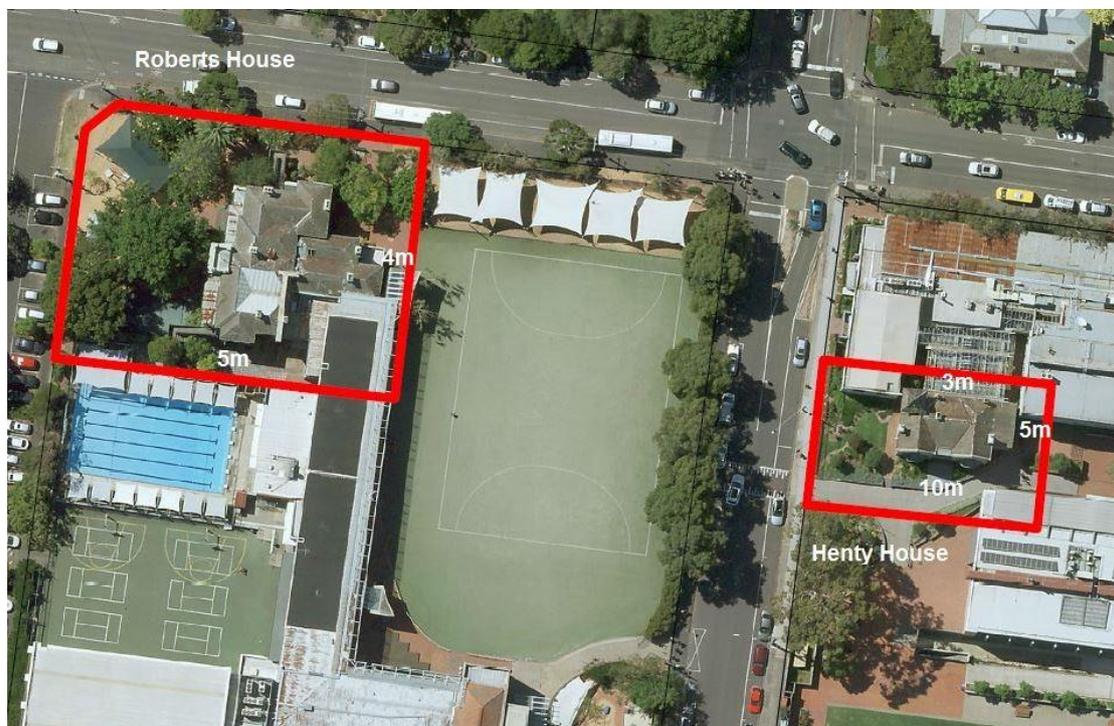


TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Prepared by: Context Pty Ltd

Address: 40 & 41 Charles Street, Kew

Name: Trinity Grammar School	Survey Date: 19 January 2017
Place Type: Community	Architect:
Grading: Significant	Builder:
Extent of Overlay: See extent map, below	Construction Date: Henty House - 1856 & 1863; Roberts House - 1875



Historical Context

Kew

Two former Kew mansions comprise the heritage place. Jane Carolan summarises the development of Kew's mansions and villas in her book, *For the green and the gold and the mitre: a centenary history of Trinity Grammar School, Kew*:

The first residential houses were built in Kew during the 1850s around the area now known as the Kew Junction. Speculation on land purchases increased during the gold rush period, promoting the region's rapid expansion not only as a farming area but as a residential location, a trading place and a stopover for travellers. By 1902 Kew had more than 8,000 residents and 1,500 dwellings. The charm of Kew was its undulating character and the windings of the Yarra River, which formed its northern and western boundaries, and the extensive views it enjoyed in almost every direction...Kew was a suburb of British expatriates who built their homes and gardens to replicate those left behind. Many of the villas and mansions commanding views back over the city were set in acres of land. Some were named after the birthplace of their owners, such as

Henry Henty's 'Tarring' named after the village in Sussex where he was born, and Dr Herbert Cowen's 'Thornhurst' after his family home on the Isle of Man and in Bendigo. Manufacturing in Kew was limited to one boot factory and one brick works. The more noxious and unsightly industries were located on the other side of the river in Collingwood. Businesses such as shops, hotels and banks were confined to a strip along High Street and in Cotham and Glenferrie roads (Carolan 2003b:3).

Anglican schools in Australia

A Church of England (later Anglican Church) clergyman travelled with the First Fleet into Sydney Cove in 1788 as a licensed chaplain to the fleet and to the settlement. The first Church of England building was erected in the new colony in 1793 (AG 2008).

The Church of England was the largest religious denomination in Australia until 1986 when it was overtaken by the Catholic Church. In 1981, the Church of England formally adopted the title 'Anglican Church of Australia' (AG 2008).

Today, the Anglican Church of Australia is organised into 23 dioceses. The church has specialist units working in education, health, missionary work, social welfare and communications. Approximately 145 Anglican schools exist throughout Australia, providing education to more than 105,000 children (AG 2008).

Denominational colleges in Boroondara

The following contextual history, about private education, is cited from the *City of Boroondara Thematic Environmental History* (Built Heritage, 2012):

[The City of Boroondara] (and notably its eastern half) has become strongly associated with larger church-based colleges that were intended to serve larger catchments across the eastern suburbs, or even the entire metropolitan area. The earliest of these was Xavier College at Kew, which was founded in 1872 by a group of Jesuit priests whose original school, St Patrick's in East Melbourne, was not suitable for boarders. ... A decade later, another Roman Catholic order based in the inner city, the Faithful Companions of Jesus, followed the Jesuit lead and proposed to open a private girls' school at Kew. Known as Genazzano College, this developed on a 20-acre site at the corner of Cotham Road and Mont Victor Road, where the foundation stone for a combined convent and school building was laid on 9 March 1890.

The first protestant counterpart was the Methodist Ladies College, also in Kew, which was established on its present site in Barkers Road in 1882. As Vaughan records, this subsequently expanded (through a series of generous bequests by people such as Alfred Nicholas) to the point that it was, at one time, believed to be the largest denominational girls' school in the world. A close rival for that title – later to be described as 'one of the large girls' schools in the metropolis' – [was] Fintona Presbyterian Girls' Grammar School. Founded in 1896 by Miss Annie Hughston and her brother, William, this school was originally based in a mansion in Mayston Street, Hawthorn, before moving in 1898 to larger premises at the corner of Burke and Victoria roads, and thence, in 1936, to a larger site at Balwyn, where it remains today.

More modest in scale (at least initially) was the school founded by the local Anglican congregation, Holy Trinity, which commenced in 1903 in the church's own Parish Hall. Three years later, Trinity Grammar School (as it was known) transferred to a large Victorian mansion, 'Roxeth' in Charles Street, Kew, which expanded in 1907 with additional classrooms and a hall. A notable addition to the growing number of denominational colleges in the study area – and one of the first established outside the apparent epicentre of the City of Kew – was Scotch College, a Presbyterian school that opened at Hawthorn in 1916. ...

The inter-war period saw the ongoing expansion of existing denominational colleges, as well as the appearance of new ones. ... All of these denominational colleges have expanded over the decades to include buildings by noted architects. This trend has continued into the post-war period, with such examples Buick Hall at Fintona (John & Phyllis Murphy, 1951), the Assembly Hall (H A & F L Norris, 1957) and Resource Centre (Daryl Jackson, 1973) at MLC, and a string of award-winning buildings at Trinity Grammar School (Crone Ross, 1988-91, 1992 and 1993).

History

Foundation and development of Trinity Grammar School

Trinity Grammar School, Kew, was founded by members of the Holy Trinity parish on 14 November 1902. Their names were the Venerable Archdeacon Hindley, Vicar of Holy Trinity; the Rev. George Merrick Long, Curate of Holy Trinity; Dr EM Inglis; Dr HO Cowen; Dr W Kent Hughes; and WJ Roberts (Trumble 1987:1).

Trinity Grammar opened on 10 February 1903 as a preparatory school for boys aged between seven and 13 years (Trumble 1987:1). The school commenced operation in the parish hall of Holy Trinity Church with 23 boys enrolled. Edward Taffs was the first headmaster, with GM Long succeeding him in 1904 (TGSK 2017).

Pressure on accommodation increased during 1906, with enrolments reaching 88. The school council began looking for a new site that could accommodate classrooms, a headmaster's residence and playgrounds (Carolan 2003b:76).

Later in 1906, the school purchased a property, 'Roxeth' (now Henty House) on the corner of Wellington Street and Charles Street, Kew, a short distance to the south of the Holy Trinity Church. In the same year a new building designed by architect Cecil Gordon McCrae, comprising an assembly hall and two classrooms (named Arnold Hall in 1925), was erected by contractors Swanson Brothers of Melbourne on the new site, and 'Roxeth' was converted to a boarding house (Carolan 2003b:79-80,85; Age 9 June 1906:5). The Arnold Hall classroom block, the first Trinity Grammar purpose-built building (see Figure 1), opened in 1907, the year the school moved to the new site. In the same year, Trinity was registered as a public school of the Church of England (TGSK 2017).



