

Original Use: Residence  
Date of Construction: circa 1850s  
Architect: Unknown

DESIGNATION A  
CITATION NO.2

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#### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

'Roseneath' was constructed in stages. The earliest part, comprising the two-storey back section, was built in the 1850s by John Ambrose Kitchen, a soapmaker<sup>1</sup>. In 1870 the brick house received an N.A.V. of £60<sup>2</sup> while in 1885 it was purchased by Edward John Dunn, a geologist<sup>3</sup>. A new wing was built at the right side of the house and several rooms as well as the coach house, loft and groom's quarters were added<sup>4</sup>. In 1903, during Dunn's ownership, the property was described as having eight rooms<sup>5</sup>. The garden is recorded as having been designed by Baron von Mueller who was the Government Botanist from 1853<sup>6</sup>.

Due to the concealed nature of the house, its inspection has not been possible as part of this report. The original section of the house is two storeyed while the single storeyed 1885 addition appears to be finely detailed with gothicised carved timber barge boards to the gables, of varying heights, that span across the front. Its verandah appears elegantly decorated with simple timber columns and mouldings.

## SIGNIFICANCE

'Roseneath' is of significance as one of the earliest houses to have been built in the Kew area and for having been added to in an unusual and elegant manner in the 1880s. Its associations with von Mueller are also of significance. Further inspection of both the house and garden is required to fully establish the significance of this property.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

National Trust: Recorded No.1160

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<sup>1</sup> Rogers, D., *Lovely Old Homes of Kew*, p.20

<sup>2</sup> City of Kew, Rate Books, 1970

<sup>3</sup> Rogers, *A History of Kew*, p.73

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> City of Kew, Rate Books, 1903

<sup>6</sup> Rogers, *op.cit.*, p.75