
Kamesburgh Garden

Location

74 - 104 North Road, BRIGHTON VIC 3186 - Property No G13075

Municipality

BAYSIDE CITY

Level of significance

State

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 1, 2005

Kamesburgh (now Anzac Hostel), the residence erected in 1873-74 to a design of noted architect Lloyd Tayler and the garden laid out from this time, the mansion enlarged in 1884, the property sold in 1918 and used for a repatriation hostel and, with slightly truncated grounds, still retained for that use, is of State significance:

- as a city mansion garden; its main attributes are its large allotment (despite reduction from its former size) and mansion residence, gate lodge, entry drive, formal terrace, fountain, path layout, service areas, orchard, sunken garden, flower beds, summerhouse and mature plantings;
- for its collection of mature plants, including several trees individually listed on the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees; the trees at Kamesburgh are among the best collection of mature species trees in a Victorian private garden;
- as a reminder of the World War I repatriation movement, a use which the site has retained since 1918 and which has permitted this city mansion to be retained with relatively sympathetic modifications; the repatriation era is also represented by a Crafts/Recreation Hall of 1919, thought to be the earliest purpose built structure in Victoria erected for war repatriation purposes;
- for its streetscape qualities, including mature planting, gate lodge and gates, and long frontage to North Road (itself important historically as the northern boundary to Dendy's 1840 Special Survey);
- for its aesthetic qualities, resulting from views into the garden (especially from North Road), long views within the garden, especially to and from the mansion, the combination of mansion and garden, the mature trees, the shrubberies and flower beds.

ANALYSIS:

As a City Mansion Garden:

The most comparable gardens are Rippon Lea, Stonnington, Raheen and Como. The garden at Rippon Lea is in a class of its own and of undoubted national significance. Stonnington, Raheen and Como, like Kamesburgh, have all suffered through the loss of land in the interwar period, but all four retain enough of their early layout and planting for their gardens to be considered of statewide significance. In the case of Stonnington, the occupancy of the Victorian Governor and the considerable architectural significance of the mansion raise its level of significance to national. [Government House is another city mansion but is of a higher order of significance than Kamesburgh and considered of undoubted national significance.] In the case of Como, historical and architectural significance also raises the overall level of significance of the property to national. Whilst both Raheen and Kamesburgh have considerable historical and architectural significance they can only be considered as being of statewide significance. Other city mansion gardens which have been considerably reduced in size include Tintern and Miegunyah, both of regional significance. It should be stressed that Melbourne has very few city mansions which retain large allotments.

For its Collection of Plants:

The mature planting at Kamesburgh comprises a rich collection of tree species popular during the nineteenth century. Due to their age and ample room for development, many of these trees have grown into outstanding specimens. Kamesburgh is also one of a very few gardens to still have an extensive orchard of peaches, plums, locquats, quince, pears, apples and citrus trees.

As a Reminder of the WW1 Repatriation Movement:

Other sites in Victoria which represent the repatriation movement include Macleod Repatriation Hospital, Bundoora Repatriation Hospital, Caulfield Repatriation Hospital, and a building in South Melbourne, south of Victoria Barracks. There may be other rural sites but none are known. The Victoria Barracks building dates from 1937 and is principally significant as an example of art deco architectural influence in Victoria. Bundoora is perhaps the most comparable site and comprises a large former private mansion set in spacious grounds. The Crafts/Recreation Hall at Kamesburgh (1919) is thought to be the earliest purpose built structure in Victoria erected for repatriation purposes.

For its Streetscape Value:

Kamesburgh is located on one of the principal streets on Melbourne's bayside suburbs - North Road - which was created in 1840 and the northern boundary of Dendy's special survey (the others being South Road and Boundary Road). The gate lodge and fence are still intact and provide an appropriate street presence for the mansion, set back from the road but able to be glimpsed through the landscaping. The mature landscaping of Kamesburgh is complemented by the mature avenue of trees in North Road.

Classified: 15/09/1993

File note 25/06/2012: G13075 amalgamated & filed with B0498.

Other Names ANZAC Hostel,

Hermes Number 70194

Property Number

Physical Description 1

The grounds of Kamesburgh are approached from North Road, through elaborate gates, past an early gate lodge and via a curving gravelled drive. Prominent amongst the planting are magnificent specimens of *Ficus macrophylla* (Moreton Bay Fig) which frame the entrance beside the Gate Lodge and continue along part of the gently curving serpentine drive which runs along North Road. (NB this layout is very similar to Stonnington in Malvern). A very large Moreton Bay Fig also occurs along the Cochrane Street boundary planting which also includes *Pinus canariensis*, *Pinus halepensis*, *Schinus molle* var. *areira*, *Araucaria cunninghamii* and *Olea*

europaea subsp. europaea. The planting along Downes Avenue are mainly *Ulmus x hollandica* (Dutch Elm).

The shrubbery along North Road, partially replanted in 1985-7 with *Rhododendron* cvs. and includes existing *Euonymus*, *Arbutus*, *Juniperus*, *Lophostemon*, *Camellia*, *Trachycarpus* and *Pittosporum*. Inside the North Road pedestrian entrance are fine specimens of *Calodendron capense*, *Taxodium distichum* and a rare specimen of *Ficus virens*.

The mansion is set on a podium which has a formal path system surrounding the main fronts of the house. To the south is a sunken garden, to the west (or principal front) is a fountain and to the north is an area of hard standing where the drive swells. To the north-east of the mansion is a single storey timber building used as a Crafts/Recreation Hall. The sunken garden, reconstructed in 1985-7, is planted with perennials, iris and edged with English Box.

The main garden to the west of the mansion has a system of curving paths which contrast from the formality of the garden closer to the residence. A significant feature of the garden plan is the circular path and bed planted with *Psidium littorale* var. *longipes* and a restored rose garden and summerhouse. A feature of the planting is the magnificent specimen trees which dot the front lawn. This includes a pair of *Washingtonia filifera* and *Phoenix canariensis* which frame the fountain, *Araucaria heterophylla*, *Araucaria bidwillii*, *Araucaria cunninghamii*, *Quercus robur* (NT classified), *Ulmus glabra* 'Pendula' (NT classified), and on the western boundary, *Macadamia integrifolia* (NT classified). Other notable trees include *Agathis robusta*, *Picconia excelsa* (rare), *Cedrus deodara* and *Cassine crocea* (rare), *Juniperus virginiana*, *Juniperus excelsa* (rare, poor condition). Beside the mortuary is a fine specimen of *Cupressus torulosa*. Beside the sunken garden is an outstanding specimen of *Magnolia grandiflora* (NT classified). In the North Road shrubbery is a specimen of *Araucaria columnaris* (NT classified). Kamesburgh and Stonnington (Malvern) are the only gardens (apart from the Royal Botanic Gardens) to contain four *Araucaria* species.

Kamesburgh is one of a very few gardens to still have an extensive orchard of peaches, plums, locquats, quince, pears, apples and citrus trees.

Tree removals since 1984 include a large dead *Cedrus* sp. at the western end, and a *Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Horizontalis Aurea' south-west of the fountain.

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/>