

Original Use: Residence
Date of Construction: between 1862 and 1870¹
Architect: Unknown

DESIGNATION A
CITATION NO.6



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Although probably built some time earlier, the first mention in the Rate Books of the property later known as 'Wimba Lodge' appears in the entry for 1870 when the property, owned by John Sharpe Denbigh, a civil servant, was given an N.A.V. of £72². Denbigh did however occupy a house in Cotham Road in 1863, and it is possible that was the same premises³. The house was occupied by Sharp until at least May 1876 when the 'family residence...' was auctioned⁴ to Carlington George Edmund Marston⁵, a chemist of Smith Street, Collingwood. At the time of the auction the house was described thus: 'The residence and grounds of the late J.S. Dendigh, situate in the most elevated part of Cotham Road Kew. The grounds comprise an area of 4a 0r 29p or thereabouts, and have a frontage to Cotham-road of 4 chains. The house has two large rooms in front, with 6ft hall built of brick, bay and side windows (plate glass), four rooms of wood behind with slate roofs, bathroom and closets, detached kitchen and servant's room, large shed with washing boiler, pantry and cellar under, brick and cement tank, and the Yan Yean laid onto house and grounds, cowshed, pigstye, &c, the whole securely fenced. First class orchard and flower garden. The paddocks laid with English grasses and drained....'

'Wimba' is a single storeyed rendered house. The front entrance is flanked by two polygonal bay windows, and a verandah with a concave corrugated iron roof returns around three facades, and accentuates the projections of the windows. The solid render parapet is very ornate and tall for the date of construction. It has panels of decoration along it and is surmounted by a number of render urns.



SIGNIFICANCE

'Wimba' is of significance as one of the key nineteenth century houses of Kew and for remaining in a substantially intact state.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

National Trust: Recorded No.2458

¹ City of Kew, Rate Books

² *ibid.*

³ *ibid.*, 1863

⁴ *Argus*, 8 May 1876, p.2

⁵ Rogers, D., *A History of Kew*, p.144

A good *prima facie* case exists for this building's A classification simply on the basis of its intact exterior. Its interior requires inspection, but could only add to the building's already great interest.