
Boroondara Cemetery, Cussen Memorial



City of Kew Urban Conservation Study 1988

Location

440 High Street KEW, BOROONDARA CITY

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2036

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO64

HO142

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Significance of Boroondara Cemetery

Boroondara Cemetery is an historic site of significance to Kew, that contains monuments of wider significance. Four monuments within the cemetery have been designated as significant structures (mainly on architectural grounds), however the cemetery's significance lies in its overall intact state and the historic nature of many of the graves within it, and for its proximity to Victoria Park.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, 1988;
Hermes Number	22336
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Originally set aside for reserve purposes, a portion of a triangle of land situated almost in the centre of Kew, was proclaimed the Boroondara Cemetery in 1859 [2]. The planning of the cemetery was carried out by J.F. Higgins of the Lands Department [3] and the first burial, at what was later to become one of Melbourne's historic landmarks, noted particularly for its memorials, took place on 12 March 1859 [4].

Sir Leo Finn Bernard Cussen (1859-1933) advocate and judge, and a member of the Victorian Supreme Court in 1906 [5] died at his Hawthorn home in 1933 [6]. The memorial built for him is one of the larger and more successful in the cemetery. It is built in the gothic and is executed in freestone. It has the form of a diminutive chapel, and while the interior was given no embellishment, the carvings, diamond shaped roof tiles and decorated ridge, all serve to embellish the exterior.

References --

1 Green, J. and Stewart, J., *Boroondara, a Place of Shade*, 1980, p.2

2 Bamard, F.G.A., *The Jubilee History of Kew*, p.104

3 *ibid.*

4 *ibid.*

5 *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Vol. 8 - 1891-1939, pp.184-185

6 Green, J. and Stewart, J., *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/>