com/mural3.html>).

## Authors

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