

included William Ryan, Richard Rail, Luther Williams, Sidney Hunt, Richmond Griffiths, William Guy, Percy Cowderoy, Edmund Page, David Black and Eric Shade, a man who eventually became (coincidentally) Director of Prisons in the State Social Welfare Department. Another was Douglas Brown, who had a huge influence over the teaching profession, as foundation member of the Victorian Teachers' Union (1926). He was elected president 1943-5 and represented the Union on the Teachers' Tribunal for over 20 years.¹ Eric Hassold, eventually a District Inspector of Schools, also taught at Yarraville.²

One aspect peculiar to government schools at Williamstown, Yarraville and Footscray, was the relative prevalence of children attending from barges or lighters located on the two rivers. In 1926 official recognition of their presence was given by allowing automatic transfer from one school to the next within these localities.³

Description

Lawrence Burchell has noted Yarraville among other bell-towered school structures which were set on an E-plan and draw on the Italian Gothic for their stylistic inspiration. These include English examples such as Ettington Park, Warwickshire (1859) and, in Victoria, Stawell (1879), Newtown (1877), Kyneton, Moreland (1890), Wangaratta (1877), Ballarat, Armadale (1884) and Wales Street, Northcote.⁴ Each is a variation on the common theme, as determined by their date, the later (and often bigger) designs possessing more vertical emphasis, with taller towers and flanking gables. Yarraville is at the end of this progression and consequently is among the best developed of the type and configuration. An early photograph (c1909) shows the school, complete with timber picket fence.⁵

External Integrity

New windows have been added sympathetically to front and rear elevations and some gable finials have gone. New wings added at rear and the picket fence replaced.

Streetscape

A large complex set among altered Victorian period houses on the west and early 20th century buildings on the east.

Significance

A successful integration of two eras of building which is considered among the most developed examples of the towered Venetian Gothic revival government schools and comparatively externally unaltered (cf. general window replacement in the Edwardian period elsewhere). Historically, a major early public building in Yarraville and the vehicle for some prominent educators in the State system.

House

2 Geelong Road

History

Architects, Gibbs & Finlay, designed this house for Margaret and Sydney G. Richardson, in 1916. By the early 1940s, Richardson's address was care of 21 Whitehall Street, at his engineering workshop (D. Richardson & Sons Pty. Ltd.). This house had become a Young Women's Christian Association hostel by 1942.

When Margaret died (81) in 1946, they lived at 39 Nicholson Street, later her son, Herbert's, residence. Other children included Leslie and Alan.⁶

D. Richardson & Sons and Richardson Gears Pty. Ltd. were side by side in Whitehall Street, both the products of David Richardson's founding enterprise of 1888.⁷ The gears part of the works was the showpiece of Footscray factory architecture when it was redeveloped in the early 1940s, being Modern both in its architectural outlook ('a striking modern facade') and its provision of staff facilities, including a social club, library and dining room.⁸

- 1 V&R,V1,p.1266f
- 2 V&R,V1,p.1421
- 3 V&R,V1,p.221
- 4 Burchell,p.150f
- 5 FFFY
- 6 *The Age* 21/3/46
- 7 D1945; SCO,p.14
- 8 *ibid.*



4 - 42 2 Geelong Road

Description

Now the Footscray Dental Clinic, predictably this brick, basically Bungalow style house, has suffered unsympathetic additions, mainly confined to the Geelong Road elevation. Composed as one deep Dutch-hipped roof form, with a gabled transept, the house is transitional between the tea-house hip-roof forms of the Queen Anne style and the broad gabled roof forms of the Bungalow.

As with both styles, the attic is used here as the preferred two-storey form with dormer openings to all points of the compass. A large silver poplar dominates the evidently reduced grounds (6 Geelong Road) and other exotic shrubs, including conifer rows used in the period, survive in part. The fence appears to be either original or sympathetic to the original.

External Integrity

An intrusive addition has been made to the south side, the fence replaced and the entrance porch glazed in and altered.

Streetscape

Once the end of a stylistic progression which started at the Victorian period 10 Geelong Road and ran via the Queen Anne style 8 Geelong Road to its near Bungalow counterpart at number 2. The neo-Georgian 6 Geelong Road was added relatively recently (on the tennis court of 8), interrupting this theme, although it is still symbolic of Geelong Road as the chosen residential area of Footscray's famous. The house's aspect to the Edwardian Footscray Park opposite has been also modified by the development of Footscray Institute of Technology.

Significance

A simple, relatively large example of the transition to the Bungalow style which has suffered (fortunately) reversible alterations. Historically, it is associated with a prominent Footscray industrialist.