

## Ashburton Primary School, 10A Fakenham Road, Ashburton Statement of Significance, December 2021

<b>Heritage Place:</b> Ashburton Primary School	<b>PS ref no:</b> HO921
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### **What is significant?**

The Ashburton Primary School (number 4317), 10A Fakenham Road, Ashburton's Spanish Mission styled original school building designed by Edwin Evan Smith of the Public Works Department in 1928, and the sympathetic extensions added in 1947 and modern extension of 1949 are significant. The 1952 war memorial contributes to the site. Additions and alterations to the building after 1951 are not significant.

### **How is it significant?**

The original Ashburton Primary School building is historically, architecturally, aesthetically and socially significant to the City of Boroondara.

### **Why is it significant?**

The original school building is historically significant as the first state school in Ashburton, established in 1928 as the suburb was being established. Additions of 1947 and 1949 demonstrate the rapid growth of Ashburton in the period, as the area grew with the foundation and expansion of the Housing Commission estate and broader suburban growth during the post-war 'baby boom'. The local community successfully lobbied for the establishment and extension of the school, which provided a focus for community organisation, from fundraising for new

facilities and services through to local volunteer groups such as the Mothers Club. The school building is also associated with the local Methodist congregation as the building was used for services in the early 1930s. The war memorial, opened at the school by the Victorian Governor Sir Dallas Brooks, contributes to the historical significance of the place as a focus of community memory. (Criterion A)

The original school building is representatively significant as a good example of an interwar state school designed in the Spanish Mission style by the Public Works Department under Chief Architect Edwin Evan Smith. Besides being interesting for its application of the Spanish Mission style to a school building, it demonstrates hallmark characteristics of the type with its rows of multi-paned windows, terracotta tile roof, and decorative porch with school name and number above the entrance. The school was constructed with a rear veranda and balcony. The school's construction spanning the interwar and post-war period is evident, with the extension designed by Percy Everett in 1949 adopting a more modern style. (Criterion D)

The original school building design is aesthetically significant for its demonstration of a Spanish Mission style applied to a school building, comprising decorative parapet, concentration of ornament in the central façade, windows framed within three arches in the central facade, and decorative porch with classical features. Other decorative elements include cement rendered panels between the sets of triple windows and soldier brick courses in a Flemish bond red brick façade. (Criterion E)

Ashburton Primary has a special association with the local community which lobbied and fundraised for its construction and extension as the suburb grew after WWI. The school also has an association with the local Methodist community as the building was used for the Sunday School and church services in the early 1930s. The war memorial, opened by Governor of Victoria Sir Dallas Brooks in 1952 provides a focus for community memory and memorialisation. (Criterion G)

### **Primary source**

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*City of Boroondara Municipal-Wide Heritage Gap Study Volume 8: Ashburton* (Context Pty Ltd, December 2021)

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