

BUILDING NO. 18
BUNINYONG STATE SCHOOL NO. 1270
INGLIS STREET



Recommendations

It is recommended that the Buninyong State School be added to the Government Buildings Register and protected under Clause 8 of the Town and Country Planning Act. (Third schedule).

Statement of Significance

This building greatly influenced the development of school architecture in Victoria from the 1870s. The design for the Buninyong State School became a prototype for many schools subsequently erected and at least sixteen appear to have been derived from its form. The notable Victorian architect, J Ellerker, provided a plan that was readily adaptable for the design of both larger and smaller school buildings.

Although altered, Buninyong State School is of great significance as one of the most influential school building designs of the period.

Building History and Description

The Buninyong State School building was completed on 31 August 1874, after the gazetting of the Crown Land on 16 May 1873. It replaced two existing schools in 1873, one Anglican, the other Presbyterian, and the Department leased temporary buildings from the former from 1 September 1873. Schools were first established in Buninyong in the 1850s.

The school building was designed for a competition called by the Minister for large school designs. Guidelines were given to local architects and three classifications of school were included. The successful architects were given particular commissions and the design of J H Ellerker for a school to accommodate 500 pupils, was originally allocated to Gold Street, Clifton Hill. However a larger school was subsequently required and this design was transferred to Buninyong and erected at a cost of 3150 pounds. The local builder, Richard Rennie, won the contract for the erection of the school building.

The building was erected in red brick with cream brick and render contrasts and a steep slate roof. Gable ends with timber decoration pointed arch windows and a central roof turret originally imparted a Gothic character to the building. The front facade is symmetrically conceived with a functionally unnecessary central gabled projection, and two projecting gabled wings at either end.

Building Integrity and Future Enhancement

The building has undergone extensive alterations, the most detrimental being the replacement of the pointed arch windows with larger square headed ones. The slate roof was tiled in 1968, the bell tower dismantled and the two original school rooms partitioned in 1963.. However the overall character of the building has been retained and it is recommended that a conservation analysis of the building be undertaken before any future work is carried out.

References

L J Blake (ed.). Vision and Realization: a Centenary History of State Education in Victoria. Vol. 2. Melbourne, 1973.

L Burchell. Victorian Schools. A Study in Colonial Government Architecture. 1837 - 1900. Melbourne, 1980.

Buninyong Telegraph.

26 November 1873

31 August 1874



PH 12. BUNINYONG STATE SCHOOL. NO. NOTE SAWCOTE AND POINTED ARCH WINDOWS IN THESE ILLUSTRATIONS.



PH 13. BUNINYONG STATE SCHOOL. N.O