

Statement of Significance: Toorak Primary School No. 3106, Canterbury Road, Toorak (March 2022)

Heritage Place: Toorak Primary School No. 3106, Canterbury Road, Toorak	PS ref no: HO8
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(Source: Toorak Primary School)

What is significant?

The red brick building at Toorak Primary School (otherwise known as Toorak School No. 3016) is significant. Specifically, the form, scale and detailing of the Queen Anne Revival school building is of local significance. The site landscaping and contemporary school buildings are not significant.

How is it significant?

Toorak School No. 3016 is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Stonnington, and clearly demonstrates the representative characteristics of late 19th century public school design.

Why is it significant?

Toorak School No. 3016 is historically significant as a school building that was erected during the rapid expansion of public school provision in the late 19th century, during a time when the population of inner eastern suburbs like Toorak continued to grow. The building forms a tangible link to this period of school and education history in this part of Melbourne, and its features reflect both prevailing pedagogical attitudes and the growing influence of the Queen Anne Style in school design following its popularisation by the London Schools Board in England. Moreover, its windows, altered in c.1916 to allow for better natural lighting, reflects changing approaches to school design by the 20th century, as well as the careful consideration given to schools in the more privileged and affluent suburb of Toorak. (Criterion A)

Toorak School No. 3016 has representative significance, demonstrating the key characteristics associated with late 19th century school design. More restrained in style, it demonstrates the shift away from the exuberant Gothic Revival style that had previously dominated school design, and thus illustrates the ways in which the Queen Anne style was being applied to school buildings towards the end of the 19th century. Its well-anchored form, materiality and careful use of ornamentation are also typical for a time whereby schools were viewed as a means of cultivating an ordered society. (Criterion D)

Toorak School No. 3016 is aesthetically significant as an intact example of English Queen Anne Revival architecture within the City of Stonnington. While it is restrained in comparison to domestic

Queen Anne architecture, it is of overall high integrity and comprises all the features associated with the idiom. Its terracotta paneling and pedimented gables are of a high design quality, and both its well anchored form and use of red brick render it a discernible and distinct example of the style. The building presents well to the street and is a landmark building within the school site owing to its heritage integrity. (Criterion E)

Primary source

Primary School No 3016, Canterbury Road, Toorak, Citation Report, Extent Heritage Pty Ltd, November 2021.