

## 10 Ardmillan Road, Moonee Ponds Statement of Significance

Heritage Place:	Gowrie	PS ref no:	HO513
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*'Gowrie' at 10 Ardmillan Road, Moonee Ponds (source: Context, April 2018)*

### What is significant?

'Gowrie', a substantial single-storey Edwardian Queen Anne brick villa with an earlier Victorian rear wing, at 10 Ardmillan Road, Moonee Ponds, is significant. It was built in several stages, the first of which was a bichrome brick house of c1878. From c1881 to 1898 the property was owned by Scotman Douglas Elder, who named it 'Gowrie'. Elder extended the house c1895, which may have comprised the current front two rooms and façade, though some sources put the front façade as c1902-05.

Significant elements include the:

- Surviving fabric of its Victorian origins (still visible in parts of the external walls and part of its built form), the Edwardian building and roof forms (and possibly the roof form of the central Victorian section), and verandah to the front section;
- unpainted face brick walls of the front section and remnants of the external walls of the earlier section, return verandah, turned timber posts, timber fretwork and brackets, original and early chimneys; and
- verandah ornamentation, bay window and associated half-timbered gable, window and door joinery and leaded glass.

The contemporary extension to the rear of the property are not significant.

### **How is it significant?**

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10 Ardmillan Road is of local historic, architectural (representative), and aesthetic significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

### **Why is it significant?**

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'Gowrie' is of historical significance for the retention of a c1878 bichrome brick house at its middle, one of a small number of 1870s houses to survive in the City of Moonee Ponds, constructed prior to the suburban development of the 1880s and later. It was still new enough to warrant extension instead of demolition when the current front rooms and façade were added around the turn of the century. (Criterion A)

'Gowrie' is of architectural significance as a notable example of the Queen Anne style, incorporating characteristic forms and details including picturesque massing, prominent red brick chimneys, dominant roof form, half-timbering to the gable ends, return verandah with turned timber posts and ornamental timber fretwork and brackets. The integrity of the building is enhanced by the high level of intactness of these main elements, including the retention of original window and door joinery, leaded glazing and unpainted face brick walls. It is particularly distinguished aesthetically by the accomplished massing and exquisite detail of the front façade, particularly the oriel window with its floriated bas-relief above windows of rich Art Nouveau leadlights. A similar quality of leadlights windows are seen around the front door. (Criteria D & E)

### **Primary source**

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