

Northbrook House & Stables, 1257 High Street, Malvern – Statement of Significance, June 2021

Heritage place: Northbrook House & Stables, 1257 High Street, Malvern

PS ref no.: HO59



Figures 1-2. Northbrook House and Stables, 1257 High Street, Malvern (GJM Heritage, July 2020)

What is significant?

Northbrook House & Stables, 1257 High Street, Malvern, a Victorian Italianate house built in 1888-89 to a design by architect Charles D’Ebro and associated early red brick stables.

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

All Buildings

- The original external form, materials and detailing of the two buildings (including the ballroom wing to the house)
- The high level of integrity to their original design.

Former House

- Single storey Italianate house with principal elevations to the south and east and service areas to the west
- Rendered brick walls with decorative vermiculated quoining and frieze with paired modillions and garlands to south wing
- Slate-clad hipped, eaved roofs with east-facing U-shaped configuration and subsidiary hipped roof sections to the west
- Moulded architraves to windows
- Symmetrical east elevation with projecting square bays with floor-length, double hung windows
- Asymmetrical south elevation with square entrance portico with arched openings, rusticated piers and balustraded parapet
- Central raised sky light over central atrium
- Multiple moulded and rendered chimneys with pedimented cappings.

Ballroom Wing

- Face red brick walls with stepped recesses forming panels and buttressed pilasters
- Corrugated galvanised steel-clad half-gabled roof.

Stables

- Single storey building with loft at the north end with external hoist

- Face red brick walls with angled plinth and cement render detailing
- Corrugated galvanised steel-clad gabled roof with half-gable to south end
- Rendered brick chimneys with elaborate cornice mouldings and a pair of octagonal stacks at north-west corner
- Rendered keel arch lintels and sills to openings
- Decorative timber brackets and vented circular openings to south gable end
- Timber fretwork and blind arcading to west gable end.

Later alterations and additions are not significant.



How is it significant?

Northbrook House & Stables is of local historical, representative (architectural) and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington.

Why is it significant?

Northbrook House & Stables has strong associations with the establishment of large estates in the municipality by wealthy businessmen during the land boom of the 1880s. The place clearly illustrates this important phase of development in the City of Stonnington (Criterion A).

Northbrook is a fine and highly intact representative example of a large 1880s Victorian house with associated stables building. The single storey house displays typical characteristics of grand Victorian residential architecture, including a symmetrical principal façade with projecting bays, slate-clad hipped roof, rendered brick walls with decorative quoining and frieze, moulded window architraves, front entrance portico with classical detailing, multiple rendered chimneys and central raised skylight. Located to the north of the house, the red brick stables building is of simple gable-roofed form with loft and external hoist (Criterion D).

Northbrook is a well-considered and carefully detailed example of an 1880s Italianate house with associated stables. Together these buildings present a picturesque composition with the rendered brick house, including slate-clad hipped roofs and decorative classical detailing, contrasting with the nearby red brick stables building, with simple but distinctive detailing (Criterion E).

Primary source:

Malvern Heritage Review, GJM Heritage (June 2021)