Figure 1. Arnold Hall of 1907 – the first purpose-built Trinity Grammar building. Demolished 2015. (Source: Google Streetview, August 2014)

In 1907, timber classrooms from Kew High School were transported to the Trinity Grammar School site for use as an open air gymnasium (Carolan 2003a:26; see Figure 4). From February 1909 the school leased 'Molina' (now Merritt House and previously part of Kew High School), a property in Charles Street. 'Molina' had been built in 1872-73 to a design by architect Alfred Purchas, for the secular and private Kew High School. The

building served as the headmaster's residence and boarding accommodation (Trumble 1987:116-17). Kew High School had closed in 1908. In 1909, the school built a science laboratory, designed by architect Cecil Gordon McCrae, on the west side of Arnold Hall (TGSK 2017).



Figure 2. Kew High School with the Kew High School headmaster's family, 1880s. (Source: Carolan 2003b:26)



Figure 3. View of 'Molina', c1890-91, at front. 'Elsinore' is visible to the left rear. (Source: KHS)



Figure 4. Vista of Trinity Grammar School, 1909 – from left to right: Henty House, kitchen, stables, timber open air gymnasium (made from classrooms relocated from Kew High School), science laboratory and Arnold Hall. (Source: Carolan 2003a: 26)

In 1911, GM Long left the school to become Bishop of Bathurst and the Reverend AW Tonge was appointed headmaster. A second classroom building was constructed in front of Arnold Hall in 1915, but has since been demolished. In 1917, Trinity appointed a new headmaster, Frank Shann, who led the school for the next 25 years. Under his tenure, the school grew to a total of 245 boys and other school buildings were erected, including the now demolished War Memorial Library, the junior school classroom building (also known as the Preparatory School, which survives in very altered form) and the 'Health Pavilion' – see Figure 7 (TGSK 2017).

In 1924 Shann launched a campaign that he called his 'Forward Movement', an ambitious plan designed to expand, develop and reinvigorate the school's facilities (Carolan 2003b:254). In 1924 the 'Molina' mansion was purchased by the school, as well as the neighbouring mansion, 'Elsinore' (see Figure 6). The properties were subsequently renamed in 1925 after men who had contributed significantly to Trinity's development: 'Molina' became Merritt House, 'Elsinore' was named Roberts House and 'Roxeth' called Henty House, see Figure 7 and Figure 9 (TGSK 2017). At this time substantial renovations were made to Merritt House, including the additions of a new sleep out at the north-east corner (open to the elements on two sides), sanitary block and electric light – see Figure 5 (*Age* 16 December 1925:17). In 1926 a new Junior School was built on the north side of Merritt House, replacing the former Kew High School classrooms (TGSK 2017). Trinity Grammar School grounds from the air in 1928 are depicted in Figure 8.

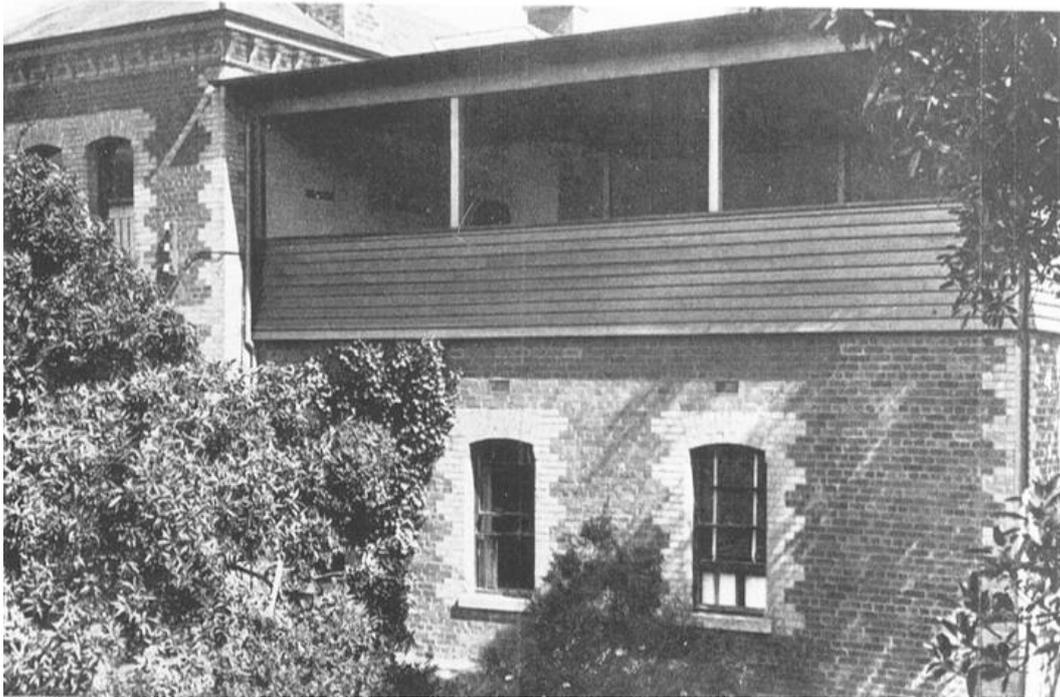


Figure 5. Construction of Merritt House, formerly 'Molina', rear sleep out, 1926. (Source: Carolan 2003a:153)

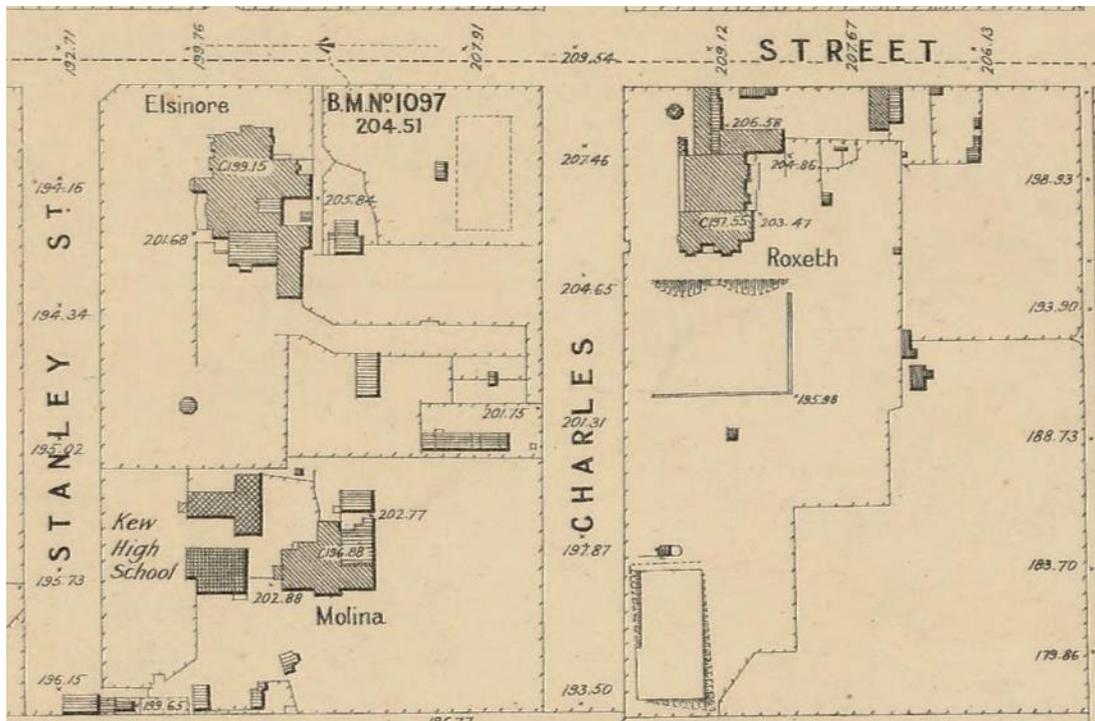


Figure 6. Detail from MMBW plan No. 65, 1902. Subject buildings are all shown: 'Elsinore' (now Roberts House), 'Roxeth' (now Henty House), and 'Molina' (now Merritt House). (Source: SLV)

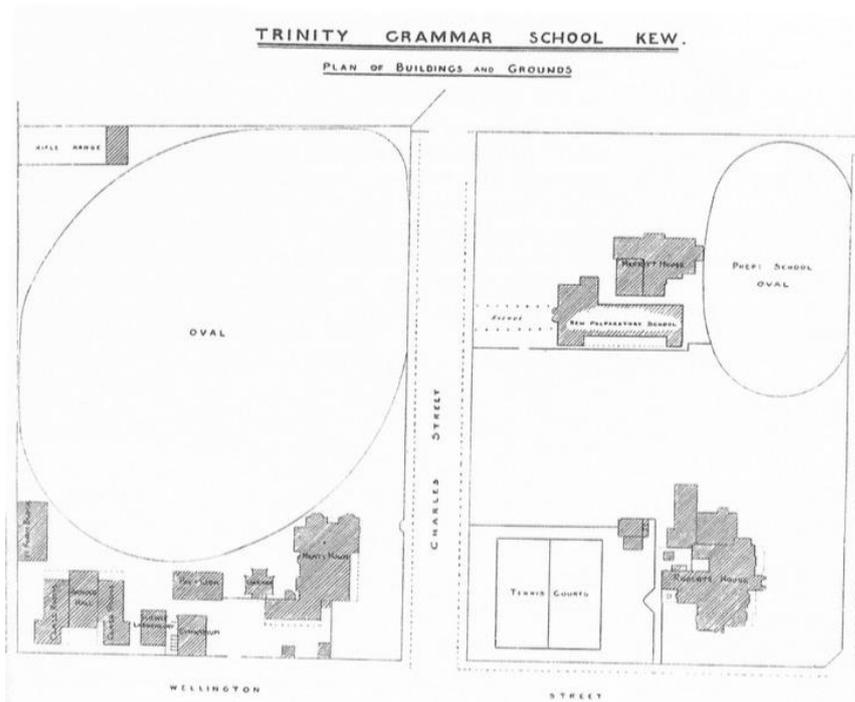


Figure 7. Plan of extended school with houses renamed, 1925. Note that North is down. (Source: Carolan 2003b:261)



