
PRESTON SOUTH PRIMARY SCHOOL No. 824



Preston South Primary
School No. 824

Location

56B HOTHAM STREET, PRESTON, DAREBIN CITY

Municipality

DAREBIN CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO231

Heritage Listing

Darebin City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The South Preston Primary School No.824 at 56B Hotham Street, Preston was established on this site in 1878 and was the first State primary school in the Preston area. Additions were made to the original school in 1902 and further additions were made in the 1920s at a time when Preston was experiencing significant growth. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

- The original part of the school, built in 1878, with later additions in 1902 and the 1920s. This has a gabled roof that has been re-clad in corrugated galvanised steel sheeting. The roof projects over the gable ends to form deep eaves that have their soffits lined with timber and are supported by timber brackets. The windows have segmental arched heads, fitted with multi-paned timber frame double-hung sashes. The cills of the windows are bluestone.
- The two weatherboard sheds to the rear of the school, which are probably from the early twentieth century. The walls of the sheds are clad in weatherboards and they have gambrel roofs clad in corrugated galvanised steel. They were most probably built as shelter sheds.
- Mature trees including Elms (*Ulmus sp.*)

Later alterations and additions and the post-Second World War school buildings are not significant.

How is it significant?

The South Preston Primary School No.824 at 56B Hotham Street, Preston is of local historic and social significance to Darebin City.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the South Preston Primary School No.824 is significant as it provides tangible evidence of the creation and development of the first State primary school in Preston. The site now contains the oldest school building in Preston and the significant growth of Preston in the inter-war period is reflected in the various additions and alterations made to the complex in the 1920s. The mature plantings in the school yard provide evidence of Arbor Day, an important event in the lives of school children in the early twentieth century. (AHC criterion A.4)

Socially, the South Preston Primary School No.824 is significant as an educational facility that has been known, used and valued by the Preston community for over 130 years. (AHC criterion G.1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Darebin - Darebin Heritage Study, Context P/L, 2011;
Construction dates	1878, 1902, 1923,
Architect/Designer	Public Works Department,
Other Names	Gowerville State School No. 824,
Hermes Number	26744
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

South Preston Primary School No.824 comprises a complex of buildings erected from the late nineteenth century through to the late twentieth century. The original part of the school, built in 1878, with later additions in 1902 and the 1920s, survives. It has a gabled roof that has been re-clad in corrugated galvanised steel sheeting. The roof projects over the gable ends to form deep eaves that have their soffits lined with timber and are supported by timber brackets. The windows have segmental arched heads, fitted with multi-paned timber frame double-hung sashes. The cills of the windows are bluestone.

A long Modernist brick wing extends along the school's Hotham Street frontage, which conceals the original primary school building from this street. Another Modernist classroom block extends in a parallel arrangement behind the Hotham Street block. Both are of a standard design used for Education Department primary and tertiary school buildings of the 1960s and early 1970s, having a raked roof that forms a series of clerestory windows above each blocks corridor.

To the south of the original building is a cream brick Modernist hall. It has a flat steel deck roof. Of interest are two weatherboard sheds to the rear of the school, which are probably from the early twentieth century. The walls of the sheds are clad in weatherboards and they have gambrel roofs clad in corrugated galvanised steel. They were most probably built as shelter sheds.

The site contains some notable mature exotic trees including English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) planted by students on Arbor Day.

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/>