

28 STUDLEY PARK ROAD, HOUSE

Original Use: Residence
Date of Construction: 1905¹
Architect: Unknown²

DESIGNATION A
CITATION NO.42



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

James Acton, a warehouseman, was the original owner and occupier of this two-storey brick house³. Attracting an initial N.A.V. of £100⁴, the ten-roomed house remained in Acton's ownership until at least 1915 when it was occupied by Donald Ross, the Commissioner for Canada⁵. Due to the grand entrance tower, the house is one of the most prominent Edwardian houses in Melbourne. The tower is two storeyed and built in a combination of red brick and rough cast render. Its terracotta tiled roof has a chinoiserie form with a wide eave, scalloping up to the apex that is surmounted by a magnificent terracotta dragon. The gabled form of the main roof of the house is plainly solid by comparison and while enveloping two storeys under its sweeping form, it is set free of the tower, serving to heighten the tower's impact.

SIGNIFICANCE

28 Studley Park Road is of significance as an atypically composed house of the Edwardian period that is a landmark within Kew and in Edwardian architecture in Melbourne generally.

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: 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, 1905

² Deacon, H.M., 'Chris A. Cowper: 1868-1954', History Four Thesis, Architecture and Building, University of Melbourne, 1969. Deacon attributes the house to the architect Christopher Cowper. This attribution, on stylistic grounds, is seriously questioned.

³ City of Kew, Rate Books, loc.cit

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ *ibid.*, 1915

This unusual building is deserving of consideration by the Historic Buildings Council, and should therefore retain its A grading.