

## 41 FELLOWS STREET, 'LALLA ROOKH'

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Original Use: Residence  
Date of Construction: 1897<sup>1</sup>  
Architect: Unknown

DESIGNATION **B**  
CITATION NO.36



### HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Documentary evidence from Rate Books records that John Duncan, civil servant, was the original owner and occupier of this single-storied house<sup>2</sup>. Having an initial N.A.V. of £60<sup>3</sup> in 1897, Duncan remained in ownership until at least 1903<sup>4</sup> and by 1910 William Robert Frayne, chemist, had purchased the property<sup>5</sup>.

Due to limited access to the site, the description given of the house by the Australian Heritage Commission is given here: '... Single-storied, the symmetrical, stuccoed house features a central porch with an arched opening and pedimented consoles and a bull-nose verandah which returns down both sides and is constructed with cast iron columns and friezes. A balustraded parapet crowns the main walls of the house. The encaustic tiled verandah is distinctive. "Lalla Rookh", 41 Fellows Street, Kew, is of architectural interest as a representative example of a villa house of the period and also forms part of the townscape of Kew. In a late version of Boom Style Classicism, the basically modest and conventionally planned house is proportioned to emphasise the porch and heavy balustrade, contrasting with the verandah and plain wall surfaces. The parapet may have had urns originally. The encaustic tiled verandah is of note. ... Of local significance.'

## SIGNIFICANCE

'Lalla Rookh' 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.

## HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Not Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Registered

National Trust: Classified No.2492

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<sup>1</sup> City of Kew, Rate Books, 1897

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

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

<sup>4</sup> *ibid.*,1903

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*,1910

The Australian Heritage Commission has noted this building as "of local significance", and the consultant has noted that it "is one of the key Victorian buildings to have been built in Kew".<sup>1</sup> Nothing about the house is unusual - it is a representative example of a type of house, the symmetrical stuccoed late Victorian villa, which is quite common in the inner suburbs of Melbourne. The local significance of the building as a contributive architectural and historic element in the municipality should therefore be respected, along with its prior registration with the Heritage Commission as part of the National Estate, and the classification downgraded to B.<sup>2</sup>