
Name	House	Reference No	
Address	19 Howard Street, Kew	Survey Date	16 August 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	1935-36	Previous Grading	B



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Poor	
Heritage Status	<input type="checkbox"/> HV	<input type="checkbox"/> AHC	<input type="checkbox"/> NT	<input type="checkbox"/> Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

History

19 Howard Street was constructed on Lot 7 of the 1933 subdivision¹ of the *Oakwood* estate, in Studley Park Road.² Comprising seven rooms, the house was built in 1935 for Eleanor and Reginald Stuart Taylor.³ Taylor was a commercial printer with city premises in William Street.⁴ The Taylors occupied the house until 1937, before they constructed another new residence at 12 Tara Avenue, Kew (q.v., B-graded), interestingly also in an Old English style.⁵

John Woolcock occupied the 19 Howard Street from 1938 to 1940, before Alfred Aconley purchased the house.⁶ Aconley occupied the house until 1969; for the next two years no occupant was identified. D S Orchard was listed as living in the house between 1972 and 1974.⁷

A series of alterations to the house and property were undertaken from the 1960s. The brick fence was constructed in November 1960 by Alfred Aconley.⁸ In May 1970 a building permit was issued for the addition of a new attic room to the house, and further additions and alterations were undertaken in 1983.⁹ A swimming pool was constructed in 1979 and a carport in 1988.¹⁰ In 2001 another permit for unspecified additions to the house was issued.¹¹

(G Butler & Associates, Kew B-graded buildings study (draft), 2001, additional research by Lovell Chen, 2005)

Description & Integrity

19 Howard Street, Kew, is a single-storey interwar Old English house with attic rooms. The steeply pitched gabled roof is finished with terracotta shingle tiles, the broad gables contain imitation half-timbering and a tall brick chimney penetrates the roofscape. An original dormer is set back in the transverse east-facing section of the roof, whereas the south-facing section of roof contains a non-original dormer added in 1970¹² and the front gable contains a non-original leadlight window, both

associated with the construction of additional attic rooms. The asymmetrical stepped façade is of clinker brick and the entrance is screened by a timber-framed porch with catslide roof, paired timber posts, arched timber brackets and original coach lamp. The entrance door is obscured by a wrought iron screen door. Fenestration is irregular but generally comprises timber-framed double-hung and casement sash windows with leadlight glazing.

The house is set within a mature terraced landscape of cypress, camellias, rhododendrons, azaleas and other exotics and a non-original clinker brick fence with wrought iron gates defines the property. The driveway paving and carport are relatively recent.

Historical Context

The subdivision of the *Oakwood* estate initiated the construction of a cohesive group of interwar houses on generous allotments, many of which adopted the popular Old English style. These complement the houses on the opposite side of Howard Street, which were erected on the earlier *Leaghur* estate subdivision. Howard Street was formed to facilitate estate subdivision in Kew, and demonstrates the transformation of two adjoining Studley Park Road mansions and their extensive estates.

Comparative Analysis

The most obvious of comparisons can be drawn with the neighboring houses including Nos 13, 17, 21, 23 and 25 Howard Street, all of which are constructed with strong, albeit varying, Old English stylistic overtones. These form a cohesive group, but with individual differences. 17 and 13 (both C-graded) are overpainted, while 23 (also C-graded) has 'Cape Cod' overtones that would become more popular in the post-war period. 25 (C-graded) has a jerkin-headed gable and vertical proportions which relate to No. 19, but it is in a generally brick surface. No. 19's stylization of line and its dramatized gables sets it apart from the other Howard Street designs generally, which are broadly massed designs, some with paired dormers in a dominant transverse wing. No. 19 has these, but the design is dominated by two steeply pitched, overlapping gables. A close counterpart is 125 Highfield Road, Camberwell, completed two years earlier (C-graded),¹³ which has a steeply pitched half-timbered gable that plunges to near the ground, as the gables do here. The stylization brings these designs closer to American suburban interpretations of Tudor, and to the fairytale picturesque of designs such as the 'Hansel and Gretel' Spadena House in Beverly Hills, California, of 1930.¹⁴

Assessment Against Criteria

Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria

CRITERION D: The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as a part of a class or type of places or objects.

19 Howard Street is a good and relatively externally intact example of an interwar attic residence in the Old English style.

CRITERION E: The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

Its stylized treatment of the Old English gives it a specific twist amongst most contemporary examples, with the extreme roof pitch and dramatization of line making No. 19 the nearest Kew counterpart to the Hansel and Gretel variant of Old English seen in Los Angeles and more locally in a few Melbourne examples such as 125 Highfield Road, Camberwell.

Statement of Significance

19 Howard Street, Kew, is of local historical and architectural significance. A good and relatively externally intact example of an interwar attic residence in the Old English style, its highly stylized treatment gives it a specific twist amongst most contemporary examples. Its extreme roof pitch and dramatization of line making No. 19 the nearest Kew counterpart to the 'Hansel and Gretel' variant of Old English seen in Los Angeles, and more locally in a few Melbourne examples. It makes an important contribution to a strong interwar grouping in Howard Street, Kew.

Grading Review

Unchanged.

Recommendations

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Boroondara Planning Scheme.

In addition, it is recommended that Council undertake a detailed review of the housing stock in Howard Street, Kew, including the cohesive group of interwar residences on the west side (at Nos 13, 17, 19, 21, 23, and 25) which exhibit strong, albeit varying, Old English stylistic overtones as well as the cohesive and similarly scaled and detailed group of Federation houses on the east side. Depending on the outcome of this review, consideration should be given to identifying a Heritage Overlay precinct.

Identified By

Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988

References

General: Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988, G Butler & Associates, Kew B-graded places study (draft), 2001.

Specific:

¹ Cited in G Butler, G Butler & Associates, Kew B-graded places study (draft), 2001, AP 37618 Registrar General's Office; Central Plans.

² 'Oakwood', *Melbourne Mansions* on-line database.

³ City of Kew Rate Books 1935-6, #6563, nav £105.

⁴ *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria, 1937-40.*

⁵ *Sands and McDougall Directory of Victoria 1937.*

⁶ *Sands and McDougall Directory of Victoria 1938-40;* City of Kew Rate books 1941-42, #7193, nav £112.

⁷ *Sands and McDougall Directory of Victoria, 1972-74.*

⁸ Details sourced from the City of Kew Building Index, # 995, dated 14 November 1960.

⁹ Details sourced from the City of Kew Building Index, #1908, dated 19 May 1970 and #457, dated 1 June 1983.

¹⁰ Details sourced from the City of Kew Building Index, #7846, dated 20 March 1979 and #3582, dated 9 April 1988.

¹¹ City of Boroondara Building File 40/408/04373 Part 1, Permit # BS-1068/2001/205/0 dated 18 May 2001.

¹² 'New attic room to dwelling'- section by W Higgs, builder, drawing sourced from the City of Kew Building Index, #1908, dated 19 May 1970.

¹³ G Butler, Camberwell Conservation Study 1991, vol. 4, pp. 132-3.

¹⁴ Formerly a movie set and office. Discussed by Walter Kidney in *The Architecture of Choice: Eclecticism in America*, Braziller, New York, 1974, David Gebhard and Robert Winter, *Los Angeles: an Architectural Guide*, Gibbs Smith, Salt Lake City, 1994, pp. 122-3.