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# Boroondara Cemetery, Gate Lodge And Fencing



City of Kew Urban  
Conservation Study 1988

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## Location

440 High Street KEW, BOROONDARA CITY

## Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO64

HO142

## Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Significance of Gate Lodge and surrounding wall

The Gate Lodge and surrounding wall of the Boroondara Cemetery are of significance as landmarks in Kew, both in their individual forms and for announcing the site of the cemetery which has dominated the area since the late 1850s.

## 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 Grade A 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;
Architect/Designer	Purchas, Albert,
Hermes Number	22344
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Originally set aside for reserve purposes, a portion of this triangle of land, situated almost in the centre of Kew, was proclaimed the Boroondara Cemetery in 1859 [10]. The planning of the cemetery was carried out by J.F. Higgins of the Lands Department [11] 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 [12].

One B. Carey is recorded as being the first caretaker of the Boroondara cemetery [13]. While tenders were called by Albert Purchas for the erection of an office at the cemetery in 1866 [14]. Purchas was the designer of various structures at the cemetery including the galvanised iron fencing erected in 1874 and 1875 and an iron, brick and stone shelter in 1877 [15], and appears to have been responsible for all the stages of construction on the gate lodge. Additions to the offices and iron entrance gates were carried out by Purchas in 1889 [16] and by February 1893 he again called tenders for additions to the lodge [17]. It was at this later date that the clock tower was erected.

Although a composite of at least three stages of construction, the gate lodge has quite a coherent design. All parts are built in red brick, with that nearest the gates having polychromatic bricks to the head of the Serlian window unit under its end gable. The simple timbering to the gables is repeated on each, and appears to have been executed on all as part of the last stage of works. The tower is however the dominant feature. It is nestled picturesquely against the building and is a plain brick shaft with the roof rising to a small gable on each face. Set on this acute corner, the tower is a landmark in the area and reinforces the impact of the magnificent red brick wall that encloses the cemetery.

## References --

1 Architects' Index, University of Melbourne

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

3 *ibid.*

4 *ibid.*

5 Vaughan, J.P., *Kew's Civic Century*, p.114

6 Architects' Index

7 *ibid.*

8 *ibid.*

9 *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.*

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