Place name:	*Dunesk*
Address:	11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds
Place typology:	Residential
Construction date range:	Circa 1884
Architectural style:	Victorian Italianate
Assessment:	heritage ALLIANCE, May 2021
Recommendation:	That the place be included in the heritage overlay schedule

Photo of place:



11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds. Photograph, heritage ALLIANCE, May 2021.

Statement of Significance:

What is significant?

11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds is an asymmetrical brick Victorian Italianate villa, built circa 1884. The ornamental brick façade was once polychrome, but the decorative quoining and patterned brickwork has now been overpainted, removing some of the decorative detail. The significant features of the house includes:

- Single storey asymmetrical form with projecting faceted bay to one side, a corner hipped bay with canted bay window and a hipped bay to the side.
- M-profile hipped slate roof with fishscale patterning and an unusual metal filigree cresting and finials; under eave brackets and toothed metal fascia trim; three rendered corbelled chimneys with brackets and moulding.
- The convex corrugated iron return verandah (which has been straightened) and cast-iron frieze and twisted cast-iron posts.
- Original fenestration pattern, window and door joinery.

How is it significant?

11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds is of local architectural (representative) and historic significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

Why is it significant?

11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds is of local historical significance as the house that belonged for many years to the family of Duncan Smith who were notable local residents, members of the Presbyterian church, and some of the first occupiers to build houses in this part of Moonee Ponds. (Criterion A)

11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds was built for the Smith family and is significant as a polychrome brick asymmetrical Victorian Italianate residence. It demonstrates the villa typology of the period and is an early and quite decorative example that has had some reversible modifications. It demonstrates the attributes of the Victorian Italianate style through its form, fabric and decorative details. It demonstrates the asymmetrical form with three projecting faceted bays, return verandah with cast-iron frieze and posts. The M-profile hipped slate roof was recently replaced. (Criterion D)

Description:

11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds is an asymmetrical double fronted Victorian Italianate villa.

The house has an M-profile hipped slate roof with fish-scale patterning across the front façade. It has metal capping and an unusual filigree metal cresting with finials. This roof replaced a tile roof and the metal cresting might also be a replacement. It isn't known if this was an original detail. There is a toothed moulding to the fascia.

The asymmetrical form is expressed by a projecting hipped bay to one side with a canted bay window. There is a projecting faceted bay to the other corner with the verandah roof over, and another projecting faceted bay to the side. The return verandah is made of corrugated iron and has an unusual straight form, as it passes around the faceted bay. It should be a roof that follows the faceted walls of the bay under the string course like 10 Athol Street, Moonee Ponds.

The walls of the villa are red and black brick, but it most probably had cream brick quoining, that has now unfortunately been over painted grey. This has removed some of the decorative details of the Italianate style. The patterning that is obscured by the paintwork includes diaper patterns between the under eave brackets and implied quoining to the corners. This paintwork should be removed.

The windows are all timber double hung sashes and the door is moulded timber with barleycorn architraves to the sidelights and fanlight. There is a fountain or sculpture attached to the front wall of the house under the verandah. It is assumed that this is not original.

The intactness of the house has been reduced with the painting of the polychrome brickwork and the straightening of the verandah roof but these are recoverable with some careful restoration.

History:

Contextual History

City of Moonee Valley occupies part of the Traditional lands of the Wurundjeri-willam clan of the Woi-wurrung people. Many sites in the area now known as City of Moonee Valley show evidence of Woi-wurrung activities and spiritual connections. Fish were trapped in the rivers and creeks, stone was quarried from the river edges, murnong daisy was collected and kangaroos hunted across grassland areas, and bark was harvested from trees in the river valleys. This relationship between the Woi-wurrung and the land, water, animals and plants, continues to this day (Living Histories, *Thematic Environmental History*, 2012: p.29).

The first Europeans to explore the area known as Moonee Valley was a surveyor, Charles Grimes in 1803. In 1836, settlers moving from Van Diemen's Land crossed the area in the hope of finding empty, cheap and plentiful land for sheep. By 1842, surveyors had created the first map of the Parish of Doutta Galla and then Woi-wurrung lands were offered for sale by the British Crown to Europeans (noting that the land was never ceded). The Wurundjeri were moved off their land which had a profound impact on their culture, health and language. By 1860, the entire parish was sold (Living Histories, *Thematic Environmental History*, 2012: p.32-33).