Figure 8. Showing Trinity Grammar School buildings and two sports grounds in the centre of the photo, 1928. Looking south-east. (Source: Carolan 2003a:301)



Figure 9. Pencil, pen and ink drawing of Victorian buildings that comprise Trinity Grammar School: Merritt House, formerly ‘Molina’ (right), Roberts House, formerly ‘Elsinore’ (middle) and Henty House, formerly ‘Roxeth’ (left), c1978, by Joy Stewart. (Source: KHS)

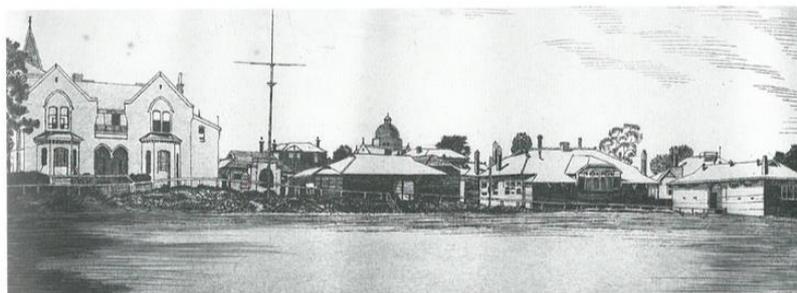
Alfred Bright became headmaster upon Frank Shann's death in 1943 (TGSK 2017). The school added a second storey to the Junior School in 1952, and in 1953, the Parents' and Friends' Hall, a multipurpose venue, was built between Merritt House and Xavier College to the south. The Art Building was completed in 1956 and used as a Middle School (TGSK 2017).

On Alfred Bright's retirement, John Leppitt was appointed headmaster. During his time as headmaster, the number of students reached 812. The Robertson Science and Administration Building opened in 1959 and was extended in later years, and in 1961, in order to provide art and music facilities, the Junior School building was extended to almost meet Roberts House. The school population reached 812 in 1962. The Robertson Building was extended along Wellington Street in 1964. In 1968, the four-storey Shann Building was constructed between the Robertson Building and Arnold Hall, in addition to a major sports facility, Cornell Gymnasium (TGSK 2017).

In 1975, the boarding house, which had been run in Merritt House, closed. The War Memorial Library was demolished in 1976 to make way for the three-storey Tonge Building and Roberts House was converted for Preparatory to Year Three classes in the same year. In 1979 John Leppitt retired and the new headmaster, Don Marles, continued the development of the school with the construction of a new swimming pool in 1980 and, in 1982, the renovation of the original science laboratories housed in the Shann Building, which were renamed the Bright Laboratories. Merritt House, the former boarding house, was converted into a music school in the same year (TGSK 2017).

In 1988 the administration building was redeveloped, and in 1989 another classroom was built, the now demolished Poynter Building. The tuckshop, the original canteen, was closed in 1990, and the cafeteria opened on the ground floor of the Shann Building. In 1991, the school built a dedicated chapel for weekly services. Don Marles retired the

same year, replaced by Peter Crawley (TGSK 2017). See Figure 10 for a comparison of Trinity Grammar School in 1992 with the school in the 1920s.



Artistic sketch by James Flett, 1920s.



As it became—panorama with Henty House, Tonge Building, Shann Building just visible behind the Poynter Building and Arnold Hall, obscured by trees, 1992.

Figure 10. Trinity Grammar School in the 1920s, showing from left to right: Henty House, War Memorial Library (1921), Tonge's open air gymnasium, Arnold Hall and the sixth-form block (1915); and the same view in 1992. (Source: Carolan 2003a: 27)

In 1999, Richard Tudor was appointed as headmaster and the co-educational Early Learning Centre was opened. In 2000, the school began the construction of the Science and Technology Building to replace the Bright Laboratories, opening in 2003, the year in which Trinity celebrated its centenary year. Enrolments at the school were over 1200 in 2002. In 2003, the school opened a new gymnasium, the Peter McIntyre Sports Centre, to complement the old Cornell Sports Gym (TGSK 2017).

In 2011, the Poynter Building and Technical Centre were demolished to make room for the Richard and Elizabeth Tudor Centre for Contemporary Learning (see Figure 11; TGSK 2017).

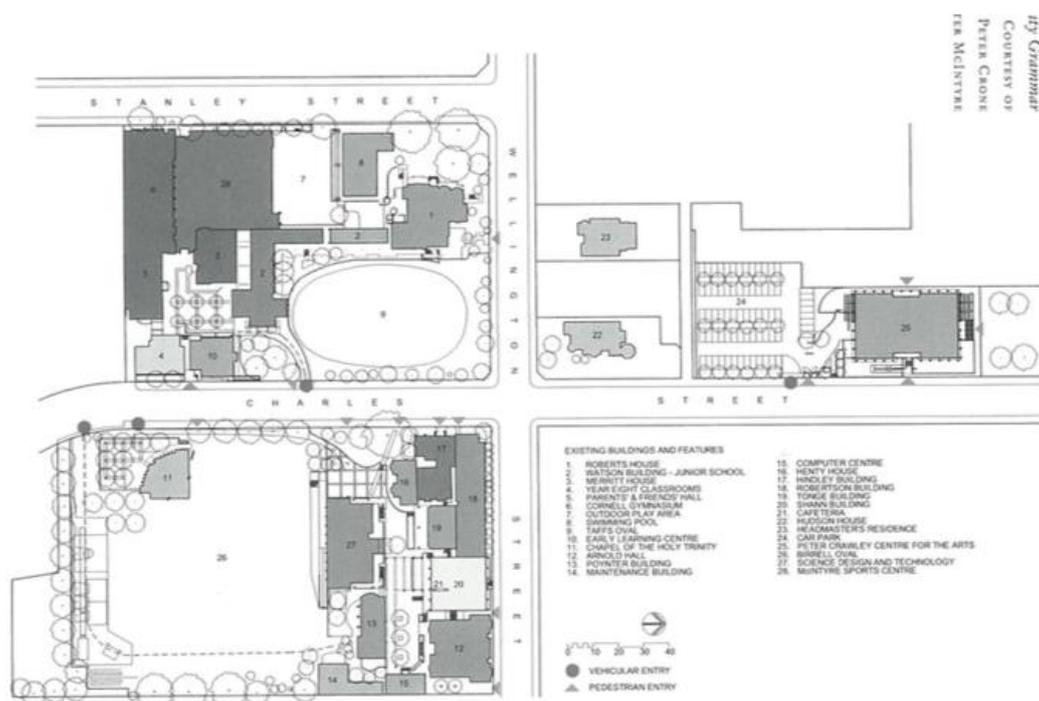


Figure 11. Plan of existing buildings at Trinity Grammar School by architects Peter Crone and Peter McIntyre, c2010. (Source: Carolan 2003b:XII)

Richard Tudor retired as headmaster in 2013, the same year the Richard and Elizabeth Tudor Centre for Contemporary Living opened. Dr Michael Davies commenced his role as headmaster in 2014 (TGSK 2017).

At the end of 2015 Trinity Grammar undertook two building projects: the demolition of Arnold Hall, to make way for the Centre for Business and Social Enterprise, and the renovation of the Tonge Building.

As noted above, three buildings that pre-date Trinity Grammar have been incorporated into the campus. The early histories of Henty House and Roberts House are provided below.

Henty House, formerly 'Roxeth', 40 Charles Street, Kew

Henty House, formerly 'Roxeth', is a Gothic Revival house, now a part of Trinity Grammar. It was built by 1856 for George Lewis (*Argus* 29 July 1856:4). George Lewis, who named his residence 'Roxeth', was a chemist who worked from premises known as the Medical Hall in Collins Street east, Melbourne. Lewis was also a Kew Borough councillor (*South Bourke Standard* 27 December 1861:1), chairman of the municipality in 1863 (Barnard 1910:74), and acted in the role of chairman of the Kew Police Court (*South Bourke Standard* 12 June 1863:4). In 1863, the 'Roxeth' property, under the ownership of George Lewis, was rated at a net annual value of £160 (RB 1863).

