House Swinton

City of Kew Urban
Conservation Study 1988

Location

23 Swinton Avenue KEW, BOROONDARA CITY

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO129

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Swinton is of significance as one of the earliest examples of the use of the Italianate in Australian domestic
architecture, and for the elegance of its design, particularly in the tower.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, 1988;
Other Names	'Formerly 'Laskey Villa,
Hermes Number	22310
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Edmund Laskey Splatt was the original owner and occupier of this early brick and render house [3]. Splatt held the property until about 1875 when he sold to Francis Johnson [4] who renamed the villa 'Swinton'. The house appears to have been built in three stages-', however a close analysis of the fabric would be needed to verify the stages [5]. The most outstanding element of the design of the house is however the tower, with its cantilevered walkway and heavily bracketed pyramidal tower. Very few of this type were built in Victoria, with the Matthew Flinders School in Geelong by Backbouse and Reynolds being one of the few. As such, this house is one of the earliest examples of the Italianate in Melbourne.

References --

1 Architects' Index, University of Melbourne

2 ibid.

3 Fisher, D., 'History and Conservation Investigation Project Kew Conservation Study', Department of

Architecture, University of Melbourne, 1984

4 Rogers, D., *Lovely Old Homes of Kew,* p.33

5 Fisher, loc.cit,

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/