

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: STATE SCHOOL NO. 3536 (FORMER) AND RESIDENCE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: off Strathkellar Road STRATHKELLAR

STUDY NUMBER: 415

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

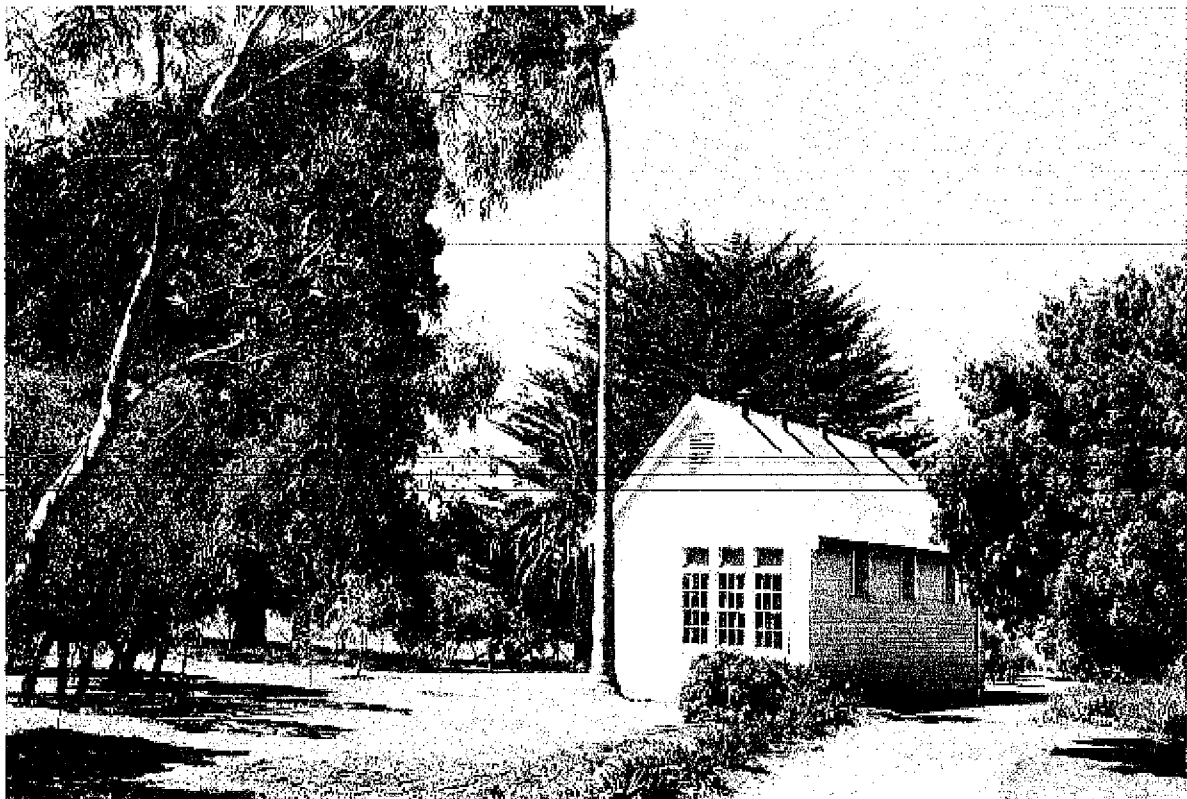
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: part 4 **SECTION:** IV **PARISH:** PARISH OF WARRAYURE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 432 E 29a; VicRoads 73 C5; located at the end of a lane off the Strathkellar Road immediately north of the railway line and beside the Public Hall.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



State School No. 3536 (former), off Strathkellar Road, Strathkellar

Image Date: 22/03/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the school building, including the interiors, and all of the school residence.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The school building is a standard design for a single classroom and is typical of its period for the scale, form, planning, details and materials. The structure is framed in timber and clad in weatherboards. The main window in the north elevation is large and asymmetrically placed. There are highlight windows in the south elevation. There is a small simple timber porch. The proprietary ventilators in the roof are the same as on the adjacent public hall.

HISTORY:

The squatter, John Moffat purchased allotment 4 of section 4 of the Parish of Warrayure comprising about 154 acres. The Hamilton to Dunkeld Road passed through the north-west corner of the allotment. He owned the Grange (or Upper Grange) run and, more famously, Chatsworth House. He had been manager of the Grange when it was owned by Captain Lonsdale and acquired the lease with William McKellar in 1854 (B&K, 116, 216). The name of the run was changed to Strathkellar under the ownership of Thomas McKellar. His son John leased the run for a while. From 1884 to the early 1890s the run was leased by William McKellar who was very active in Shire affairs and between 1878 and 1893 was five times President (Garden, 142). Thomas McKellar died in 1900 and in 1905 his executors decided to sell Strathkellar. There was a very strong feeling in Hamilton in favour of Closer Settlement and this seemed an ideal opportunity. "In June a Hamilton Closer Settlement Association was formed, with Mayor John Fenton as President and T F O'Neill as Secretary. ... Members of the [Government's Land Purchase] Board agreed to visit Hamilton, and there was much congratulation when the Board acquired Strathkellar at auction in September" (Garden, 160).

Strathkellar, Croxton and Warrayure are not listed as postal towns in the 1865 Bailliere's Gazetteer. Croxton is mentioned in the 1879 Gazetteer as having a population of only 150. It seems certain that the State School No 3536 and teacher's residence and the adjacent Strathkellar Public Hall, Mechanics Institute were built not so much as a result of the earlier subdivision of the Strathkellar, Croxton and Warrayure runs for selection but the increase in population following closer settlement at the turn of the century. This is reinforced by the style and detailing of the various buildings and the plantings in their gardens. The building is a standard design for a one classroom school. There were many such schools built about this time and the Strathkellar school is typical. However, it is relatively late for the construction of a mechanics institute.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 6 Educating

6.1 Forming associations, libraries, and institutes for self-education

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

CONDITION:

The school building, the house and the garden are in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

Very good degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Strathkellar State School No. 3536 and residence are located off Strathkellar Road. 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, has been altered somewhat. Both buildings are in very good condition, and retain a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The former Strathkellar State School No. 3536 and teacher's is of historical, social and architectural

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significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Strathkellar State School and residence is historically significant as a rare surviving example of a rural school and residence, which retain a high degree of integrity. It seems certain that the State School No 3536 and teacher's residence and the adjacent Strathkellar Public Hall, Mechanics Institute were built not so much as a result of the earlier subdivision of the Strathkellar, Croxton and Warrayure runs for selection but the increase in population following closer settlement at the turn of the century. This is reinforced by the style and detailing of the various buildings and the plantings in their gardens. The school complex provides a tangible link to the Closer Settlement era at the turn of the century. The school is a physical expression of the population boom which resulted from Closer Settlement, and which created social and economic prosperity hitherto and subsequently unknown in the area. The school complex has architectural significance as a rare surviving example of a typical rural school facility dating from the turn of the century period. The complex retains a high degree of integrity in its exterior and interior fabric, style and materials.

COMPARISON:

160 State School No. 4362 and residence (former), Zig Zag Road, Konongwootong
316 Mirranatwa Public Hall, School Road, Mirranatwa
328 State School No 1835 (former), East West Road, Mooralla

ASSESSED BY: TFH & AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE:

18-Feb-04

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	
Don Garden	Hamilton, A Western District History	1984	160-1
R. V Billis & A. S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	104, 116, 282