
Name	House	Reference No	
Address	2 Denmark Street, Kew	Survey Date	23 August 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	c.1912	Previous Grading	B



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness Good Fair Poor

Heritage Status HV AHC NT Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

History

The red brick villa situated on the corner of Denmark Street and Barkers Road was constructed in c.1912 for Herbert Smith.¹ The house was originally listed as 117 Barkers Road in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*², and was described in rate books as an 8 room house, valued at £130.³ The property's address was changed to 2 Denmark Street in 1919. Smith occupied the house until the early 1920s, after which, the Sheezel family took up residence.

The house underwent major alterations in 1947 during the ownership of Rex Baxter. Yuncken Freeman Brothers Griffiths and Simpson drew up plans to convert the original dwelling into two flats.⁴ The builder, Graham Phillips, undertook these alterations⁵, and by 1949 two occupiers are listed: Rex R Baxter and Dermott C Hyland.⁶ Other alterations to the property occurred during the late 1950s and 1960s, with the addition of a brick tool shed, a timber carport and a brick garage.⁷ Both the Baxter and Hyland families remained as occupants of the property until the 1960s.⁸ The property was subsequently acquired in 1967 by Mr and Mrs A C Bertram.⁹

(Lovell Chen, 2005)

Description & Integrity

2 Denmark Street, Kew, is a substantial attic storey Federation villa. Constructed of tuckpointed red face brick, the design of the building reflects its corner siting, with prominent projecting bays facing each frontage flanking a central, skewed entrance. The prominent gabled roof form is clad with slate and has terracotta ridge cresting, red brick chimneys with moulded caps, and timber fretwork to gable ends. The roofs of the bay and bow windows and window awnings are finished with terracotta shingles. A prominent attic dormer appears to have been an originally open balcony, infilled later with timber-framed multi-paned sash windows above the original brick dwarf walls. The entrance is marked by a deep faceted porch which is supported by rendered pilasters on brick dwarf walls and has

bluestone steps and plinth and non-original canvas blinds. The entrance door is panelled timber with leadlight glazing and sidelights and a non-original wrought iron screen door. Windows comprise timber-framed casement sashes with highlights which have leadlight glazing and bluestone sills.

The western side and rear yards contain a number of non-original buildings including a large brick addition (c.1957) and brick car garages (1961) in the north-west corner of the site. Other alterations include the construction of a timber handrail to the entrance steps, a flat porch over the side entrance (1947) and timber picket fences.¹⁰

Historical Context

The eastern side of Denmark Street, which originally backed onto the railway line, was previously owned by Xavier College, who subdivided and sold the land during the first decade of the twentieth century.¹¹ The vacant land was developed in subsequent years and is characterised by large detached and semi-detached brick Federation villas, sited on generous allotments with uniform setbacks.

Comparative Analysis

2 Denmark Street, Kew, can be broadly compared with the neighbouring 8 Denmark Street, albeit planned to address its corner siting. Both feature dominant gables flanking a central entrance framed by rendered pilasters, above which sits a prominent dormer. The splayed wings, a Federation parallel to the British Free Style butterfly plan, was a not uncommon variant of the angled corner bay, and a logical and expressive response to the inherent diagonality in most Federation house massing and orientation. The clearest published prototype was George Sydney Jones' AE Joseph house at Homebush, NSW, a very early Federation design published in 1893. This linked a rectangular block of service rooms to a three-pointed arrangement of living and main bedroom areas, with a central entry between two of the splayed wings, as here.¹² Jones' design did not have a dormer, but this shows a clever adaptation of the splayed type to Federation dormer houses of a type common in Kew. *Highton*, at 65 Mont Albert Road, Canterbury, was an earlier example: a large house dating from 1906 with a more generally radial plan (q.v., B-graded). It was less typically Federation in its details than 2 Denmark Street, having affinities with more stylish Arts and Crafts houses in Toorak and elsewhere. Like the related 1 Clayton Road, Balwyn, of 1906 (q.v., B-graded but recommended to be downgraded in this review) its wings are spread primarily in response to views. By contrast, 2 Denmark Street's design has a more characteristically Federation interplay with the street, the splayed plan being an answer to an already busy corner.

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.

2 Denmark Street, Kew is a fine example of a substantial attic storey Federation villa, which despite alterations on the western side and to the rear, is relatively externally intact as viewed from Denmark Street.

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.

The house is an impressive example of the use of radial and diagonal planning in Federation architecture, and is one of a relatively small number of houses in the Boroondara area that are known for radial and splayed wing plans, in this case used to directly address a street corner.

Statement of Significance

2 Denmark Street, Kew, is of local historical and architectural significance. It is a fine example of a substantial attic storey Federation villa, which despite alterations on the western side and to the rear, is relatively externally intact as viewed from Denmark Street. The house is an impressive example of the use of radial and diagonal planning in Federation architecture, and is one of a relatively small number of houses in the Boroondara area that are known for radial and splayed wing plans, in this case used to directly address a street corner.

The house makes a strong contribution to the intact and impressive group of Federation houses at the lower end of Denmark Street.

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 the broader area including both sides of Denmark Street between Barkers Road and High Street, Foley Street and the section of Barkers Road bounded by High Street and Power Street, and the northern side of Barkers Road between High Street and Denmark Street. Depending on the outcome of this review, consideration should be given to identifying a Heritage Overlay precinct. While only 5 houses were graded B in the 1988 Kew Conservation Study (1, 2 and 8 Denmark Street, 48 Foley Street and 83-85 Barkers Road), the broader area contains three B-graded institutional/retail properties and substantial numbers of C-graded houses from the Victorian and Federation periods, many of which appear to be broadly intact and were graded C in the 1988 Study.

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 Borough of Kew Rate Books, 1912-3, #2124.

² *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1916.

³ Borough of Kew Rate Books, 1912-3, #2124.

⁴ Drawings sourced from the City of Kew Building Index, #167/1947, dated 30 April 1947.

⁵ Details sourced from the City of Kew Building Index, #167/1947, dated 30 April 1947.

⁶ *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1949.

⁷ Details sourced from the City of Kew Building Index, #670 dated 19 November 1957; #264 dated 24 November 1958; and #147 dated 7 March 1961, respectively.

⁸ *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years, 1955-1960.

⁹ Pattern of occupation derived from listings in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, between 1960 and 1974, augmented by information provided by the present owners, May 2007.

¹⁰ Details sourced from the City of Kew Building Index, # 670, brick tool shed, dated 19 November 1957, #264, timber carport, dated 24 November 1958, #8, timber fence, dated 17 November 1960, #87, timber fence, dated 23 January 1961, #147, dated 7 March 1961.

¹¹ Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988, p. 4/9.

¹² Published in the *Building and Engineering Journal*, and Illustrated by C Hamann in 'Forgotten reformer: the architecture of George Sydney Jones', *Architecture Australia*, November 1979.