

3 MALMSBURY STREET, 'IVY GRANGE'

Original Use: Residence

Date of Construction: 1864¹

Architect: Charles Vickers²

Crouch and Wilson, 1877 - tower wing³

Reed, Henderson and Smart, 1885 - additions⁴

DESIGNATION A
CITATION NO.7



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Rate Book evidence records that by 1870 Charles Vickers, architect, was the occupier of this house, having an N.A.V. at that date of £110⁵, although it is apparent that the house was in fact built by 1864, from the date set in the brickwork above the main door. In 1873 the property was purchased by David Beath, a merchant,⁶ and it was in the following year that the house was first recorded as 'Ivy Grange'.⁷ Beath was a deeply religious man and was a foundation member of both the Congregational and the Presbyterian (the Church of Scotland) Churches of Kew⁸. He added, probably the tower wing⁹, to the house in 1877 when architects Crouch and Wilson called tenders in that year 'for the erection of bluestone additions to (a) villa at Kew, for Davis Beath Esq.'¹⁰ The house was again added to in 1885 by the leading firm Reed, Henderson and Smart. For a number of years in the 1920s 'Ivy Grange' was used as a private mental hospital and is currently a guest house¹¹.

Despite having had three leading architect/architectural firms associated with the building, they have all had regard for each others work and have kept to the combination of rock faced basalt construction with cream brick detailing such as to the window openings and chimneys. The three storeyed tower has a stepped parapet in cream brick, and in a manner consistent with Beath's background, is Scottish in reference. The entrances have fine timber porches, the gothic styling of which is reflected in the pointed window openings. The current use is incompatible with this building and the interior has been very unsympathetically altered, while some of the external basalt and brickwork walls have been painted over.

SIGNIFICANCE

'Ivy Grange' is of significance as a house that was built and owned by the prominent architect Charles Vickers, at an early stage of Kew's development, and for having been very sympathetically added to by prominent architects since. The use of basalt combined with cream brick is unusual and enhances the significance.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

National Trust: Recorded No.1225.

¹ This date is set in the brickwork above the main doorway.

² City of Kew, Rate Books, 1862 and 1870

³ Architects' Index, University of Melbourne

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ City of Kew, Rate Books, 1870

⁶ *ibid.*, 1873

⁷ *ibid.*, 1874

⁸ Rogers, D., *A History of Kew*, pp.122-123

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ Architects' Index

¹¹ Rogers, D., *Lovely Old Homes of Kew*, p.12

A most unusual and striking structure, with interesting historical and architectural associations - clearly of state significance.