

Statement of Significance: Spotswood State School No. 3659

Heritage Place:	Spotswood State School No. 3659	PS ref no:	HO326
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What is significant?

The main school building, especially the original 1914 section which forms the north, south and west sides of the courtyard. The 1929 addition adjoining the east of the original section is also of significance as is the 1929 caretakers' cottage located to the south-west corner. The Bristol building is contributory.

How is it significant?

The Spotswood State School No. 3659 is of historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Why is it significant?

The Spotswood State School is historically significant as the first purpose-built school in Spotswood. The school is one of few surviving public buildings in the Spotswood area. It was constructed at a time when the population of Spotswood rapidly increased due to the establishment of industries in the area. The later 1929 addition and caretaker's cottage as well as the surviving Bristol prefabricated unit reflect the rapid growth which continued in the area during the mid-20th century. (Criterion A)

Socially, the Spotswood State School is significant for its strong connections with the Spotswood community as the main place of learning for over 100 years. Both the establishment of a school in Spotswood and the construction of the purpose-built school were a result of the local community partitioning the government of the time. (Criterion G).

The Spotswood State School is of aesthetic significance for being a relatively intact example of a modest Federation period school designed by the Public Works Department during the early 20th century. The courtyard plan of the original section as well as the banks of four large multi-pane windows were common features of schools of this period and reflect the concern at the time for a better, more hygienic school environment. The original material palette of red brick and roughcast render along with the pressed cement sign to the façade and prominent hipped and gable roof are characteristic of school buildings of the period. The design is distinguished by the relatively blank façade to Melbourne Road. The 1929 additions adopt the details of the original part reflecting the standard approach for additions to school buildings at the time. The 1929 caretaker's cottage is also an important part of the school complex and is a largely intact example of an Interwar period house. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Spotswood Activity Centre Structure Plan Heritage Study 2022

HOBSONS BAY PLANNING SCHEME

Number	Address	Grade
598	Melbourne Road	Contributory

This document is an incorporated document in the Hobsons Bay Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*

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