

**Ardblair, 518 Rathdowne St, Carlton North, VIC, Australia**

**Photographs:**



**List:** Register of the National Estate

**Class:** Historic

**Legal Status:** [Registered](#) (21/10/1980)

**Place ID:** 15680

**Place File No:** 2/11/033/0390

**Nominator's Statement of Significance:**

A narrow, but handsome and well preserved terrace house, with cast iron open-box form balcony and frieze of fern pattern, together with palisade fence, all from Phoenix Foundry. Used as a Police Station from 1893-1915.

**Official Values:** Not Available

**Description:**

Exterior: the fence and gate are from the local Phoenix Foundry (Elizabeth Street), as are the cast iron balcony and frieze based on an Australian fern motif. The balcony has a rare bay-curve at either end flanked by half size panels and the arched lace-work is designed to fit the particularly narrow site. Ground floor: the front sitting room is ornamented with elaborate plaster work and an Italianate fireplace of white and grey marble; behind it is the original dining room with a black marble fireplace (all fireplaces in Ardblair are of individual design) and scullery. The corridor, especially its ceiling, is enriched with lavish plaster work typical of the house, e.g. tiny cherubs opposite the stairwell. Behind the stairs is the servants' sitting room (now a study) with brick-floored wine cellar below it; then a drop of three bluestone steps to the original kitchen and back porch (now a summer dining room). The kitchen retains its tongue-in-groove ceiling and wood range made by Cox and Company, Lonsdale Street. Upstairs: a small back bedroom and boxroom, bathroom, master bedroom and drawing room from which full-length windows open onto the balcony. Of particular interest are the cornices, borders and pierced centre-moulding of the front room. Plasterwork throughout the house has been repaired by a Turin-trained craftsman, Mariano Fiorentino; the drawing room, its ceiling badly cracked, was restored in February 1973.

**History:** Not Available

**Condition and Integrity:**

Good.

**Location:**

518 Rathdowne Street, Carlton North.

**Bibliography:**

NATIONAL TRUST FILE.