

Building:	Yarra Primary School (No. 5721)	Significance:	A
Address:	Davison Street, Richmond	Melway Map Ref:	2H E4
Building Type:	School	Construction Date:	1888
Architect:	Department of Public Works Brightwen Binyon	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:		Condition:	
G <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/>		G <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/>	
Existing Heritage Listings:		Recommended Heritage Listings:	
Victorian Heritage Register	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Victorian Heritage Register	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Register of the National Estate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Register of the National Estate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>	Heritage Overlay Controls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

History

The site was purchased in 1887 and the building erected in 1888. Additions were made at the rear in 1911 and 1912. Further additions were completed in 1981.

Designed by the Department of Public Works, the layout and detailing is almost identical to the Toorak Central School. The design does not appear to have been repeated again. The design has been attributed to Brightwen Binyon, the architect of the Sandford St Boys School, Great Britain, the drawings of which were published in the *Building News* on 9 December 1881.

Description

The former Richmond North Primary School (No. 2798), now the Yarra Primary School (No. 5271) is a two-storey bichromatic brick building which is a striking example of the English Queen Anne style with unusual terracotta faience, pebbled render finish within gables and decorative use of brickwork.

Stylistically, the building is derived from the Queen Anne style London Board schools of the 1870s and 80s.¹ Characteristic of the style the school is asymmetrically planned, with steeply pitched gabled roofs. Gable ends have moulded bricks pediments decorated with classically derived scrolled and pedimented moulded brick panels. Walls are of dark brown brick, with red brick quoining, string courses and voussoirs to door and window openings. Windows are multi-paned double-hung sashes, with bottom-hinged highlights, arranged in groups of three. First floor windows on the Buckingham Street elevation moulded brick oriels beneath the bluestone and moulded brick sills. Terracotta panels beneath the first floor windows on the Davison Street elevation bear the words STATE SCHOOL NO. 2798 and ERECTED AD 1888 in raised terracotta lettering. The main cornice is coved and roughcast rendered, and the roof is clad in Marseilles patterned tiles, not original. The entrance is located within a semi-circular arched opening asymmetrically placed below the north gable on the Davison Street elevation.

A red brick and concrete stair has been added to the west elevation, of recent construction.

Comparative Examples

Toorak Central School, Toorak.

Significance

The former Richmond North Primary School is of state architectural significance. The school is a particularly fine example of the Queen Anne style, derived from English examples. Of note is the use of bichromatic brickwork and moulded brick and terracotta decoration. The building is a notable heritage element in the area, prominently sited at the intersection of Davison and Buckingham Streets.

1 Mark Girouard. *Sweetness and Light*. Oxford, 1977. pp 64-70.