

<b>Building:</b>	Surrey Hills Primary School	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	2 Beatrice Avenue, Surrey Hills	<b>Melway May Ref:</b>	46 J11
<b>Building Type:</b>	School	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1890
<b>Architect:</b>	J T Kelleher	<b>Builder:</b>	Public Works Department



**Intactness:**  
G[x] F[ ] P[ ]

**Condition:**  
G[x] F[ ] P[ ]

**Existing Heritage Listings:**

Victorian Heritage Register [ ]  
Register of the National Estate [ ]  
National Trust [ ]

**Recommended Heritage Listings:**

Victorian Heritage Register [ ]  
Register of the National Estate [x]  
Heritage Overlay Controls [x]

## **History**

Surrey Hills Primary School, originally known as State School No. 2778, was opened on 7 August 1886 in the Surrey Hills Recreation Hall, following the opening of the railway and the Windsor Park Estate (in 1882 and 1883 respectively).

The present buildings were erected in 1890 to a design by J T Kelleher of the Public Works Department. Kelleher, working under prolific school architect Henry Bastow, experimented at Surrey Hills with the then new English Queen Anne style, following the erection of the first school building in that style at Richmond North in 1888. Henry Bastow, then Senior Architect at the Public Works Department, was known as an innovator, and the design of the present buildings marked a move away from Gothic-inspired school buildings.

The existing buildings, at the south-west corner of the site, originally accommodated 100 children. Extensions were built as a consequence of overcrowding. The entrance hall dates from the 1909 works.

## **Description**

Surrey Hills Primary School is a single- and double-storey Queen Anne/Arts & Crafts style bichromatic brick building.

Its walls are of dark brown and red brick with shallow red brick piers, plinths and spandrels, and dark brown brick surrounds to windows. The steeply sloping gabled slate roof has bellcast eaves, tall ribbed chimney stacks, half-timbered gable ends and bracketed eaves. Window sills and heads are enriched with moulded bricks also extended to form string courses. Windows are multi-paned, which is indicative of the increasing interest in the late nineteenth-century to provide fresh air and sunlight. Later additions to the school are sympathetic and interpret the Queen Anne forms. The entry porch, with its ornamented parapet, is unusual.

## **Comparative Examples**

Richmond North (now Yarra) Primary School, Davison Street, Richmond

## **Significance**

Surrey Hills Primary School is of aesthetic and historical significance. It is was one of the first Queen Anne/Arts & Crafts style school buildings designed by the Victorian Public Works Department, and contributes to an understanding of the development of this style of school architecture. The building also derives significance from its association with architects J T Kelleher and Henry Bastow, the latter a prominent architect and civil engineer within the Victorian Public Works Department.

## **Source**

Andrew C Ward & Associates. *City of Box Hill Heritage and Conservation Study*. 1990.

## **Additional Historical Information**

Lawrence Burchall. *Victorian Schools*. Carlton, Victoria, 1980. pp 92, 161-162.