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# Irona



Part of a 1918 MMBW plan showing the house and outbuilding at 17 Dundonald Avenue.



A 1975 photograph of the rear of Aldene showing the outbuilding in the foreground.

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## Location

17 Dundonald Avenue MALVERN EAST, Stonnington City

## Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO308

HO308

## Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

This building is a curious combination of a late Victorian Italianate villa combined with an attic gable of an Edwardian character. The main lower level has a low pitched hipped slate roof and a restrained balcony with a cast iron frieze.<sup>1</sup> It has conventional double hung windows and projecting bays, polychrome brick work. The upper

level is far more elaborate. It has cast iron cresting on the ridgeline, three bands of decorative slates and a complex timber fretted detail to the gable end of the attic. The barge boards have an unusual cast iron cresting, the gable end is clad in terracotta shingles and there is an Art Nouveau pattern to the cast iron balustrading beneath the attic casement window. The building has been partially altered, in particular the verandah at the ground floor has lost the verandah brackets and gablet and cast iron pediment over the entry. On the upper level the terracotta shingles have now been painted.

Aldene is of regional significance as an extremely unusual villa that marks the transition between Victorian Italianate and Edwardian design characteristics. The unusual attic and details are of particular note .

Former stables:

The building was not made available for inspection and no accurate assessment of significance could be made. The available documentary and photographic evidence suggest that it is potentially significant as an atypically large and substantially intact outbuilding associated with a notable private residence.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - City of Malvern Heritage Study, Nigel Lewis and Richard Aitken P/L, 1992; Stonnington - Stables and Dairies in the City of Stonnington - Heritage Citations Project, Bryce Raworth Pty Ltd, 2011;
Construction dates	1890,
Other Names	17 Dundonald Avenue, East Malvern, Aldene,
Hermes Number	31329
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

This building is a curious combination of a late Victorian Italianate villa combined with an attic gable of an Edwardian character. The main lower level has a low pitched hipped slate roof and a restrained balcony with a cast iron frieze. It has a conventional double hung windows and projecting bays, polychrome brick work. The upper level is far more elaborate. It has cast iron cresting, the gable end is clad in terracotta shingles and there is an Art Nouveau pattern to the cast iron balustrading beneath the attic casement window. The building has been partially altered, in particular the verandah at the ground floor has lost the verandah brackets and gablet and cast iron pediment over the entry. On the upper level the terracotta shingles have now been painted.

Aldene is set in a large garden with a formal Victorian layout. This design was once relatively common in Melbourne, with an oval lawn in front of the house and axial paths on both sides of the house. It also retains mature shrubs and trees and an early hedged picket fence and it appears to be relatively intact.

A reasonably large rectangular plan outbuilding is located to immediate rear of the house. According to the current owner, the outbuilding contained stables, a laundry and servants accommodation. It is entirely concealed from public view and no opportunity was provided to inspect the outbuilding as part of this study. Aerial photographs show a corrugated iron gable roof and a brick chimney. A small part of the outbuilding can also be seen in a 1975 photograph. It appears from this that the outbuilding has a verandah on the east side supported by timber posts or log poles.

## Local Historical Themes

8.4.2 Functional, eccentric and theatrical - experimentation and innovation in architecture 8.2.2 'Country in the city' - suburban development in Malvern before 1920

The outbuilding at the rear of Aldene is understood to contain stables and therefore potentially illustrates the theme '4.3.2 Changing Modes of Transport - from horses to motor vehicles, as explained in the *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (Context Pty Ltd, 2006). Further investigation of the site is required to determine which historical themes are most appropriate.

#### 4.3.2 Changing Modes of Transport - from horses to motor vehicles

### **Physical Description 2**

Aldene is set in a large garden with mature shrubs and trees and an early hedged picket fence. A reasonably large rectangular plan outbuilding is located to immediate rear of the house. According to the current owner, the outbuilding contained stables, a laundry and servants accommodation. It is entirely concealed from public view and no opportunity was provided to inspect the outbuilding as part of this study. Aerial photographs show a corrugated iron gable roof and a brick chimney. A small part of the outbuilding can also be seen in a 1975 photograph (see figure 3 above). It appears from this that the outbuilding has a verandah on the east side supported by timber posts or log poles.

*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/>*