Because Lewis was leaving Kew, in 1863 he put 'Roxeth' up for sale. The sale notice described the property, which included eight acres of land, substantially fenced and partially tile drained, comprising: two acres of garden, planted with fruit trees and vines; two acres of rye grass and clover; two acres of lucerne; and two acres of park land. The house contained eight large rooms, with 'ample domestic offices for a respectable family'. Additional buildings included a coach house, harness room, two-stall stable, loosebox, piggeries and cowhouse. The 'beautiful locality' was home to some of 'our most wealthy

citizens', including Joseph Mitchell esq., John Halfey esq. JP, and Samuel Finley esq. (*Argus* 12 September 1863:3).

The brick cottage of some six or eight rooms with broad verandahs running round three sides of it (MS SLV 1934) called 'Roxeth' was purchased by James Henty in 1863. He gifted it to his son's wife, Frances Emma Henty (nee Murphy), daughter of Sir Francis Murphy, as her marriage settlement after she and Herbert James Henty married in 1861 (MS SLV 1934). Herbert and Frances Henty made substantial changes to 'Roxeth', including the addition of a two-storey tower, however not all planned additions were carried out (MS SLV 1934). Three out of the four Henty children were born at 'Roxeth' in the period 1864-68 (*Age* 4 October 1864: 4; *Argus* 31 October 1866:4; *Argus* 12 November 1868:4).

Herbert James Henty (1834-1902), merchant, was the son of James Henty, a member of the Henty family, early white settlers who established whaling and sheep grazing enterprises at Portland Bay in the Port Phillip District in 1834. Married to Charlotte, née Carter, James Henty with his sons Henry, Herbert and Thomas, set up the firm of James Henty & Co., merchants, in Melbourne. Herbert worked in the Bank of Australasia until 1856 when he, with his two brothers, became partners with their father (O'Neill 1972).

Herbert Henty was elected a member of Kew Municipal Council in 1864 and was mayor in 1868-69. He also served on the Melbourne City Council, on the Royal Commission on Education in 1881-82, and as president of the Melbourne Hospital in 1882-84 (O'Neill 1972). Herbert Henty was a churchwarden, vestryman, and lay helper at Holy Trinity Church in Kew for 21 years (*Independent* 15 August 1902:2).

A notice in 1876 informed the public that Herbert J Henty was returning to England and was therefore selling his household furniture and effects at his residence, 'Roxeth', at the corner of Wellington and Charles streets, Kew (*Age* 17 October 1876:4). It is not known if the family travelled to England, as in 1881 they were still residing at 'Roxeth' (*Age* 7 May 1881:8). A fire occurred at 'Roxeth' in 1885, destroying a storeroom and the servants' 'compartments' (*Argus* 13 April 1885:6). The net annual value of 'Roxeth' rose from £250 in 1884 to £300 in 1886, evidencing the rebuilding of the servants' wing and the addition of a ballroom at this time (RB 1884 & 1886; MS SLV 1934).

Henry Henty went to England and returned in 1884 to find that under his brother Herbert's management the family business was in difficulties. Although in 1885 the firm was liquidated and reformed with Henry in partnership with Thomas and his uncle Francis, Herbert had signed unrecorded guaranties in the old firm's name for some £81,000. In November Henry filed a schedule in the Insolvent Court, the firm's deficit amounting to £149,518 (O'Neill 1972). Much of the 'Roxeth' land, comprising mainly paddocks, was sold off in the 1880s (MS SLV 1934).

In 1896 Herbert J Henty moved to Deniliquin where he died on 12 August 1902, survived by a son and a daughter (O'Neill 1972).

By 1895, widow Charlotte Meagher (nee O'Brien) was living at 'Roxeth' (*Table Talk* 4 October 1895:16), however the property remained in the ownership of Herbert J Henty and in that year was rated at a net annual value of £180 (RB 1895). In 1898, Charlotte Meagher married Dr Thomas F Bride (*Table Talk* 25 February 1898:12). Her new husband joined her, and the couple resided at 'Roxeth' as lessees. Dr Bride had been formerly married to Mary Clare Newton, who died in 1895, and by whom he had five children (McCallum 1969).

A 1902 plan shows the footprint of 'Roxeth' and photographs depict the house itself (see Figure 6, Figure 12 and Figure 14).



Figure 12. 'Roxeth', 1906. Note the open balcony at the centre. (Source: SLV in Carolan 2003a:77)

Thomas Francis Bride (1849-1927), librarian, was born on 1 October 1849 at Cork, Ireland, son of Henry Nelson Bride and his wife Ellen, née Bourke. In 1870 he enrolled as a law student at the University of Melbourne and after winning scholarships and exhibitions graduated with first-class honours in 1873. Six years later he qualified as doctor of laws, the third Victorian student to do so. Bride served as assistant librarian at the university in 1873-81 (McCallum 1969).

Bride was selected from 37 applicants to be appointed librarian at the Melbourne Public Library in August 1881. Within a few years he had made significant improvements in the administration and working of the institution. During his term as librarian at the Public Library he edited the *Letters from Victorian Pioneers*, colonial reminiscences collected by Lieutenant-Governor La Trobe, but not published by the library trustees until 1898. In 1895 Bride resigned from the library to become curator of estates of deceased persons. He retired in November 1909 (McCallum 1969).

In addition, Bride unsuccessfully stood for North Melbourne as a Conservative in the Victorian general elections of 1880; in 1885 he was appointed a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society; he was a member of the councils of the University of Melbourne from 1887 and of the Working Men's College for many years. In 1886 he was a member of the Antarctic Exploration Committee and was the chairman of the board appointed by the government in 1896 to investigate the conditions of white and Chinese labour in the furniture trade. Bride founded the Technical Schools Association in Melbourne and was secretary and a writer for the Referendum League (McCallum 1969).

In 1924 Bride made an extended visit to Britain and Europe. Soon after his return to Melbourne he suffered a short illness and died on 7 April 1927 (McCallum 1969).

Henry Henty, Herbert's elder brother, on behalf of Trinity Grammar School offered to negotiate the purchase price of 'Roxeth' with Herbert's two remaining children, Emily and Arthur Henty, who had inherited the house and grounds (four acres), which far exceeded their needs (Carolan 2003b:76,78). In 1906 the school purchased 'Roxeth' and its adjacent land and moved to the new site in the same year, with the 'Roxeth' residence used as headmaster George Merrick Long's house. Under the guidance of architect Cecil Gordon McCrae, in 1906 a new building comprising an assembly hall and two classrooms (named Arnold Hall in 1925) was erected by the Swanson Brothers of

Melbourne and 'Roxeth' was converted to a boarding house (Carolan 2003b:79-80,85; Age 9 June 1906:5).

The first boarders in 1906 lived and dined in 'Roxeth' with the Long family. As well as dormitories and a dining room, the building housed common rooms, a prefects' room and the headmaster's study (Carolan 2003a:148). Incoming headmaster AW Tonge moved the boarders from 'Roxeth' to Trinity Lodge in 1912, and converted the dormitories into a family drawing room and dining room for family use. In 1924, 'Roxeth' comprised three parts: a double storey with a tower, a single storey rear wing with a verandah, and separate kitchens and stables (Carolan 2003b:254,258). In 1925 'Roxeth' was renamed Henty House and was back in use as a boarding house after substantial renovations and additions were made to the building, including the addition of an open-air dormitory, the enlargement of the dining room, the addition of a common room and the upgrading of administrative offices (Age 16 December 1925:17; see Figure 13).

Henty House now houses the staff room and other offices at Trinity Grammar School.

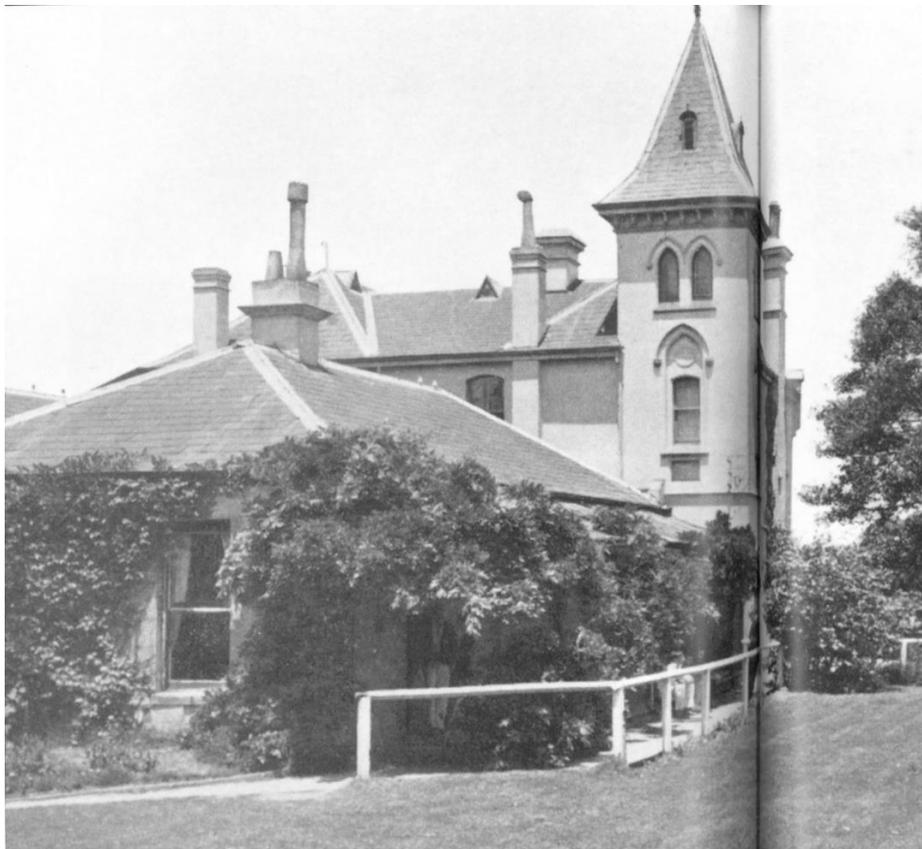


Figure 13. Henty House c1926, showing the single-storey rear wing. (Source: Carolan 2003a:150)



