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## Melbourne House store



186 Albert Street Sebastopol



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Melbourne House General  
Store - Ballarat Heritage  
Review, 1998

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### Location

186A Albert Street, SEBASTOPOL VIC 3356 - Property No 2000466

### Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO201

### Heritage Listing

Ballarat City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 5, 2024

### What is significant?

Melbourne House at 186A Albert Street, Sebastopol, to the extent of the 1885 fabric. Melbourne House is a two-storey rendered commercial building and combined residence dating from the late Victorian period, with a parapet and verandah to the Albert Street and Birdwood Avenue elevations. The ground floor of the two main elevations is articulated by rusticated piers to the corners and flanking doorways and shop windows. The first floor windows have simple aedicules.

### How is it significant?

Melbourne House is of historic, aesthetic and architectural significance to the City of Ballarat.

### Why is it significant?

Melbourne House is of historical significance as an early surviving commercial building and residence, built during the gold mining era of the town, erected on a prominent corner addressing the main thoroughfare and civic, commercial and social focus of the settlement of Sebastopol. Is it of further significance as the site of commercial activity for over 100 years. (Criterion A)

Melbourne House is of aesthetic significant as a local landmark by virtue of its site on a prominent corner of Albert Street and of its unusual double-storey height. Melbourne House is of architectural significance as a highly intact 19th century commercial building with handsome, high quality detailing and proportions. It is particularly rare for the retention of the original timber shop windows and timber verandah. (Criteria E, D & B)

## Theme

### 5. Building Victoria's industries and workforce

Heritage Study/Consultant Ballarat - Sebastopol Heritage Study (Stage 2), Context Pty Ltd, 2015;

Construction dates 1885,

Hermes Number 120334

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Melbourne House is a handsome two-storey rendered commercial building, made prominent by its height and corner site.

It is square in plan, with the two main elevations - to Albert Street and Birdwood Avenue - surrounded by a wide verandah. The roof is comprised of three parallel hips, running east-west, that are concealed from the two frontages by a parapet. The parapet facing Albert Street is accented by a raised central portion flanked by cast scrolls.

The verandah is timber framed with stop-chamfered timber posts. The verandah roof has a slight convex curve at the top, giving it an elegant line. The verandah frieze is solid timber panels within a stop-chamfered frame (a similar arrangement was used for houses in the 1870s onward, but with an infill of decorative cast iron). The roof framing is also stop-chamfered. The verandah appears to be intact, apart from the recent replacement of the verandah roofing iron.

The ground floor of the two main elevations is articulated by rusticated piers to the corners, and flanking doorways and shop windows. The Albert Street elevation has a generous shop doorway at the centre, flanked by two large nine-pane shop windows. They are timber with deep lambs-tongue muntins, and appear to date from the 19th century. The modern double doors sit below a four-pane highlight.

The ground floor elevation facing Birdwood Avenue is similar, with another nine-pane shop window adjacent to the corner. Set behind it is a former doorway (probably to the private quarters) which has been infilled with a window and ashlar-look timber cladding below. The rear third of this elevation has a domestic-type double-hung sash window (also related to the residence).

At the first floor level, the rusticated piers give way to rendered rustications of the corners. Both main elevations have three symmetrically placed sash windows in simplified aedicules. Above them, on both sides, is a moulded stringcourse and a moulded cornice, which create a band for the raised-letter signage.

The north and west elevations are secondary, and have plain windows, no parapet or rustication. The west elevation has an external render chimney with decorative mouldings at the top. Where the parapet wraps around slightly to the north elevation, remanent of yellow stone coloured limewash, which was popular in the 19th century, are evident. The hipped iron roof is also visible from this side.

There is a modern, single-storey extension to the west elevation, which is set back from the Birdwood Avenue elevation, minimising its visual impact.

*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/>*