

24 BELMONT AVENUE, FORMERLY 'MONT BELMONT'

Original Use: Residence
Date of Construction: 1888¹
Architect: Reed, Henderson and Smart²

DESIGNATION B
CITATION NO.17



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

By 1886 William George Lilley was the owner of Allotments 13 and 14³; the N.A.V. for the property at that date being £20⁴. In February 1887 the leading architectural firm of Reed, Henderson and Smart called tenders for the erection of a two-storey brick residence for G.W. Lilley⁵ and by the following year this house had been constructed⁶. Initially attracting an N.A.V. of £120⁷, the house remained in Lilley's ownership until at least 1920 when the N.A.V. was recorded as £115⁸.

Lilley's business concerns lay with the firm of James Henty and Co., merchants and agents of Little Collins Street, Melbourne, for whom he was their manager⁹. An active member in Kew's civic matters, Lilley was Mayor for one term during 1887-88¹⁰, a Justice of the Peace¹¹ and a member of the first Board of Guardians of Kew's St. Hilary's Church of England¹².

The house is a commanding two storeyed building with a steeply pitched slate roof and walls in red brick with contrasting cream bricks set in bands and in a diaper pattern within the gables. The use of polychromatic brickwork, while common to the firm of Reed, Henderson and Smart, was used in this house to particularly good effect and with restraint. It is set in bands and in string courses of projecting moulded bricks.

SIGNIFICANCE

This house is of significance as a substantially intact, large house of the 1880s designed by the leading architectural firm Reed, Henderson and Smart.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Not Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Recommended for inclusion on the register.

National Trust: Not currently listed.

¹ City of Kew, Rate Books, 1888

² Architects' Index, University of Melbourne

³ City of Kew, Rate Books, October 1886

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ Architects' Index

⁶ City of Kew, Rate Books, 1888

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ City of Kew, Rate Books, 1920

⁹ *Sands and McDougall Melbourne Directories, 1885*

¹⁰ Rogers, D., *A History of Kew*, p.184

¹¹ *Victorian Municipal Directories, 1870-1984*

¹² Rogers, D., *op.cit.*, p.201

There do not appear to be any grounds for listing this building as an A grade structure - it is not recommended for nomination to the Historic Buildings Council, and should be graded B.