

# LOWTHER HALL ANGLICAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL



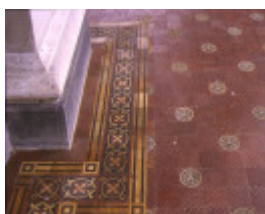
LOWTHER HALL ANGLICAN GIRLS  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL SOHE 2008



1 earlsbrae hall essendon front view



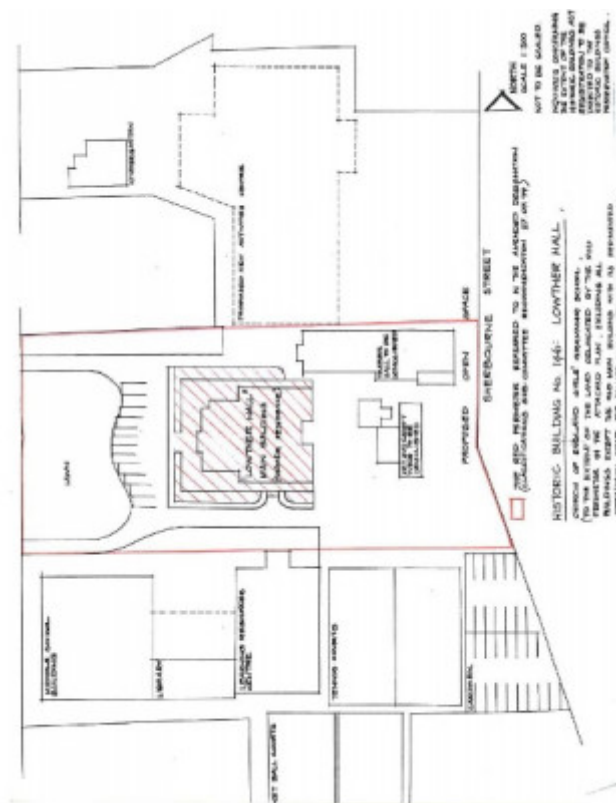
earlsbrae hall essendon detail column  
capital



earlsbrae hall essendon detail of tiled  
entrance



earlsbrae hall essendon view of balcony



lowther hall plan.jpg

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## Location

29 LESLIE ROAD ESSENDON, Moonee Valley City

## Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0146

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO60

## VHR Registration

October 9, 1974

## Amendment to Registration

October 3, 1979

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 19, 1999

Constructed in 1890 for the brewer Mr Collier McCracken to a design by Messrs Lawson and Grey, this monumental scale classical revival building is one of the few known examples of the architects' work. The builder was WK Noble, the residence known as "Earlsbrae Hall", took some two years to build. The house consisted of 27 rooms on two levels with a promenade roof.

It originally stood in almost three acres of grounds. Whilst the site has been reduced in size, the house still maintains its special relationship with Leslie Road. In 1911, shortly after the death of his wife, Edward William Cole, the flamboyant owner of Cole's book arcade, searched for an out of town residence, together with his family and a batch of favorite monkeys.

A vast aviary was soon added. Cole had a 75 feet long floral rainbow planted in the front garden. When Cole died in 1918, "Earlsbrae Hall" was sold to the Anglican Church and remodelled as a girls' grammar school. It was named "Lowther Hall" after Archbishop Lowther Clarke who had been responsible for its purchase. The two storey building, until recently used as an arts and craft wing at the rear of the main house, almost certainly

incorporates a single storey outbuilding shown in a photograph held at the school, taken at the time of Cole's occupancy. Historically the building is of importance, due to its association with Collier McCracken, the brewer, and EW Cole, the flamboyant Melbourne personality and bookseller famous for Cole's book arcade. Although on a reduced site the house retains its clear garden relationship with the street. The main former residence building with its pedimented front and 16 giant order corinthian columns, the dwarf walls, the podium overlooking the steps to the verandah and the steps themselves are of importance within the area of land as defined on the plan.

Construction dates	1890,
Architect/Designer	Lawson & Grey,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	EARLSBRAE HALL, LOWTHER HALL ANGLICAN GIRLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
Hermes Number	439
Property Number	

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## History

<span class="c1">Associated People:<br /></span>

### Extent of Registration

Historic Building No. 146. Lowther Hall, Church of England Girls' Grammar School (to the extent of the land delineated by the red perimeter on the plan approved with this Order excluding all buildings except the old main building with its pedimented Corinthian front, the dwarf walls, the podium overlooking the steps to the verandah and the steps themselves), 29 Leslie Road, Essendon.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. 81 - 3 October 1979]

*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/>*