
Name	House	Reference No	
Address	20 Fernhurst Grove, Kew	Survey Date	12 September 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	c.1893	Previous Grading	B



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Intactness Good Fair Poor

Heritage Status HV AHC NT Rec. BPS Heritage Overlay

History

Fernhurst Grove takes its name from the house *Fernhurst*, parts of which are thought to have dated from the mid 1850s. Thought to have been constructed for Hugh Glass and later owned by the Wharton family, *Fernhurst* was sited close to the south of the corner of Fernhurst Grove and Stawell Street. Much of the property's grounds were subdivided by a later owner, Frank Vial, in c.1893, and Fernhurst Grove was gazetted and cut through to create access to the newly-subdivided blocks.¹ Fernhurst Grove, north of Stawell Street was, prior to 1913, known as Albert Street.

20 Fernhurst Grove, formerly 27 Albert Street, was constructed in c.1893. Municipal rate records for 1891-92 listed James J Fenton as the owner of a vacant allotment, 27 Albert Street, with a net annual value of £20.² The owner of the adjacent allotment at 25 Albert Street had already constructed a timber house by this date.³ By the following year's rate cycle, Fenton was listed as the owner of a completed house, with a net annual value of £55.⁴ Fenton's house was one of only two constructed of brick in this part of Fernhurst Grove.⁵

Fenton resided at this address until c. 1905, when the property was subsequently occupied by Richard Moorehead (c.1907), Frederick Agar (c.1909), Samuel Allen (c.1912-16) and Samuel Shaw (c.1917-1923).⁶ In c.1913 Alfred Street changed to Fernhurst Grove, and the property became 20 Fernhurst Grove. In c.1924 the property was acquired by John F Cody whose family owned and occupied the property until at least 1974.⁷ By the mid-1950s Miss Eileen Cody was listed as the owner and occupier, succeeding Mrs F M Cody, presumably her mother.⁸

(Lovell Chen, 2005)

Description & Integrity

The house at 20 Fernhurst Grove, Kew, is a single-storey double-fronted late-Victorian villa of tuckpointed Hawthorn brick construction on a bluestone plinth. The gabled and hipped slate-clad roof is penetrated by face brick chimneys with rendered bands and caps and the gable ends feature distinctive timber fretwork and finials in the form of sunbursts. The house is screened by a deep return verandah which was reconstructed in part, possibly to match the original, around 1988.⁹ The skillion roofed verandah has timber floor, turned timber posts and a detailed non-original timber fretwork frieze. The asymmetrical façade is relieved by rendered bands and dressings and contains a prominent canted bay which projects up above the verandah roofline which contains three full-height timber-framed double-hung sashes. Windows elsewhere are similar, albeit not full-height. The main entrance is from the side verandah and is obscured from view from the street.

Extensive additions and a detached garage were constructed at the rear of the house during the mid to late 1980s, however these are set well back from the street and do not alter the presentation of the original building. The property is screened by a non-original timber picket fence and gates and the landscape appears to have been renewed around the same time.

Historical Context

Fernhurst Grove, to the north of Stawell Street, was predominantly developed with detached weatherboard residences on modest allotments, interspersed with detached or semi-detached brick villas.¹⁰ The southern section of the street was created after a large allotment was subdivided during the interwar period, with development occurring during the post-war era.

Comparative Analysis

20 Fernhurst Grove is Victorian in general appearance: hipped slate roof, Victorian pattern bargeboards, corrugated iron verandah canopy separate from the roof, and umber Hawthorn brick with dichrome rendered striping. At the same time there are several Queen Anne and proto-Federation details: sunburst finials, timber verandah floor, turned timber verandah posts. Though the current verandah frieze is not original, it may have replaced one of similar design. In this it compares in detail with *Bramber*, 47 Wills Street, Kew, of 1894, (q.v., B-graded). No. 20 has similarly bossed barge boarding and hipped gabling, and similarly proportioned, spaced and sculpted chimneys. 20 Fernhurst Grove is a transitional design, between the Victorian and Federation periods in its characteristics. Houses in Kew and Camberwell by Reed, Henderson, Smart and their contemporaries were similar (albeit two-storied) but predate this house by a number of years.

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.

20 Fernhurst Grove, Kew, is a good and externally relatively intact example of a single-storey late Victorian villa with transitional Federation stylistic elements and mixed details and materials usage.

Statement of Significance

20 Fernhurst Grove, Kew, is of local historical and architectural significance as a good and relatively externally intact example of a single-storey late Victorian villa with transitional Federation stylistic elements and mixed details and materials usage.

Grading Review

Unchanged.

Recommendations

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

Identified By

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

References

General: Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988.

Specific:

¹ Rogers, Dorothy. *A history of Kew*, 1973, pp. 119-21.

² Borough of Kew Rate Books, 1891-92, #166, J J Fenton, land, nav £20.

³ Borough of Kew Rate Books, 1891-92, #167, W J Gordon, house, nav £50.

⁴ Borough of Kew Rate Books, 1892-93, #2005, J J Fenton, house, nav £55.

⁵ MMBW Plan No. 40, Collingwood & Kew, scale 160':1", dated c. 1904.

⁶ Pattern of occupation derived from listings in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years between 1905 and 1925.

⁷ *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years between 1925 and 1974.

⁸ City of Kew Rate Books, 1956-57, #6584, Miss Eileen Cody, brick, 7 rooms, nav £110.

⁹ As noted in the datasheet from the previous study, Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988.

¹⁰ MMBW Plan no. 40, Collingwood & Kew, scale 160':1", dated c. 1904.