

<b>Name</b>	House	<b>Reference No</b>	
<b>Address</b>	17 O'Shaughnessy Street, Kew	<b>Survey Date</b>	23 August 2005
<b>Building Type</b>	Residence	<b>Grading</b>	B
<b>Date</b>	1907-08	<b>Previous Grading</b>	B



#### Extent of Overlay

To title boundaries.

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

#### History

The land the subject property occupies was originally part of the large land holding of Patrick O'Shaughnessy, early publican and landowner. O'Shaughnessy Street and Foley Street were cut through the holding in c.1885,<sup>1</sup> to facilitate the subdivision of a portion of the holding, as the O'Shaughnessy Estate in October 1887.<sup>2</sup> Part of lot 6 would later form the site of this residence.

17 O'Shaughnessy Street was constructed in 1907-08. Municipal rate records listed A E Camp as the owner and occupier of an unfinished house in O'Shaughnessy Street, with a net annual value (nav) of £15.<sup>3</sup> By the following year's rate cycle, the Fourth Victoria Permanent Building Society was listed as the owner of a wooden house of six rooms. No occupant was given, indicating the house may have been newly-completed but untenanted.<sup>4</sup> By the following year the Society had secured T Mather as a tenant. By 1912, the property had been acquired by Thomas J Press, who occupied the property the following year, it being recorded as tenanted in the preceding year's rate records. The number of rooms has also increased to seven.<sup>5</sup> Subsequent occupants of the property included William Matson (c.1919-24) and Daniel Latham (c.1925-29). Between 1930 and 1944/5 W Thomas and subsequently Mrs A P Thomas were listed as owner/occupants.<sup>6</sup> Municipal rate records for the 1946-47 cycle listed the occupant of the premises as Miss Annie Chrisfield Thomas, and owner as the Estate of A P Thomas.<sup>7</sup> Miss Thomas is thought to have married during the 1950s – the residence, still owned by the Thomas Estate, is occupied by Adam J and Annie Chrisfield Raaymakers in 1957.<sup>8</sup> They remained in residence until the early 1970s, after which time S P Rowell became the occupant in 1974.<sup>9</sup>

(Lovell Chen, 2005)

#### Description & Integrity

17 O'Shaughnessy Street, Kew, is a single-storey double-fronted timber Federation villa. The expansive hipped and gabled roofscape has been reclad with terracotta tiles with terracotta ridge

cresting and finials<sup>10</sup> and is penetrated by numerous red face brick chimneys with roughcast rendered panels and corbelled caps. Gables are finished with carved barges with fretwork screens. The asymmetrical weatherboard façade is screened by a return verandah with timber posts, fretwork frieze and floor, and is accessed via a gabled bay projecting from the corner. The side entrance contains a panelled timber door with leaded fan and sidelights. Fenestration is irregular and includes faceted and rectangular bay windows which contain timber-framed casement sashes; windows elsewhere have double-hung sashes. Extensive rear additions were made in the late 1980s, augmented by smaller-scaled works being undertaken at the time of writing. The non-original timber-paling fence is being replaced. The front garden contains a mature cypress tree.

### Historical Context

Residential development in O'Shaughnessy Street did not occur until after the area was first surveyed by the MMBW in c.1904. The presence of the extensive clay pit running behind the street might have accounted for the slow uptake in residential building in its vicinity.

### Comparative Analysis

17 O'Shaughnessy Street is a fine example of a timber Federation house, dating from the high tide of Federation architecture, reasonably intact apart from a roof renewal, and distinguished by a diagonal entry porch. Diagonal address in buildings, particularly houses, is characteristic of Federation typology,<sup>11</sup> but the diagonal emphasis is heavily dramatized here, with a porch that projects a long way at an angle into the front garden. The main roof mass is similarly treated as a 'source' for the diagonal, and is flanked, again characteristically, by an L-shaped roof pattern that expresses other rooms, and projects to the front and side in two projecting bays. There are a limited number of timber Federation houses in Kew, such as Beverley Ussher's 57 Pakington Street, of 1898-9 (q.v., B-graded); most notable Kew examples are in brick. Elsewhere, it compares in texture and scale with 31 Chaucer Crescent, Canterbury, of 1907 (q.v., B-graded). Some of the detailing here is also similar to No. 31, as is the arched and slatted porch screen, the punctuation of walls near the entry path with small scale openings, similar ridge capping and finials and the use of short, fairly plain corbelled chimneys in red face brick. 31 Chaucer Crescent has a more circumstantial plan, adapting to an oddly shaped intersection outside. But in details and texture 17 O'Shaughnessy Street is quite similar. It also complements the brick Federation houses in five adjacent streets: High, Foley, Denmark, Miller and Stevenson.

### 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.*

17 O'Shaughnessy Street is a fine, representative and relatively externally intact example of Federation architecture at its peak of popularity. It is less common in Kew, among leading Federation examples, in being timber rather than brick. It complements a series of high-quality Federation designs in surrounding streets and helps to make this section of Kew a notable Federation precinct. In scale, texture and detail it compares with several other B-graded Federation houses in Boroondara.

### Statement of Significance

17 O'Shaughnessy Street, Kew, is of local historical and architectural significance as a fine, representative and relatively externally intact example of a Federation residence dating from the peak of popularity of that period in Australian architecture. It is atypical in Kew, among leading Federation examples, in being timber rather than brick.

### 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, G Butler & Associates, Kew B-graded places study (draft), 2001.

*Specific:*

<sup>1</sup> *Sands & McDougall Melbourne Directory*, 1884-1886.

<sup>2</sup> O'Shaughnessy Estate subdivision plan, October 1887, Batten & Percy Collection, State Library of Victoria.

<sup>3</sup> Borough of Kew Rate Books, 1907-08, #2607, A E Camp, unfinished, nav £15.

<sup>4</sup> Borough of Kew Rate Books. 1908-09, #2678, Fourth Victoria Permanent Building Society, wood, 6 rooms, nav £30.

<sup>5</sup> Borough of Kew Rate Books, 1915-16, #3886, T Press, wood, 7 rooms, £42.

<sup>6</sup> Pattern of occupation derived from listings in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years between 1918 and 1944/5.

<sup>7</sup> City of Kew Rate Books, 1946-47, #7733, wood, 7 rooms, nav £64.

<sup>8</sup> City of Kew Rate Books, 1956-57, #7609, wood, 7 rooms, nav £110.

<sup>9</sup> *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1974.

<sup>10</sup> Details sourced from the City of Boroondara Building File 40/408/013119, # BS1574/20000999/0, dated 17 March 2000, restump of dwelling and new roof, and # BS1574/20000999/0, dated 17 March 2000, alteration of a dwelling – roof framing only.

<sup>11</sup> Discussed by Miles Lewis, 'The Victorian house', in Robert Irving et al., *The History and Design of the Australian House*, Macmillan, Melbourne, 1985, and Conrad Hamann in 'The inclusive tradition in Victoria's architecture', in AGL Shaw (ed.), *Victoria's Heritage*, Allen and Unwin, Sydney, 1985.