

BOROONDARA CEMETERY, GATE LODGE AND FENCING

Original Use: Office
Date of Construction: c. 1866, 1889 and 1893
Architect: Albert Purchas⁹

DESIGNATION A
CITATION NO.77



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

Originally set aside for reserve purposes, a portion of this triangle of land, situated almost in the centre of Kew, was proclaimed the Boroondara Cemetery in 1859¹⁰. The planning of the cemetery was carried out by J.F. Higgins of the Lands Department¹¹ and the first burial, at what was later to become one of Melbourne's historic landmarks, noted particularly for its memorials, took place on 12 March 1859¹².

One B. Carey is recorded as being the first caretaker of the Boroondara cemetery¹³, while tenders were called by Albert Purchas for the erection of an office at the cemetery in 1866¹⁴. Purchas was the designer of various structures at the cemetery including the galvanised iron fencing erected in 1874 and 1875 and an iron, brick and stone shelter in 1877¹⁵, and appears to have been responsible for all the stages of construction on the gate lodge. Additions to the offices and iron entrance gates were carried out by Purchas in 1889¹⁶ and by February 1893 he again called tenders for additions to the lodge¹⁷. It was at this later date that the clock tower was erected.

Although a composite of at least three stages of construction, the gate lodge has quite a coherent design. All parts are built in red brick, with that nearest the gates having polychromatic bricks to the head of the Serlian window unit under its end gable. The simple timbering to the gables is repeated on each, and appears to have been executed on all as part of the last stage of works. The tower is however the dominant feature. It is nestled picturesquely against the building and is a plain brick shaft with the roof rising to a small gable on each face. Set on this acute corner, the tower is a landmark in the area and reinforces the impact of the magnificent red brick wall that encloses the cemetery.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Gate Lodge and surrounding wall of the Boroondara Cemetery are of significance as landmarks in Kew, both in their individual forms and for announcing the site of the cemetery which has dominated the area since the late 1850s. (The cemetery is of significance as a whole and is to be discussed further in the Planning Recommendations of this report.)

HERITAGE LISTINGS

HBR: Gate Lodge and Wall Recommended for inclusion on the register.

GBR: N/A

RNE: Gate Lodge and Wall Recommended for inclusion on the register.

National Trust: Not currently listed.

¹ Architects' Index, University of Melbourne

² Barnard, F.G.A., *The Jubilee History of Kew*, p.104

³ *ibid.*

⁴ *ibid.*

⁵ Vaughan, J.P., *Kew's Civic Century*, p.114

⁶ Architects' Index

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ *ibid.*

It is recommended that this group retain their A classification and be nominated to the Historic Buildings Council.