
Villa Alba



City of Kew Urban
Conservation Study 1988

Location

44 Walmer Street KEW, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0605

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO134

HO158

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Walmer Street Precinct, Kew, is an area of heritage significance for the following reasons:

- The place contains a series of individually significant mansion houses which all represent different but accomplished facets of nineteenth and early twentieth century architectural design.
- Studley Park Road, Walmer and Nolan Streets are all dominated by these mansions, though Walmer Street in particular has a line of Victorian and Federation houses that were developed alongside the mansions and which play an important supporting role in the precinct.
- Generally, the streets within the area adjoin either parkland or large school garden spaces, providing a distinctive parkland character to the area.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, 1988;
Hermes Number	22311
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Documentary evidence from Kew Rate Books records that 'Studley Villa' (now known as 'Villa Alba') was built for William Greenlaw, banker and speculator [2]. The initial N.A.V. for the property was £100 [3] while in February 1884 an increase in the N.A.V.to £300 [4] indicated that the 1882-83 alterations and additions to the southern part of the house [5] were completed. The decorative scheme for the interior was carried out by Patterson Brothers of Melbourne in 1884 [6].

Greenlaw owned and occupied the house until his death in 1895 [7] and in 1949 the building was purchased by the Royal Women's Hospital who convened it into a nurses home [8]. The description given by the Australian Heritage Commission citation is repeated here in part: '...Exterior is quite plain and little altered. Main feature of the house is lavish interior decoration completed 1883/84 by Paterson Bros. (leading Melbourne decorator). A house containing one of the most complete and elegant decorative schemes of the 1880s.

References --

- 1 Bennett, K., 'The Villa Alba', January 1987
- 2 National Trust of Aust(Vic), 'Borough of Kew Rate Records...', held in File No.1385
- 3 ibid.
- 4 ibid.
- 5 National Estate, 'Listing for Kew City - Villa Alba', as at 23 January 1987
- 6 National Trust of Aust(Vic), 'Building Citation', 7 February 1985
- 7 Rogers, D., *A History of Kew*, p.101
- 8 ibid., p.102

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/>