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## Former Infants School



Former Infants School, Park Street.



Former Infants School, rear elevation.

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### Location

2-4 Park Street, MALVERN VIC 3144 - Property No 10716

### Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO477

### Heritage Listing

Stonnington City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Relevant themes from the City of Stonnington Environmental History are indicated by TEH.

#### *What is Significant?*

The former Infant School at 2-4 Park Street, Malvern is a red-brick school building erected in 1913-1914 to a design by George William Watson, chief architect of the Public Works Department. It is a highly intact example of Watson's standard infant school plan with a hall at its centre, cloakrooms to the front and classrooms to the sides

and rear. The exterior is characteristically Edwardian in its use of red-brick walls and terracotta tiled roofs with decorative cresting.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The original external form, materials and detailing of the 1913-1914 building.
- The extraordinarily high level of intactness of the building exterior (including the unpainted state of the face brickwork and terracotta elements).
- The legibility of the original freestanding envelope provided by the undeveloped front setback and open school yard setting more generally.
- The limited presence of modern signage on and around the building.

The hall's original Art Nouveau style leadlight windows can not be seen from the street but should be considered significant architectural elements if they survive.

None of the other buildings and structures within the school grounds contribute to the significance of the place.

#### *How is it significant?*

The former Infant School at Park Street, Malvern is of local historical and architectural significance to the City of Stonnington.

#### *Why is it significant?*

Historically, the former infant school is significant as a demonstration of the major change in educational methods in Victoria in the early twentieth century, when efforts were made to provide school buildings to serve the particular needs of very young children (TEH 9.2 Developing a system of state education, Criterion A).

Architecturally, the building is significant as a highly externally intact example of an Edwardian school building, embodying the specific characteristics of infant school design, including the central hall crowned by domed octagonal ventilators (Criterion D). The ventilators and the tall grouped classroom windows demonstrate a concern for providing students with a hygienic environment with good ventilation and ample daylight.

The building is unique within the City of Stonnington as the only example of the standardised PWD infant school design adopted after 1910 (Criterion B).

Heritage Study/Consultant	Stonnington - Heritage Places in the City of Stonnington - Heritage Citations Project, Bryce Raworth Pty Ltd, 2013;
Construction dates	1913,
Architect/Designer	Watson, George W., Public Works Department,
Other Names	Malvern Central School,
Hermes Number	195695
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

The former Infants School, Park Street, Malvern is an Edwardian single-storey school building with red-brick walls and a picturesque combination of jerkin head and hipped roofs clad in Marseille pattern terracotta tiles. The building presents an asymmetrical facade to Park Street with a pair of entrances and former cloakroom sitting in front of a large hall. The dominant element in the composition is the hall roof with its distinctive octagonal domed ventilators. Classrooms enclosing the sides and rear of the hall have lower height roofs, punctuated by tall red-brick chimneys with rendered tops and terracotta pots. Groups of four tall multi-pane double-hung and hopper windows provide daylight to the classrooms.

The building exterior is highly intact apart from the addition of modern glass enclosure at the rear.

## **Local Historical Themes**

The former Infant School at Park Street, Malvern illustrates the following theme, as identified in the *Stonnington Thematic Environmental History* (Context Pty Ltd, 2006):

9.2 Developing a system of state education

*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/>*