



Gordon Junior Technical School **312-328 Moorabool Street**

History

In 1913 a Junior Technical School was established as part of the Gordon Institute of Technology. According to the *Geelong Advertiser*, 3 February 1913, twenty scholarships were made available to boys living in Geelong and the surrounding district. The following information is taken from the official history of the Victorian Education Department, *Vision and Realisation*, Volume Two, p.1073. In 1927 the school moved to its Moorabool Street site. The school and the Institute were named after General Gordon, a popular British hero killed at Khartoum last century. The two storey brick building was officially opened on 25th July 1927. *Vision and Realisation* lists Stuart Devlin, designer of our decimal coinage as one of the notable students who attended the school. In 1959 a new trade block, library and canteen were completed. In 1962 the school severed relations with the Gordon Institute and became an independent educational institution with Mr J. Mills serving as the first principal.

Description

The Gordon Junior Technical School is a large double storey building with basement that is reasonably intact. The red brick facades feature grouped arched openings with smaller arched panes on the first floor, and grouped rectangular openings with small panes on the ground floor. Rendered spandrels surrounded by a darker brick strongly express the floor division. The facades are divided into sections by thick vertical piers which give the building a strong sense of mass. The roof is a medium pitch terracotta tile hip with a notable cupola protruding from the ridge above the central entrance portico. This monumental entrance features Corinthian columns, an entablature and balustrade. At the rear of the building is a later extension. Other notable details include large rain water heads.

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Significance

The Gordon Junior Technical School has architectural and historic significance at a local level. It is a reasonably intact example of 1920s medium scale institutional architecture, and retains its characteristic siting, form, and features, including the monumental entrance, rendered spandrels, and a protruding roof cupola. It has historical associations with Stuart Devlin, a notable Geelong citizen, who was a student and went on to become the designer of our decimal coinage.