

This sheet should be read in conjunction with Graeme Butler & Associates, *Geelong City Urban Conservation Study*, Vol. 1-S, 1991.



South Geelong School No 2143 **200 Yarra Street**

History

According to the official history of the Victorian Education Department, *Vision and Realisation*, Volume Two, p.1049, the construction of this school began in 1878. In that year the firm of Reid and Keith submitted a successful tender to replace an older school already occupying this site with a new structure. A brick building to accommodate 404 pupils was erected at a cost of 2497 pounds. An additional charge of 55 pounds was made to finish off certain works in white brick. Within a year of the school opening in August 1879 defects were noted. In 1880 the contractors needed to be reprimanded before they agreed to fix the faults. At first the school operated as a branch of the Swanston Street School No. 1094. In May 1893, 200 Yarra Street became a separate school in its own right. In May 1919 a contract was let to remodel the building but work was delayed due to a materials shortage following the war. Old verandahs which blocked light from the classrooms were subsequently removed. No new classrooms were added but cloak rooms and new toilets were constructed. The work was carried out under the supervision of Mr. C. H. Kerr the district Architect and Mr Tostevin, Public Works Inspector. The *Geelong Advertiser* 6 May 1920 p.3 reported the remodelled school was officially opened by the Minister of Education. The centenary of the school was celebrated in August 1979.

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Description

The South Geelong School is a single and double storey collection of brick buildings. The main feature of the double storey building is a large gable roof hipped above the attic storey window and clad with terracotta tiles. The roof cladding is a feature of the 1920 alterations, probably replacing a slate roof. Later red brick extensions have been added to the main structure, and although they are constructed from similar materials, they detract from the form of the original buildings. The Victorian form is also difficult to see because of the removal of verandahs from the buildings. Typical Bungalow details feature on the windows, including groups of casement windows with small panes, flat brick arches over the windows, and prominent lintels and sills. These alterations probably replaced individual rectangular windows which would have allowed less light into the classrooms. The building has a Picturesque quality due to the different roof forms and the variety of window openings. On the south facade the attic storey casement window is notable, as is the bell tower that is positioned on the ridge of the roof joining the two main building forms.

Significance

The South Geelong School is of local significance. Architecturally, it is an unusual grouping of buildings with the Victorian form remaining but substantially altered in 1920. The complex now demonstrates features from both periods. Some of these alterations, such as increased window area and the removal of verandahs, reflect the desire at this time to introduce more light and ventilation into classrooms. The School has historical importance as a school has operated from this site serving the Geelong community since before 1879.