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<b>OName</b>	<i>Ormonde</i>	<b>Reference No</b>	
<b>Address</b>	51 Walpole Street, Kew	<b>Survey Date</b>	20 September 2005
<b>Building Type</b>	Residence	<b>Grading</b>	B
<b>Date</b>	c.1906	<b>Previous Grading</b>	B



**Extent of Overlay**

To title boundaries.

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**Intactness**     Good     Fair     Poor

**Heritage Status**     HV     AHC     NT     Rec.    BPS Heritage Overlay

**History**

*Ormonde*, 51 Walpole Street, Kew, was built in c.1906 for a Dr. James V McCreery.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the construction of *Ormonde*, Dr. McCreery resided at Willsmere and held the position of Inspector with the Lunatic Asylum Department.<sup>2</sup> Dr. McCreery had moved from Ararat in 1872 to take up a position as an Inspector at the Yarra Bend Asylum.<sup>3</sup> It is probable that the construction of the house coincided with his retirement from this position, as he subsequently was listed as a physician with rooms at 28 Collins Street, in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*.<sup>4</sup> After 1923 he was listed as a physician at 51 Walpole Street, where he lived until 1939.<sup>5</sup> *Ormonde* was subsequently owned and leased out by Miss Irene Foley, who lived in Barnard Avenue, Kew.<sup>6</sup> A long term resident was Arthur M Styles, a military officer.<sup>7</sup> By 1955 ownership of the property had been transferred to Dr. Harley J Ennis<sup>8</sup> who owned the property until c.1960. During his period of ownership, a portion of the property to the south was subdivided and in 1959 a new house was under construction, at 49 Walpole Street.<sup>9</sup> Later occupants of the property included G H Lavery (c.1965) and J P Maclellan (c.1968 – c.1974).<sup>10</sup>

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

**Description & Integrity**

The house at 51 Walpole Street, Kew is a large attic-storey Federation house of roughcast rendered brick construction, transitional in style between the Federation and later bungalow styles. The prominent, yet simple, gabled roof is clad with Marseilles pattern terracotta tiles and the roofscape is penetrated by a tripartite attic dormer and tapered chimneys featuring Art Nouveau details. Gable ends, particularly the broad north gable, are heavily timbered and finished with carved timber barge boards; the attic dormer balcony is finished with timber fretwork and non-original wrought iron screen. The overall composition is asymmetrical to take advantage of its corner siting and comprises a single large volume, transverse to the main street frontage, with a smaller single-storey projecting

bay to the south-east corner and canted bay towards the centre of the north elevation. A deep verandah which is set beneath the main roof is supported by tapered roughcast rendered piers, between which is some non-original infill glazing. The main entrance from this verandah contains a half-glazed panelled timber door with leadlight surround and matching timber-framed screen door. Flanking this verandah, a small bay rises up with a parapet form to provide a balcony to the attic rooms above. The fenestration is irregular but generally comprises timber-framed double-hung and casement sashes, some with coloured leadlight glazing. The house appears to be broadly externally intact.

The high timber-framed corrugated galvanised steel fence is non-original as is the open carport in the north-west corner of the property.

### Historical Context

Walpole Street is one of the principal streets of Kew's first land subdivision. Nicholas Fenwick, Commissioner of Crown Lands, purchased Allotment 87 in October 1851, and promptly employed surveyor and architect George Wharton to survey and subdivide his land into half acre allotments. Bounded by High, Princess, Eglinton and Derby Streets, Wharton laid out an alternating pattern of wide and narrow streets, which were named after English statesmen.<sup>11</sup> Walpole Street was named for British Prime Minister Sir Robert Walpole, (1676-1745). Walpole Street is one of Kew's most desirable addresses and is characterised by substantial Victorian brick villas on large allotments, with some later residential construction occurring in the early years of the twentieth century.

