

BRAILLE LIBRARY
31-51 Commercial Road, South Yarra



Recommendations It is recommended that this building be added to the Register of Historic Buildings, Register of the National Estate and be protected using the provisions of Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act (Third Schedule).

History and Description The Braille Library in Commercial Road was erected in 1918-19 by Gay and Pickering and designed by the architects Anketell and K. Henderson. The octagonal core of the symmetrical red brick building features an octagonal lantern, corner pilasters and contrasting panels of brickwork, with a minimum of decoration employed. The tiled hipped roofs of flanking rectangular sections feature spherical finials and the overall building is Edwardian and plain in character. The planning may well have been based on the Melbourne Public Library with its giant octagonal reading room, erected about seven years earlier.

Significance The Braille Library is a large and substantial public building in Prahran, erected to serve a rare and specific purpose.

Intactness The Braille Library is substantially intact.

References
Commemorative plaque on building.