

107 Burke Road, Camberwell

The address at which CJ Dennis was reported to have been living in 1916 - 107 Burke Road, Camberwell - was one of three brick villas located on the south-east corner of Burke and Canterbury Roads between what was then numbered as 109 to 99 Burke Road. Each villa, built after grazier Peter Gillespie purchased the allotments in 1912 comprised two semi-detached six room dwellings which Gillespie leased to various tenants. 107 Burke Road occupied one half of the villa adjacent to the south-east corner of Burke and Canterbury Roads. In 1916 the rated occupant was Mrs Beatrice Cameron, with railway employee John Minahan occupying 109 Burke Road.

Although I have not been able to ascertain if Mrs Cameron advertised the home as a boarding house she may have been taken in private boarders. Electoral rolls record her occupation as dressmaker, but as a widow (her husband, Alexander had died in 1906) with a 15 year-old daughter to educate taking in boarders may have provided additional financial support. By 1924 Mrs Cameron and her daughter had moved to Deepdene.

As my research has been confined to identifying the house addressed in 1916 as 107 Burke Road, Camberwell I can't shed any more light on Dennis's day to day experiences at the house - what room he might have occupied and worked in, the interaction between himself, Mrs Cameron, and other residents - and I have not researched the later history of the house. Nevertheless, my research suggests that the address Dennis used in 1916 - 107 Burke Road, Camberwell - is likely to form part of the remaining brick villa on the south-east corner of Burke and Canterbury Roads, Camberwell.

Sources

- Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works plans, State Library of Victoria, www.slv.vic.gov.au
- Certificate of Titles, Land Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, <https://www.landata.vic.gov.au/>
- Probate of Peter Gillespie; Public Record Office Victoria, www.prov.vic.gov.au
- Camberwell and Waverley, Australia, Rate Books, 1912-1924, www.ancestry.com.au
- Australia, Births, Deaths & Marriages Indexes, www.ancestry.com.au
- Australian Electoral Rolls, Kooyong District, Camberwell subdistrict, www.ancestry.com.au
- *Argus* <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/>
- Chris McConville & Associates, *Camberwell Conservation Study*, 1991.

Further details on sources can be provided on request.

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