
PRIMARY SCHOOL NO.2634



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1 primary school number 2634 densham
road armadale front elevation



primary school number 2634 densham
road armadale detail of front facade



primary school number 2634 densham
road armadale infant school front



primary school number 2634 densham
road armadale infant school side view

Location

9-23 DENSHAM ROAD ARMADALE, Stonnington City

Municipality

STONNINGTON CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1640

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO34

VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

Amendment to Registration

May 23, 1998

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 25, 1999

What is significant?

Primary School No.2634 in Armadale consists of two buildings. The larger of the two is a single storey structure with tuckpointed brown brick walls with contrasting bands. It is believed that the central section was erected in 1886 and the side wings in 1891 and 1899.

Gothic elements include pointed arch openings, buttresses, steep gable roofs and tall chimneys. There is a slender square tower with spire over the main entrance. Alterations, including the levelling of the stepped class room floors, took place in 1925. The second building, an Infant School, was constructed in 1901 in a picturesque romantic gabled version of the Romanesque style. The designs for all phases of construction were the work of the Public Works Department architect Samuel E. Bindley.

How is it significant?

Primary School No.2634 is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Primary School No.2634 is of historical significance as an unusual combination of two distinctive school designs, which reflect the gradual development of the school, and the evolution of education philosophy. The single storey building was built in three stages, although it has a remarkably cohesive appearance. This suggests that the school was originally quite small and was enlarged to meet the demands of an increasing population as the nearby suburbs expanded. The Infant School was one of the earliest of the 53 built between 1901 and 1939. Infant Schools reflected a new understanding of the special needs of very small children and were an attempt to provide a better environment for teaching such youngsters. There was a much greater emphasis on hygiene, lighting and ventilation than in previous schools. Primary School No. 2634 is a very rare example of a two storey Infant School.

Primary School No.2634 is of historical significance as a reminder of the great influenza epidemic of 1919. During this time, it functioned as an emergency hospital, with the pupils dispersed throughout the neighbourhood in halls leased from local churches. The school's shelter shed was used as a morgue.

Primary School No.2634 is of architectural significance for the distinctive designs of its two buildings, which are

excellent examples of the work of Samuel Bindley. The Infant School building, in particular, is possibly the only two storey example of such a building in the State. Infant Schools were usually built on one storey to eradicate the need for small children to negotiate stairs. The two storeys of the Armadale school may have been a response to the constraints of its site and an effort to minimise loss of playground space. Bindley was one of the Public Works Office's most prolific architects. Over three decades until his retirement in 1907 he designed a number of schools, post offices, court houses and other public buildings. Perhaps one of his grandest and better known buildings was the Records Office in Queen Street, Melbourne.

Construction dates	1886,
Architect/Designer	Bindley, Samuel Ebdon,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	29
Property Number	

History

Contextual History:History of Place:
 The commitment of the PWD to the Gothic style, (especially the schools section under H R Bastow and later J T Kelleher), wanes markedly c.1885. State schools after c.1885 can be described stylistically as 'discounted Gothic'. The commitment to the Gothic became perfunctory and alternative modes were explored. Armadale and Middle Park (1886) merely allude to the Gothic. Camperdown (1887) and Port Melbourne (1888) have segmental arch openings; Francis Street Yarraville (1889) avoids polychromy and the windows have simple segmental heads; Prahran (1888) had straight lintels , stuccoed pediments and Queen Anne chimneys. Richmond North (1888) and Toorak (1889) used terracotta ornament and imitation half-timbering in an expression of the Queen Anne revival.
 [L Burchell, Victorian Schools 1835-1900, pp.153-5]

Extent of Registration

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings
Prahran City
Primary School No. 2634, Densham Road, Armadale.
[Victoria Government Gazette No. G39 12 October 1988 p.3093]

Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the Heritage Act 1995 pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act)

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/>