

Arden, 298 Glenferrie Road, Malvern – Statement of Significance, June 2021

Heritage place: Arden, 298 Glenferrie Road, Malvern
(1-4/298 Glenferrie Road)

PS ref no.: HO677



Figure 1. 298 Glenferrie Road, Malvern (December 2020)

What is significant?

Arden, residential flats at 298 Glenferrie Road, Malvern, built in 1935.

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

- The original external form, materials and detailing of the building
- The building's high level of integrity to its original design
- Asymmetrical massing
- Symmetry across the principal (west) elevation
- Series of complex, terracotta tiled, hipped roof forms with prominent flush gable end to principal (west) elevation
- Decorative face brickwork, including panels to half-timbered rooms along the south elevation
- Decorative features, including half-timbering and 'Arden' nameplate
- Multi-pane, timber-framed, double hung windows

- Tall brick chimneys with corbelling, rendered capping and (modified) tapered chimney pots
- Low original brick garden fence and garden setting.

Later alterations and additions, including the metal pedestrian gates, are not significant.

How is it significant?

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

Why is it significant?

Arden is illustrative of the suburban development of Malvern in the interwar period when a number of residential flats/maisonettes were constructed across the suburb. This type of development was largely a result of increased labour and materials costs following World War I. The impetus for the efficient use of labour and materials led to an increased interest in flat/maisonette development, where shared services and land were considered an attractive prospect for investors. The flats known as Arden clearly illustrate this important phase of development of Malvern and the City of Stonnington more broadly (Criterion A).

Arden is a fine and highly intact representative example of an interwar residential flat development in the City of Stonnington. It displays typical features of this building type from this period in Malvern and across Stonnington more broadly, including a substantial two-storey form set on a large site, communal entrance, setbacks to the street frontage to provide a garden setting for the building, face brick walls with fine detailing, and tile-clad hipped roofs. Arden is notable as a well-resolved example of a residential flat development designed to appear as a single residence, which was a particularly desirable characteristic of this building type in the interwar period (Criterion D).

Arden is a well-considered and carefully detailed example of a residential flat development designed in the Interwar Old English style. Designed and constructed by architect and master builder Lewis Levy, the design – with its complex hipped roof forms and prominent front gable, together with the use of distinctive architectural elements, including half-timbering, herringbone and basketweave brick patterning, clinker brickwork, and multi-pane sash windows, and set within a garden setting – presents a picturesque composition of this architectural style. The matching brick fence contributes to the setting of the place (Criterion E).

Primary sources:

Malvern Heritage Review, GJM Heritage (June 2021)