

LIVERPOOL PUBLIC SCHOOL.

1863 - 1940.

On 7th September, 1863 an application was made for the establishment of a non-vested National School at Liverpool. Signatories to the document were Messrs James Gillespie, James Farquhar, James Smith, Allan McPherson, John Gillie and Thomas Wearne, all of whom were Local Patrons. It was pointed out that two denominational schools already existed at Liverpool, namely the Church of England and the Roman Catholic, but it was felt that these did not provide sufficiently for the children of the working people of the district. There were approximately 200 children between the ages of five and fourteen in the immediate locality, and it was expected that a large proportion of these would attend the school.

The building suggested for school purposes was erected on ground belonging to the Presbyterian Church authorities. Although intended to act as a school, it had no previous connection with the Denominational Board. It measured thirty feet by eighteen feet and was a weatherboard structure with shingled roof. The control of the building was vested in the Local Patrons.

The application was approved and the school opened in October 1863, with Mr Frederick Ransom Seaborn as teacher. There is no record of the initial enrolment but the enrolment for the remainder of the year was 50 pupils with an average attendance of 32.

Mr Seaborn resigned from his position as teacher at the commencement of 1864 and Mr. John Mills was subsequently appointed in his stead by the Local Patrons.

By 1865 the enrolment stood at 49 pupils and Mr Mills asked that his son be appointed as a pupil teacher. Mr Inspector Gardiner commented that:

"The School on behalf of which this application is made, scarcely satisfies the conditions of the Board's Regulations. These require that an average of fifty pupils shall have been in attendance during the previous year, before the aid of a pupil teacher can be granted. Such has not been the case here. The greatest has been 46. For 1865, the highest numbers enrolled are 38 boys and 18 girls: the largest actual attendance on one day has been 49: the ordinary muster is now about 45: and for the past quarter, 42 may be held as a fair average." The application was subsequently declined.

Shortly afterwards Mr Mills received notification that his services had been dispensed with. It appeared that the Inspector had formed a very unfavourable impression of the school at the last general inspection, which was contrary to his comments from previous years. The Local Patrons, however, had also been present at the time and reported that the Inspector had not been unbiased in his inspection. Although it was explained that a difference in personal relations between the two gentlemen was thought to be the explanation, Mr. Mills was still removed from his position at Liverpool. His successor, Mr Henry Britten, did not take charge until 27th March 1866, the school in the meantime being conducted by Mr Mills at the request of the Local Patrons.

In May 1867 Captain Richard Sadlier, R.N., requested that a site be secured for public school purposes. The appropriation of two roods and ten perches was accordingly approved by the Minister for Lands. With a frontage to Bigge Street and located near the Gaol, the new school site comprised only a portion of the selected allotment as

"It is considered desirable to retain the remainder of the allotment, as any erections thereon would, it is believed, afford facilities of escape to the inmates of the Gaol".

The following year the average attendance had risen to over fifty pupils and Mr. G. Whiteford, chairman of the Local Board, requested that a pupil teacher be appointed. Mr. Inspector Huffer commented that:

"There are difficulties with regard to the appointment of a Pupil Teacher in this school similar to those which exist in connection with the certified C.E. Denominational school in the same town. There is a large first class, the building is not satisfactory, and the Teacher does not, at present, hold the necessary classification. The number of pupils in average attendance is not quite so large in this as in the C.E. school, at present; but taking the averages for 3, or say 6 months, they are, I believe, nearly equal in the two schools."

On his recommendation a pupil teacher was sent to both schools.

By September the attendance had risen to 90 pupils, and Mr. Whiteford pointed out the necessity of providing additional accommodation. The Trustees of the school house were willing to continue to lease the building to the Council of Education, free of rent, provided the Council supplied the funds to enlarge it.

The Council, however, had already agreed to erect a new school capable of accommodating 100 pupils. As the estimated expenditure was expected to be about five hundred pounds, the School Board was requested to raise one hundred pounds by local subscriptions.

Plans and specifications were forwarded by the Government Architect, Mr. Alan Mansfield, in July, 1869. They provided for the erection of a schoolhouse, measuring 50 feet by 16, and a residence, consisting of a sitting room, bedroom and kitchen.

Although the Local Board had undertaken to raise the one hundred pounds, the local subscriptions had only amounted to forty two pounds owing to severe unemployment in the district. Under these circumstances the Council decided that no contract should be entered into during that year.

