

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: PUBLIC HALL & STATE SCHOOL NO. 2529 (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Mirranatwa School Road MIRRANATWA

STUDY NUMBER: 316

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: STATE SCHOOL NO 2529

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 60 **SECTION:** 1 **PARISH:** PARISH OF MIRRANATWA

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 390 F5; VicRoads 559 H8; located on the south side of the Mirranatwa School Road, beside the Mirranatwa hall and former school halfway between Addinsall's Road and Mirranmatwa Road

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Public Hall, Mirranatwa

Image Date: 05/07/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the building and all the land including the two *Pinus nigra* and the tennis courts.

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external cladding has been completely replaced, and the entire structure has been extensively altered.

INTEGRITY:

Good degree of integrity but altered and extended at sides and rear.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Mirranatwa public hall is a single storey building located on the south side of Mirranatwa School Road. The hall and the adjacent Uniting Church are the only surviving civic buildings in Mirranatwa. The original part of the structure was erected in 1904 as the Mirranatwa State School No 2529. The building has been much altered in subsequent years. The grounds of the hall contain recreation facilities which are the only facilities of their kind in the area. In front of the hall are two fine old specimens of *Pinus nigra*. The land has been used for ceremonial tree plantings to commemorate people considered important to the local community.

How is it significant?

The Mirranatwa public hall is of historical and social significance to the community of Mirranatwa and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Mirranatwa public hall is of historical significance as the former State School No 2529, the provider of primary education to the residents of the area for about 70 years. The continuing use of the school as the area's public hall is socially significant, as one of only two remaining civic buildings, which has been the focus of community activities, sport, recreation and education for the relatively remote community of Mirranatwa for many decades.

COMPARISON:

062 Nareen Hall Complex, Nareen Road, Nareen

321 Public Hall, Victoria Valley Road, Victoria Valley

Carapook Public Hall and Tennis Courts, Carapook Road, Carapook

ASSESSED BY: tfh & mgf

ASSESSMENT DATE:

05-Jul-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	80

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The public hall and former school at Mirranatwa is a single storey timber framed building with corrugated iron roof. Much of the original external fabric has been replaced, including a new roof, several new windows, and the replacement of timber boards by fibro-cement boards. The 1904 structure of 30ftx15ft has been substantially extended and altered on at least 3 occasions, with additions at the front and rear, and on the west side. A sign above the entrance identifies the hall as the former Mirranatwa State School No. 2529.

The interior of what appears to be the original section reveals pine lining boards, ledge and brace double doors, a coved ceiling lined with plywood sheeting, and a hardwood floor. A stage has been added on the south end. Two memorial boards hang on the back wall of the stage.

The grounds of the public hall contain a modern barbeque shelter, toilets, and tennis courts. Two large specimens of *Pinus nigra* are located near the front of the land, and may date from the construction of the school in 1904. Two small trees are planted on the eastern boundary of the grounds, adjacent to the Uniting Church. The first tree belongs to the liquidamber family. A plaque in front of the tree reads, 'Planted in memory of A.G.I. Willard F. Garton.' The second tree is a member of the eucalyptus family. The plaque reads, 'This tree was planted to commemorate the settlement of our forbears in the Mirranatwa/Victoria Valley district in 1871. McArthur family reunion, Easter, 1987.'

HISTORY:

Vision and Realisation, Vol 2 describes the former State School No 2529 at Mirranatwa thus:

'William Beveridge wrote to DI Bolam on 10th of December 1880, asking for a school at Mirranatwa for 20 children of ten to twelve families. In his report of 23rd of May 1881, Assistant DI Dennant recommended a school for an estimated a.a. of 12, because of the district's remoteness. A 15ftx10ft room in the homestead of the Victoria Valley Pre-emptive Right was leased from the lessee of the estate, Peter Fry, for 2 pounds p.a., and Mirranatwa opened half-time with Victoria Valley being No. 1209 from 1st of November 1890, but the NE declined and it closed on 4th of February 1897. Mirranatwa re-opened on 4th of August 1904 in a 30ftx15ft weatherboard building with iron roof and brick chimney, built by the residents for approximately 85 pounds. The Department leased this building for 5 pounds p.a. The site of 1 acres 3 roods 33 perches on the NW corner of a water reserve was gazetted on 11th of July 1906. Mirranatwa was open during 1910-12 and then apparently became unstaffed. It was re-staffed at the beginning of 1916, part-time with SS1209 Victoria Valley on 30th April 1920, closed on 18th January 1928, re-opened 24th of May 1928, closed 1st of May 1930, re-opened on 24th January 1934, unstaffed in 1956 and formally closed on 17th of July 1961.'

Following its closure, the 1904 school at Mirranatwa became the area's public hall and recreation complex, and it continues to serve the community in this context.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

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

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life
8.1 Organising recreation
8.1.1 Playing and watching organised sport
8.5 Forming associations
8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests

CONDITION:

The condition of the hall is very good, as the building has been maintained regularly. However, the original