

Building:	Enfield	Significance:	B
Address:	144 Burnley Street, Richmond	Melway Map Ref:	2H E6
Building Type:	Residence	Construction Date:	1901
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	David Mitchell



Intactness:		Condition:	
G[] F[x] P[]		G[] F[x] P[]	
Existing Heritage Listings:		Recommended Heritage Listings:	
Victorian Heritage Register	[]	Victorian Heritage Register	[]
Register of the National Estate	[]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[x]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

History

Enfield was built in 1901 by David Mitchell, prolific Melbourne builder who was also responsible for the construction of the Royal Exhibition Building. It is claimed that Dame Nellie Melba, Mitchell's daughter, lived in the house for a period before it was sold to Mitchell's accountant. In 1920 the house passed to David Fitton who remained there until 1962.¹

Description

Enfield is a two-storey single-fronted freestanding Italianate style brick house, with a projecting rear wing to the north. The front verandah and balcony have cast iron lacework friezes, and the balcony has lacework balustrading with a fern motif. The verandah and balcony are flanked by projecting brick walls with blind arches. The ground floor facade has tripartite timber-framed double-hung sash windows, whilst the first floor has two double-hung sash windows and a pair of leadlight French doors. The front door has unusual arched glazed panels, and glazed side- and highlights. The hipped roof is concealed behind a rendered parapet, which has a central triangular pediment flanked by curved, vermiculated panels. There is a single rendered brick chimney with a moulded capital and terracotta chimney pots.

The external walls of the house have been painted white; the ground floor facade appears to have been rendered.

The house retains an original iron picket front fence.

Significance

Enfield, at 144 Burnley Street, Richmond, is of local historical and architectural significance. It was built by David Mitchell and was purportedly for a time the home of his daughter, Dame Nellie Melba, who was born in Burnley Street and whose family has many associations with the north-east of Richmond. Architecturally, the house is a typical example of a large, Italianate house with a terrace form, located on a prominent site in an area which was mainly developed with smaller cottages and terraces.

1 National Trust File No. 1348. Letter from David B Fitton to the National Trust dated 22 October 1961. Fitton claimed that he recalled his parents discussing Melba's residence in the house when he was a child. His information for the construction date, builder and owners was taken from title deeds in his possession.