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## Former Synagogue



B0444 Former Synagogue

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### Location

275-285 Exhibition Street,, MELBOURNE VIC 3000 - Property No B0444

### Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

### Level of significance

State

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0766

### Heritage Listing

National Trust

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 20, 2008

The City Free Kindergarten is a simple brick structure with pedimented gables, brick pilasters and arched windows with brick dressings. It was constructed in 1859-60 as a Jewish School for the Michveh Yisrael Synagogue. The architects were Knight and Keer who also designed Parliament House, Melbourne. The building was used for worship until 1877 and since then has served several uses. It became a kindergarten in 1920. This was one of the earliest synagogues in Melbourne and a surviving example of early building in the C.B.D. It is an interesting example of the conservative classical style and of the small scale work of Knight and Kerr. The projecting pediments with trapezoidal brackets are a distinctive and important motif and can be compared, with the same usage at 'D Estaville' in Kew, also by Knight and Kerr and erected in 1857. The building is essential to

the character and historic quality of the neighbouring area.

Windows on the Exhibition and Little Lonsdale Street facades have been deepened; windows down the other side remain intact. From an 1870 photo it seems that part of the pedimented end to Exhibition Street facade has been removed. The brickwork has been painted.

Classified: 31/07/1958

Revised: 24/08/1989

Other Names      City Free Kindergarten,

Hermes Number    64870

Property Number

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*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/>*