Figure 14. Henty House, formerly 'Roxeth', Trinity Grammar School, 1979, photo by John T Collins. The first-floor balcony has been enclosed. (Source: SLV)

Roberts House, formerly 'Elsinore', 41 Charles Street, Kew

Roberts House, formerly 'Elsinore', is a small mansion built in 1875. The land on which 'Elsinore' stands measured eight acres in 1863 and was owned by surgeon Edward Barker, at which time no building was in existence (RB 1863). In 1872, Barker owned approximately six acres bound on three sides by Charles Street, Wellington Street and Gellibrand Street; the property was described as 'land' only in the rate book of that year (RB 1872; CT:V00472 F377). Later in 1872, Barker subdivided the land into ten allotments, two of which were transferred to the ownership of John Ambrose Kitchen in (CT:V00472 F377).

The Kew Borough rate books and certificate of title show that by 1876, 'Elsinore' had been built and was occupied by John Ambrose Kitchen and his wife, Gertrude (nee Walker) Kitchen. John Kitchen was a soap and candle manufacturer (see Figure 16 and Figure 17). 'Elsinore', a property of approximately two acres with house, was rated in 1876 at a net annual value of £180 (RB 1876; CT:V1404 F739). A son was born to Kitchen and his wife Gertrude (nee Walker) at 'Elsinore' on 10 June 1876 (*Argus* 13 June 1876:1). From 1878 until 1890, Kitchen's property at this address was described as 'house and land' and 'land' (RB). 'Elsinore' can be seen in an 1889 photograph of a wedding, likely the marriage of John A Kitchen's eldest daughter, Elsie, to George Henry Downer, and in a c1890 photograph of Kew (*Argus* 1 June 1889:1; see Figure 15).



Figure 15. Wedding party at 'Elsinore', 1889. (Source: Carolan 2003b:11)

Due to the economic depression of the time, Kitchen took out several mortgages on the 'Elsinore' from 1885 until 1892, in which year the Commercial Bank of Australia foreclosed (CT:V1404 F739).

The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* contains this entry for John Ambrose Kitchen:

John Ambrose Kitchen (1835-1922), businessman, was born in February 1835 at Watlington, Oxfordshire, England... [T]he family migrated to Victoria in 1854... The family began making tallow candles from butchers' scraps in the backyard of their Emerald Hill (South Melbourne) house. Ordered out as an offensive trade, the business removed to Sandridge (Port Melbourne) in 1858.

Fire destroyed the company's premises in 1860, but they were quickly rebuilt and a Melbourne office was opened. In 1870 the Kitchens bought Gossage Bros' soap and candle factory at Footscray, to which they transferred their boiling-down operations. Manufacture of stearine candles commenced in 1871, when the Duffy government increased the protective tariff... By the early 1880s the firm employed some 300 workers in Melbourne. The merger with the Apollo Stearine Candle Co. made it the pre-eminent soap and candle manufacturer in the eastern mainland colonies, with a factory in Brisbane and a half-interest in the Sydney Soap & Candle Co.

Baptised a Wesleyan Methodist, Kitchen joined the Plymouth Brethren in Victoria, but by 1870 belonged to the Church of England. On 3 September 1875 at Kew he married with Congregational forms 21-year-old, Irish-born Gertrude Walker. Having left his Sandridge cottage for Kew in 1868, in 1876 he acquired the mansion 'Elsinore'. Kitchen also developed an apple orchard at Pakenham from the late 1870s, set up the Melbourne Coffee Taverns Co. with William McLean and (Sir) Matthew Davies in 1878 and co-founded the Royal Bank of Australasia (1888). Financed by the Commercial Bank of Australia, Kitchen speculated in real estate during the 1880s. After the bank crashes... [Kitchen] resigned briefly from the board of J. Kitchen & Sons, and moved to a modest, eight-room villa in East Malvern. All company property was mortgaged

when the banks threatened foreclosure, and in 1894 the New Zealand business was sold.

Kitchen's company had expanded to Western Australia and South Australia by 1902, and in 1907 began producing copra oil from a plantation at Milne Bay, Papua. Velvet soap was introduced as a brand name by 1906 and Solvol by 1915. The firm was employing 1000 workers across Australia when it merged with the British firm Lever Bros in 1914; the Australian subsidiary, however, remained under Kitchen family control.

John Ambrose died on 24 May 1922 at Malvern and was buried in Kew cemetery, survived by his wife and their two sons and by three sons and four daughters of his first marriage. Lever had fully acquired the business by 1924; in 1976 John Kitchen & Sons was renamed Unichema, and Lever and Kitchen soaps became Lever Rexona (Veltri 2005).



Figure 16. John Hambleton Kitchen, seated, holding baby Ambrose John Kitchen, John Ambrose Kitchen, standing, with his father John Kitchen seated, c1888. (Source: SLV)

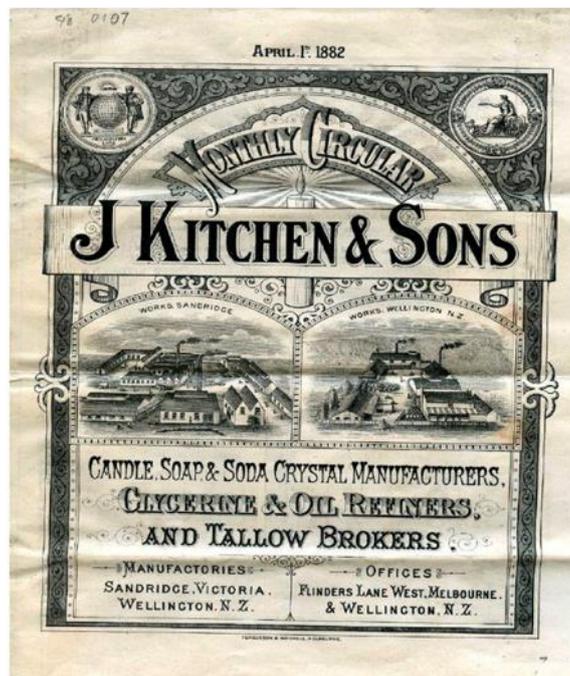


Figure 17. J. Kitchen & Sons monthly circular, 1882. (Source: Ballarat Gold Museum)

In 1895, 'Elsinore' was advertised as part of a mortgagees' sale. Described as a 'family mansion', it contained 'large and lofty rooms, with all conveniences, conservatory, fernery, vinery' and featured outbuildings, including stables and a coach house, as well as an asphalt tennis court. The grounds were 'well laid out and stocked with choice plants and trees' (*Argus* 13 July 1895:2).

'Elsinore' was purchased by gentleman Charles Cooper, solicitor Charles Emmerton and Robert Murray Smith (CTV2599 F732). In 1895, Joseph E Pounds lived at 'Elsinore'; from 1897 contractor Valentine Saddler rented the property, which was rated at a net annual value of £200 (RB). A 1902 Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works plan shows the footprint of 'Elsinore' (see Figure 6).

Valentine John Saddler became the owner of 'Elsinore' in 1912 (CTV2599 F732), and lived there with his family until his death there in 1924.

An obituary to Valentine Saddler read:

Mr. Saddler was well known in business and financial circles in Melbourne, and also in the other States, among other institutions with which he was connected being the Colonial Mutual Fire Insurance Co. and the Silverton Tramway Co., of both of which he was chairman. He was also associated as a director with the Dunlop Rubber Co. of Australia since its inception, and with Younghusband Ltd., and with many mining ventures in this and other States. Mr. Saddler was a member of the well known firm of Baxter and Saddler, which in former years built many railways in the various States, Mr. Saddler's wife and one son predeceased him, and he is survived by a son, Mr. V. J. Saddler, jun., of Melbourne, and a daughter, Miss. S. Hirshfield, of Brisbane (Age 5 August 1924:9).

Saddler's probate described his real estate at his death as approximately two acres on which was erected a 'two storied brick dwelling and conveniences known as "Elsinore" occupied by deceased at date of death'; the property was valued at £8000 (PROV 1924).

As part of his 'Forward Movement' campaign, headmaster Frank Shann initiated the expansion of boarding facilities through the buying and renovation of two properties on the west side of Charles Street: 'Elsinore', purchased for £8750 and 'Molina' (Carolan 2003b:254,258). With the purchase, 'the whole hill top between Xavier College and Wellington Street' passed into the possession of Trinity Grammar School, bringing the area of the school to almost ten acres, and plans were made for the construction of sporting facilities and grounds (*Age* 1 November 1924:24). The purchase of 'Elsinore' was made possible through finance provided by 23 friends of the school, who agreed to provide money for the purchase of debentures (*Argus* 1 November 1924).

