

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: STATE SCHOOL NO. 4362 AND RESIDENCE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Zig Zag Road KONONG WOOTONG NORTH

STUDY NUMBER: 160

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: KONONGWOOTONG NORTH STATE SCHOOL

PRECINCT: outside

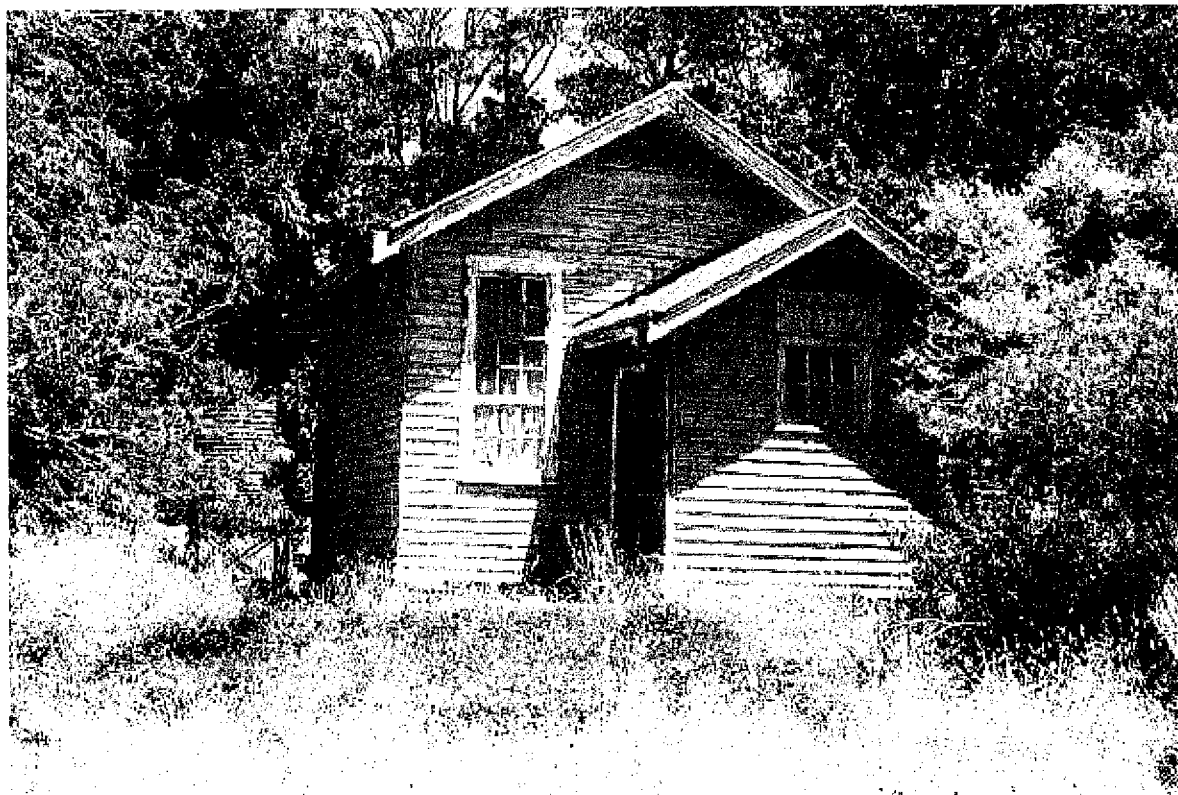
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 21B **SECTION:** no **PARISH:** PARISH OF KONONG WOOTONG
section

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430 B1; VicRoads 54 C9; located on the south side of Zig Zag Road, immediately east of the intersection of the Coleraine-Edenhope Road

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: State



State School No. 4362, Zig Zag Road, Konongwootong North.

Image Date: 10/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the school buildings, teacher's residence, gardens and school yard.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The former State School No. 4362, constructed in 1929, is a single roomed timber building, with an enclosed entrance porch, weatherboard walls and a corrugated iron gabled roof. Its form and style are typical of the period, including the porch which asymmetric to the façade and the somewhat Gothic detailing. The schoolroom is amply lit by tall, 18 pane, triple hung sash windows. The entrance porch with double timber doors has a single 6 pane window, and an identification plaque which reads "Konongwootong Nth. P.S. No. 4362."

The interior of the schoolhouse is plain and appears little changed since its construction, with plaster walls and a timber paneled dado. The blackboard is along the north-west or side wall. Many of the walls retain storage cupboards and book shelves. There is a fireplace with a simple timber mantel set diagonally in the west corner.

The adjacent teacher's residence is a plain, single storeyed timber house with a hipped corrugated iron roof, built in 1933. The walls are weatherboard, the roof corrugated iron, the surviving timber windows are double hung sashes with the upper sash subdivided into six panes. It has an interesting deep eaves line. Some windows have been altered and replaced with aluminum frames. The remains of outbuildings can be seen at the rear of the school yard and residence.

The school yard and garden of the residence contain the remains of formal landscaping and horticulture. The boundary of the land has been planted with *Cupressus macrocarpa 'horizontalis'* (Monterey Cypress) and *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine), and the yard retains mature specimens of *Eucalyptus* and European shade trees, including a large *Quercus Robur* (English Oak). The path from the front gate to the school displays the remains of a privet hedge. A number of fruit trees and other exotic shrubs are present, as well as bulbous plants. Several Australian native trees and shrubs have been planted more recently, probably in the last 15 years.

