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# Williamstown High School



Williamstown High School,  
Hobsons Bay Heritage Study  
2006



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## Location

76 Pasco Street WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

## Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

## Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO253

## Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Williamstown High School complex, comprising the original Williamstown Borough Grammar School buildings designed by William Solway and constructed by Hopkins and Ross in 1867 with c.1915 additions and the Interwar Moderne School constructed in 1948, at 76 Pasco Street, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The Williamstown High School complex is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the complex as a whole is significant as a collection of buildings on the one site that illustrate the development of education in Williamstown over 150 years. It includes the original 1867 Grammar School, now the oldest school building in Williamstown, which it is believed was the third to be established in Victoria and demonstrates how local government and communities attempted to provide secular education in the era prior to the Free, Compulsory and Secular Education Act of 1872. (AHC criteria A4 and D2)

Socially, the school is significant for its long and continuous relationship with the citizens of Williamstown, who were actively involved in its creation and early development and who continue to use it today. (AHC criterion G1)

Aesthetically, the 1867 building is significant as a fine example of Italianate design. The 1948 building is a notable and rare example of an intact Moderne school design that demonstrates the influence of chief PWD architect, Percy Everett. (AHC criteria B2, E1 and F1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;
Construction dates	1915,
Architect/Designer	Spargo, William, Everett, Percy, Watson, George W.,
Hermes Number	22232
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Williamstown High School comprises a complex of buildings that date from different periods in the School's development. The significant buildings are:

#### *The former Williamstown Grammar School*

The original part of this building was constructed in 1867 and originally comprised only two classrooms, an office with toilets contained in a rear skillion. It was extended in stages after the acquisition by the State Government in 1914 to form the present complex of buildings arranged around a quadrangle.

#### *The Moderne building*

This two storey building constructed of manganese bricks features the dynamic moderne influences that is characteristic of buildings designed by, or under the supervision of chief PWD architect, Percy Everett, during the interwar period. In plan it comprises six classrooms (3 ground and 3 first floor) positioned alongside a corridor that extends the length of the south side of the building. Notable features include:

- The distinctive moderne form
- Window hoods and other rendered brick bands on external walls
- Double-hung sash windows
- Internal terrazzo staircase, steel balustrade and timber handrail
- The projecting stairwell in the front facade, in a manner similar to the stairwell at Essendon Technical School
- Doors and original internal partitioning

## **Integrity**

Integrity and condition

*Integrity* - (1867 and c.1915 buildings) Moderate to Low; (1948 building) High

*Condition* - (1867 and c.1915 buildings) Good; (1948 building) Good.

## **Physical Description 2**

Context

Williamstown High School is situated within the residential context of Pasco Street.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Making Suburbs

## **Physical Description 3**

*Associations*

Williamstown Borough Council, William Solway, Percy Everett

*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/>*