

Original Use: Residence  
Date of Construction: 1889<sup>1</sup>  
Architect: Henry Shalless<sup>2</sup>

DESIGNATION A  
CITATION NO.21

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#### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

The initial N.A.V. of this brick thirteen-roomed, boom period mansion with stables and a coach house was £140<sup>3</sup>. The contractor G. Gingham<sup>4</sup> built the house for Charles A. Donaldson, whose family occupied it until 1939 when it was purchased by Thomas King, surgeon<sup>5</sup>. Following King's ownership, the property passed to Stillwell Investments P/L, in 1964<sup>6</sup>.

Due to limited access to the site, the description given of the house by the National Trust of Australia (Vic.), based on their research of 1976, is given here: '... a two storey mansion built in 1889 for Charles A. Donaldson. Constructed of stuccoed brickwork on a bluestone plinth, the house is symmetrically arranged with a double storied arcade supporting a balustraded parapet to three sides. Corinthian columns support the arcade and the piers are decorated with Corinthian pilasters. The original decorations to some principal rooms remain....(it) is a Boom Style mansion, important in its townscape and of most considerable architectural importance both for the design of its facade and for the original decorations which remain in the principal rooms. Substantial grounds remain. The detailing of the arcade is particularly distinctive. Internally, original wall and ceiling finishes and original paint colours remain ... Of State significance.'

## SIGNIFICANCE

The former 'Charleville' is of significance as one of the key mansions to have been built in Kew in the late nineteenth century and for having remained in a substantially intact state. It is also of significance as a loggiaed two storeyed Italianate house of the period.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Registered No.202

GBR: N/A

RNE: Registered

National Trust: Classified No.2427

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<sup>1</sup> National Trust of Aust.(Vic), Building Citation: 'Ross House', Originally 'Charleville'

<sup>2</sup> Architects' Index, University of Melbourne

<sup>3</sup> National Trust of Aust.(Vic), 'Research into "Ross House" ...', 6 December 1976

<sup>4</sup> Architects' Index

<sup>5</sup> National Trust of Aust.(Vic), loc.cit.

<sup>6</sup> *ibid.*