

## MATTHEW FLINDERS SCHOOL NO.8022



MATTHEW FLINDERS  
SCHOOL NO.8022 SOHE  
2008



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1 matthew flinders school  
number 8022 geelong front  
elevation



matthew flinders school  
number 8022 myers street  
geelong entrance publication



matthew flinders school  
number 8022 myers street  
geelong rear view

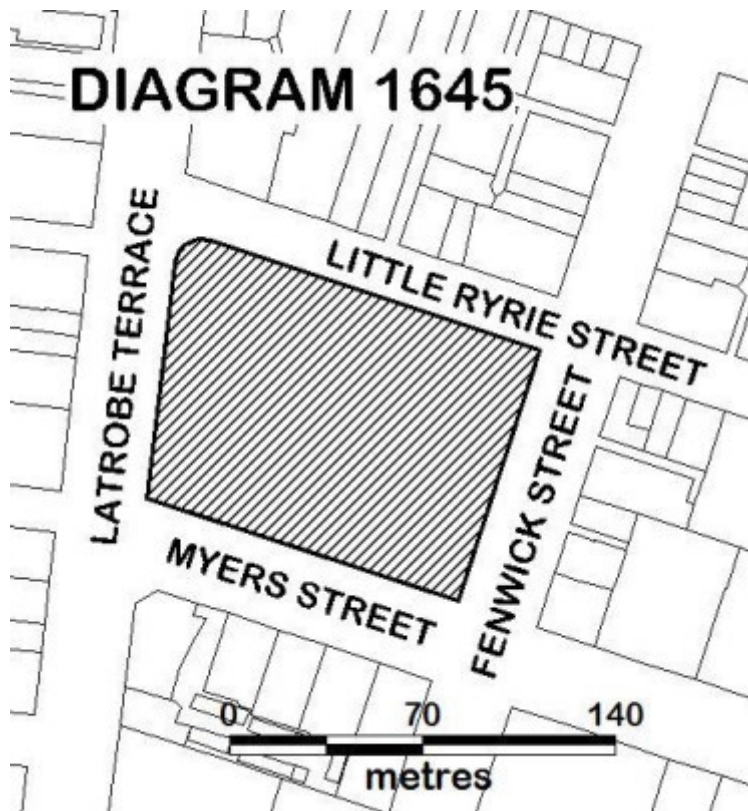


Diagram 1645.JPG

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### Location

15 MYERS STREET GEELONG, GREATER GEELONG CITY

### Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1645

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO195

### VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

### Amendment to Registration

October 8, 2015

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 7, 2004

#### What is significant?

The Matthew Flinders School was built as the Flinders National Grammar School in Little Ryrie Street, Geelong in 1856-7. The initiative of a group of prominent citizens of Geelong in 1854 to provide non-secular education for children resulted in its construction, at a time when the majority of existing schools were either privately owned or specifically denominational. The Government granted the land, and money was raised for the construction of a National School by a committee formed for this purpose. This included Dr Alexander Thompson who was reportedly responsible for the first school in Port Phillip at the corner of William and Little Lonsdale Streets in 1838, before himself settling in Geelong. Local architects, Backhouse and Reynolds, were responsible for the design, and the foundation stone was laid by Major-General Macarthur, the Acting Lieutenant-Governor, in December, 1856. Not satisfied with naming it the Geelong National School, it was at this ceremony that Macarthur asked permission to name it the Flinders National Grammar School, inspired by the explorer of Corio Bay.

This school was conducted as a boys school until 1864 when girls were first enrolled. Increasing attendances necessitated extensive additions in 1880 and the school became officially known as the Flinders State School. A further name change occurred in 1940 when it became the Matthew Flinders Girls' School, and in 1950 it was the first Victorian government school to enter pupils for the Girls' School Leaving Certificate. At this time it became known as the Matthew Flinders Girls' Secondary School.

The original cement rendered masonry building comprised a dominant central tower with bell cast roof, flanked by wings, themselves linked by arcading. The symmetrically composed main facade incorporated quoining, a heavily rusticated base and under eave brackets. Italianate in design, extensive additions in 1880 maintained this style, increasing the height of the central section, including the tower, which incorporated a platform with iron balustrading. Details were retained and duplicated at this stage. Internal alterations, including significant window changes in the side wings, were made in 1915-6 and substantial flanking wings were added in 1956 to celebrate the centenary of the school. All these subsequent additions have been sympathetic and the main facade retains the original, Italianate character. A substantial three- storey wing was constructed to the south of the main building in 1974.

#### How is it significant?

The Matthew Flinders School is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

#### Why is it significant?

Matthew Flinders School is of architectural significance as an important work of Geelong architects, Backhouse and Reynolds and as one of the finest of the early National schools constructed in Victoria. Despite subsequent alterations, the character of the original building has been retained.

Matthew Flinders School is of historical significance due to its association with the early development of education in Geelong and the specific education, within the State system, of girls from the mid 20th century. It is also historically significant for its associations with prominent educationalists, such as Alexander Thompson, who established the school and George Morrison, the second headmaster, who established the Geelong College in 1861 and was its first principal. Important students include Professor William Charles Kernot (1845-1909), the first professor of engineering at Melbourne University in 1883, Theodore Fink (1855-1942), politician and educationalist and Sir Harry Brookes Allen (1854-1926), who became the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Melbourne University in 1886.

*[Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]*

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

**General Conditions: 1.** All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. **General Conditions: 2.** Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. **Note:** All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

**General Conditions: 3.** If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. **Note:** A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

**General Conditions: 4.** Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. **General Conditions: 5.** Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. **Minor Works :** **Note:** Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates            1856,

Architect/Designer            Backhouse & Reynolds,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place,  
Other Names MATTHEW FLINDERS GIRLS SECONDARY COLLEGE,  
Hermes Number 538  
Property Number

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## History

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### **The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Data Upgrade Project 2004. Sources were as follows:**

L. Burchell. *Victorian Schools. A Study in Colonial Government Architecture 1837-1900*. Melbourne 1980  
A. Hooper. *The Story of Flinders School, Geelong, 1856-1956*. Geelong 1956  
A. Willingham. *Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study*. 1986

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying the following places in the Heritage Register:

Number: H1645  
Category: Heritage Place  
Place: Matthew Flinders School  
15 Myers Street  
Geelong  
Greater Geelong City

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1645 encompassing all of Crown Allotment 1, Section 47, City of Geelong, Parish of Corio.

Dated 7 October 2015  
TIM SMITH  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G40 8 October 2015 pp.2142-2143]

*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/>*