

## H1706 Dodgshun House 9 Brunswick Street FITZROY

### Permit application P27682

#### **Why is Dodgshun House of heritage significance?**

Dodgshun House is included in the Victorian Heritage Register under the provisions of the *Heritage Act 1995* for its historical, social and architectural importance to the State of Victoria..

The site on which Dodgshun House (formerly Edensor) now stands is of great historical and social significance as the birth place of Mary Mackillop. Mary Mackillop, later pronounced Blessed Mary Mackillop, who was born at 9 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, in 1842. In 1866, at the age of 24, Mary Mackillop established the first Josephite school in Penola and by the time of her death in 1909 at the age of 67 had instituted a 650 strong order, teaching over 12,000 children throughout Australia. The beatification of Mary Mackillop occurred in 1995 when Pope John Paul II pronounced her to be "Blessed", the final stage before sainthood. While the Cottage in which she was born has long since disappeared, possibly incorporated into the fabric of Dodgshun House, 9 Brunswick Street Fitzroy has become historically and socially significant as a site of great religious pilgrimage.

Dodgshun House (formerly Edensor) is of historical importance for its association with Samuel Gillott, a prominent lawyer and politician who was elected Mayor in 1900, holding office for two terms. In 1901, the year of Federation, Gillott was knighted by the visiting Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York and his office distinguished by the title Lord Mayor. Gillott made 9 Brunswick Street his home c.1864, building Edensor to provide "all the convenience of a town residence combined with the quiet of a country house". The house, with its fence and gatehouse, is of significance as one of the few large residences surviving in the area.

Dodgshun House (formerly Edensor) is of architectural significance for its side elevation which is a fine example of late Classicism with a distinctively-composed series of bays. The house is a representative example of townhouse composition and is finely decorated. The house's significance is accentuated by the fact that the front fence is original and parts of the garden survive.

#### **What was the permit application for?**

The permit application proposed works comprising part of the St Vincent's Private Hospital redevelopment project and affects several existing buildings. With respect to Dodgshun House, the application proposed:

- Demolition of a section of brick wall along the southern boundary of Dodgshun House, a small portable outbuilding to the rear of Dodgshun House (c.2012) and an existing car park in the south western corner of the Dodgshun House site;
- Part development on registered land of a new eleven-storey hospital building to the south and south-west of Dodgshun House, including a new two-level basement, three-storey podium to Brunswick Street at a variety of setbacks from Edensor and the street, the northernmost section of the new hospital tower, a stairwell located in the south-western corner of the Dodgshun House curtilage and a lightweight link connecting the new build to Dodgshun House.

### **Why has the permit been approved?**

The *Heritage Act 1995* requires the Executive Director to consider various matters in determining a permit application including the extent that the application, if approved, would affect the cultural heritage significance of the place; the extent that refusal would affect the reasonable or economic use of the place; and any submissions received in response to public notice of the permit application.

On 29 March 2019, the Executive Director approved the permit application as it was assessed that that:

- the proposed part demolition of the boundary wall and development on registered land will not unacceptably compromise the historical, social or architectural heritage significance of Dodgshun House. The potential impacts were mitigated through landscaping that enhances and reinforces the setting and interpretation of Dodgshun House, an increased setback of the proposed development to Dodgshun House, deletion of the cantilevered upper levels over the garden and revised Brunswick Street podium.
- The proposed new tower will have limited visibility at pedestrian level.
- The building and garden will be retained in their entirety and permit conditions require conservation works to built fabric, interpretation of heritage significance and archaeological investigation in recognition of the history of the site, including the location of Mary McKillop's birthplace.

### **What are the conditions of the permit?**

The permit requires

1. An Historical Archaeological Assessment report that identifies whether the works may impact any potentially significant historical archaeological remains. If the report identifies potential impact on significant historical archaeological remains, a historical archaeological program must be approved in writing by, and completed to the satisfaction of, the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria.
2. Financial Security in the form of a Bank Guarantee for the estimated cost of the conservation works required by the permit conditions.
3. The engagement of a heritage consultant to oversee the permit conditions.
4. A Construction Management Plan to ensure protection of the heritage fabric whilst the works are being undertaken.
5. An archival quality photographic survey of Dodgshun House and its setting.
6. Final construction drawings which must show details of the proposed new link structure between Dodgshun House and the new building.
7. Final materials and finishes for the exterior of the podium and tower
8. A costed Conservation Schedule of external conservation and repair works to Dodgshun House and the brick boundary wall prepared by the consultant and which must be undertaken as part of the permit.
9. A Heritage Interpretation Plan
10. A landscape plan
11. Signage and lighting details.