

<b>Building:</b>	Former Cremorne Street State School (No. 2084)	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	85 Cremorne Street, Richmond	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	2G H12
<b>Building Type:</b>	School	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1878
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown	<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown



<b>Intactness:</b>		<b>Condition:</b>	
G[x] F[ ] P[ ]		G[x] F[ ] P[ ]	
<b>Existing Heritage Listings:</b>		<b>Recommended Heritage Listings:</b>	
Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]	Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]
Register of the National Estate	[ ]	Register of the National Estate	[x]
National Trust	[ ]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

## **History**

From 1873 the Free Church School No. 149 occupied the Wesleyan Church next door to the present Cremorne Street site, purchased in 1877. H T Derrick, Head Teacher of No. 149, pressed for the erection of a new school to house 300 to 325 pupils, and in July 1878 No. 149 was struck off the rolls. The new school of three large rooms and two small, built at a cost of £3,059, was opened on 1 August 1878 as No. 2084. Before the end of August, 590 children had enrolled. From September 1878 all requests for the extension of the building or the supply of a portable classroom were refused on the ground that there was sufficient accommodation at State School No. 1396, Brighton Street, and Yarra Park State School No. 1406. In March 1887, 170 children were crowded into the infant room measuring 36 feet x 25 feet (12 metres x 8 metres) but two years later three rooms had to be rented from the Church of England in Cremorne Street. Then in August 1890, when the school population had reached 662, extensions fronting Dover Street were opened. M H O'Brien was Head Teacher at this time.

From 1900 enrolments so fell away that by 1907 Cremorne Street ceased to be an independent school, Louis McNab being appointed the Head Teacher of both State School No. 1396 and State School 2084. But in 1911 Cremorne Street regained its independent status. In the early 1920s, however, the school again faced closure, and enrolments continued to decline through the following decades until the figure reached 200 in the 1950s and early 1960s. In the following year, largely through the influx of Greek and other migrants to the district, the attendance had risen to 300.<sup>1</sup>

The buildings are presently used by the Barton TAFE.

## **Description**

The former Cremorne Street State School comprises two brick buildings designed in Romanesque and Gothic inspired styles. The 1878 building on Cremorne Street is single-storey, with walls of brown brick with contrasting cream and black brick string courses and dressings. The gabled and hipped roofs are steeply pitched and clad in slate, penetrated by small gabled roof vents. The central section has a metal-clad flèche with a steeple-like roof, cast iron finials and crestings. There is a rendered moulded string course below a red and cream brick frieze, and brick buttresses have gabled caps. Flanking the central pavilion are two gabled wings connected by hipped roof linking sections. The outer wings have paired semi-circular arched windows with moulded cream brick voussoirs. Three smaller arched openings are located within the gable ends, which have rendered copings.

The 1890 two-storey building facing Dover Street is similarly of polychromatic brick, but has a hipped roof clad in non-original concrete tiles. Ground floor windows are pointed-arched double-hung sashes, with alternating cream brick and rendered voussoirs and bluestone sills. First floor windows are semi-circular arched double hung sashes. Cream, red and brown brick string course run across the elevations at impost and sill levels. Large gables project on the south and east elevations, with decorative carved barge boards and corbelled brackets.

## **Comparative Examples**

Hawthorn West Primary School, Burwood Road, Hawthorn  
Glenferrie Primary School, Manningtree Road, Hawthorn

## **Significance**

The former Cremorne Street State School, Richmond, is of local architectural significance. The buildings are good examples of the eclectic Romanesque and Gothic styles applied to a school, notable for their polychromatic brickwork, decorative barge boards and metal clad flèche.

1 Extract from Vision and Realisation. Volume 3, p. 82.