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# 652 HIGH STREET, PRAHRAN

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## Location

652 HIGH STREET PRAHRAN, STONNINGTON CITY

## Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7922-0478

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Interpretation of Site	1868 - land purchased during Melbourne's boom period
	1880s - House build during the development of middle-class suburbs in Prahran
	1890s - Converted from residence to boarding school
	1950s - Building was left to disrepair while the front yard was rented - used for a second hand car yard

Archaeological  
Significance

The original allotment has been subdivided, truncating the rear yard. Due to the general neglect of the property, it is likely that relatively undisturbed archaeological deposits may still exist in the remaining rear yard area. In particular, an MMBW map indicates the location of a closet which may contain subsurface deposits relating to the late C19th residential period and the subsequent boarding school period. Due to the neglect of the property, these subsurface deposits in the remaining rear yard are likely to be relatively undisturbed after 1950.

The property has the potential to provide information regarding private venture education and middle class consumerism in Prahran. There is currently a paucity of middle class archaeological assemblages in Melbourne available for analysis and comparison. If an archaeological deposit was identified at this site it would make a significant contribution to the understanding of the development of the middle class, and enable comparative research between lower and upper class assemblages.

Historical  
Significance

The site has associations with two phases of Prahran's history: Education: one of a plethora of small private venture schools that were built during the 1880s to meet the needs of the rising middle-class. The quality of these was variable, and many were short-lived. Development of the middle class suburb.

Other Names FORMER TOORAK GRAMMAR SCHOOL,

Hermes Number 156198

Property  
Number

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## History

The block was purchased in 1868, but not developed until the 1880s. The house was formerly owned by Frederick Goldstraw, who founded the Toorak Grammar School on the site in the late 1890s. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria holds two prospectuses for this school in its archives. The first, dated 1896, when Mr Goldstraw was headmaster, points out that the school is on the High Street omnibus route and advertises a liberal table and hot and cold baths for boarders who paid ten to sixteen guineas a term. Major Lucas took drill was 2/6 (two shillings and six pence) extra a term. Dr RH Featherston and Dr AVM Anderson (an old boy) were in attendance. Day boys paid two to four guineas a term. By 1900, G Merrick Long was headmaster. The main amenity stressed in this second prospectus was filtered water. As with several of Prahran's private schools, Toorak Grammar School had connections with one of the public schools, Wesley College (Malone 2003, 33). It is likely the house has been abandoned since the 1950s.

A fire occurred post 1950, as well as a subdivision which truncated the rear yard.

*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/>*