
MLC - Main Building



City of Kew Urban
Conservation Study 1988



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Conservation Study 1988 -
'New Methodist Ladies
College, Hawthorn (sic.)'
(Australasian Sketcher, 31
December 1881)

Location

207 Barkers Road KEW, BOROONDARA CITY

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO204

HO150

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Significance of Individual Property

The main wing of M.L.C. is of significance as one of the most commanding and successfully designed educational buildings to have been built in Melbourne during the nineteenth century and for its apparently substantially intact state.

HO150 Glenferrie Road Precinct, Kew

The Glenferrie Road Precinct, Kew, is an area of heritage significance for the following reasons:

- The western parts of this precinct are marked by mansion development of the Victorian period, and though some are surrounded by unsympathetic later development, a significant number of individually significant early Kew mansions survive here, albeit in some cases converted to institutional uses. This is one of three notable mansion precincts in Kew, the others being HO158 (Walmer Street) and HO162 (Sackville Street).
- The eastern section of the precinct is significant for its mixture of small and medium scale Victorian housing, much of which relates to two important 1880s estates : Edgevale and Doona Hill.
- The area has a strong visual connection with several fine assemblages of school buildings: either in its midst (Ruyton) or at its borders (Trinity, Xavier, Methodist Ladies' College).
- The area includes the former Kew civic buildings and the Sacred Heart Church and School, both in Cotham Road, the latter important to the considerable Roman Catholic heritage in the area.
- The area also includes the entire Glenferrie Road streetscape north of Barkers Road up to Wellington Street, including two of MLC's most important buildings and a mixed 1880s to interwar streetscape.
- The area includes a number of individually significant architectural designs, the majority of which are Victorian mansions.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, 1988;
Architect/Designer	Crouch & Wilson,
Hermes Number	22324
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

In 1882 the Rev. George Daniel laid the foundation stone of the Methodist Ladies College[3]. Built by James Babour the cost of erection came to about £12,00 [4] while in December 1885 Crouch called tenders for extensive additions to the school[5], the additional works estimated to cost £25,000[6]. Several extra classrooms, a studio and swimming baths were constructed in 1889[7] while in 1895 John Edmund Burke opened a contract for the internal decoration of M.L.C [8]. In 1939 the baths were demolished and a new gymnasium and swimming pool were constructed [9].

The main building at the school has a most commanding design, built symmetrically about the tower, it has a pavilioned form with projecting gables at each end. The decoration across the building is gothic and the tower is particularly heavily decorated, with corner turrets and string courses with quatrefoils, while colonnettes and hood mouldings decorate its the coupled windows. Further research would be warranted on this building to establish the stages of its construction.

As it stands, the school is one of the most commanding educational buildings to have been built in Melbourne and compares in stature to buildings such as Ormond College at the University of Melbourne designed by Joseph

Reed.

References --

1 Architects' Index, University of Melbourne

2 *ibid.*

3 Rogers, D., *A History of Kew*, p.193

4 *Australasian Sketcher*, 31 December, 1881, pA22

5 Architects' Index

6 *Argus*, 17 February 1885, p.7

7 Architects' Index

8 *ibid.*

9 Zainu'ddin, A.G., *They Dreamt of a School: A Centenary of the Methodists Ladies college, 1882-1982*, 1982, p.239

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/>