

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: STATE SCHOOL NO. 1835 (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: East West Road MOORALLA

STUDY NUMBER: 328

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF WOHLPOOER

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 389 D12; Vicroads 55 D8; on East West Road at Mooralla.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Mooralla Primary School 1835 (former)

Image Date: 06/07/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The former Mooralla State School is located on the corner of East-West Road and a lane, approximately 1.5 kilometres west of the Henty Highway, Mooralla. It is the sole surviving building in the village of Mooralla. The single storey building is constructed of timber, with a corrugated iron roof and brick chimney. The one roomed school house has an entrance porch on the south side, and a bathroom extension on the east side. The interior of the building has been altered by the removal of classroom fittings, and the installation of kitchen cupboards, to create a one roomed residence. The external and internal surfaces are badly deteriorated, and the timber floorboards are rotting in places.

A corrugated iron toilet block is located about 10 metres to the rear of the school building, and the concrete footings of other structures on the site are clearly visible. The remains of a garden, comprising native and exotic plantings can be seen.

HISTORY:

On June 23rd 1875 R McCally wrote on behalf of the residents of Mooralla and Geerak to the Shire of Dundas asking for a school to be established on the boundary of these parishes... In 1871 an 'Application for establishment of a State School' inspector's report noted that the population was made up of selectors, but the inspector could not decide whether or not the settlement was likely to be permanent. There were 20 school-age children living within 2 miles of the school and another 7 who lived further away but might be expected to attend. He stated that the 'people contemplate building a chapel here' and suggested that permission may be obtained for school use. He did not think the Department should obtain a site... In June 1876 T Higgins wrote that the Board of Advice had approved the use of the chapel for school purposes (Vickery, 1998, 38-39).

Conditions at the church hall were considered inadequate for schooling, and in 1887 the residents pushed for the construction of a purpose-built school. Land was reserved in the NE corner of Allotment 1, Section V, Parish of Mooralla, an area of 2 acres, 1 rood and 21 perches. This land was gazetted on 14th February 1888 (Vickery, 1998, 39).

State School 1835 is described in *Vision and Realisation* (Vol 2, p. 63) as follows:

'The first school in Mooralla district was held in the Methodist Hall in 1877. The Department paid approximately 2 pounds 10 shillings per quarter as rental for the building, and provided the teacher... [I]n 1910 ... a building was moved in from Bil-Bil-Wyt by bullock team to the present site of the endowment plantation, opposite the public hall. This building had three rooms, two used for the teacher's residence and the other for the schoolroom. As the attendance increased one room of the quarters was used for lessons. In 1928 R B Shilcock was elected President of the Committee, a post he filled until 1958 when he retired at the age of 75 after 30 years of devoted service to the school. After the building was condemned in 1930 the school functioned in the Mooralla Public Hall until 1932 when residents erected a new building which the Department leased for 2 pounds 10 shillings a quarter. It is standing today. Soldier settlement caused another increase in enrolment which by 1962 warranted a larger building. The present school was opened by the Minister of Education, Sir John Bloomfield, MLA, on 10th of May 1963. To date, 235 pupils have attended Mooralla school. Since 1920 the following teachers had charge of the school: Miss A.M. Rogers, Norman Fettel, John James, Colin Buzza, Crawford Moatt, John Storey, William James, Geoffrey Brewer and Richard J Dalton.'

The surviving timber school building was declared open on 24th January 1933. It was altered in the 1950s when a 6 foot extension was added. Education continued in the 1963 building until October 1975, when the departure of the teacher left the school unstaffed (Vickery, 1998, 39-40). The 1963 building was removed by the Education Department shortly afterwards, leaving the 1933 school as the only building on the land (Vickery, 2002).

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The site of the 1910 school building, some 300 metres west of the present building, is marked by a large plantation of *Pinus radiata*, which was planted when the school moved to its present site (Vickery 2002).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 6 Educating

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

CONDITION:

The physical condition of the school building is poor, both internally and externally.

INTEGRITY:

High.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The former Mooralla State School No 1835 is a single storey timber building with a corrugated iron roof and brick chimney. It is located in the former village of Mooralla, and is the sole survivor of a complex of civic buildings which once formed a community hub in East West Road.

How is it significant?

The former Mooralla State School No 1835 is of historical, cultural and architectural [?] significance to the community of Mooralla and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Mooralla State School No 1835 is historically significant as the expression of the early community's struggle for education, and for its association with 100 years of schooling in the area. It has particular historical significance for the local community as the last surviving building in the former village of Mooralla.

COMPARISON:

062 Nareen Hall Complex

316 Mirranatwa Primary School

160 Konongwootong North Primary School and Residence (former)

ASSESSED BY: mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

06-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	63
Robin Vickery	Personal Communication, July 2002	2002	
Robin Vickery, ed.	Back to Mooralla	1998	38-40