

'ARMADALE HOUSE'  
117 Kooyong Road, Armadale



Recommendations It is recommended that this building be added to the Register of Historic Buildings, retained on the Register of the National Estate and be protected using the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

Current Assessments 'Armadale House' is included on the Register of the National Estate and recorded by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria).

History and Description 'Armadale House' originally located within extensive landscaped gardens and now on a reduced site at 117 Kooyong Road, Armadale, was erected in 1876 as the suburban residence of Scottish born businessman and prominent public figure, James Munro. The designer of the two-storey brick and stucco Italianate mansion, traditionally arranged and complete with cast iron balcony verandah, remains unrecorded.

Significance 'Armadale House' is of historic importance as the long established residence of the controversial James Munro, self-made businessman, temperance leader, ill fated speculator, politician and Premier of Victoria at the height of the notorious land boom in 1891. The characteristic and unpretentious structure is a typical Melbourne suburban mansion of the 1870s and of local architectural importance.

Intactness The integrity of the exterior of 'Armadale House' has been affected by the late erection of a large and inappropriate neo-classical port-cochere and by recent painting of the facade. The interior has been completely modified to facilitate day school operation.

References

- National Trust of Australia (Victoria), File No. 2022 'Research into 117 Kooyong Road, Armadale' March 1977.
- City of Prahran, Rate Books, 1875-1941.
- Mitchell, Anne M., 'James Munro' in Pike, Douglas (ed), Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol. 5, pp 313-314

Sutherland, A (et al) Victoria and its Metropolis, McCarron Bird,  
Melbourne 1888. Vol. II p. 493, for details of Hon James  
Munro MLA.

Cannon, Land Boom and Bust, Heritage Melbourne 1972, chap. 33,  
James Munro and his Clan', pp. 242-251.

(National Estate citation reprinted with permission of the  
Australian Heritage Commission)