

39 SACKVILLE STREET, FORMERLY 'HEATHFIELD'

---

Original Use: Residence  
Date of Construction: 1888<sup>1</sup>  
Architect: Unknown

DESIGNATION B  
CITATION NO.18

---



#### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Documentary evidence records that in 1888 Henry Eeles, stationer, was the first owner and occupier of this two-storey mansion<sup>2</sup>. At that date the building was given an N.A.V. of £275<sup>3</sup> and Eeles was recorded as the owner of the house until at least 1910, when the thirteen-roomed mansion attracted an N.A.V. of £190<sup>4</sup>. The house is two storeyed and clad in render. It is Italianate in styling and is dominated by a two storeyed loggia that spans two facades. At ground floor level it has rounded arches supported on cast iron colonettes, and above, has colonettes that support stilted segmental arches. The house is quite typical of its time, and it bears a remarkable resemblance to 3 Molesworth Street (q.v.), the architect of which has not been established.

## SIGNIFICANCE

'Heathfield' is of significance as a substantially intact large house of the late Victorian period and as such, is one of the key Victorian buildings to have been built in Kew. It is integral to the significance of the concentration of Victorian mansions along Sackville Street.

## 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.

---

<sup>1</sup> City of Kew, Rate Books, 1888

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*, 1910

The consultant's citation notes that this building is typical of its time and bears a remarkable resemblance to 3 Molesworth Street. This in itself points to a lack of that singularity which is a typical quality of buildings of state significance, and it is clear that this is in fact only one of many large Italianate late Victorian mansions still extant in the Melbourne area. While the building has also been substantially extended to the rear (@1932), the extensions are remarkably sympathetic. The interiors have been superficially altered, but retain a large proportion of the original fabric. The present chapel (the building has been owned by the Franciscan order since 1930) is an extension of an original room, again carried out in a sympathetic manner. The building is set in the remains of its original garden, and retains its original driveway. The garden is not mentioned in the Kew Urban Conservation Study description or citation.

The consultant has classified this building A but recommended that it not be considered for Registration by the Historic Buildings Council. This seems to be an acceptance of the fact that the building is typical rather than singular and that it has undergone alteration and extension. It is therefore suggested that this building be classified B rather than A.

It is also clear from discussions with Father Oliver (19.2.90) that a development of the site on the garden to the west of the house is seen as an option for the future. This may involve the subdivision and/or sale of up to two thirds of the original site. It is important that some investigation be made into the history and present state of the garden before Council grants a permit for any such proposal, as it is possible that the existing combination of garden and house may constitute an entity of far greater import than is recognised, and it is certain that the loss of the garden will lower the significance of the site as a whole.

The external integrity of this building and its associations with a leading Victorian architect, Frederick de Garis, suggest that this building is a suitable candidate for nomination to the Historic Buildings Council.