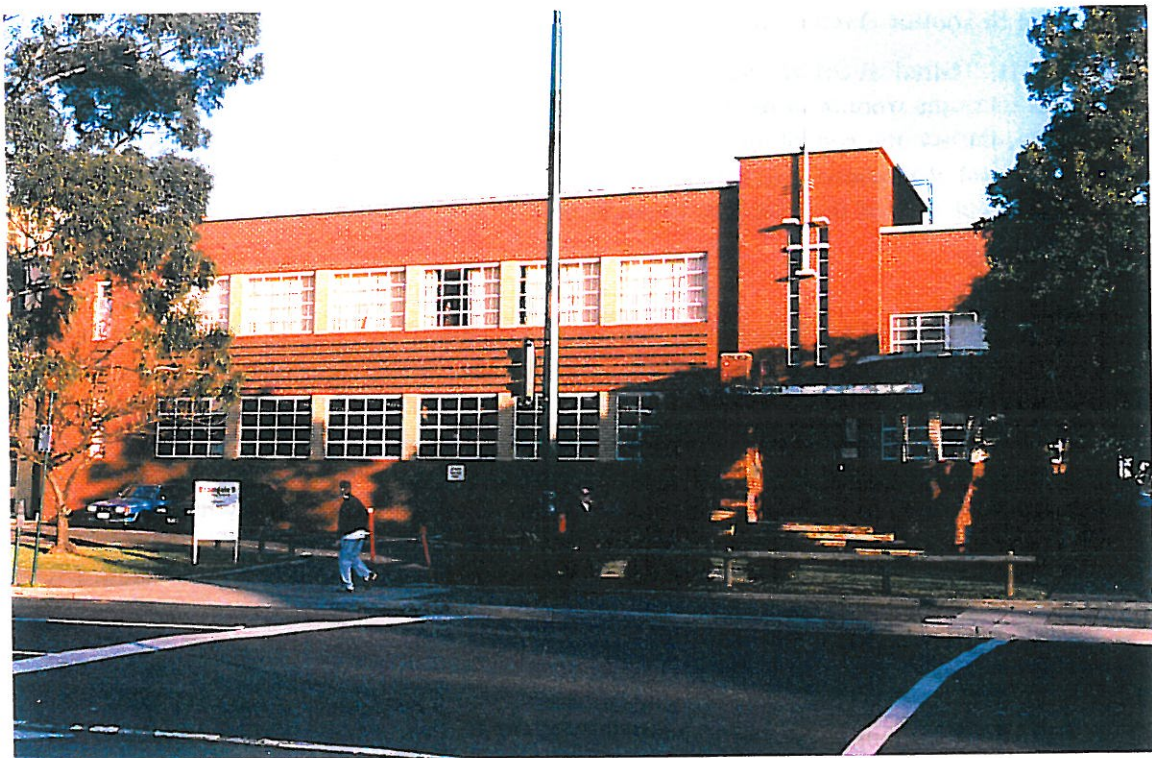


Building:	Former Box Hill Girls' Technical School	Significance:	A
Address:	1000 Whitehorse Road, Box Hill	Melway Map Ref:	47 D9
Building Type:	School	Construction Date:	1936
Architect:	Percy Everett?	Builder:	Unknown



Intactness:		Condition:	
G[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] F[<input type="checkbox"/>] P[<input type="checkbox"/>]		G[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] F[<input type="checkbox"/>] P[<input type="checkbox"/>]	
Existing Heritage Listings:		Recommended Heritage Listings:	
Victorian Heritage Register	[<input type="checkbox"/>]	Victorian Heritage Register	[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
Register of the National Estate	[<input type="checkbox"/>]	Register of the National Estate	[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
National Trust	[<input type="checkbox"/>]	Heritage Overlay Controls	[<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]

History

A technical school for girls in Box Hill was first mooted by J Ingamells in 1919. It was not until 1924 that the school was opened, making it the first girls' technical school in Victoria.¹ It was located in the former premises of State School No. 2838, on the south side of Whitehorse Road, which comprised eight classrooms, a principal's office, and small staff room. The staff consisted of the headmistress, Miss R A Evans, and eight teachers. The school began with 65 pupils in the junior school, and later 151 senior pupils in day and night classes.²

Overcrowding soon became a problem, and two new classrooms were added to the building in 1924. In 1936, the foundation stone for the present building was laid by Dr John Harris, the Minister of Public Instruction. The distinctive Moderne style of the building suggests that it was designed by Percy Everett (1888-1967) who served as Chief Architect for the Public Works Department from 1934 until 1953. He was responsible for the design of many government schools during this time, including the technical schools at Essendon, Caulfield, Collingwood and Oakleigh, and the girls' technical school at Prahran. He also designed the Box Hill Boys' Technical School in Dunloe Avenue in 1943 (see separate datasheet).

The Box Hill Girls' Technical School complex was further extended over the following decades. Ten new LTC classrooms were built between 1950 and 1964, and a further three classroom blocks in 1968. In 1984, the school amalgamated with the Box Hill Boys' Technical School to form the co-educational Whitehorse Technical School.³ The building has since been taken over as the Whitehorse Campus of the Box Hill Institute of TAFE.

Description

The former Box Hill Girls' Technical School is a double-storey Moderne red brick building with a hipped roof concealed behind a capped parapet. The facade has six bays of multi-paned windows at each level, separated by contrasting cream brick piers. The spandrel between the two rows of windows has alternating courses of manganese bricks; early photographs of the building also show distinctive wrought iron lettering, stating BOX HILL GIRLS' TECHNICAL SCHOOL, which has since been removed. At the west end of the facade is an entry porch with a concrete slab roof, marked by a squat tower with narrow vertical strip windows and a flagpole supported on concrete corbels. Beside the porch is a projecting single-storey semicircular bay with a band of windows.

Comparative Examples

Essendon Technical School, 36-44 Buckley Street, Essendon (Percy Everett, 1938)
Box Hill Boys' Technical School, Dunloe Avenue, Box Hill (Percy Everett, 1943)

Significance

The former Box Hill Girls' Technical School is of outstanding historical and aesthetic significance. As the first girls' technical school ever established in Victoria, it demonstrates a very important phase in the history of education in the state. The building itself is a particularly assured example of 1930s Moderne design, characterised by bold rectilinear composition, banded brickwork and regular fenestration.

Originally Identified By

Allom Lovell & Associates

1 Andrew Lemon. *Box Hill*. Melbourne, 1978. pp 150, 159-161.

2 Education Department of Victoria. *Vision and Realisation*. Vol. 3, pp 597-98.

3 *Progress Press*. 6 December 1984. p 5.