Early development of the area began with the goldrush period of the 1850s which saw Mount Alexander Road used as a thoroughfare to the diggings with over 30,000 people estimated as moving along the dirt road each week. Businesses and shops sprang up providing sustenance, transport and accommodation to service the passing gold rush trade. Some very early wayside hotels and shops still survive from this period (Living Histories *Thematic Environmental History*, 2012: p. 51-54).

After the heady days of the goldrush, the 1860s saw Essendon, Ascot Vale, Moonee Ponds and Flemington develop into permanent townships. The development of railways by private companies gave huge impetus to suburban development of the area with the opening of the Essendon railway in 1860. The government purchased the line in 1868. Suburban trains terminated at Essendon and it wasn't until 1889 that Ascot Vale, Moonee Ponds and Newmarket stations were completed. By 1893 stations opened at Strathmore and Pascoe Vale and in 1922 Glenbervie Station opened. The railways provided an enormous boost to residential development along the line and those who had previously moved to areas without trains, now clamoured for them (Living Histories, *Thematic Environmental History*, 2012: p.59).

By the 1880s Essendon had become a Borough and by 1891 had a population of 14,411. Many subdivisions occurred during the land boom of the 1880s and many failed to eventuate due to the depression of the 1890s. In the interwar period a boom in subdivision and residential infill occurred in Travancore, Essendon, Ascot Vale, Strathmore and Moonee Ponds, which was focused on new transport routes along the tram lines, first established to Essendon in 1905. In 1919 the Melbourne and Metropolitan Tramways Board was formed and lines were extended and improved. The tram lines saw development occur either side of Maribyrnong Road, further along Mt Alexander Road, Buckley Street and Keilor Road (Living Histories, *Thematic Environmental History*, 2012: p.65-68; p.115).

In the three decades after the Second World War, Melbourne's suburbs ballooned outward to cater for post-war migration, the baby boom, an increasing need for new housing, and a more car-centred economy. Areas to the north of Essendon had been open paddocks in 1945, but by 1950 the Shire of Keilor found themselves with a developing suburb with no name. It was later called Niddrie. Similarly, Airport West was developing quickly with houses being built before the roads. By 1964 it was claimed that Airport West had the cheapest cream brick veneers in Melbourne (Living Histories, *Thematic Environmental History*, 2012: p.120-121).

Many houses in these post-war areas were austere weatherboard or brick veneer bungalows, with a few scattered architect designed or project homes on new blocks, particularly along the Boulevard in Aberfeldie. These post-war housing areas

were car-centred communities located close to industry along Keilor Road, Matthews Avenue around Essendon Airport and East Keilor. By 1960 Airport West had its first hotel, the famous Skyways Hotel and then in the 1970s the first shopping centre, owned by Westfield was begun (Heritage ALLIANCE, *Gap Heritage Study*, 2005: p.28-30).

