

ARMADALE PRIMARY SCHOOL



PRIMARY SCHOOL
NO.2634 SOHE 2008



Front elevation



PRIMARY SCHOOL
NO.2634 SOHE 2008



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



Infant school sign



Front elevation

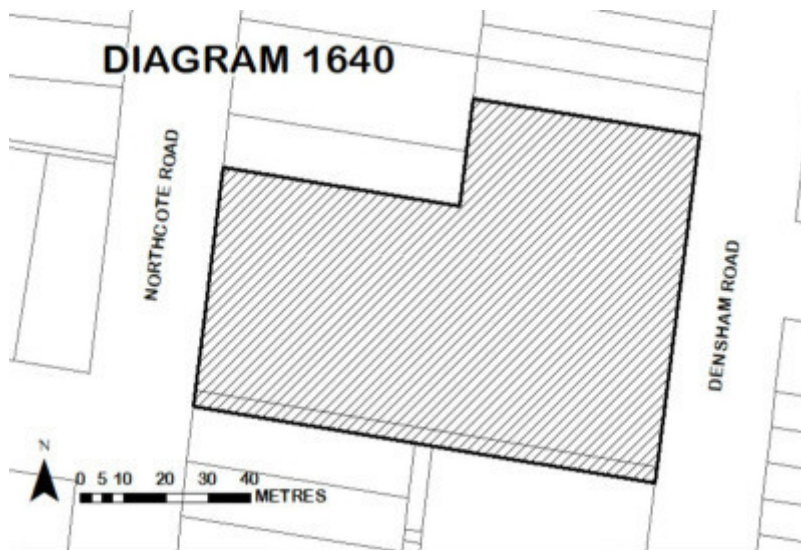


DIAGRAM 1640

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

December 14, 2023

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 2, 2025

Armadale Primary School is located on Wurundjeri Country.

What is significant?

Armadale Primary School, including the 1886 main school building with 1891 and 1899 extensions, and 1901 Infant School building both designed by Samuel E. Bindley.

How is it significant?

Armadale Primary School is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the VHR:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects

Why is it significant?

The Armadale Primary School is historically significant as the distinctive designs of its two buildings reflects the evolution of educational philosophy in Victoria. The addition of the 1901 Infant School has particular significance as the first purpose-built infant school in Victoria, specifically designed for younger students.
(Criterion A)

The Armadale Primary School is architecturally significant for the distinctive designs of its two buildings. The main school building, constructed between 1886 to 1899, is a fine example of Gothic architecture in a Victorian school. The 1901 building is a pivotal example of educational architecture, as it was the first purpose-built infant school in Victoria. The building's design exhibits a greater emphasis on hygiene, lighting and ventilation than in previous school buildings. Of particular note is the central drill hall, which became a key element in most infant school buildings. The 1901 Infant School is also unique as the only two storey example amongst the 53 infant school buildings constructed in Victoria between 1901 and 1939.
(Criterion D)

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which

don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must [notify](#) the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

All other buildings constructed or moved to the site post 1990 (this exemption does not apply to buildings which link with or abut the 1886 school building, the 1891 and 1899 side wings, and the 1901 Infant School building)

- All internal works.
- Removal or demolition.

Buildings which link with or abut the 1886 school building or 1901 infant school building

- Internal works, provided that there is no change to the external building envelope and that no works intersect with the 1886 school building or 1901 infant school building.

Landscape/ outdoor areas

- Installation and replacement of shade sail fabric and supporting structure
- Replacement of playground equipment and outdoor furniture in the same location
- Pruning of all trees to ensure safety
- Removal, replacement and installation of new ground surfacing treatments (for example, asphalt, safety matting) provided it is not within five metres of significant buildings.

Construction dates	1886,
Architect/Designer	Bindley, Samuel Ebdon,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	PRIMARY SCHOOL NO.2634,
Hermes Number	29
Property Number	

History

Armadale Primary School (also known as Primary School No.2634) opened in 1884. The original wooden school building was replaced by the current single storey structure in 1886. It is believed that the central section was erected in 1886 and the side wings in 1891 and 1899. This may reflect the growing school population during this period. 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. The designs for all phases of construction were the work of the Public Works Department architect Samuel E. Bindley.

In October 1896 a fire broke out at the school, causing a great deal of destruction. The roof was largely destroyed, as was a north-west classroom. Other rooms suffered from considerable damage.

The Infant School was constructed in 1901 in a picturesque romantic gabled version of the Romanesque style. It was the first purpose-built Infant School in Victoria, meant for students aged approximately 5 to 8 years old. The design reflected the advice of Miss Eva Hooper, a lecturer with the London School Board brought to Victoria as an expert on kindergartens. Like the original 1884 building, the infant school was designed by Samuel E. Bindley.

During the 1919 influenza epidemic, Armadale Primary School functioned as an emergency hospital, with the pupils dispersed throughout the neighbourhood in halls leased from local churches. The infant school was used as accommodation for staff, while the school's shelter shed was used as a morgue.

Alterations to the 1884 building, including the levelling of the stepped classroom floors, took place in 1925.

References:

- Blake L J (ed) (1973) *Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria*, The Government Printer, Melbourne.
- Burchell L (1980) *Victorian schools: a study in colonial government architecture, 1837-1900*, Melbourne University Press, Melbourne.
- Burchell L (1999) *Halls for learning: infant school architecture in Victoria 1900-1939*, Moreland City Council, Melbourne.
- Peterson R (1993) *Historic Government Schools: a Comparative Study June 1993*, Department of Planning and Development, Melbourne.

Extent of Registration

Heritage Act 2017

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act 2017, I give notice under section 53 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by modifying a place in the Heritage Register:

Number: H1640

Category: Registered Place,

Place: Armadale Primary School

Location: 9–23 Densham Road, Armadale

Municipality: Stonnington City

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 1640 encompassing all of Lot 1 on Title Plan 512032 and Lot 1 on Title Plan 599707, and part of Lot 1 on Title Plan 654151

Dated 14 December 2023

STEVEN AVERY

Executive Director

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/>