

99 PRINCESS STREET/ 1 FELLOWS STREET, HOUSES

Original Use: Residences
Date of Construction: 1889¹
Architect: Oakden, Addison and Kemp²

DESIGNATION A
CITATION NO.38



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Erected by Bennie and Olivers³, these two attached houses attracted an initial construction N.A.V. of £260⁴. The houses were originally owned and occupied by the architect Henry Kemp, however Kemp appears not to have lived there long because, while he retained ownership for at least a decade, by 1891 George Martin, merchant and bank manager, was recorded as the tenant of No.1 Fellows Street⁵. At that date the N.A.V. for this individual building was £83⁶ and Kemp remained the owner of both properties until at least 1910⁷. Kemp had arrived in Australia in 1886 and this was therefore one of the first of the many buildings he was to design in Melbourne.

While late Victorian in date, the houses are of a unified design that is an interesting precursor of the Edwardian architecture produced by Kemp. Somewhat awkwardly composed with steep gables, a rectangular castellated tower and slated single storeyed verandahs projecting from the overall box-like form, the house contains features common to the 1880s such as the use of polychromy in the brickwork and slates cladding the roof. The building departs from the norm of the time with the use of terracotta tile ridge cappings, and strapwork to the corbelled chimneys.



SIGNIFICANCE

99 Princess Street/1 Fellows Street is of significance as an attached pair of houses that were designed by Henry Kemp for his own occupation, early in his career in Australia and as a building that is a precursor of the very distinctive Edwardian architecture by that designer.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

National Trust: Recorded No.2236.

¹ City of Kew, Rate Books, 1889

² Tibbits, G., 'The So-Called Melbourne Domestic Queen Anne', in *Historic Environment*, Vol 2, No.2, 1982, p.10.

³ National Trust of Aust.(Vic), 'Survey and Identification Committee Data Form - 1 Fellows Street and 99 Princess Street' filled in by Dorothy Rogers, 1968, held in File No.2236

⁴ City of Kew, Rate Books, loc.cit.

⁵ *ibid.*, 1891

⁶ *ibid.*

⁷ *ibid.*, 1910

This building is of A significance in terms of its unusual design and detailing and its association with a prominent architect, Henry Kemp.