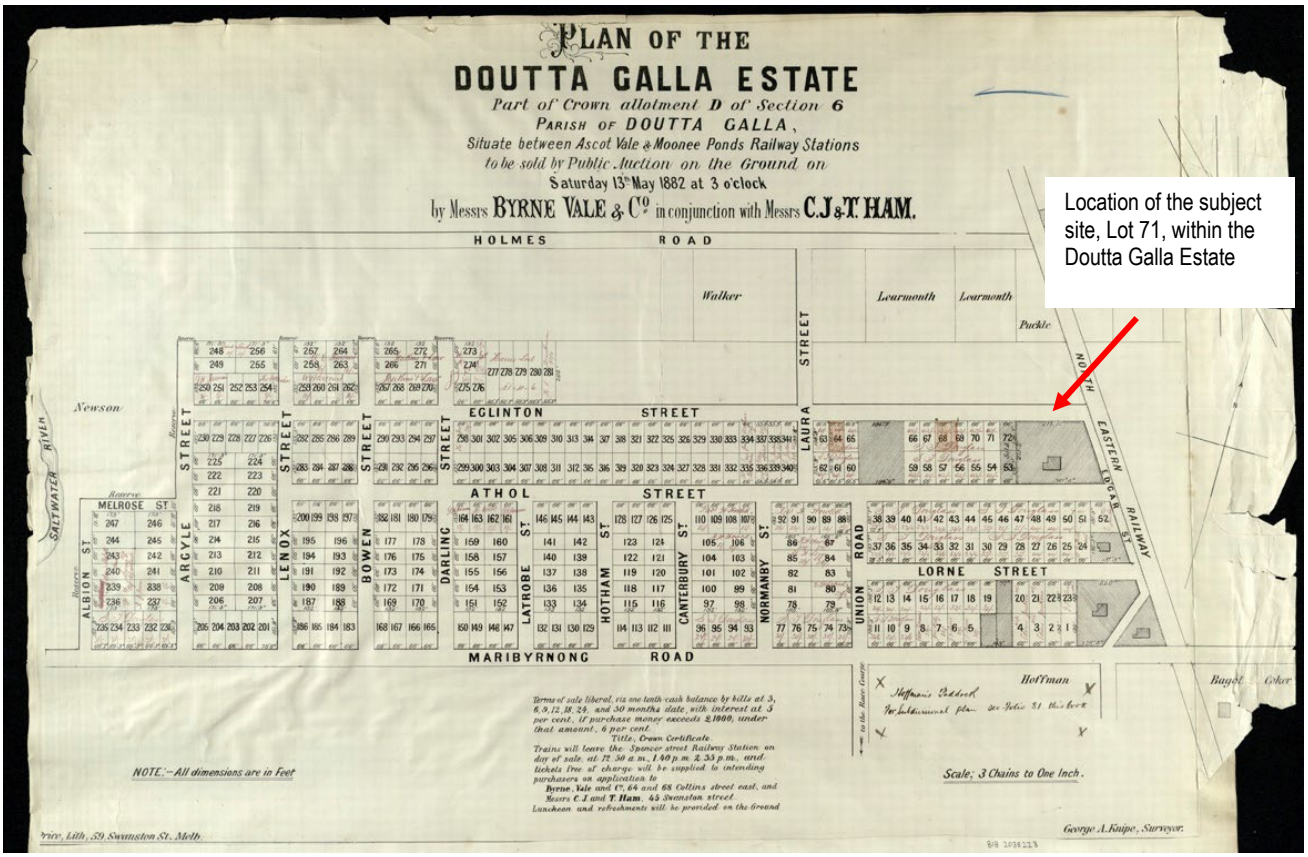
Post-war housing pressure also saw a huge investment by the Housing Commission of Victoria who developed 150 bungalows in concrete, weatherboard and brick in Aberfeldie. They then began an ambitious estate of houses and flats on a 77 acre site at Ascot Vale in 1949. These low-rise walk-up flats eventually gave rise to the high-rise flats of Flemington which opened in June 1965 (Living Histories, *Thematic Environmental History*, 2012: p.123).

Many post-war migrants bought or built houses in the outer areas of the municipality, close to employment and industry and where new, cheaper housing was readily available. These developments and public housing in Aberfeldie, Ascot Vale and Flemington have had a long-lasting effect on the nature of the Moonee Valley community which today is one of the most diverse and vibrant in Melbourne (Living Histories, *Thematic Environmental History*, 2012: p.124).

Place history

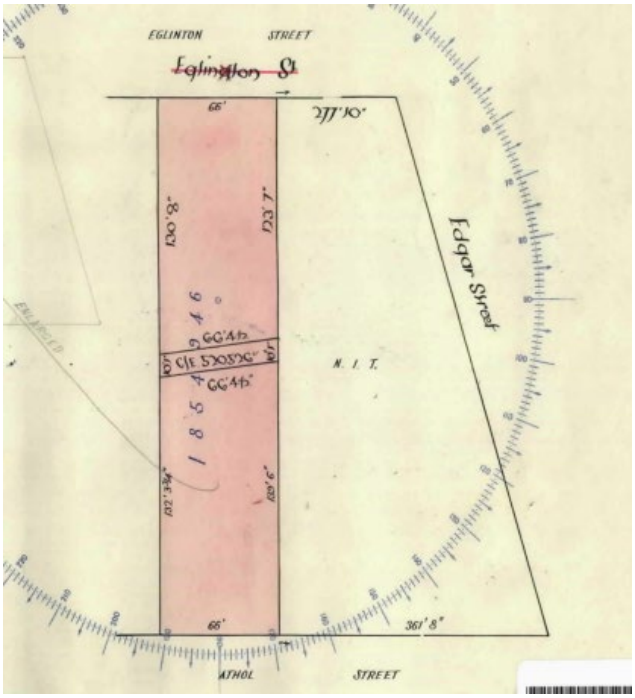
The house at 11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds was constructed c.1884 for eminent ship chandler Duncan Fraser (1836-1917) and wife Betsy Smith (Land Title, Vol 1520, Folio 891; *The Argus*, 31 March 1917, p.16).