HISTORY:

Konong Wootong pastoral run, P.B No. 303, 57,000 acres, on Koroite Creek, 4 miles north of Coleraine, was licensed to the Whyte Brothers in February 1840. The property was subdivided several times in subsequent years (B&K, 229). The section known as Newmarket was sold to William Swan in 1857. Swan then acquired another section, Koroite, and combined them to form Konongwootong. During the ownership of the Johnston family, the property was subdivided three times between 1888 and 1910, to create many small leasehold farms. In 1910 an area of 10,000 acres was acquired by the Government for Closer Settlement, and was subdivided into 73 blocks for sale to new settlers (McGaffin, 26-7).

The History of State School No. 4362 (1977) states that a further 5,000 acres of Konongwootong was subsequently acquired by the Soldier Settlement Commission in 1922, and 23 new farms at Konongwootong North were created for returned servicemen.

Most of the new settlers had young families, and the existing schools at Konongwootong and Balochile were judged as being too far away for children to attend each day. The need for a school in the area was recognised at a public meeting held in 1927, and representations were made to the local MLAs, Messrs. Slater and Bond, and a request was made to the Education Department for a new school to be built.

In the meantime the local farmers made their own temporary arrangements for schooling in the area. The history of education at Konongwootong North began on 26th September 1927, with classes being provided in a room at the home of Mr. Thomas Troeth. The Education Department supplied a teacher, Miss Durnan from Melbourne, and there were 24 students enrolled. In 1928 Mr. James Joseph Burke, a graduate of Bendigo Teachers College, was appointed headmaster, and land was reserved for a permanent school.

The school committee continued to push for a purpose-built school house, and a number of social events were

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held to raise funds. Construction commenced in 1929 under the supervision of Mr. J B Rodoni, building contractor, of Caulfield. The new school at Konongwootong North was opened by the local MLA, Mr. W. Slater on 16th September 1929. The Coleraine Albion (26/9/29) recorded that the school was very well equipped, with the most up-to-date facilities and teaching aids, including 'a first class gramophone'. The grounds contained a shelter shed, a fenced pony paddock and an agricultural plot surrounded by a windbreak hedge.

Mr. J J Bourke remained as headmaster of the school until 1940, being the longest serving teacher in the history of the school. He was well known as a colourful character in the area. He was a very keen gardener, and in 1933 the school was awarded the ANA prize for "the most improved school garden and ground." In the same year, the teacher's residence was completed, and Mr. Bourke moved in with his wife, a local person, the former Miss Clynes.

Education at Konongwootong North State School continued until the late 1980s. After this time, the property was sold into private ownership, and the Schoolmaster's house was used as a residence. The property is still in private ownership, although it has not been occupied for some time.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 6: Educating
6.2 Establishing schools
6.5 Educating people in remote places

CONDITION:

The condition of the schoolhouse, residence and garden is fair, although the garden has been severely neglected, leading to the loss of many of the underplantings.

INTEGRITY:

Excellent degree of integrity for the school and high degree of integrity for the residence and grounds.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

State School No. 4362, Zig Zag Road, Konongwootong North is a complex of timber buildings and gardens dating from 1929. The construction of the complex was triggered by the surge in population in the district following the subdivision of one of the area's great pastoral estates for Soldier Settlement after the First World War. The school house is a one roomed school building, typical of its era in form and style. The interior of the school is essentially intact, and little altered from the original. The single storey timber teacher's residence, built in 1933, has been altered somewhat. In the Southern Grampians Shire it is the only residence to survive in situ, adjacent to the school. The school and residence retain the remnants of an extensive garden, which contains formal landscaping elements and botanical specimens which are typical of the 1930s.

How is it significant?

The former State School No. 4362 and teacher's residence at Konongwootong North is of historical, social and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians Shire and the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The complex located at State School No. 4362, Konongwootong North is historically significant as a rare surviving example of a rural school and residence, with formal landscaping, and various associated structures, which retain a high degree of integrity. The school complex provides a tangible link to the Soldier Settlement era, a particular phase in the long history of the pastoral industry in the area. The land on which the Konongwootong North school sits has its origin in the earliest squatting run, with the arrival of the Whyte Brothers, pioneers of the Coleraine district. The subsequent subdivision of the land at various times culminated

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in the creation of small landholdings acquired by returned servicemen following the First World War. The school is a physical expression of the population boom which resulted from Soldier Settlement, and which created social and economic prosperity hitherto and subsequently unknown in the area.

The school has social significance as an expression of the collective aspirations and dedication of the soldier settler families, typified by the work of the voluntary committee and their pressure on local politicians.

The school complex has architectural significance as a rare surviving example of a typical rural school facility dating from the Interwar period. The complex retains a high degree of integrity in its exterior and interior fabric, style and materials.

ASSESSED BY: mgt & tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

09-Jan-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
	A History of State School No. 4362 Konongwootong North	1977	various
L J Blake, ed.	Vision and Realisation , Vol 2	1973	115
McGaffin, G	A History of the Shire of Warrnambool 1872-1972	1972	26-7
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	229
The Coleraine Albion		1929	