Mr. Whiteford immediately complained that the school would be forced to close because of lack of adequate accommodation. Mr. Inspector Huffer also stated that:

"... there is no school in my district for which new premises are more urgently needed than they are at the Liverpool Public School."

Despite these protests, the Council adhered to its decision.

The following year Mr Britten was moved to Orange Public School. After selling all his household effects, he had proceeded as far as Bathurst when he received notification to return to Liverpool. He remained there until May, when Mr Charles Stratford was placed in charge.

Two months later Mr. Whiteford informed the Council that sixty pounds had been raised by local subscriptions, and requested that the Council reconsider its decision regarding the erection of the new school. On investigating the position, Mr Inspector Huffer reported as follows:

"The Public School would undoubtedly better provide the means of education for the whole township and locality than the three existing schools do, but the establishment of such a school is not, at present, practicable. On the other hand, the C.E. and R.C. school buildings, have not sufficient accommodation for all the school-going children in the locality, and if they had, a large number of the parents would not send their children to these schools unless they were compelled to do so. Under these circumstances, a Public School to accommodate at least from 80 to 100 pupils is really necessary."

I would again strongly recommend, therefore, that new Public School buildings be erected in accordance with the plans decided upon by the Council in 1868 i.e., provided the sum of one hundred pounds toward the necessary outlay be raised by the Local Board.."

The Local Board were subsequently informed that as soon as the sum of one hundred pounds had been lodged to the credit of the Council of Education, the erection of the new school would begin. Meanwhile, the Architect was instructed to prepare fresh plans for a school capable of accommodating 100 pupils and estimated to cost three hundred pounds. No residence was to be provided.

The new plans were ready in October, and in November Mr. Whiteford requested that the building be made two feet wider. Records from this date are rather vague, but it appears that the Architect redrew the plans on an enlarged scale.

The sum of one hundred pounds was lodged with the Council of Education on 1st April 1871, and a contract was signed the same month by Messrs Eyles and Dengate for four hundred and ninety five pounds. There is no record of when the school was completed, but the building was apparently occupied during that year.

Negotiations had meanwhile been commenced regarding the appropriation of a small strip of land between the Court House wall and the existing school ground. It appeared that the land was required for playground purposes, but the Magistrates objected as they felt it would interfere with the arrangements of the police premises. The opposition was overcome and the land appropriated for school purposes in July 1871.

The following year Mr Whiteford applied for the appointment of an assistant teacher to Liverpool.

"The present duties being too much for one Teacher, and I am requested to state that there is a dissatisfaction on the part of the parents on account of there being no female teacher."

As the average attendance consisted of 70 pupils, Miss Alice Wells was temporarily appointed to the position at a salary of forty eight pounds per annum, plus a share of the school fees.

In January 1875 two weathersheds were erected at a cost of forty five pounds. Several months later the Local Board met to consider the matter of erecting a teacher's residence. After representations had been made to the Council of Education, the Architect was told to prepare plans and specifications. These were ready in October and provided for the erection of a brick building, containing six rooms. The work was carried out by Messrs Shephard and Morley for nine hundred and thirty pounds.

In 1878 the Local Board brought to notice the question of acquiring additional land for school purposes at Liverpool. Mr Inspector Jones, in investigating the matter, recommended that certain land on the southern side of the school, belonging to the Masonic body and Mr E. Barrett, be secured. The matter, however, was held over pending the passing of the Lands Acquisition Act.

In August 1880 Mr Inspector Johnson suggested that a site on the western side of the school would be more preferable. The land in question consisted of three allotments extending to Moore Street, and appeared to be a suitable site for the required additional buildings. The two outside lots belonged to a Mrs Ashcroft, who was willing to sell for the sum of four hundred and fifty six pounds, five shillings. The owner of the middle portion was unknown.

The price asked by Mrs Ashcroft was deemed to be too high and, as the middle portion was also necessary, the Chief Inspector asked that the whole block be resumed under the Acquisition Act. The Minister, Sir John Robertson, directed that the matter should stand over, and again, in July 1881, decided to "await further authority to draw money."

In December 1881, the Masonic body offered their land for sale for the sum of one thousand four hundred and sixty five pounds. After an inquiry was made into the matter the offer was declined. The Chief Inspector again recommended that Mrs Ashcroft's land, and the portion lying between, be resumed and a primary school, fronting Moore Street, be built upon the site. No further action was taken at this time.