The land, part of Crown allotment D, section 6 in the Parish of Doutta Galla, was originally acquired from the Crown by William Fletcher in 1849 (Doutta Galla Parish Plan, Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV) VPRS 16171/P1/2). In the 1840s, a portion of the land along the railway, between Holmes and Maribyrnong Roads was purchased by Andrew Wright of Essendon (Andrew Ward, "Nursing Home: Anna House," 1998; *The Argus*, 6 Jan 1880, p.2). Referred to as the Doutta Galla Estate, it was subdivided in the early 1880s (*The Argus*, 6 Jan 1880, p.2). The subdivision was first surveyed and 239 allotments were advertised for auction in 1880 (*The Age*, 26 Aug 1880, p.4). However, it appears that the sale did not take place until May 1882 at which time 300 villa sites were advertised (*The Herald*, 3 May 1882, p.4). The subject site is depicted in the 1882 auction poster as lot 71 with a frontage to Eglinton Street (Knipe, "Plan of the Doutta Galla Estate," State Library of Victoria, 1882). It appears that this site, along with lot 53 and the site situated along Edgar Street, were sold prior to the auction as they are greyed out (Knipe, "Plan of the Doutta Galla Estate," State Library of Victoria, 1882).



Knipe, George A., "Plan of the Doutta Galla Estate, part of Crown allotment D of section 6, parish of Doutta Galla," State Library of Victoria, 1882.

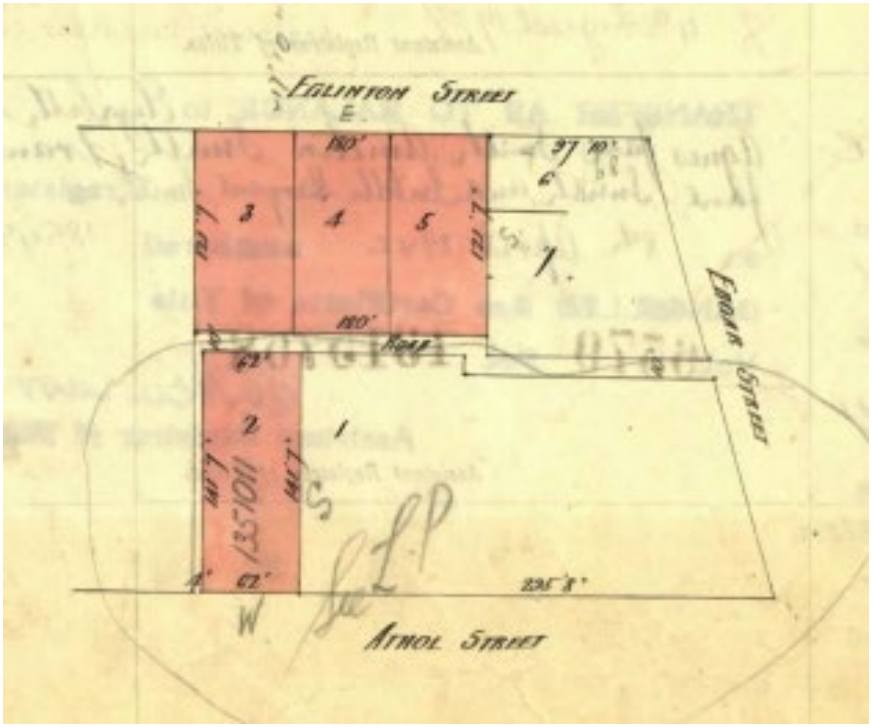
The land title, dated 1883, shows that Duncan Smith purchased both lot 71 and 53 upon which he erected the house at 11 Eglinton Street, which he named "Dunesk (Land Title, Vol 1520, Folio 891; *The Argus*, 31 March 1917, p.16)." Smith was a partner of Inglis, Smith & Co., ironmongers and ship chandlers, which was founded in 1858 (*The Argus*, 31 March 1917, p.16; Ward, 2012: p. 6). The business was located along Flinders and Spencer Streets at 520-522 Flinders Street, Melbourne, facing the Coles Wharf and Raleigh's ferry crossing, where it operated for several decades (Butler, *Central City Heritage Review, 2011*: p.322-323). Smith maintained a residence near the business at 12 Hawke Street, West Melbourne until 1884, when it was advertised for sale (*The Age*, 22 Nov 1884, p.3). Advertisements note the proximity of the Hawke Street residence to Spencer Street, and this may have also had a factor in Smith's purchase of land in the Doutta Galla Estate (*The Age*, 22 Nov 1884, p.3), as at the time of the 1882 subdivisional sale, advertisements noted that the Doutta Galla Estate was within walking distance of the station "and as the Spencer Street railway station is to be connected with Hobson's Bay terminus passengers will be brought direct into the heart of the city (*The Herald*, 3 May 1882, p.4)."



