

BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 28

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NAME: ---**PREVIOUS NAME:** Parwan South (Nerowie) State School No. 4175 & Mechanics' Institute.**ADDRESS:** Parwan South Road, NE cnr Rowsley-Exford Road, Parwan South.**TITLE DETAILS:****USE:** Derelict?**PREVIOUS USE:** School & Mechanics' Institute Hall.**SIGNIFICANT DATE:** **CONSTRUCTION DATE:** 8.1923 **SOURCE:** 1**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** **DATE:** 7.1946 **SOURCE:** 3**DESIGNER:** Dr Leach? **BUILDER:** I.H. Bennett & Simpson **SOURCE:** 1**CRITERIA:** H 2,4; Ar3; Sol, 3 **HISTORIC THEME:** Community Life**DESCRIPTION:** **STYLE:** Edwardian **STORIES:** 1 **DETACHED.****MATERIALS:** **WALLS** Timber **ROOF** Iron **STRUCTURE** Stud**CONDITION:** Reasonable **INTACTNESS:** Good **THREATS:** Derelict?**SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:**

FORM. PLAN.

DOORS. WINDOWS.

OUTBUILDINGS.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL.

TREES.

SIGNIFICANCE:**TYPE:** HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SOCIAL.**LEVEL:** LOCAL & REGIONAL.**DESIGNATION EXISTING:** Nil.**RECOMMENDED CONTROL/NOMINATION:** PLANNING SCHEME.**MAP NO:** R3.06 **SURVEY:** RP **DATE:** 21.12.93 **NEGS:** 2.9-10, 1012.12-14

HISTORY: Parwan South (Nerowie) State School No 4175 was erected by local farmers under the supervision of Messrs. J.C. Bennett and Simpson, and from plans supplied by Dr. Leach, a school inspector for the Education Department, the Parwan South School opened on 23 September 1923 with an enrolment of twenty pupils.¹ The land of two 3 acres (1.2 ha) was donated by George Sutherland, a local farmer and a member of the first committee of trustees.² A teacher, supplied by the Education Department commenced duties on October 1, 1923.³ The building was leased to the Department⁴.

In April 1924, a sheltershed was erected and in July 1946, the schoolhouse was extended on its eastern side by the erection of two rooms which had been relocated from another site. Following the closure of the school in August 1949, the buildings were used by the local tennis club, and as a venue for meetings, dances and card parties, and known as the Parwan South Mechanics' Institute.⁵

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: Three timber buildings in a setting of eucalypts. The largest has a gable-roof. It is 26 x 16 feet (7.9 x 4.9m). A similar smaller gable-roofed building 10 x 8 feet (3 x 2.4m): has two flues, and a lower pitch roof. They are linked by a corrugated iron room 6 x 6 feet (1.8 x 1.8m.). The third building is a characteristic sheltershed, with a hip-roof, lattice-lined upper walls and an opening in one side 14 x 8 feet (4.3 x 2.4).

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: There are 12 schools identified in the Study. Two of these are from the 1920s (the other is Bacchus Marsh High School, ref. 70). At 7.9 x 4.9m, the schoolroom is small and non-standard size. The smallest government school size is 4.9 x 4.3m of which only three were built, none of which are known to survive. No schools as small as this had been built since 1926. It is also a very rare instance of the Department leasing a building for school purposes, particularly since it is so sub-standard.⁶

SIGNIFICANCE: A former state school, funded by the Parwan South community and leased by the Department of Education, operating 1923-1949. It was then used for community purposes and known as Parwan South Mechanics' Institute. There is a sheltershed and remnant vegetation.

Of regional significance for its association with an extraordinary movement toward provision of education in the local community of Parwan South and government action in

¹ *Bacchus Marsh Express*, 4 August 1923; National Trust of Australia (Victoria) File No.5353. (Information from Mrs May Bingham who attended the school and Mrs Dorothy Bingham 14.4.83 and 27.5.83). Another potential source is Mrs Shirley Sutherland, Malcolm Street, Bacchus Marsh.

² National Trust of Australia (Victoria), *ibid.*; personal communication with Gwynne Moore.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ L.J. Blake, Ed., *Vision and Realisation. A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria*, Melbourne 1973, Vol. 3, p.137.

⁵ National Trust, *ibid.*

⁶ L.E. Burchell, *Survey of One-Room State Schools 1900-1940*, Melbourne 1989 pp ii,iv,v,vi. This survey does not include this school.

response. This is a rare instance of the Education Department being persuaded to lease a virtually sub-standard building erected by the community. Of interest also for its subsequent association with local sporting and social activities. Locally significant also as part of the identity of Parwan and as a traditional community focus and meeting place.

INTACTNESS: Fair. Windows are sealed with steel sheet.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Sheeting of one opening is coming away. Lining of sheltershed has been poorly removed. Neglect and lack of care for the past ten years. More detailed inspection is recommended.