By October 1882 the school was so overcrowded that the "Cumberland Assembly Rooms" (the Masonic Hall) were rented for school purposes. An increased enrolment had resulted from the closure of the two denominational schools at Liverpool under the provisions of the Public Instruction Act.

The rented premises were not occupied immediately, however, as certain repairs and renovations had to be effected. These were executed by Mr William Gee for thirty eight pounds, ten shillings, and the Assembly Hall was occupied as an infants' school in March 1883.

During this month the following communication from Miss Sarah Marshall, the teacher of the infants' class:

"... the average attendance of pupils in the Infant class under my charge is 108, and being in a building quite apart from the other portion of the school, is practically a Separate Department."

Her request for a separate infants' department was declined, as under the regulations 200 children had to be in attendance.

In February 1885 Edward Ashcroft, son of Mrs Margaret Ashcroft, offered for sale a piece of land with frontages to Moore Street and Queens Place (a reserved road). The Chief Inspector recommended the purchase and the transfer was completed in November. It is interesting to note that the Ashcroft family owned a butchery in Liverpool for many years and used to supply meat for one penny per pound. The position of the Ashcroft's land can be seen on the attached plan overleaf.

After having served for sixteen years without a day of illness, Mr Lambert, the principal teacher, was granted three months leave of absence on full pay in November 1885. It appeared that his health was deteriorating and he took this opportunity to visit New Zealand for "a complete rest to regain my former vigour".

The following year an epidemic of scarlet fever swept the district and Mr Lambert applied for permission to close the school for a period of one month. The request had been made on the advice of the local doctors, who felt that the close contact of the children at school each day was causing the epidemic to spread. The application was declined, however, as the Department considered that the children would meet in the shops and the streets whether the school was closed or not.

In August 1887 Mr Lambert was granted another six months leave of absence so that he could take his daughter to New Zealand for health reasons. Upon his return in March 1888 he did not resume duty at Liverpool, and the school was placed in charge of Mr William Swanton.

Two years later a new primary school was erected, being completed in January 1889. There is no record of the size of the building but the contractors were Messrs A and D. Elphinstone and the price one thousand one hundred and fifty pounds. The accommodation for the infants' department had meanwhile deteriorated, and on 1st April 1889 the following report was received from Mr Deputy Chief Inspector Bridges:

"The Public School buildings at Liverpool consist of the recently erected Primary school rooms, and the old school building, now set apart for the accommodation of Infants. This old building contains two rooms, the main one 42 feet by 18, and a small class room 13 feet by 11. The small room is of no use for school purposes, except as a Teachers' room or a store room. The Infants' Department has an enrolment of 239 pupils, and an ordinary attendance of about 200. This attendance is steadily increasing. It is obvious that the accommodation provided for this department is a long way deficient. As a temporary arrangement the first or babies' class is taught in the class room of the Primary school, but the room is too small, and is really needed for the older pupils."

He recommended the erection of a babies' classroom, measuring about 15 feet by 20 feet, to be fitted with a large gallery and kindergarten desks.

Plans and specifications were accordingly drawn up, and at the same time provision was made for extra accommodation for the girls' department. Both works were completed in February 1890 at a cost of six hundred and fifty pounds. Mr William Gazzard was the contractor.

In April 1890 the Department of Lands made inquiries as to whether a reserve, originally set aside for a public school, was still required for school purposes. The reserve was situated near the location of the present high school buildings. In view of the density of settlement in this area today, the report of the Inspector may be of interest.

"I have visited this reserve for a public school. It is situated about a mile and a quarter north east of Liverpool Public School, and about a little over a mile from the Railway line, near the Warwick Farm Race Course. At present there are very few residents within half a mile of the reserve; there are old residents and there have been no new comers for years. In the ordinary course of things there is no probability of this site being required for the next 30 or 40 years. The Warwick Farm proprietary may possibly encourage a few employees connected with race horses to locate themselves in the vicinity, but even so, there is ample accommodation provided for these at Liverpool Public School. The ground of this estate is at present covered with scrub, is very low, and in parts is covered with water. The town of Liverpool is progressing in the opposite direction, viz, towards the South West."

The Department of Lands was subsequently informed that the reserve would not be required for public school purposes.

Negotiations had meanwhile been recommenced for the purchase of two blocks of land from Messrs Bull and Burdekin. Previous negotiations had fallen through on account of the price, and the Department had erected the new primary school on Mrs Ashcrofts' land instead. This time, however, the negotiations were successful, and one acre, one rood and 7 ¾ perches was added to the school site. Included in the purchase was the building known as the "Cumberland Assembly Rooms".

