

Richmond Baths



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Foundation Stone - Richmond Baths



Richmond Baths from Citizens Park

Location

3 Gleadell Street, RICHMOND VIC 3121 - Property No 193615

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

Yarra City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The following wording is from the Allom and Lovell Building Citation, 1998 for the property. Please note that this is a "Building Citation", not a "Statement of Significance". For further information refer to the Building Citation held by the City of Yarra.

History:

The first Richmond pool, an outdoor pool, was built in 1897, as a measure to lower the number of drownings which occurred in the Yarra. The pool was segregated: boys could swim every day except Friday, which was reserved for the women. The baths were built as a part of the Jubilee, celebrating Queen Victoria's 60 year reign and were among the largest in the state, measuring 150 feet (45 metres) by 80 feet (24 metres). The baths cost ?2,000 to build.

During the Depression many people bathed at the pool, two to three hundred children every week, and the water was 'infested with algae and ... changed only once a week'. The council decided in 1933 to upgrade the facilities and change the water every day. However, in house fighting diverted the Council and the upgrade was not a reality until the present pool was built in the shell of the old in 1936, when it was converted to an indoor pool.

Description:

The Richmond Baths building is a large, shed-like structure, with an unusually-profiled corrugated iron roof, the steel framing of which is visible internally. The Classical Revival style entrance facade, to Gleadell Street, comprises two similar single-storey red brick pavilion-like sections, linked by a central entrance. The original building (1936) comprises the eastern pavilion and the entrance, the former of which has face red brick walls and three tall windows with rendered dressings. A rendered parapet with a Greek wave motif and the words RICHMOND CITY BATHS. The entrance door is set within a rendered door-case beneath a similar, heavy parapet. To the north, the 1980s addition is designed in a similar style. It is also of face red brick, but with four windows, and window dressings and parapet and frieze of cream brick.

Significance:

The Richmond Baths is of local historical, social and architectural significance. The site has been occupied by a swimming pool since 1897, and, with the adjoining Richmond City Reserve has always been a social and recreational focus for the suburb. Architecturally, the building is notable for its unusual corrugated iron-clad roof. The facade is a restrained inter-War Classical Revival composition, which has been sympathetically re-interpreted in the additions at the north end.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - Richmond Conservation Study, John & Thurley O'Connor, Ros Coleman & Heather Wright, 1985; Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Review, Allom Lovell & Associates, 1998; Yarra - City of Yarra Review of Heritage Overlay Areas, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;
Construction dates	1897, 1936,
Hermes Number	103848

Property Number

Physical Description 1

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Integrity

Good

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/>