### Comparative Analysis

Compositionally this house is poised between the typical Federation villas of the 1900s and the attic-bungalow modes of the later teens and 1920s. This emerging attic bungalow typology is marked by broad, simple rooflines and massing, a reduction in complex elements of the roof profile seen in the gently tapering, all-stuccoed chimney stack and absence of serrated ridge capping, and greater use of textured stucco on the wall surfacing. Notwithstanding this, the form still shows some affinity with mainstream Federation design such as Ussher and Kemp's 5 Willsmere Road, Kew of 1903, where the dormers are paired and individual arches answer a broader arched entry treatment immediately below.<sup>12</sup> Kew examples include Inskip and Kemp's 5 Adeney Avenue of 1914 (graded A) and 9 Edward Street (formerly A, regarded B and recommended to be regraded to C);<sup>13</sup> Other examples in Boroondara of transitional Federation bungalows can be found in Camberwell, as at 22 and 24 Albion Street, Surrey Hills (C and B graded respectively), or 22 Balwyn Road, Canterbury, (ungraded) but cited as a example by Irving et al.<sup>14</sup> Kew B-graded examples include 15 Uvadale Grove, with a single-bay central dormer and striking central arch; 24 Stanley Avenue, a powerful pyramidal-roofed design with small central dormer and brick-lined central arch; 34 Stevenson Street, of 1910-11 (q.v.), a similarly transitional design with simplified roof in two overlapping gables and a colonnaded corner tower; 101 Princess Street, also marked by emphatic gabling and a similarly weighty detail; 35 High Street (2 Miller Grove of 1914 (q.v.) by Arthur Purnell, simplified in its roof form and at similar dimensions, though more complex in outline; Alsop and Klingender's 2 Young Street, a simplified Federation design around a cranked, open plan; 33 Willsmere Road, 1923, a late but similarly scaled example in its half-timbering and the boldness of its gables; and 31 Barrington Avenue, showing the transition of this mode into the Bungalow form.<sup>15</sup> In comparison with these, *Ormonde*, 51 Walpole Street, Kew is early, has a bold and straightforward roof composition, a skillfully handed compositional relief in its three-bayed dormer, a solidly scaled array of materials and detail, and appears to be relatively externally intact. It is closer than other examples to the original Federation style in attic-storied houses, but shows a similar move toward simplification. It also differs from most of these examples in having a walled entry porch with undulating parapet and an Art Nouveau emphasis on curving lines and flat planes. The robust scaling of its materials, wall patterning and the thickness of its half-timbering, for example, represent an extension of the textural richness found in Guyon Purchas' *Tay Creggan* of 1891-2 (A-graded), 30 Yarra Street Hawthorn, now part of Strathcona Girls' School.<sup>16</sup>

### 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.*

*Ormonde* is a fine and relatively externally intact example of a Federation attic storey house which is characterised by a simplified roof form and footprint, and shows the beginnings of a shift toward the attic bungalows of the 1910s and 1920s.

*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.*

*Ormonde* differs from Kew counterparts in this general late-Federation phase by having very simple and bold massing around a single dominant roof ridge, a skilled concentration of its relieving expression in a central three-bayed dormer, ably proportioned; and a richness and variety in its materials and scaling, including an accentuation of Art Nouveau stylisation in details and line.

### **Statement of Significance**

*Ormonde*, at 51 Walpole Street, Kew, is of local historical and architectural significance as a fine and relatively externally intact example of a Federation attic storey house which is characterised by a simplified roof form and footprint and shows the beginnings of a shift toward the attic bungalows of the 1910s and 1920s. *Ormonde* differs from Kew counterparts in this general late-Federation phase by having very simple and bold massing around a single dominant roof ridge, a skilled concentration of its relieving expression in a central three-bayed dormer, ably proportioned; and a richness and variety in its materials and scaling, including an accentuation of Art Nouveau stylisation in details and line.

### **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 Directory of Victoria, 1905-1907.*

<sup>2</sup> *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria, 1905.*

<sup>3</sup> Rogers, Dorothy. *A history of Kew*, 1973, p. 126.

<sup>4</sup> His rooms are listed in the *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria* at 28 Collins Street between 1906 and 1922.

<sup>5</sup> *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years, 1906-1940.

<sup>6</sup> City of Kew Rate Books, 1941-2, #8007, nav £97.

<sup>7</sup> *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years between 1941 and 1955.

<sup>8</sup> *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, 1955; City of Kew Rate Books, 1957, #8092, 9 rooms brick nav £250; #8091, vacant lot nav £46.

<sup>9</sup> LP 30597 (Central Plans), cited in G Butler & Associates, *Kew B-graded places study* (draft),2001.

<sup>10</sup> *Sands & McDougall Directory of Victoria*, various years between 1960 and 1974.

<sup>11</sup> Rogers, Dorothy. *A history of Kew*, 1973, pp. 14-15; Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, *Kew Urban Conservation Study*, 1988, vol. 2, p. 4/3.

<sup>12</sup> Pru Sanderson, City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988, Designation A, citation 41.

<sup>13</sup> Pru Sanderson, City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988, Designation A, citations 48, 50.

<sup>14</sup> *Identifying Australian Architecture*, pp. 144-7. The most direct counterpart they cite, apart from 22 Balwyn Road, is Walter Vernon's Ranger's Cottage at Centennial Park, NSW, of 1899 (p.146), marked by a single transverse gable pitch and large central dormer, with a richly textured elevation at each end. This was certainly among the earliest examples of this newer simplification of the Federation style.

<sup>15</sup> Pru Sanderson, City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, 1988, Grade B Buildings lists. 33 Willsmere Road has been regraded to C in this review.

<sup>16</sup> See Philip Goad, *Melbourne Architecture: a Guide*, Watermark, Sydney, 1999, pl. 126, p. 83.