In 1925 'Elsinore' was renamed Roberts House and substantial renovations and additions were made to the building, including additions of an open-air dormitory, new bathroom facilities and electric light (*Age* 16 December 1925:17; see Figure 18).

In 1975, the boarding house accommodated in Roberts House closed, and in 1976 it was converted into classrooms for Preparatory to Year Three classes (TGSK 2017). Roberts House in 1978 and 1979 is depicted in Figure 19 and Figure 20.



Figure 18. Roberts House, formerly 'Elsinore', with balconies converted into dormitories, 1926. The mature magnolia tree is visible at left, and the semi-mature sycamore tree at right (without foliage). (Source: Carolan 2003: 152)



Figure 19. Watercolour of Roberts House, formerly 'Elsinore', c1978, by Joy Stewart. (Source: KHS Collection)



Figure 20. Roberts House, formerly 'Elsinore', Trinity Grammar School, 1979, photo by John T Collins. (Source: SLV)

Description & Integrity

Trinity Grammar School is located in Kew, not far south-east of Kew Junction, in the midst of residential streets but just west of Glenferrie Road. Its central campus area is bounded by Wellington Street, Stanley Street and almost as far east as Gordon Avenue. Charles Street forms a north-south spine through the centre of the campus, making most of the buildings visible from the public domain. Xavier College is located directly south of the west side of the campus, and shares an east-west boundary at the south end of Stanley Street. Built form is grouped along Wellington Street, to the east of Charles Street, and in the southern half of the block between Stanley and Charles streets. The remaining area is taken up with playing fields and other outdoor sporting facilities.

As set out in the place history, there were three large houses already on the site that were acquired by Trinity Grammar in the early years of the 20th century. All three of these houses survive, in somewhat altered form. As also set out in the history, Trinity Grammar erected a number of purpose-built school facilities starting in 1907, but none of these has survived. The only exception is the Preparatory School building of 1926, which has been so extensively extended and remodelled that it is barely recognisable. For this reason, the description will focus on the two main pre-existing buildings, as well as discussion of the intactness of Merritt House.



Figure 21. Henty House, formerly 'Roxeth', viewed from the south-west. (Source: Context, 2017)

Henty House, formerly 'Roxeth' and built in 1856, stands just south-east of the Charles and Wellington streets corner. Its front façade faces south, but is clearly visible from Charles Street as there is a large clear plaza in front of it. While the houses used to have a sprawling single-storey rear wing, and associated outbuildings, only the main two-storey front volume has been retained. It is Gothic Revival in style. The walls are rendered and the complex gabled roof is clad in slates.

The front (south) façade is symmetrically designed with two parapeted gabled bays. Between them is a lower section with a low balcony to the first floor (infilled with windows), below which is an arcade of two lancet arches supported on a slender cast-iron column. The balcony retains its geometric cast-iron balustrade. Each of the gabled bays has a canted bay with hipped roof to the ground floor, above which is a pair of windows beneath a lancet blind arch. These, and almost all windows of the building, are double-hung sashes with segmentally arched heads - a form typical of the Italianate style. The canted window bays, with their bracketed eaves, are also very Italianate in form. Applied decoration, however, is thoroughly medieval, with cast-cement bosses at the ends of label moulds and a stringcourse beneath the central balcony, blind quatrefoils above the first-floor windows, and impressed trefoils at the ends of the gable parapets.

The west side façade, facing Charles Street, has a different form but consistent details. The front half is articulated by a tall external chimney, and the rear half has a three storey tower which is flush with the façade. There is a window beneath a lancet-arch label mould to the first floor, and a pair of small lancet-arched windows with a continuous label mould are set beneath the bracketed eaves. The tower has a steep medieval flared roof with a louvered vents on each face, bands of scalloped slates, and a cast-iron finial. The north elevation of the tower is similarly expressed.

Apart from the demolition of the rear wing, Henty House is largely intact. As noted, the front balcony has been infilled with glazing. Also, the reveals of the windows in the front canted bays have sharp arises, while all other windows have chamfered edges, which is much more common for the 19th century. This suggests re-rendering.



Figure 22. Front façade of Roberts House, formerly ‘Elsinore’. (Source: trinity.vic.edu.au)

Roberts House, former ‘Elsinore’, stands on the north-west corner of Stanley and Wellington streets, set behind a deep front garden containing a number of mature trees, including *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern Magnolia), *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Palm), *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawarra Flame Tree), *Platanus occidentalis* (Sycamore) and *Lophoestemon confertus* (Brush Box). Considering their size and species, all of these trees appear to have been planted in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, while it was still a private residence. The Magnolia and the Sycamore are visible

in the 1926 photo (see Figure 15). The location of all these trees is shown on the plan, below.

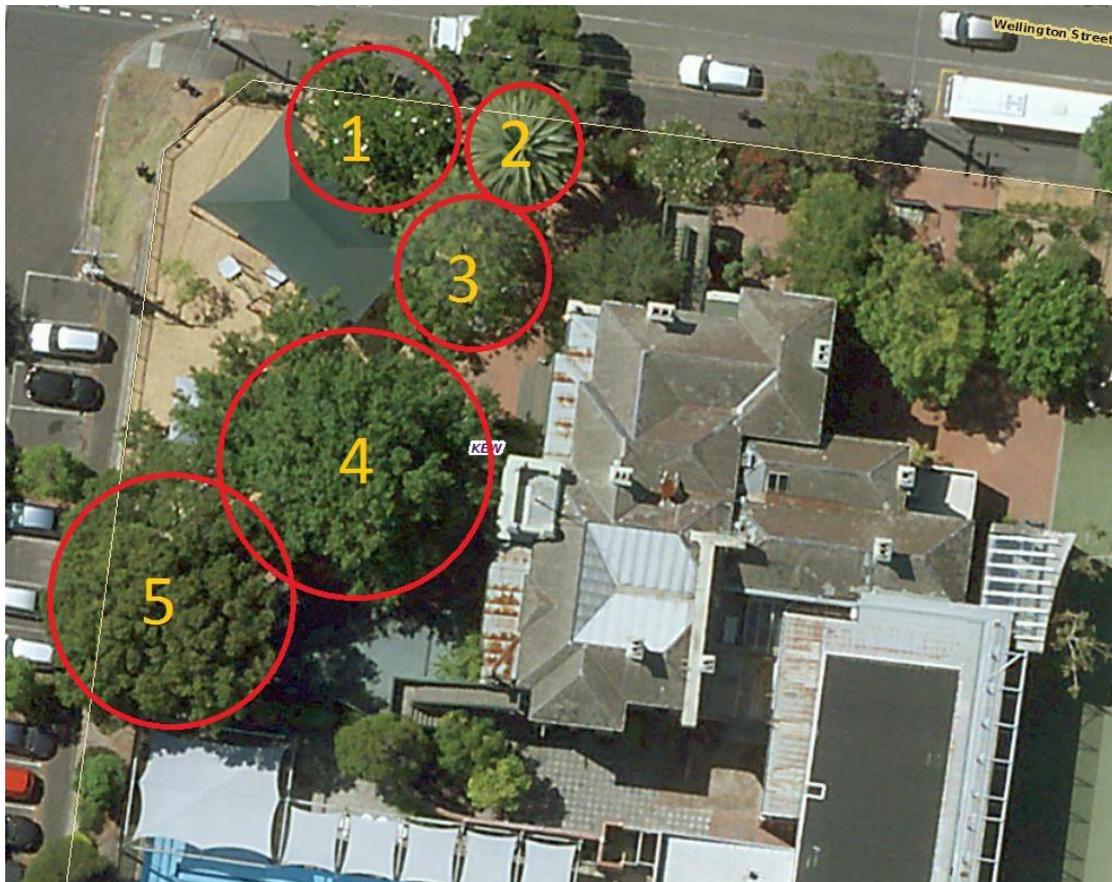


Figure 23. Location of contributory trees at Roberts House: 1) Southern Magnolia; 2) Canary Island Palm; 3) Illawarra Flame Tree; 4) Sycamore; and 5) Brush Box.

Roberts House is a two-storey Victorian Italianate mansion-villa with a very wide front façade. Walls are finished in cement render while the complex hipped roof is clad in slate. The façade is divided into two nearly symmetrical halves by a two-storey parapeted entrance tower at the centre. The tower has a buttressed entrance arch at the ground floor leading to the large six-panel front door. Above it is a round-headed window to the first floor and a cornice and pedimented parapet at the top. To either side of the tower is a verandah with cast-iron columns grouped in twos and threes, and curved cast-iron brackets beneath a solid frieze (an original feature, as seen in the 1889 photo). The first-floor balconies have single posts and a solid frieze without brackets. The southern verandah bows outward (curved in plan), while the north side is rectilinear.

Windows beneath the verandah are all rectangular double-hung sashes with louvered shutters to the ground floor (visible in 1889). There is a canted bay window to the north side ground floor, and a very shallow breakfront to the centre of the south side.

