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## 48 Foley Street



Review of B Graded Buildings  
in Kew, Camberwell &  
Hawthorn

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### Location

48 Foley Street KEW, Boroondara City

### Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

### Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO526

### Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

48 Foley Street, Kew is of local historical and architectural significance. A fine, representative, and relatively externally intact example of a Federation weatherboard house, it is distinguished from many other examples by elements such as the striking fretwork gable screens, and the 'hammer beam' composition of Japanese patterning in the verandah frieze.

## 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;
Hermes Number	14620
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

48 Foley Street, Kew, is a single-storey asymmetrical double-fronted Federation timber house. The gabled roof is clad with slate and features terracotta ridge cresting, tall red face brick chimneys with terracotta pots and roughcast rendered bands and caps. Gable ends are bracketed and finished with roughcast and carved timber fretwork screens, detail which is repeated in a window canopy. The verandah has a timber floor, turned timber posts and arched fretwork frieze; it would appear that an earlier timber balustrade - which appears not to have been original - has been removed. The weatherboard walls feature shingled boards to dado height and a roughcast frieze. The central entrance contains a half-glazed timber door with matching leadlight fan and sidelights. To the left of the entry, the projecting gable-ended wing contains a pair of timber-framed double-hung sashes in a projecting bay, while to the right of the entry, a pair of non-original French doors with flanking sidelights is set into a second projecting bay onto the verandah.

The front fence is timber-framed with woven wire panels and wrought iron gates, probably not original but sympathetic. Single-storey rear additions constructed around 1993 are largely concealed from the street.

*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/>*