The second official Departmental celebration of Arbor Day was held at Liverpool on 21st August 1891. Included amongst the official party were the Minister for Public Instruction, the Hon. J.H. Carruthers, His Excellency the Governor, Lord Jersey, and Lady Jersey. Twenty four boys and two officers from the ship "Vernon" provided music for the occasion, together with the Petersham Fife and Drum School Band. At the official luncheon children from the school rendered an Arbor Day Cantata, the verse of which had been written by Lady Jersey. A report on the tree planting is quoted below:

"At this school tree planting was celebrated last Arbor Day with much rejoicing. About 120 trees were planted by the Officers of the Department, the leading towns people and others. The trees are protected by a neat three rail painted fence. Most of the trees have taken root and they are well looked after by the school children under the supervision of the teachers."

In February 1898 permission was granted for a swimming club to be held on Wednesday afternoons. During this same year the residence was repaired by Mr. T. Hewson of Auburn for seventy seven pounds, fifteen shillings.

The school itself received extensive repairs and renovations in March 1900 when Mr H.A. Baglee undertook the work for one hundred and eight five pounds. At the same time the headmaster, Mr Charles Snodgrass, was given six months leave of absence after twenty years teaching service. He visited the United Kingdom to see his relatives and for health reasons.

On 9th May 1901 the following communication was received from Mr. Charles Scrivener, Chairman of the Liverpool Public School Board:

"... I was requested to ask you to forward as early as you can the gazetting of our Liverpool School as a Superior Public School. The Board consider that the growing importance of Liverpool renders this necessary, and we feel certain it will be greatly to the advantage of the school."

As there were 20 boys and 12 girls in attendance who had been educated up to the required standard, the Inspector gave his recommendation. On the 5th October Liverpool was accordingly proclaimed a Superior Public by Sir Frederick Matthew Darley, the Lieutenant-Governor.

Throughout the next few years a portion of the old Masonic Hall was rebuilt and both the residence and the school received minor improvements.

In November 1910 the Public Works Department was instructed to prepare plans and specifications for improvements to the school after Mr Inspector Cornish had reported that the buildings were "old and out of date". The following month the school was closed on 10th December for the holding of the Centenary celebrations of the Liverpool district. Schools which took part were Liverpool Superior School; the public schools of Hoxton Park, Smithfield, Canley Vale, Cabramatta, Austral, Fairfield, Bossley Park, Ingleburn, Wetherill Park, St John's Park and Glenfield; and the Holsworthy subsidised school.

By July 1911 plans for the alterations to the school were completed and a tender was subsequently let to Day Labour for one thousand one hundred and ninety six pounds, one shilling and 8 pence. Items included; the erection of partitions in the Masonic hall and other rooms; lowering windows and levelling floors; painting inside and out; and fencing and drainage. The work was completed in October 1912.

On 11th November the Town Clerk of the Liverpool Council, Mr S.H. Somerville, requested the establishment of cookery classes at Liverpool Superior School. If the application was sanctioned the Council was willing to supply gas for use in the cooking stoves at five shillings per 1000 cubic feet. Mr Senior Inspector Thomas commented that:

"With the railway facilities that exist all girls at Liverpool desiring to attend Cookery Classes can easily get to Granville Technical School. During this year it has been a matter of some difficulty to maintain a group of 12 from Liverpool Superior Public School in constant attendance at Granville. I do not think it is practicable to maintain a full Cookery School (80 pupils) at Liverpool, even with the support of the surrounding district."

The application was declined and Mr Somerville informed accordingly.

A "Raymond Miniature Cartridge Range", was installed at the school in April 1913 in connection with the Junior Cadet Training. The installation necessitated the removal of the weathershed to a new site nearer the school gardens. The work was undertaken by Mr. H.E. Wearne, for six pounds fifteen shillings.

Agitation for the establishment of a high school at Liverpool was commenced in 1916, when the Municipal Council made a request on behalf of the residents. After some consultation the application was declined on the grounds that there were insufficient numbers from the Liverpool school, or the surrounding district, to warrant the expense. Moreover, it was pointed out that ample accommodation already existed at Parramatta High School for all pupils who had applied or were eligible for admission thereto.

