
41 Dixon Street



41 Dixon Street Malvern.jpg

Location

41 Dixon Street MALVERN, STONNINGTON CITY

Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO590

Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 1900

What is significant?

The villa at 41 Dixon Street, Malvern, is significant. It is a single-storey building set on a slight rise. It has a symmetrical, block-fronted facade, front verandah, and hipped roof. The front wall is of brown Hawthorn bricks with cream brick dressings, while red bricks are used for the side elevations.

The house was built as a rental property in 1894 by Charles Butler, a successful Melbourne builder, brickmaker and contractor in the 1870s to 1890s, and was presumably designed by him.

The house is significant to the extent of its nineteenth-century external form and fabric, particularly the principal (east) facade, the front verandah, and the hipped roof and chimneys.

The sympathetic front fence, faux Victorian carport, and rear extension are not significant.

How is it significant?

The villa at 41 Dixon Street, Malvern is of local architectural and aesthetic significance to the City of Malvern.

Why is it significant?

Architecturally, the villa at 41 Dixon Street, Malvern is a fine and intact representative example of a single-storey Italianate villa built to house the middle-class residents of Malvern, of the sort that began to characterise the suburb in the 1880s and 1890s. The villa exhibits typical features of this type, including the symmetrical plan form, M-profile hipped roof with bracketed eaves, and rendered chimneys with heavy cornices. Bichrome brickwork was popular for houses of the Italianate and other styles from the late 1860s to the 1890s. (Criterion D)

Aesthetically, the villa is distinguished by its high level of intact ornamental detail, particularly the front verandah. It has grouped cast-iron posts with octagonal plinths, a rinceaux-pattern cast-iron frieze and brackets, with arches between paired posts. At the centre is a triangular pediment with a cast-iron infill and finial. Other details of note are the cast-cement ornament to the eaves, and the arched front door which retains extensive ruby-flashed glass. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - City of Stonnington Victorian Houses Study, City of Stonnington, 2016;
Hermes Number	201871
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Physical description

The house at 41 Dixon Street is a double-fronted single-storey Italianate villa that is highly intact. It occupies a somewhat elevated allotment on the west side of Dixon Street, Malvern. The house is set back behind a medium-sized front garden and a sympathetic reproduction

timber picket fence. There is a wide setback on the north side, allowing for a side driveway and associated Victorian-style carport attached to the side of the house.

The house takes the typical form of a symmetrical, block-fronted Italianate villa. Features typical of this type include the M-profile hipped roof with a symmetrical pair of rendered and corniced chimneys, bracketed eaves, a cast-iron embellished front verandah, and symmetrical composition of openings with a central front door and two double-hung sash windows on either side.

The front wall is of tuckpointed brown Hawthorn brick with cream brick quoins to the corners and around the opening, set on a bluestone plinth. The side elevations are of plain red brick. Windows have bluestone sills. The roof retains what appear to be original slates with a central band of green octagonal slates set within rectangular black slates.

The house retains a high level of original detail, with a concentration on the verandah. The eaves have alternating cast brackets and tablet flowers. The front door sits within a round arched opening and has a double arched highlight and sidelights of ruby flashed glass. The front door is four-panelled with fielded panels and bolection mouldings. It is reached via a short flight of bluestone steps. The front verandah has a convex profile hipped roof, with a triangular pediment marking the central entrance. On its apex is a scrolled cast-iron finial, and within the tympanum is more cast-iron ornament. Verandah posts are grouped in threes at the ends, and quadrupled on either side of the entrance. They have an octagonal base transitioning to a slender round shaft. At the juncture between these two sections is a rounded boss with a raised snowflake pattern on it. Capitals are the typical Corinthian type typical of this era. The cast-iron frieze has a traditional rinceaux pattern with integral brackets. Between paired columns, the brackets form a pointed arch.

Apart from the addition of the carport on the north side, the house appears to be externally intact as viewed from the street.

Local Historical Themes

Thematic context

This place illustrates the following themes, as identified in the Stonnington Thematic Environmental History (Context Pty Ltd, rev. 2009):

8.2.1 'Country in the city' - Suburban development in Malvern before WWI

8. Building Suburbs

41 Dixon Street is of historical interest as the work of Charles Butler (1829-1901), notable brickmaker, builder and contractor operating in Melbourne from the 1870s to 1901.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>