
8 Denmark Street



Review of B Graded Buildings
in Kew, Camberwell &
Hawthorn

Location

8 Denmark Street KEW, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO526

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

8 Denmark Street, Kew, is of local historical and architectural significance as a representative and broadly externally intact example of a Federation attic storey house. The house makes a strong contribution to the intact and impressive group of Federation houses at the lower end of Denmark Street. Though not an outstanding example of his work, the association of the house with the architect, Christopher Cowper, is of interest.

What is significant?

The Denmark Street precinct is an area which was gradually subdivided and developed between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the years leading up to World War I. The precinct developed slowly at first, however, in the years surrounding the turn of the century, residential development increased and the sale, by Xavier College, and subdivision of the land to the east side of Denmark Street in 1913 resulted in the rapid construction of a streetscape largely comprising semidetached paired asymmetrical brick villas. The west side of Denmark Street is more varied, with detached Victorian and Federation villas, constructed of brick and weatherboard, and numbers of asymmetrical, semi-detached Federation dwellings similar to those opposite. Foley Street, whilst generally contemporary with the development along Denmark Street, is representative of a range of dwelling types including small, single fronted cottages and more substantial brick villas. The initial slow and piecemeal development of the precinct was concentrated at the southern end close to Barkers Road where only a smattering of Victorian brick cottages were constructed, interestingly distant from the Kew shopping centre. The linear subdivision plan and similar sized allotments characterise the area and are typical of its period of subdivision during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. More specifically, the streetscape along Denmark Street is characterised by uniformity in allotment sizes and front and side setbacks to both sides of the street. Specific buildings of individual and contributory significance which are important to the precinct are identified in the attached schedule.

How is it significant?

The Denmark Street precinct is historically and architecturally significant to the City of Boroondara

Why is it significant?

Historically, the Denmark Street precinct is significant as an example of the gradual pattern of subdivision and development in this area of Kew from the mid-1870s until the first decades of the twentieth century, for mostly modest residential allotments on the fringes of the Kew retail area. The precinct demonstrates some of the principal characteristics of residential subdivision spread over this period, including a variety of building types and styles from the Victorian and Federation eras. Both single- and double-fronted brick Victorian villas represent the first scattered .wave. of development, with weatherboard Federation villas to Foley Street and brick detached and semi-detached Federation brick villas to Denmark Street being of the second .wave., comprehensively infilling vacant land as economic times improved in the years surrounding the turn of the century. The years leading up to World War I saw the rapid infilling of vacant allotments, with those to Denmark Street capitalising on the railway service and closeness to the city. The precinct is also of note in that the opening of the Kew Railway Station in 1887 does not appear to have stimulated local residential development in the immediate vicinity which, following the subsequent economic bust of the 1890s did not gain new momentum until the more prosperous years of the early twentieth century. Architecturally, the Denmark Street precinct is significant for its variety of building types and styles from the Victorian and Federation eras. Important characteristics include the prevailing single storey nature of residential development, with some attic storey dwellings; brick construction; semi-detached dwellings; prominent verandahs and porches with decorative cast-iron lace or timber fretwork; and terracotta tiled hipped and pitched roofs with visible chimneys. Brick buildings are interspersed with weatherboard villas and cottages; diagonally planned Federation houses and bungalows, with fretwork and timber arches, contrast with Victorian houses. A comparatively high number of lively and varied asymmetrical pairs of semi-detached houses are located in both Foley and Denmark Streets; those concentrated on the east side of Denmark Street in particular,

are a defining characteristic of the precinct. The aesthetic significance of the precinct is further enhanced by the broad uniformity of building setbacks; feature verandahs/porches and turret elements; front gardens; and where available, generally low timber picket or brick fences.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - Review of B Graded Buildings in Kew, Camberwell and Hawthorn, Lovell Chen Architects & Heritage Consultants, 2006; Boroondara - City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, 1988;
Construction dates	1912,
Architect/Designer	Cowper, Christopher,
Hermes Number	14614
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

8 Denmark Street, Kew, is an attic storey, double-fronted Federation villa. The broad hipped and gabled roof is clad with terracotta tiles and is penetrated by tall rendered chimneys with brick banding which terminate in flat caps with terracotta pots. Centrally located, a large dormer window has a hipped roof and bays of timber-framed casement sashes above weatherboard cladding. The half-timbered flying gable ends are supported on timber brackets and elsewhere the rafters are exposed. Tuckpointed red face brick walls are augmented by a bluestone plinth and roughcast rendered frieze. The principal facade contains a central recessed porch supported by rendered pilasters which bear on a bluestone plinth with bluestone steps; it contains a broad Romanesque arch within which is a timber door surrounded by extensive leadlight glazing. This detail is echoed in the main entrance which is located in the southern elevation. The front porch is flanked by a pair of projecting bays, each containing broad bow windows with timber-framed casement sash windows and highlights containing leadlight glazing.

Alterations appear to be confined largely to the rear of the house and are indicated by a small gable projecting above the ridge line. The possibility that the attic storey may have been an addition was raised in a report prepared by Bryce Raworth in 2003,^[i] however, the findings of this report were inconclusive in relation to this issue, and there is no reference in Council files to such an addition.

The property is screened by a recent steel fence which replaces an earlier, non-original brick fence.

[i] Bryce Raworth Pty Ltd, 8 Denmark Street, Kew, Review of Significance, July 2003, p. 3.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>