Roberts House appears to be largely intact externally, retaining intact rear wings. Comparing its footprint to the 1902 MMBW plan, only the rear wing in the south-east corner has been replaced. Concrete staircases have been added to the south end of the front elevation and the north side elevation, both of which are clearly visible from the public domain. As an aside, the 1902 MMBW plan shows a front verandah only to the south half of the front façade. This appears to be an error, as the historic photo of 1889, shows the verandah across the entire façade, as seen today. The 1926 photo of the

building shows that the first-floor balconies were converted to sleep-outs in the 1920s. The photo shows that the cast-iron columns and balustrade remained untouched to the southern part of the verandah, but were replaced by infill walls on the north side. By the 1970s, this infill had been removed and the verandah detail reinstated. While there were originally clusters of three posts to the first-floor verandah, they are now single posts. This may be because some of the surviving posts on the south side were used to restore the north side.



Figure 24. Merritt House, formerly ‘Molina’, viewed from the south-east. (Source: Context, 2017)

Merritt House, formerly ‘Molina’, is a two-storey bi-chrome brick building in an austere version of the Italianate style. The south-facing front façade is articulated by a shallow breakfront with paired segmentally arched windows at each level. In plan, the building forms a letter ‘T’, with the arms running east-west and the base of the ‘T’ extending northward. The hipped roof is clad in slates. Typical of the Italianate style, the chimneys (of bichrome brick) have decorative cornices at the top, and the eaves are decorated with closely spaced brackets. Around the façade breakfront, windows are single double-hung sashes with bluestone sills, segmentally arched heads and heavy cream brick quoining. The same quoining is used for the corners of the building and the breakfront, and there is also a wide cream-brick beltcourse between the two floors. The front door is expressed similarly to the windows and sits just to the east of the breakfront. The rest of the walls are of brown Hawthorn brick laid in English bond. The same cream brick quoining, beltcourse and paired windows are also seen on the east side elevation.

Merritt House sits within a courtyard at the south-west corner of the school grounds. Its intactness has been severely impacted by a series of late twentieth-century building campaigns. This is particularly the case of the western third of the building, with

alterations including: removal of a large area of ground-floor wall of the south (front) elevation (including two windows); removal of almost the entire two-storey wall of the west elevation; total removal of the single-storey section in the north-west corner, enclosure of the 1925 sleepout above the rear (north) wing; and a number of new window openings to north (rear) elevation ground floor. The western third of the building has also been enclosed within a new sporting facility, which sits just below its eaves. This lack of intactness is considered to seriously compromise Merritt House's level of significance, as addressed in the Assessment of Significance section, below.



Figure 25. South-west corner of Merritt House, showing the two-storey opening to the west elevation (left) and ground-floor opening to the south elevation (right). (Source: Context, 2017)

Comparative Analysis

Henty House and Roberts House will be analysed separately in relation to comparable places in Kew and Boroondara more widely, where appropriate.

Henty House ('Roxeth') is one of a small number of pre-1870 houses identified in Kew. There is an even smaller handful that survives from the 1850s, but it is not clear how much of the 1856 extent of 'Roxeth' survives (following the 1863 expansion by the Hentys and subsequent demolition of the rear wings). It is also one of a small number of early Gothic Revival houses to survive in Boroondara as a whole, most of which are in its earliest suburb: Hawthorn.

Pre-1870s houses that have been identified in Kew are the following:

'Roseneath', 62 Peel Street, Kew (HO104) - This brick house was built in stages. In the early 1850s John Ambrose Kitchen (original owner of 'Elsinore'/Roberts House) had a very simple transverse gabled two-storey house built. In 1885 new owner Edward Dunn had a new single-storey section built at the front. This new section is Gothic Revival in style, with finely detailed bargeboards. It is considered significant, among other reasons, as 'one of the earliest houses to have been built in the Kew area' (M Gould, Kew Conservation Study, 1988).



Figure 26. 1850s rear wing at 'Roseneath'. (Source: Woodards, 2007)



Figure 27. Gothic Revival extension to 'Roseneath' of 1885. (Source: Woodards, 2007)

'Studley House', 2 Nolan Avenue, Kew (VHR H789) - two-storey mansion in a Classical Revival style with columned double-storey verandah, built in 1857 for parliamentarian John Hodgson. It was extended in 1875 remodelled in 1919. Now part of Xavier College.



Figure 28. 'Studley House' of 1875. (Source: Heritage Victoria, 2008)

'D'Estaville', 7 Barry Street, Kew (VHR H201) - bluestone two-storey Classical Revival house of 1859, built for Sir William Stawell, who was an important figure in Victorian politics and public institutions. It was designed by architects Knight and Kerr (architects of the Parliament House).



Figure 29. 'D'Estaville' of 1859. (Source: Heritage Victoria, nd)

'Ivy Grange', 3 Malmsbury Street, Kew (HO92) - A two-storey, bluestone Gothic Revival mansion. It was built in 1864 and owned by the prominent architect Charles Vickers, at an early stage of Kew's development. It was very sympathetically added to by prominent architects since (Crouch & Wilson in 1877 - including the parapeted Scottish Baronial tower; Reed, Henderson & Smart). The use of basalt combined with cream brick is unusual and enhances the significance.



Figure 30. 'Ivy Grange' of 1864-1885. (Source: Kew Conservation Study, 1992)

'Darley', 2 Merrion Grove, Kew (HO321) of 1869, a single-storey Italianate villa of the late 1860s, broadly intact to its original form, albeit modified in the Edwardian period. Though now on a much reduced allotment, the house is considered significant as one of a relatively limited number of residences surviving in the Kew area from the period pre-1870.



Figure 31. 'Darley' of 1869. (Source: Lovell Chen, 2005)

'Mount Ephraim', 26 Edgecombe Street, Kew (HO297) - This two-storey rendered brick house of c1868-9 is of local historical and architectural significance as one of a relatively limited group of surviving substantial pre-1870s villas and mansion houses in Kew. This is despite alterations including the replacement of the front verandah with a portico (in the 1920s), rear additions, and replacement of the roofing slates.



Figure 32. 'Mount Ephraim' of c1868-9. (Source: Lovell Chen, 2005)

For the most part, except for 'Darley', the early houses that survive in Kew are the more substantial residences that were built solidly with a high level of architectural pretension for prominent members of the Melbourne community. The same can be said of 'Roxeth'. Its current appearance dates from the c1863 remodelling by Herbert and Frances Henty in a sophisticated and large-scale rendition of the then-fashionable Gothic Revival.

Among the examples above, there are two homes that share the same Gothic Revival influence: the 1885 wing of 'Roseneath' and 'Ivy Grange' of 1864-85. The earliest Gothic Revival houses in Boroondara are in Hawthorn, and date from the 1840s and 1850s. Both are of State significance and are included in the Victorian Heritage Register. They are: 'Invergowie' of 1846-69, 21 Coppin Grove; and 'The Hawthorns' of 1852, 5 Creswick Street. Both are of bluestone with decorative timber fretwork to the gables, and are more informal versions of Gothic than 'Roxeth', both in their asymmetric massing and rustic detail.

A closer example to 'Roxeth's' architectural expression, with a formal symmetry and use of parapeted Tudor gables is 'Avon Court', 20 Shakespeare Grove, Hawthorn (HO244). It is a two-storey mansion semi-detached pair designed by Crouch & Wilson in 1877. The use of cast-iron ornamented verandahs is typical of the 1870s, as compared to the more restrained and 'correct' Gothic influence on 'Roxeth's' entry porch.



Figure 33. 'Avon Court' of 1877. (Source: Heritage Victoria, nd)

Roberts House ('Elsinore') of 1875 can be compared to other grand houses of mid and late Victorian period (1870s-1890s). It belongs to the typology of large Italianate houses that eschew strong asymmetry. While the characteristic Italianate parapeted tower is most commonly used off-centre or even on a side elevation for most large Italianate houses, this group uses the tower to define the centre of the composition. To either side is a more-or-less symmetrical composition. This is seen at 'Elsinore'; with the dominant central tower, flanked by two lengths of verandah that are identical in detail but subtly different in plan and with different sized and shaped bay windows beneath them.

Other examples of this typology seen in Kew are:

Villa Alba, 44 Walmer Street (VHR H605), built before 1863 but substantially remodelled and enlarged in 1882-83. It is a two-storeyed residence with rendered masonry walls and

a slate roof. The centre of the façade is defined by a projecting three-storey tower with the entrance porch in its base. Unusually, the house has no verandah. It is Italianate in style, but is thought to have a Norman (Romanesque) influence as seen in the use of round-headed arches and the austere tower.



Figure 34. Villa Alba of c1863 and 1882-83. (Source: Heritage Victoria, 2008)

'Comaques', 896 Glenferrie Road, Kew (HO203) - An 1891 two storeyed rendered mansion and is composed and decorated in the Italianate style. It is dominated by a balustraded three storeyed tower over the front entrance that is flanked by two polygonal bay window units. A two storeyed loggia spans down the Wellington Street facade.



