

Roma, 44 Stanhope Street, Malvern – Statement of Significance, June 2021

Heritage place: Roma, 44 Stanhope Street, Malvern

PS ref no.: HO337



Figure 1. 44 Stanhope Street, Malvern (GJM Heritage, July 2020)

What is significant?

Roma at 44 Stanhope Street, Malvern, a Victorian Italianate house built by 1886 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
- Symmetrical front elevation with projecting polygonal bays either side of a central wall with niche with decorative corbelled base
- 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

- Verandah and entry to east side
- Simple unframed segmental arch-headed window openings to projecting bays
- Cement rendered chimneys with corniced capping.

Later alterations and additions are not significant. This includes alterations and additions to the rear of the house.

How is it significant?

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

Why is it significant?

Roma 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).

Roma 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 symmetrical front elevation, with highly decorative balustraded parapet, elaborate central pediment and cornice frieze is typical of the style (Criterion D).

Roma is a carefully designed and well-resolved example of a Victorian Italianate house. The symmetrical front elevation, with a profusion of classical architectural elements including balustrading, 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