
Name	House	Reference No	
Address	6 High Street, Kew	Survey Date	23 August 2005
Building Type	Residence	Grading	B
Date	c.1914	Previous Grading	B



Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

Refer also to Recommendations.

Intactness	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input 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

The *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria* recorded a 'house being built' south of 219 High Street South, in 1914. The 1915 edition of the Directory recorded the renumbering of the street, and listed 6 High Street, a 7 room brick house occupied by a Mr. and Mrs. William Hindson, for the first time.¹ The Hindsons remained there until 1919, when the house passed to owner-occupier James Clingan, a traveller, until 1923.² Alfred Fulton, a chemist, and his wife Annie Fulton then occupied and owned the house until the late 1930s. Later occupants included William Heffernan (c. 1940), John T O'Halloran (c. 1944/5) and Mrs F Grant (1948-1950).³ The house was converted to flats in 1951⁴ possibly after Miss Ellen Foley had become the owner.⁵ Miss Foley was listed at this address until at least 1974.⁶

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

Description & Integrity

6 High Street, Kew, is an attic-storey double-fronted Federation house. A complex gabled roofscape is clad with terracotta tiles and finished with terracotta ridge cresting and finials and is penetrated by attic dormers and slender red face brick chimneys with corbelled caps and ridging. The dormers are clad with shingled weatherboards and the gable ends are finished with fish-scale patterned boards. Tuckpointed red face brick walls bear on a face bluestone plinth and the asymmetrical façade features a prominent projecting double-storey porch and balcony, marking the central entrance. The balcony, which is clad with shingled weatherboard and finished with timber fretwork, is supported by paired timber posts which bear on a red brick dwarf wall and the non-original porch floor is concrete. The entrance door is panelled timber with leaded fan and sidelights and the windows comprise a mix of timber-framed double-hung and casement sashes, many of which have leaded highlights. The south-

east corner of the house is defined by a projecting faceted bay with pyramidal turret and timber frieze, while the other front contains a projecting gable bay with tripartite window.

The non-original brick fence was constructed in the 1960s and other minor alterations include the introduction of timber-framed double-glazing and overpainting of the porch dwarf wall. Directories and council records indicate that the building was converted to flats in the 1950s, around which time rear additions were constructed, however, if built, they are not visible from the street.⁷

Historical Context

Other than for the Victorian residence at 8 High Street, Kew, the MMBW plan shows the southern end of High Street undeveloped at the turn of the century, presumably due to the clay hole on adjoining land. Some development occurred in the Edwardian period, however. The subject property is located in a small but consistent run of Edwardian residences on the south side of the street. In his *Jubilee History of Kew of 1910*, F G A Barnard commented that on the eastern side of High Street near Barkers Road there 'had recently sprung up a number of modern villas of varying designs...'.⁸

Comparative Analysis

6 High Street is a relatively progressive design for 1914, demonstrating a shift toward simplification in Federation design. Though complex in some ways, the house actually has a quite simple general form, dominated by a single gable. Together with the linked porch and balcony and the northern window, the corner bay and its tower are set out as part of a simple set of asymmetrically balanced 'events' in the façade. The house can be seen in the context of earlier simplifications of Federation design, as in Robert Haddon's *Anselm* at 6 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, of 1906. That also employed, in reverse array to here, a single broad gable, a corner tower articulated as a discrete element that counterbalanced the entry, and another window. Haddon further developed this design as a broad, gable-fronted bungalow form, and it was publicized in the *Real Property Annual* of 1918. Several emulations of this design had appeared by 1920, including, in Boroondara, a house at the corner of Burke Road and Seymour Grove. 6 High Street is earlier, but could well have been prompted by other Haddon designs, as seen in his *Australian Architecture* of 1908, a prescribed text at the Melbourne Technical College.⁹

The design incorporates significant flexions in scale, as between, for example, the corner bay and the miniscule paired windows and lunette by the central balcony and recessed porch. Scale flexions were a favourite pursuit in Free Style, Arts and Crafts and Federation circles, and derived ultimately from similar pursuits in British and American Free Style architecture of the 1870s and 1880s.¹⁰

6 High Street is also compositionally related to its immediate neighbour, No. 4, and to a series of contemporary houses built from there up the High Street hill on the east side. These were, in turn, complemented by several interesting houses from this transitional period on the west side of High Street.

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.

6 High Street is a good and externally highly intact example of an attic-storey double-fronted Federation Queen Anne house of the later Federation period, the design of which suggests a simplifying shift in the years leading up to World War I.

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.

6 High Street is heavier and less assured in its detailing than the work of leading designers such as Robert Haddon, but still shows a lively and effective flexion of scale and presentation of bay, porch, balcony and gable as streetscape elements. It is also a particularly effective use of a small site and frontage.

Statement of Significance

The house at 6 High Street, Kew, is of local historical and architectural significance as a good and externally highly intact example of an attic-storey double-fronted Federation Queen Anne house of the later Federation period, the design of which suggests a simplifying shift in the years leading up to World War 1. 6 High Street shows a lively and effective flexion of scale and presentation of bay, porch, balcony and gable as streetscape elements. It is also a particularly effective use of a small site and frontage.

6 High Street, Kew, makes a strong contribution to an important Federation group (including the corner pharmacy building) on the east side of High Street north of the Barkers Road intersection.

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 High Street from Barkers Road to the Junction. While 6 High Street is related to and complemented by a series of nearby Federation era houses graded B and C in the 1988 Kew Conservation Study, this section of High Street also contains a substantial number of Victorian and interwar properties. 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 Borough of Kew Rate Books, 1915-16, #3805, nav £47; *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1915, 1916.

² City of Kew Rate Books, 1921-22, rate no. 4977, nav £48; *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1920-1923.

³ *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years between 1925 and 1948.

⁴ *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1950-1951.

⁵ City of Kew Rate Books, 1954-5, #8057, nav £145.

⁶ *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years between 1960 and 1974.

⁷ *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1951 and City of Kew Building Index, # 336, dated 11 February 1955.

⁸ Quoted in Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988, vol. 4/12.

⁹ Robert J Haddon, *Australian Architecture*, George Robertson, Sydney, 1908.

¹⁰ Examples are shown in Mark Girouard's *Sweetness and Light; the Queen Anne Movement*, Yale, New Haven, London; 1977. For a discussion of scale flexions see also Conrad Hamann, 'American affinities: contemporary architecture and the free style of 1880-1930', *Transition*, 2, 1, December 1980.