
Former Wesleyan Church And Manse



City of Kew Urban
Conservation Study 1988



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Location

21 -23 Highbury Grove KEW, Boroondara City

Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO221

HO150

Heritage Listing

Boroondara City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The former Wesleyan Church and Manse are of significance as a pair of substantially intact ecclesiastical buildings of the late nineteenth century, that while not stylistically related, are both good examples of the work of leading architects of the time and are designed in sympathy to each other.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Boroondara - City of Kew Urban Conservation Study, Pru Sanderson Design Pty Ltd, 1988;
Architect/Designer	Billing, Nathaniel, Oakden, Addison & Kemp,
Hermes Number	22330
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

In December 1874 a timber church building was erected on this site for worship by Kew's Wesleyan community [5]. With the growth of the congregation the foundation stone of a larger church building was laid by the Hon. James MacBain on April 1887 [6]. With seating accommodation for over 350 persons, the building cost £4,000 [7]. The Rev. Francis Robert Wilson was the Minister of the church at that stage [8] and it was several years later, in 1891, that the two-storey brick parsonage was ready for his occupation [9]. The initial N.A.V. for the manse was £120 [10]

The church has a well balanced composition with a gabled form offset by a spire set to one corner. It is built in polychromatic brickwork, however is quite subdued in its application compared with other buildings of the period. The manse, although only two years later, is far more adventurous in its architecture. It was designed by Kemp, who also built 'Dalswraith' (q.v.), and although this building is in a far more simple form, it repeats the Old English vocabulary of that building. This is particularly apparent in the grouping of the windows and the decorative plaster panels under the gable unit; elements that were to become popular by the turn of the century.

References --

1 Rogers, D., *A History of Kew*, p.148

2 Architects' Index, University of Melbourne

3 *ibid.*

4 *ibid.*

5 Rogers, *loc.cit.*

6 *ibid.*

7 *ibid.*

8 *ibid.*

9 City of Kew, Rate Books, 1891.

10 *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/>