

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: STATE SCHOOL NO. 947

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Memorial Drive GLENTHOMPSON

STUDY NUMBER: 297

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Glenthompson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 434J J2; VicRoads 229 M10; located in the road reserve between the main carriage way of the Glenelg Highway and Memorial Drive

CFA 434J 13, VicRoads 229 N10, located on the south side of the Glenelg Highway on a service road between Thompson and Scott Streets.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



State School 947, Glenelg Highway, Glenthompson

Image Date: 26/05/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the original Infant School including its interiors and the memorial Board, and all of the land on the northern half of the school reserve but excluding all the later school buildings and the present teacher's residence.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The school consists of early 20th century rooms at the front, facing Memorial Drive, with modern additions at the rear and on the east side. The earliest part of the school was constructed in 1901, and consisted of one large room with a chimney on the west side and a porch and bell tower on the north side. A second classroom was added on the west side in the 1930s when, probably, the chimney breast was repositioned. The school is a single storey timber building now generally symmetrical about the porch. There are pairs of 12-paned double hung sash windows with hopper clerestories above on the façade. On the southern side there are four larger 12-paned double hung sash windows. On the east and west sides the windows are small hoppers at a high level. Minor differences betray the addition on the western room such as the lack of the high level roughcast frieze and eaves brackets.

Internally, there are the usual schoolroom accoutrements of blackboards, built-in cupboards and modern furniture. The chimney breast survives in the original room and has the main Honour Board, a memorial to those who fought and died in the World Wars, on it. The interiors walls are lined with boards and the ceilings have been relined with acoustic tiles and flush fluorescent lights.

The most distinctive feature of the building is the small porch (no longer used for access) with a belfry above. The porch is supported by open timber buttresses which pass through the interior, form the upper roof and support the belfry. The lower roof of the porch is low pitched, gabled and supported by open brackets at the eaves line. It has a conventional finial. The belfry is treated as a small open spire and the original bell exists in working order. The original corrugated iron roof has been replaced with Colorbond.

New classrooms, to standard designs, and an office were added in 1957, 1962 and 1969. A rotunda in the schoolyard, with associated seating and landscaping has been constructed in the last 5 years. There is one large deciduous tree [*Ulmus procera?*] in the playground but no other substantial plantings.

HISTORY:

In October 1868 the Glenthompson Common School with attached residence was completed at a cost of 190 pounds. The Board of Education contributed a grant of 95 pounds (GHS File Note). The original building consisted of a single schoolroom and one bedroom residence. The architect was W. Bell of Cherrymount, and the builder was Mr. Williamson (*ibid.*). The bricks for the chimney were supplied by Mr. Grano of Ararat. Twenty pupils were enrolled, and Mr. William Bell of Geelong was the first teacher, appointed on a salary of 50 pounds per annum.

When the Education Act was proclaimed in 1872, the Common School became the State School. Mr. Alexander McDonald was appointed as the first teacher (*ibid.*).

On 14th December 1900 the original school was destroyed by fire. The head teacher at the time was Mr. Skewes, and 80 pupils were enrolled. Classes were held in alternative locations until the new school opened in 1902. A teacher's residence was built in the north-east corner of the reserve at an early date. This was replaced by the present cream brick house (*ibid.*).

Demand for extra accommodation was acute with the subdivision of surrounding estates for Soldier Settlement after the Second World War. Extra classrooms and an office were added in 1957, 1962 and 1969 (*ibid.*).

The School is now run as part of the Dunkeld Consolidated School, which is the only such school over two campuses in Victoria.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

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Theme 6 Educating

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

CONDITION:

The physical condition of the school is very good. The original ceiling in the large classroom has been lowered, but remains intact above a false ceiling of acoustic tiles.

INTEGRITY:

High

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The former State School No. 947 of Glenthompson is located on the road reserve between the main carriageway of the Glenelg Highway and Memorial Drive. The school building is the second to have been built on the site. The first school was built in 1868, but was destroyed by fire in 1900. The current school was constructed in 1901, and is a typical pattern book timber school building with later, modern additions at the rear and on the east side. The school has a small porch with timber belfry and school bell above. The original chimney breast survives in the original school room and has the main Honour Board on it. New classrooms, to standard designs, and an office were added in 1957, 1962 and 1969. The architect responsible for the timber building was Mr. W. Bell of nearby pastoral property, Cherrymount, and the builder was Mr. Williamson. The school survives in excellent condition and retains a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

State School No. 947, at Glenthompson is of historical, social and architectural significance to the community of Dunkeld and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant? State School No. 947 is of historic significance as the expression of the community of Glenthompson and the struggle for education, and for its association with over 130 years of continuous schooling on the site. It is of social significance as the focus for the community, and is of architectural significance for its use of traditional forms and fine construction techniques.

COMPARISON:

277 State School No. 486 (Former), 67 Watton Street, Peshurst

103 State School No. 2118, 124 Church Street, Coleraine

206 State School No. , Monroe Street, Braxholme

ASSESSED BY: tfh & mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

26-May-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
L J Blake, ed.	Vision and Realisation , Vol 2	1973	34
Hope Henry	Glenthompson History	1954	1-3
not known	Mount Rouse Shire Centenary, Commemorative Meeting	1964	pp.