
Formerly Tarring



City of Kew Urban
Conservation Study 1988



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Location

12 Selbourne Road KEW, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO206

HO150

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Significance of Individual Property

'Tarring' is of significance as an early and successful example of the use of polychromatic brickwork, for its associations with the Henty family. and as one of the key mansions to have been built in Kew during the Victorian period.

This is an appropriate assessment and it suggests that the building could well be considered suitable for registration with the Historic Buildings Council. It is possible, however, that under comparison with other polychromatic mansions, Rippon Lea, Elsternwick (ex 1868) in particular, it might be found wanting in terms of significance through integrity, especially with regard to the grounds. This building would require further investigation, especially with regard to the surviving fabric of structures and gardens and the architect/s of the original building and grounds before a definitive classification could be accorded. However, the building is certainly of regional significance.

There is a solid case for this building's A grading in terms of its age, design and historical associations.

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;
Other Names	Formerly Tarring,
Hermes Number	22327
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

This polychrome brick house was built for Henry Henty, nephew of Edward Henry, one of Victoria's foremost pioneers [3]. The 1903 MMBW plan showing the extensive grounds of 'Karring' (sic.) marks in various garden structures including a 'fernery', an 'aviary', a 'bamboo house' and 'summer house' [4]. The house is a wide two storeyed mansion built of polychromatic brickwork, that is set in very vibrant patterning across the facade, between the floors, and to represent quoining. The use of such brickwork in the early 1870s was still innovative and is very similar of the work of Joseph Reed on houses such as 'Rippon Lea'. The box-like form of the house is broken by two polygonal bay window units and by a single storeyed verandah to two facades. The decoration to the verandah is no longer extant and the roof has been clad with terracotta tiles. The house was included in *Victoria's Representative Men at Home* in 1904, and in that article was well illustrated including views of the

exterior, interior, garden and the wonderfully fanciful 'Burmese Temple' (presumably the 'Summer House' on the MMBW plan) bought by Henry at the 1880 Melbourne Exhibition [5].

Henty remained the sole owner and occupier of the house until 1920, when the building was sold to the Ruyton Girls' School [6], the current occupiers. During alterations and additions to the building in 1962, a large dormitory was added above the original ballroom [7].

References --

1 National Trust of Aust.(Vic), 'Nontination Form for the Australian Heritage Commission - 12 Selbourne Road', 24 January 1986

2 The sophisticated and relatively early use of polychromatic brickwork on this house would suggest that it is the work of Joseph Reed, however no substantiating evidence has been found.

3 *Victoria's Representative Men at Home*, pp.110-111

4 M.M.B.W., 'Plan of Kew - 1574', Scale: 40 feet to 1 inch, May 1903

5 *Victoria's Representative Men at Home*, p.LI O-I I I. Henty was presumably referring to the Melbourne Exhibition of that year.

6 National Trust of Aust.(Vic), 'Survey and Identification Committee Data Form - 12 Selbourne Road', 22 July 1972

7 *ibid.*

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/>