

Building:	Blackburn Primary School	Significance:	B
Address:	181-195 Whitehorse Road, Blackburn	Melway Map Ref:	48 A9
Building Type:	School	Construction Date:	1889 onwards
Architect:	Public Works Department?	Builder:	Public Works Department?



Intactness:
G F P

Condition:
G 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

Heritage Overlay Controls

History

Blackburn State School No. 2923 was opened in 1889. The first teacher was John Williams, who, along with his sister and his children, taught at the school for the next 26 years. Alterations and additions were made to the original building in 1923, 1940 and 1965.¹

Description

The original Blackburn Primary School building is a single-storey bichromatic brick Victorian building. Walls are of red brick with cream brick string courses and window dressings. There are large multi-paned timber-framed double-hung sash windows, some with hopper sash highlights. The gabled roofs are clad in corrugated galvanised steel and have unusual gable-end brackets, finials and louvred vents. The front entrance, which appears to date from the 1923 alterations, has a hipped roof concealed behind a simple parapet with a rendered panel bearing the name of the school.

A number of skylights have been installed in the roof.

Comparative Examples

Former Burwood Primary School, 166-172 Burwood Highway, Burwood
Burwood East Primary School, 525 Highbury Road, Burwood East

Significance

Blackburn Primary School is of historical and aesthetic importance. It is one of only two nineteenth century brick state schools in the municipality and a good example of a small but relatively late nineteenth-century school building. It makes a major heritage contribution to the Whitehorse Road streetscape.

Source

Context Pty Ltd. *City of Nunawading Heritage Survey Project*. 1994. (Graded B)

1 L J Blake (ed.). *Vision and Realisation: A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria*. Melbourne, 1973. Vol. 3, p 393.