During this year the headmaster, Mr George Paradise, vacated the school residence in preference to his own arrangements. This was the last time the residence was used by headmasters of Liverpool, but tenants continued to occupy it for many years. The luncheon recess was reduced from one and a half hours to one hour in September 1919. By this action, the school then closed at 3.30 p.m., enabling the teachers to catch the 3.57 p.m. train to Sydney.

Additional accommodation was provided in 1920 by Mr A. Ede for nine hundred and twenty nine pounds. The work included the demolition of an old building and its re-erections and enlargement; the erection of a new toilet block, teachers' room and coal shed; and the remodelling of part of the old Masonic Hall into a sewing room. All work was completed in May.

Meanwhile, the Town Clerk of the Liverpool Council, Mr R.A. Brouff, again made representations to Messrs V. Molesworth, R.B. Walker and E.S. Carr, all of whom were M.L.A.'s, regarding the establishment of a high school at Liverpool. He urged that steps be taken to resume the property known as Moore College for purposes of a high school, and secondly, to provide sufficient land for the erection of Masters' residences.

Mr Brouff was duly informed that ample accommodation already existed at Parramatta High School, but

"If it is found, however, at the beginning of next year, that a sufficient number of pupils holding the Qualifying Certificate are prepared to remain at Liverpool School for a least two years, the question of authorising courses leading to the Intermediate Certificate (without a foreign language) will be considered."

A Mothers' Club was formed in June 1922. By the end of the year the club had purchased a piano for the Infants' school and had organised an afternoon tea for the children at Christmas time. On the suggestion of Mr Inspector Back they received a letter of commendation from the Department in appreciation of their services.

In order to cope with increasing enrolments a double portable classroom was removed from Ashfield to Liverpool in May 1924. At the same time a total of one rood and 32 perches of land was resumed from Mr W.T. Swift for one hundred and twenty nine pounds, six shillings and three pence. The additional land had been required for the proposed extension of the school into secondary classes. In the meantime the Methodist School hall was occupied for school purposes in December 1925.

A composite course, similar to a District Rural Course, was introduced at Liverpool in 1926, with first year pupils taking lessons in Agriculture and Agricultural Botany. In order to enable a farm plot to be put into operation an additional 26 perches of land were purchased from Mr W.T. Swift for four hundred and seventy five pounds. The acquired land had a frontage of 53 feet to Moore Street. During this same year a number of boys from Cabramatta, Campbelltown, Glenfield and Ingleburn schools attended Liverpool for Manual Training instruction.

Requests for the establishment of a District Rural Course at Liverpool were made throughout the next two years, and in February 1928 Mr Inspector Clemens was sent to investigate the position. His report is quoted below:

"At Liverpool are 85 secondary students: Year 3: 12, Year 2: 14, Year 1: 59. 26 of these come from schools south of Liverpool.

"187 boys attend Manual Training classes at Liverpool; they are drawn from Cabramatta, Canley Vale, Campbelltown, Fairfield, Glenfield and Liverpool...

"It is evident from statistics that a Rural School is not needed at Liverpool, Hurlstone Agricultural High four miles distant is able to meet the requirements of the district. A District Rural School should therefore not be established at Liverpool.

"The Super-Primary course being followed at Liverpool includes English, Maths 1, Maths 2, History, Geography, Agriculture, Rural Economics, Agricultural Chemistry, Agricultural Botany, Business Principles, Book-Keeping, Manual Work, Art and Needlework. Cooker instruction is given at Granville.."

He suggested the elimination of the courses in Agriculture, Agricultural Chemistry and Botany and Rural Economics and the substitution for them of Physics, Chemistry or Elementary Science, Cooking, Typewriting and Technical Drawing. It was also pointed out that a establishment of a Cookery school at Liverpool was essential, as the facilities at Granville could no longer cope with the numbers of pupils attending from the surrounding schools. In the event of the suggested course being adopted, the Inspector concluded that the erection of Science and Cookery rooms would be a decided necessity.

After some consultation the Inspector's recommendation was approved, and the new secondary course introduced at Liverpool.

Meanwhile, the accommodation position at Liverpool had once more deteriorated, with the existing buildings being described as out of date and in a very bad state of disrepair. Instead of patching up and adding to the old structure it was decided that an entirely new building would be the most satisfactory means of solving the accommodation question. A tender was subsequently accepted from Mr A. Hitchcoe of Ashfield for ten thousand and ninety three pounds. The additions comprised a new two storeyed brick building containing six classrooms, two assembly halls, a Headmaster's office and staff room; the conversion of one of the existing primary rooms for infants' purposes; the conversion of the old Masonic Hall into a Domestic Science block; additional sanitary accommodation; ground improvements; and additional fencing and general renovation to the existing premises.

