

Inverleith, 50 Stanhope Street, Malvern – Statement of Significance, June 2021

Heritage place: Inverleith, 50 Stanhope Street,
Malvern

PS ref no.: HO339



Figure 1. 50 Stanhope Street, Malvern (GJM Heritage, July 2020)

What is significant?

Inverleith at 50 Stanhope Street, Malvern, a Victorian Italianate house built in 1888 by builder John Wright.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The original external form, materials and detailing of the house
- The high level of integrity to its original design
- Victorian Italianate style house
- Polychromatic brick walls
- Concealed slate-clad double hipped roof
- Asymmetrical plan with projecting polygonal side bay and adjoining ogee-profile verandah with cast iron columns and frieze

- Highly decorative cement rendered balustraded parapet with name plate, prominent semicircular pediment containing shell and mask motifs and acroteria, and cornice with dentilled frieze with vermiculated panels and patera
- Simple unframed segmental arch-headed window openings to projecting bay
- Cement rendered chimneys with corniced capping.

Later alterations and additions are not significant. This includes additions and alterations to the side and rear of the house as well as the front fence.

How is it significant?

Inverleith is of local historical, representative (architectural) and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

Inverleith has clear associations with the boom period in suburban Melbourne in the late 1880s and early 1890s. In this period extensive tracts of land in Malvern were subdivided into suburban residential estates and allotments were purchased for the construction of middle-class housing. This house is one of a group of ten similarly detailed houses built on neighbouring allotments in Stanhope Street to illustrate this boom period of development (Criterion A).

Inverleith is a fine and highly intact representative example of a Victorian middle-class house from the late 1880s. The house strongly reflects the boom period Italianate style popular in the 1880s and 1890s in Malvern and across Melbourne more broadly. The asymmetrical front elevation of polychromatic brickwork, with highly decorative balustraded parapet, elaborate central pediment and cornice frieze, is typical of the style (Criterion D).

Inverleith is a carefully designed and well-resolved example of a Victorian Italianate house. The asymmetrical front elevation with projecting polygonal bay, and the profusion of decorative classical architectural elements, including balustraded parapet with name plate, shell and mask motifs, acroteria, and cornice with dentilled frieze with vermiculated panels and patera, presents a picturesque composition of this architectural style (Criterion E).

Primary source:

Malvern Heritage Review, GJM Heritage (June 2021)

N Lewis & Associates, *City of Malvern Heritage Study*, 1992