

Building:	Former Grosvenor Common School	Significance:	A
Address:	2 Bond Street, Abbotsford	Melway Map Ref:	2H D2
Building Type:	School	Construction Date:	1863
Architect:	Unknown	Builder:	Unknown



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

History

The former Grosvenor Common School was a privately owned school built in 1863, with schoolrooms on the ground floor and the school master's residence upstairs. By 1873, following the foundation of the Education Department which commenced operations in that year, it was known as the Grosvenor State School No. 811.

By 1901 Charles F Bates operated his Cocoa Mill at this address and the property was in the ownership of Mr John Puckey.¹

Andrew Ward. *Collingwood Conservation Study*. 1995.

The School was one of nine common schools in Melbourne, and one of four in Collingwood. Only three remain, the others being at Bell Street, Fitzroy, now converted to apartments, and Faraday Street, Carlton, now used by the Royal Women's Hospital.

Description

The former Grosvenor Common School is a two-storey building of brick and bluestone construction, approximately square in plan, with a hipped slate roof. The ground floor is of random coursed bluestone, with contrasting brown and red brick quoining to the window and door openings, voussoirs and corners. The paired entrance doors, presumably separate entries for boys and girls, are flanked by tripartite double-hung sash windows. A plain rendered string course divides the two-storeys. The first floor is of face Flemish bond red and brown brick, also with quoining. There are five double-hung sash windows with vertical glazing bars, rendered sills and red brick voussoirs. The eaves have timber brackets, and the chimneys are of brick with corbelled brick caps.

The side elevations are plainer and with fewer windows, and a large rendered sign at first floor level on the south elevation bears the name BATES COCOA MILLS in raised lettering.

Comparative Examples

Common School, Bell Street, Fitzroy

Common School, Faraday Street, Carlton

Significance

The former Grosvenor Common School is of state architectural and historical significance. The building displays particularly fine use of red and brown brickwork, evident in the quoining and voussoirs. The simple symmetrical composition imparts a distinctive late Regency/early Victorian character to the façade, rare, probably unique, in Melbourne. Historically, the former Grosvenor Common School was one of nine such schools in Melbourne, and one of four in Collingwood, and of the three remaining schools, the Grosvenor Common is the most intact.

References

Original Source

Andrew Ward. *Collingwood Conservation Study*. 1995.

¹ Collingwood Rate Books. The Argus, 21.12.1940. National Trust File. Burchell, L. *Victorian Schools*, 1980.