Figure 35. 'Comaques' of 1891. (Source: RT Edgar, nd)

'Inverkely', 11 Redmond Street, Kew (HO336) - A two-storey house of 1888. It is a representative example of later nineteenth-century Italianate design as applied to a two-storey suburban villa with tower. It is more asymmetrical than the other examples, with a

verandah to one side of the tower and a two-storey bay window to the other. It has been altered in a number of areas, including the rebuilding of the verandah.



Figure 36. 'Inverkely' of 1888. (Source: Lovell Chen, 2005)

In its intactness, considering the alterations to the verandah, 'Elsinore' is closest to 'Inverkely'. In its size and architectural expression, it is among the grander houses of the mid-Victorian period in Kew, built before the excesses of the Boom era of the late 1880s and early 1890s.

Assessment Against Criteria

Criteria referred to in *Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay*, Department of Planning and Community Development, September 2012, modified for the local context.

CRITERION A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of the City of Boroondara's cultural or natural history (historical significance).

Henty House ('Roxeth') and Roberts House ('Elsinore') are of historical significance for their association with Trinity Grammar for around 100 years. Trinity Grammar School was founded in 1902, opened the following year in the Parish Hall of Holy Trinity Church, Kew, at the corner of Pakington and High streets. When the school outgrew these premises, they purchased 'Roxeth' in 1906. While some purpose-built school buildings were constructed in these early years (all since demolished), Trinity Grammar also purchased 'Elsinore' in 1924. The two buildings served the school mainly as boarding facilities, and were renamed in honour of men who contributed significantly to Trinity Grammar's development.

A third early building, 'Molina' a former Kew High School building, was also used by Trinity Grammar from 1909 to the present day.

CRITERION B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City of Boroondara's cultural or natural history (rarity).

Henty House ('Roxeth'), built in 1856 and remodelled and enlarged c1863, is one of a small number of pre-1870 houses identified in Kew. Like most of the other surviving early houses, it is a substantial residence built solidly with the 1860s remodelling exhibiting a high level of architectural pretension for a prominent member of the Melbourne community. It is also one of a small number of early (pre-1870) Gothic Revival houses to survive in Boroondara as a whole.

CRITERION C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Boroondara's cultural or natural history (research potential).

N/A

CRITERION D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Merritt House ('Molina') is an austere, almost institutional, application of the Italianate style, with characteristic features such as a low hipped roof clad in slates, corniced chimneys, bracketed eaves, bichromatic brickwork, segmentally arched openings, and a simple symmetrical façade defined by a central breakfront. Considering the level of demolition to its western third, however, it does not meet the threshold of local significance.

CRITERION E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

Henty House ('Roxeth'), as remodelled c1863, is a fine and well-detailed example of the Gothic Revival style. Elements of note include the parapeted front gables with blind lancet arches above the first floor windows, paired lancet arches to the inset porch, a three-storey tower on the west side with a steep medieval flared roof with a louvered vents on each face, bands of scalloped slates, and a cast-iron finial, and applied cast-cement ornament such as bosses at the ends of label moulds and a stringcourse

beneath the central balcony, blind quatrefoils above the first-floor windows, and impressed trefoils at the ends of the gable parapets.

Roberts House ('Elsinore'), of 1875, is an elegant two-storey Italianate mansion with a wide front façade in a largely symmetrical arrangement around a central parapeted tower. The composition at either side of the tower is varied by the different plan forms of the verandahs and bay windows on either side. 'Elsinore' is enhanced by the presence of a number of mature specimen trees in the front garden, including a *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern Magnolia), *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Palm), *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawarra Flame Tree), *Platanus occidentalis* (Sycamore) and *Lophoestemon confertus* (Brush Box). They illustrate the use of specimen trees and species typically used in residential garden layouts of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

CRITERION F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

N/A

CRITERION G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

These two buildings have a strong association with Trinity Grammar old boys, who have lived in or otherwise used these buildings for around 100 years.

CRITERION H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Boroondara's history (associative significance).

NA

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

Two nineteenth-century buildings that were incorporated into Trinity Grammar School in the early twentieth century are significant.

The Gothic Revival Henty House (formerly 'Roxeth') was first constructed in 1856 for chemist and Kew Borough Councillor George Lewis. It was remodelled c1863 and enlarged for new owners Herbert and Frances Henty. Herbert was a member of the Henry family, who were some of the earliest settlers in the Port Phillip District, and a merchant and banker. It was purchased by Trinity Grammar in 1906 when they moved from their initial lodgings in the Holy Trinity Parish Church.

The Italianate mansion Roberts House ('Elsinore') was built in 1875 for soap and candle manufacturer John Ambrose Kitchen and his family. Kitchen died in 1922, and two years later the house was purchased by Trinity Grammar. The house retains mature trees in the front garden, including a *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern Magnolia), *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Palm), *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawarra Flame Tree), *Platanus occidentalis* (Sycamore) and *Lophoestemon confertus* (Brush box), which are contributory to its significance.

Late twentieth-century additions to the two buildings, particularly the rear wing of Henty House, and the external staircases to Roberts House, are not significant.

How is it significant?

Henty House is of local historical, aesthetic, and social significance, and rarity value; and Roberts House is of local historical, aesthetic, and social significance, to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

Henty House ('Roxeth'), and Roberts House ('Elsinore') are of historical significance for their association with Trinity Grammar for over around 100 years. Trinity Grammar School was founded in 1902, opened the following year in the Parish Hall of Holy Trinity Church, Kew, at the corner of Pakington and High streets. When the school outgrew these premises, they purchased 'Roxeth' in 1906. While some purpose-built school buildings were constructed in these early years (all since demolished), Trinity Grammar also purchased 'Elsinore' in 1924. The two buildings served the school mainly as boarding facilities, and were renamed in honour of men who contributed significantly to Trinity Grammar's development. (Criterion A)

Henty House ('Roxeth'), built in 1856 and remodelled and enlarged c1863, is one of a small number of pre-1870 houses identified in Kew. Like most of the other surviving early houses, it is a substantial residence built solidly with the 1860s remodelling exhibiting a high level of architectural pretension for a prominent member of the Melbourne community. It is also one of a small number of early (pre-1870) Gothic Revival houses to survive in Boroondara as a whole.

Henty House ('Roxeth'), as remodelled c1863, is a fine and well-detailed example of the Gothic Revival style. Elements of note include the parapeted front gables with blind lancet arches above the first floor windows, paired lancet arches to the inset porch, a three-storey tower on the west side with a steep medieval flared roof with a louvered vents on each face, bands of scalloped slates, and a cast-iron finial, and applied cast-cement ornament such as bosses at the ends of label moulds and a stringcourse beneath the central balcony, blind quatrefoils above the first-floor windows, and impressed trefoils at the ends of the gable parapets.

Roberts House ('Elsinore'), of 1875, is an elegant two-storey Italianate mansion with a wide front façade in a largely symmetrical arrangement around a central parapeted tower. The composition at either side of the tower is varied by the different plan forms of the verandahs and bay windows on either side. 'Elsinore' is enhanced by the presence of a number of mature specimen trees in the front garden, including a *Magnolia grandiflora* (Southern Magnolia), *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Palm), *Brachychiton acerifolius* (Illawarra Flame Tree), *Platanus occidentalis* (Sycamore) and *Lophoestemon confertus* (Brush Box). They illustrate the use of specimen trees and species typically used in residential garden layouts of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. (Criterion E)

These two buildings have a strong association with Trinity Grammar old boys, who have lived in or otherwise used these buildings for around 100 years. (Criterion G)

Grading and Recommendations

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Boroondara Planning Scheme as an Individually Significant place.

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Boroondara Planning Scheme:

It is recommended that the two Significant buildings be protected in defined curtilages that ensure that views to them are protected as well as encompassing trees that contribute to Roberts House's significance. The following curtilages are recommended, as shown on the map at the start of this citation:

- Henty House - to the west street boundary, 10 metres to the south (front), 3 metres to the north (rear), and 5 metres to the east. This curtilage encompasses small parts of other school buildings to the north, south and east. These buildings are Non-contributory and their demolition or alteration (apart from their extension) will have no impact on the heritage significance of Henty House.
- Roberts House - to the north and west street boundaries, 4 metres to the east (rear) and 5 metres to the south. This curtilage encompasses part of an addition to the south elevation of the rear wing, which is Non-contributory. Its demolition or alteration (apart from its extension) will have no impact on the heritage significance of Roberts House.

External Paint Colours <i>Is a permit required to paint an already painted surface?</i>	No
Internal Alteration Controls <i>Is a permit required for internal alterations?</i>	No
Tree Controls <i>Is a permit required to remove a tree?</i>	Yes - Southern Magnolia, Canary Island Palm, Illawarra Flame Tree, Sycamore and Brush Box at Roberts House
Victorian Heritage Register <i>Is the place included on the Victorian Heritage Register?</i>	No
Incorporated Plan <i>Does an Incorporated Plan apply to the site?</i>	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions <i>Are there outbuildings and fences which are not exempt from notice and review?</i>	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted <i>Can a permit be granted to use the place for a use which would otherwise be prohibited?</i>	No
Aboriginal Heritage Place <i>Is the place an Aboriginal heritage place which is subject to the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006?</i>	No

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