

FORMER ESSENDON TECHNICAL SCHOOL



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2008



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1 former essendon technical
school buckley street
essendon front entrance



H1295 plan

Location

38 BUCKLEY STREET ESSENDON, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

Municipality

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1295

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO42

VHR Registration

February 20, 1997

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 13, 1999

Essendon Technical School was designed in 1938 by Public Works Chief Architect, Percy Everett (1888-1967), and was constructed by JJ Corbett. Featuring large areas of windows and incorporating a range of geometric shapes, the European-inspired building was hailed for advancing school design, and for the inspiration it would provide to the other Australian states.

Essendon Technical School had opened in February 1939 in the old buildings of the Melbourne Junior Technical School, La Trobe Street, Melbourne, with J Ayrton Bradbury as Principal and TP Phelan as Headmaster. The new Everett-designed school at Essendon was to replace these buildings and it officially opened in August of that year, when staff and students moved in. A foundation stone had been laid almost a year earlier, on 6 October 1938 by the Minister of Public Instruction, Sir John Harris. The Second World War directed development of the school, and oriented the curriculum in the post-war years to aircraft and munitions training. During the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s the school changed to reflect trends in industry, training students for university technical courses as well as apprenticeships. The school closed in 1992 and in 1993 it became a TAFE institute.

The former Essendon Technical School is of historical, architectural, and aesthetic importance to the State of Victoria.

The former Essendon Technical School is important in the history of technical education in Victoria, as the descendant of the first junior technical school to be established in this state. The origins of the school can be traced to The Working Men's College (now known as RMIT) established in 1887 and its junior school, The Lower Technical School, formed in 1903. This latter school, later known as Melbourne Junior Technical School, moved to its location in La Trobe Street in 1912, and became Essendon Technical School in 1939. The school is historically significant for its World War Two associations, and for the large number of apprentices it trained for Victoria's aircraft and munition industries. The former school has further significance for being representative of the post-war phase in Victorian schooling when the technical system of education was fostered at specialised schools.

The former Essendon Technical School is architecturally significant as a highly successful and innovative example of European mainstream modernism. The bold semi-circular stairwell of glass bricks and banded

brickwork, juxtaposed by rectangular shapes of brick surfaces and metal-framed windows, remains a striking monument to the modern movement. The circular landscaping at the school's entrance contributes to the play of geometrical shapes in the building, and its sole feature, a 'Hybrid Flame Tree' (*Brachychiton x roseus notho* subsp. *roseus*), is important for its aesthetic qualities.

The former Essendon Technical School is historically and architecturally significant for its association with Percy Everett, who was Chief Architect of the Public Works Department of Victoria from 1934 to 1953. The building's dramatic and dynamic architectural qualities typify the talent and stylistic predilections that Everett had established in his work by the late 1930s which remained basically unchanged until the 1950s. A former technical school principal, Everett undertook extensive planning for schools, and introduced entirely new types of technical, high, consolidated and elementary schools, and other Australian states adopted his planning and designs.

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:

Nil

Construction dates	1938,
Architect/Designer	Everett, Percy,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	4929
Property Number	

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1295 in the category described as a Heritage Place:

Former Essendon Technical School, 36-44 Buckley Street, Essendon, Moonee Valley City Council.

EXTENT:

1. All of the buildings forming part of the former Essendon Technical School and marked as follows on Diagram 607367 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council:

B-1 School building (not including the later addition to the east)

B-2 Former trade building.

2. The 'Hybrid Flame Tree' (*Brachychiton x roseus nothosubsp. roseus*) including the circular planting bed marked T-1.

3. All of the land marked L-1 on Diagram 607367 held by the Executive Director of the Heritage Council being part of Certificate of Title Volume 10224, Folio 628.

Dated 6 February 1997

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G7 20 February 1997 p.408]

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/>