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# 30 AND 32 DERBY STREET, KEW RESIDENCES

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## Location

383-407 HIGH STREET KEW, BOROONDARA CITY

## Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0510

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 10, 2021

## What is significant?

The properties at 30 and 32 Derby Street and their associated domestic buildings are of significance

## How is it significant?

The site is historically and archaeologically significant

Why is it significant

The site is of historical significance as it provides evidence of typical early residential occupation within the suburbs of Kew. It also forms part of the historical growth and development of Kew.

Both wells potentially contain archaeological deposits relating to domestic life and site occupation in the late 19th or early 20th centuries. They could also provide further understanding about the construction processes applied to the building of wells, water and sewerage management during the development and growth of suburbs in early Melbourne. The post-holes adjacent to well at No. 32 potentially pre-date the well and could therefore provide earlier evidence of its occupation and land use.

The archaeological evidence that could be obtained from the site would have the potential to add to the overall understanding of the local social, economic, and commercial development of Kew and its surrounding area from post-European contact onwards.

Interpretation of Site	The site presents historical archaeological remains of residential occupation and late-19th through early 20th century living in Melbourne within the suburb of Kew, and reflective of life within surrounding townships of Camberwell, Abbotsford and Ivanhoe.
Hermes Number	208271
Property Number	

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## History

Surveyor Robert Hoddle undertook a survey of the Kew area in 1837 and divided 1,400 acres (Parish of Boroondara) into 150 blocks. These allotments were to encourage small farms and market gardening to supply the increasing size of Melbourne. One of these blocks, which included 30 and 32 Derby Street, was owned by Nicholas Fenwick, as indicated on the 1850's Boroondara Parish plans. By 1877 Derby Street is evident on the Sands and McDougall directory plan.

Residential development mainly occurred in 1860s and 70s on a small scale, and in the 1880s Melbourne's land boom helped establish Kew's residential street plan. In 1903 Kew became a favourite place for merchants and upper trades men to live. The residential properties at No. 30 and 32 Derby Street were first depicted on the 1904 Melbourne Metro Board of Water (MMBW) plan. The Sands and McDougall records indicated a high turnover of residents, and the continued occupation of these properties remained until at least 1970, where No. 30 was then subsequently demolished. No. 32 was removed in 2002.

The surrounding areas to the south and east of the properties were developed in 1925 as the location for the new public swimming pool in Kew. Discussions for the baths were continuously debated since 1864 over matters concerning public health, safety and decency. The continued threat of the presence of naked men bathing along the Yarra, along with the loss of many young lives, prompted the eventual Tenders for the baths to be erected in January 1925 and accepted in February 1925. The baths were built and opened on the 18 November. Since then, the pools have been demolished and undergone continued redevelopment as the Kew Recreation Centre.

*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/>*