Extract from Land Title, Vol. 1520, Folio 891.

The sale of his Hawke Street residence also indicates that the house at 11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds "Dunesk," was likely constructed by this time. The *Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) plan* of 1904 shows the residence, labelled no. 25, with the large, 10 roomed villa fronting Eglinton Street and a tennis court at the rear along its Athol Street frontage (MMBW plan no. 1612, 1904). In 1906, the laneway shown on the 1904 MMBW plan along Edgar Street was extended through the property connecting it with another laneway on the western side of the property (Land Title, Vol 1520, Folio 891; Vol 6579, Folio 767).

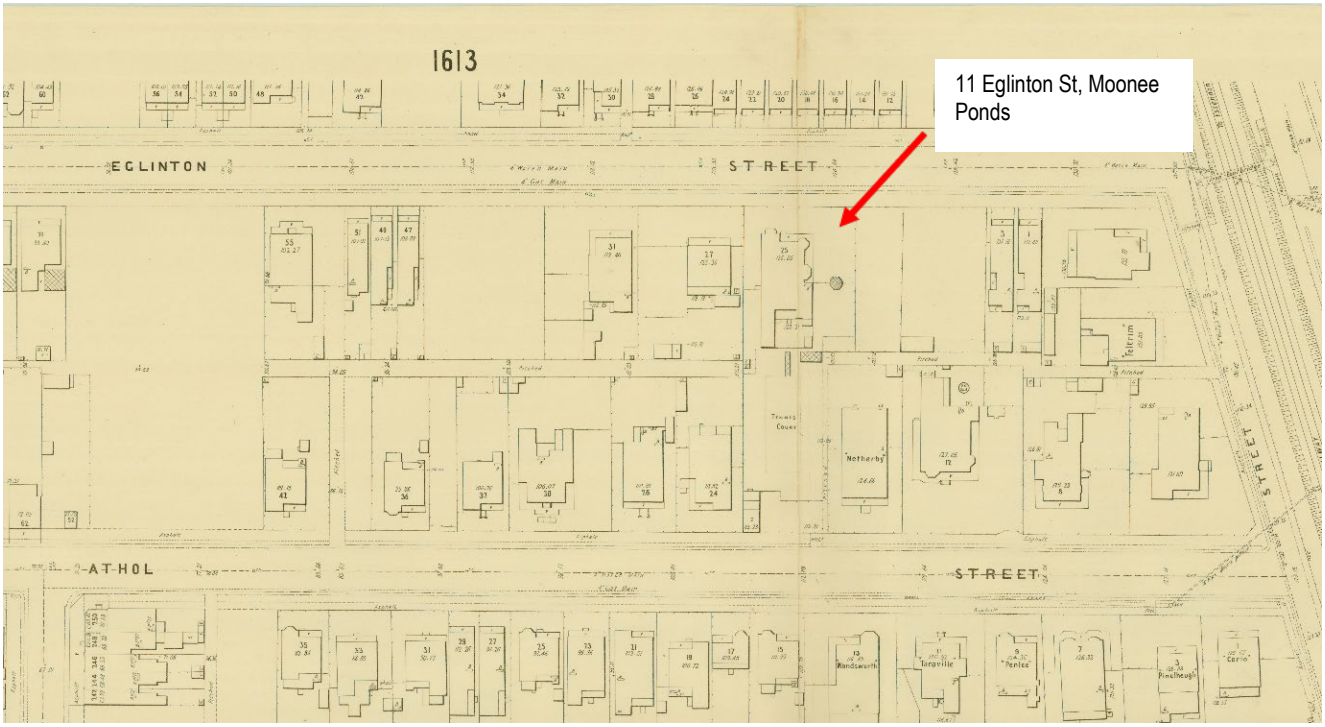
The name "Dunesk" refers to the Smith family's historic home in Lasswade, Scotland, known as Dunesk House (Roland Ward, *The Smith of Dunesk Mission*, 2012: p.6). As documented by historian Rowland S. Ward, Dunesk House was the residence of Henrietta and Peter Smith, Smith's great-aunt and uncle (Roland Ward, *The Smith of Dunesk Mission*, 2012: p.6). Smith's father, Peter, had moved to Australia in 1824, setting up residence in Hobart at a house he also named "Dunesk (Roland Ward, *The Smith of Dunesk Mission*, 2012: p.6)." Smith's great-aunt Henrietta Smith never left Scotland but is best known for her namesake the Presbyterian mission she financed, Smith of Dunesk. Duncan Smith was likely to have known about this mission, as Ward notes, but has no direct connection to it (Roland Ward, *The Smith of Dunesk Mission*, 2012: p.6). However, Duncan Smith did help to establish the former Ascot Vale Presbyterian Church, which dedicated a plaque in his honour in 1917 (*Flemington Spectator*, 20 Dec 1917, p.2).



