

Altona Primary School No. 3923 Complex and Trees



Altona Primary School No. 3923 Complex and trees, Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006 - The image shows the 1922 entrance



Altona Primary School No. 3923 Complex and trees, Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006 - image shows the 1922 school (left) and 1926 additions.

Location

109 Blyth Street ALTONA, Hobsons Bay City

Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO45

Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Altona Primary School No 3923 complex, comprising the surviving buildings associated with the original complex designed by the Public Works Department and constructed between 1922-27 and the associated mature trees, at 109 Blyth Street, Altona.

How is it Significant?

The Altona Primary School No 3923 complex is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, Altona Primary School No 3923 is significant as the first school to be built in Altona, which was one of the earliest public buildings. It is now one of a small number of surviving early public buildings in Altona, which symbolize the significant development of the area during the Interwar period as a consequence of the revival of the Altona Beach estate and the promotional activities of its financial supporters. It is also has associations with the Chief Architect of the PWD, E Evan Smith. An early example of his work, it includes perhaps the first use of design features that he would later develop and use on other school and public buildings throughout the State. (AHC criteria A4 and B2)

Socially, Altona Primary School No 3923 is significant for its strong connections with the Altona community as the main place of learning for young children over a period of nearly 80 years. (AHC criterion G1)

Aesthetically, the 1922-27 school complex is significant as an intact representative state school constructed to a design in the Interwar Free Classical style by the Chief Architect of the Public Works Department, E. Evan Smith. The setting is enhanced by the related mature trees. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;
Construction dates	1922,
Architect/Designer	Smith, Edwin Evan,
Hermes Number	14975
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The design of the original Altona Primary School buildings is typical of Interwar Government schools, being red brick and stucco construction, with a Marseilles pattern tiled hipped roof. The entry is marked by a parapeted porch with a small arch set into the parapet. Main windows are multi-paned and grouped into twos and threes. Inside there are three classrooms, two separated by an accordion screen (half glazed folding doors) and each originally provided with a fireplace (now closed?) and teachers cupboard. There is a generous corridor and an administrative office. At the other end were the lavatories, hat and cloak room. Vertical boarded dadoes were used throughout as were the ceiling vents to ensure proper ventilation.

Additions made in 1926-27 followed the lead provided in the original design for additions. A corridor heading east and then north links three classrooms, with a new enlarged cloak and hat room and a large teachers room. The Interwar shelter shed also survives.

The mature trees (predominantly Sugar Gums) provide a related setting and are likely to include some of the trees planted by the school committee in 1923 and 1935.

A large number of portable classrooms from post WW2 are located on the site.

Integrity

External Condition

Good

External Integrity

High

Physical Description 2

Context

Set in largely later detached housing development.

Historical Australian Themes

Educating, Establishing schools

Physical Description 3

Associations

Education Department, E Evan Smith

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/>