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# TRAVANCORE SPECIAL SCHOOL TODDLERS' BLOCK (FORMER)



Travancore Special School  
Toddlers' Block



Travancore Special School  
Toddlers' Block



Travancore Special School  
c1950s



Travancore School.jpg



Travancore Special School  
Toddlers' Block



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## Location

26-68 FLEMINGTON STREET, TRAVANCORE, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO444

## Heritage Listing

Moonee Valley City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

### What is significant?

The former Travancore Special School Toddlers' Block, designed by Percy Everett and constructed in 1939-40, at 26-38 Flemington Street, Travancore is significant. Constructed of brick with a gable roof, the building is an unusual mixture of Moderne and Old English styles. The Moderne style is demonstrated by the strong symmetry of the design, the treatment of the windows (variously curved, tall and narrow or corner with horizontal glazing bars), and the projecting flat-roofed sections at the outside end of each wing. This is combined with the distinctive Old English detailing to the gable ends to create a hybrid of two very popular styles of the 1930s. In plan, the building comprises two long wings in a shallow 'v' on either side of a central entrance pavilion, which is marked on the east elevation by a gable placed between projecting minor hip roofs and above a flat-roofed porch hood. Large curved window bays on either side connect back to the projecting wings. There is a similar curved-wall form on the west side of the building. The walls are constructed of brick, with dark brown bricks forming a plinth and red bricks to the upper walls. The gables to the central pavilion and at the north and south ends of the arms of the 'v' are finished in highly decorative *fachwerk*, combining multi-coloured brick bats in a herringbone pattern with vertical and curved half timbering. The roof is clad in glazed tiles, in the mottled finish popular in the 1930s.

Non-original alterations and additions to the building are not significant.

### How is it significant?

The former Travancore Special School Toddlers' Block is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

### Why is it significant?

It is historically significant as the only surviving building of the Travancore Special School, which was the second school in Victoria established for children with intellectual disabilities. The modern design of the building represents the progressive approach adopted by the school to the education of the children and training of the people who instructed them. (Criteria A & B)

It is architecturally and aesthetically significant as a fine and intact example of a Moderne school designed under the direction of Percy Everett. It has aesthetic significance for the unusual combination of Moderne with Old English detailing and is of note for the half timbering detail to the gable ends. (Criteria D & E)

## Theme

### 8. Building community life

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moonee Valley - Moonee Valley Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2015, 2015;
Construction dates	1939,
Architect/Designer	Everett, Percy, Public Works Department,
Other Names	Travancore Development School and Clinic, Mindful Centre,

Hermes Number 191997

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

As noted in the History, most of the original buildings constructed for the Travancore Special School from 1930 to 1945 have been demolished. The only surviving building is the former Toddlers' Block, which is situated immediately to the northeast of the Flemington Primary School near the crest of a hill overlooking Mooltan Street and the Moonee Ponds Creek Valley. It is visible at the south end of Cashmere Street.

In plan, the building comprises two long wings in a shallow 'v' on either side of a central entrance pavilion, which is marked on the northeast elevation by a gable placed between projecting minor hip roofs and above a flat-roofed porch hood. Large curved window bays on either side connect back to the projecting wings. There is a curved brick wall with small square windows on the southwest (opposite) side of the building.

The walls are constructed of brick, with dark brown bricks forming a plinth and red bricks to the upper walls. The gables to the central pavilion and at the north and south ends of the arms of the 'v' are finished in highly decorative *fachwerk* (half-timbering with brick infill), combining multi-coloured brick bats in a herringbone pattern with vertical and curved half timbering. The roof is clad in glazed tiles, in the mottled finish popular in the 1930s.

Constructed of brick with a gable roof, the building is an unusual mixture of Moderne and Old English styles. The Moderne style is demonstrated by the strong symmetry of the design, the treatment of the windows (variously curved, tall and narrow or corner with horizontal glazing bars), and the projecting flat-roofed sections at the outside end of each wing. This is combined with the distinctive Old English *fachwerk* to the gable ends to create a hybrid of two very popular styles of the 1930s.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*