Exert from Land Title, Vol. 1921, Folio 089.

Around 1887, Smith purchased land adjacent to "Dunesk," as part of the subdivision of "Tyntynda," 10 Athol Street (HO155) (Land Title, Vol 1921, Folio 089; Probate: Duncan Smith, Public Records Office Victoria (PROV), VPRS 28/P3, 150/597). Advertising, in conjunction with the land title, shows that Smith purchased all available lots with the exception of lot 1, on which "Tyntynda" remained in situ (Andrew Ward, "Nursing Home: Anna House," 1998; Land Title, Vol 1921, Folio 089; *The Age*, 2 June 1888, p.2). In 1888, Smith sold the site on the corner of Eglinton and Edgar Streets (*The Age*, 2 June 1888, p.2). It appears that the sale was used to finance the construction of rental properties on the remaining sites (Probate: Duncan Smith, PROV, VPRS 28/P3, 150/597). These properties include the single-front, brick cottages at 1 and 3 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds as well as *Netherby*, 12 Athol Street, circa 1900 (HO156) (Probate: Duncan Smith, PROV, VPRS 28/P3, 150/597; *MMBW Plan no. 1612*, 1904). At the time of Smith's death in 1917, the remaining lots were still vacant (*The Age*, 20 June 1917, p.7).

Smith's wife, Betsy, continued to reside at 11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds along with their four daughters who went on to inherit the residence in 1929 (Probate: Duncan Smith, PROV VPRS 28/P3, 150/597; Land Title, Vol 6579, Folio 767). By this time, the rental properties and vacant sites were sold (Probate: Betsy Smith, PROV, VPRS 28/P3, 229/859). 11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds would remain in the Smith family until 1942, when the last of Duncan and Betsy's daughters passed (Land Title, Vol 6579, Folio 767). However, it appears that the land was not subdivided until 1962, when a new title was issued showing that the property no longer extended to Athol Street (Land Title, Vol 8417, Folio 756).



Part of Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works detail plan 1612 showing 11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds, numbered 25 on the plan. Note that the land extends through to the tennis court on Athol Street.

Sources:

Primary Sources

The Age
The Argus
Doutta Galla Parish Plan, Public Records Office Victoria
Flemington Spectator
The Herald
Land Titles, LANDATA
Melbourne and Metropolitan Boards of Works Plans, State Library of Victoria
Plan of the Doutta Galla Estate, State Library of Victoria
Probates and Wills, Public Records Office Victoria

Secondary Sources

Andrew Ward, citation for "Nursing Home: Anna House," 1998
Graeme Butler, Central City Heritage Review, 2011
Roland S. Ward, *The Smith of Dunesk Mission: Forerunner of the Australian Inland Mission*, 2012

Thematic Context:

City of Moonee Valley Thematic Environmental History, 2012

6. Building Towns, Cities, and the Garden State

6.7 Making Homes for Victorians

Comparative Analysis:

Victorian Italianate in Moonee Valley

During the boom years during the 1880s, the City of Moonee Valley saw increased residential development through subdivision of large estates. Often demonstrating the early phase of the suburban expansion near the railway lines or arterial roads, Victorian-era houses in Moonee Valley are mostly single-storey Italianate style villas, with some examples of mansions, double-storey villas, single- and double-storey terraces and detached cottages. Most are built of brick, with one timber example evident.