While the work was in progress, both the Methodist and Protestant halls were occupied for school purposes. Both premises were vacated on 4th October 1928, the same date as the occupation of the new building. The official opening, conducted by the Minister for Education, took place on 17th November.

The following month approval was given for the establishment of two first year Junior Technical classes from the beginning of 1929. Pupils from schools north and south of Liverpool, including the Regents Park line, were deemed eligible to attend instruction in these courses. The action had been taken owing to the acute accommodation position existing at Granville Central Technical School.

The introduction of the new sources, however, immediately created time-table problems and in February 1929 the primary woodwork classes, which were conducted at Liverpool for the surrounding schools, were discontinued. Playground facilities also deteriorated, and in April a total of 3¼ perches of land were purchased from Sergeant Gibson for three hundred and seventy five pounds.

The enrolment in the Junior Technical classes continued to increase, necessitating the removal of two single portable rooms from Guildford to Liverpool in May. The work was carried out by the Departmental Furniture Workshops for one hundred and twenty seven pounds, four shillings and five pence. The enrolments in the domestic science section had also increased and, in December, approval was given for the establishment of a separate girls' department from the beginning of the next school year.

The enrolment in the primary at this time stood at 790 pupils, with 74 students attending Junior Technical and Domestic Science courses.

The old school residence was vacated by the tenant, Mrs N. Wilson, on 18th January 1930. Following its sale by auction for fifty two pounds, ten shillings, the residence was demolished to provide additional playground facilities for the infants' pupils. Portion of the site was later occupied by a double portable classroom from Lakemba. The Furniture Workshops undertook the removal and re-erection for seventy six pounds, three shillings and three pence.

The cookery room was connected to the water supply by the Painting and Repair Staff in June. Meanwhile the erection of the portable room on the old residence site had hampered playground accommodation, so in September, 6 ½ perches of land was purchased from the Trustees of the Liverpool Methodist Church.

Second Year Junior Technical classes had been proposed as early as May 1930 and it is believed that the classes commenced sometime in this year. By November 1931 the enrolment necessitated the removal of another double portable classroom from Manly. It was re-erected by the Furniture Workshop for one hundred and nine pounds, four shillings, seven pence.

In September 1932 Liverpool Junior Technical school competed in the first annual athletics carnival of the combined Junior Technical and Commercial schools. It was the only school to enter competitors in every event, and won the Grace Shield with a total of 24 points.

Two months later the headmaster, Mr Noad, passed away quite suddenly. To commemorate his memory, the staff erected a marble tablet in the vestibule of the boys' school. The unveiling ceremony was performed by Mr Inspector Harvey on 12th December.

In December 1934 the headmistress of the Domestic Science school requested that an additional portable classroom be made available after the Christmas vacation. It was pointed out that the existing third year class of 30 pupils (estimated enrolment after vacation 45), was crowded into an ill-ventilated, partitioned-off portion of a weathershed. Mr Inspector Harvey also stated that an additional temporary room was urgently needed until permanent remodelling could be effected.

The question of providing a new building, and of remodelling the existing premises, was at the time under consideration. Although there were eight portable rooms already on the school site, the accommodation problem was still very acute. It was considered, however, that it would be at least six months before a new building could be made available, even if it was possible to proceed immediately with the provision of such premises. Under the circumstances, it was decided to supply an additional single portable classroom from Milson's Point, to provide temporary relief pending the erection of permanent buildings. The Furniture Workshops undertook the work at a cost of eighty pounds.

In 1936 an additional 13¾ perches of land, which formed part of Queens Place, was resumed for school purposes under the Public Works Act of 1912. The transfer was completed on 24th July.

Enrolments in the Junior Technical classes continued to increase, and in April 1939 the assembly rooms were partitioned off to provide extra accommodation. Several months later the Australian Gas Light Company donated four gas cookers and a hot water system to the Domestic Science School. They were installed by the Painting and Repair Staff for one hundred and ninety eight pounds and nineteen shillings and eight pence.

Since it is felt that information on recent developments can be more effectively obtained locally, the material in this survey covers only the period between 1863 and 1940.