The Italianate style is a revival in the mid-nineteenth century of earlier Italian architectural forms and details, especially those from the time of the Renaissance, which were in themselves a revival and reappraisal of Greek and most importantly Roman architecture. The Italianate style was also associated, but less commonly in Victoria and chiefly in the 1840s to 1860s but with lingering influence, with a revival of building forms of vernacular Italian rural buildings, particularly in their use of asymmetrical massing and towers producing a picturesque effect.

The Italianate style as applied to domestic architecture in Victoria favoured simple building forms, sometimes enlivened by bays and towers, with sheer wall surfaces in face brick (often di-chrome or polychrome) or cement render generally incorporating quoining (often as surface decoration if not necessarily structural need).

Decoration in the Italianate style derived from Roman precedents and included elements from Classical entablatures and architectural orders, including a hierarchy of architraves, friezes, and cornices with associated moulding, panels, and brackets, applied to eaves, parapets and chimneys.

Eclectic touches were often married to the Italianate style, including Romanesque, Gothic, or stilted segmental arch-headed fenestration, incongruous replication of masonry features in timber, and excessive ornament that characterised the Boom style of the late nineteenth century.

The Italianate style is well represented in the Moonee Valley Heritage Overlay. Individually significant examples included detached villas (both symmetrical and asymmetrical in plan), terrace houses and mansions. Typically, they are set within a garden with a low front fence at the street frontage. Detailing ranges from modest to elaborate, typically including features from the era including cast-iron verandah friezes and posts and polychrome masonry to the front façade. The level of intactness of the Victorian-era Italianate villas in the City of Moonee Valley is moderate to very high (Context, *2017 Heritage Study, Vol. 2*, 2021: p.242-243).

	Photos Google Streetview and heritage ALLIANCE
55 Holmes Road, Moonee Ponds (HO322), circa 1898: Located on the corner of Laura Street. This house is similar to 11 Eglinton with two projecting faceted bays, return verandah and metal filigree cresting on a slate roof. The property has dichromatic brickwork and arched windows and ornate cast-iron verandah frieze and posts. The level of detail is similar but the decorative scheme of Eglinton Street is earlier, whereas the arched windows and part verandah has elements of the later Italianate Survival style.	
10 Athol Street, Moonee Ponds (HO155), circa 1886. This bluestone and brick villa with a very ornate design and extensive use of cast-iron frieze and balustrading. This house was built to the rear of 11 Eglinton Street, two years after it was built and has similarities in the faceted bays, verandah over the bays, polychrome brick, slate roof and asymmetrical form. It gives an idea of what 11	

Eglinton Street would look like if the paint was removed from the brickwork.	
89 Primrose Street, Essendon (HO505), is a late Victorian era Italianate villa built in 1892, is a richly decorated and intact example of the Italianate style with its asymmetrical form and projecting bays, walls of polychrome brick, slate roof, patterned chimneys and decorative detail in encaustic tile panels beneath the windows. It possesses a relatively high integrity with very few changes visible to original or early elements of the place. This house is far more intact and unusual than 11 Eglinton Street but is also a lot later and has the later elements of arched windows and part verandahs that became common in the Federation period.	
23 Brown Avenue, Ascot Vale (HO392), circa 1891 has polychrome brickwork with implied quoining and diaper patterns to under eaves and walls and chimneys. Two projecting faceted bays and a slate roof with a part, return verandah It is not as early as 11 Eglinton Street but is a close comparison in size, detail, and intactness with 11 Eglinton Street.	

Recommendation:

That 11 Eglinton Street, Moonee Ponds be included in the Heritage Overlay schedule.

Schedule:

External Paint Controls	Yes
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Solar Energy Controls	Yes
Fences and Outbuildings	No
Prohibited Uses	No
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No