

HISTORY: Myrniong Primary School was established in 1859 as Pentland Hills School No.487 at Blows Flat (Myrniong). The National Board gave permission for the school providing £100 (\$200) was raised and construction was done locally. The 30x15 ft (9.1x4.6m) building cost £123 (\$246).¹ In 1862, following the introduction of the Common Schools Act, Pentland Hills School was renamed Myrniong Common School No.487 since Common School No 701 had opened at Pentland Hills (ref: 296) and Blows Flat had become Myrniong. Married Teachers used the old police station as a residence (ref: 266).² A two-acre (0.8 ha) school reserve was gazetted on November 14, 1863.³ In 1905, the present schoolhouse was relocated here and altered to the design of important Public Works Department architect, S.E. Bindley. Closing of Korobeit (No 287) in 1939 and Greendale (No 918) in 1954, then transporting their children here, increased numbers in the early fifties. One sheltershed came from Korobeit.⁴

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: A standard Education Department "60 type" timber classroom, relocated and altered. It is on the north side. There are upper gable timbers set forward in the west end and porch, a spectacular Venetian brick chimney in red brick and Kemp & Sheehan conical roof vents. There is a large timber room to the north of this classroom which may incorporate a small 30-type timber classroom. On the west boundary is a timber sheltershed. Between these is a brick well, now sealed with concrete. There are rows of pines on boundaries. There are several LTC classrooms. A charming element is the date '1947' in pebbles set in the pavement in front of the chimney.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: This is the most frequently used school design by the Education Department in the nineteenth century, although there is no other example in Bacchus Marsh, however the Coimidai (former Common) School is the Common School plan from which it developed, also for 60 pupils, but in brick.

Bindley also designed the Bacchus Marsh Police Residence, Main Street in 1890 (ref: 150). Other Brindley designs at this time include: Yarraville State School (1883), Parkville Post Office (1885) and Melton Court House (1892). None are directly comparable to this building. Only one intact 30-type schoolroom is known in the state, at Woosang, No. 1966, Inglewood.

SIGNIFICANCE: A timber substantially Edwardian schoolroom, relocated here and remodelled to the design of important Public Works Department architect S.E. Bindley, in 1905. There is a well, windbreak and possibly rare 30-type classroom, altered.

¹ L.J. Blake, Ed., *Vision and Realisation. A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria*, Melbourne 1973, Vol. 3, p.38 & Vol. 2, p.688.

² Stewart, *The Early History of Bacchus Marsh Schools* pp.40&61. Blake gives 1863.

³ Victoria, *Government Gazette* 14 November 1863.

⁴ Blake, op.cit. Public Works Department of Victoria architectural drawing, 11 September 1905.

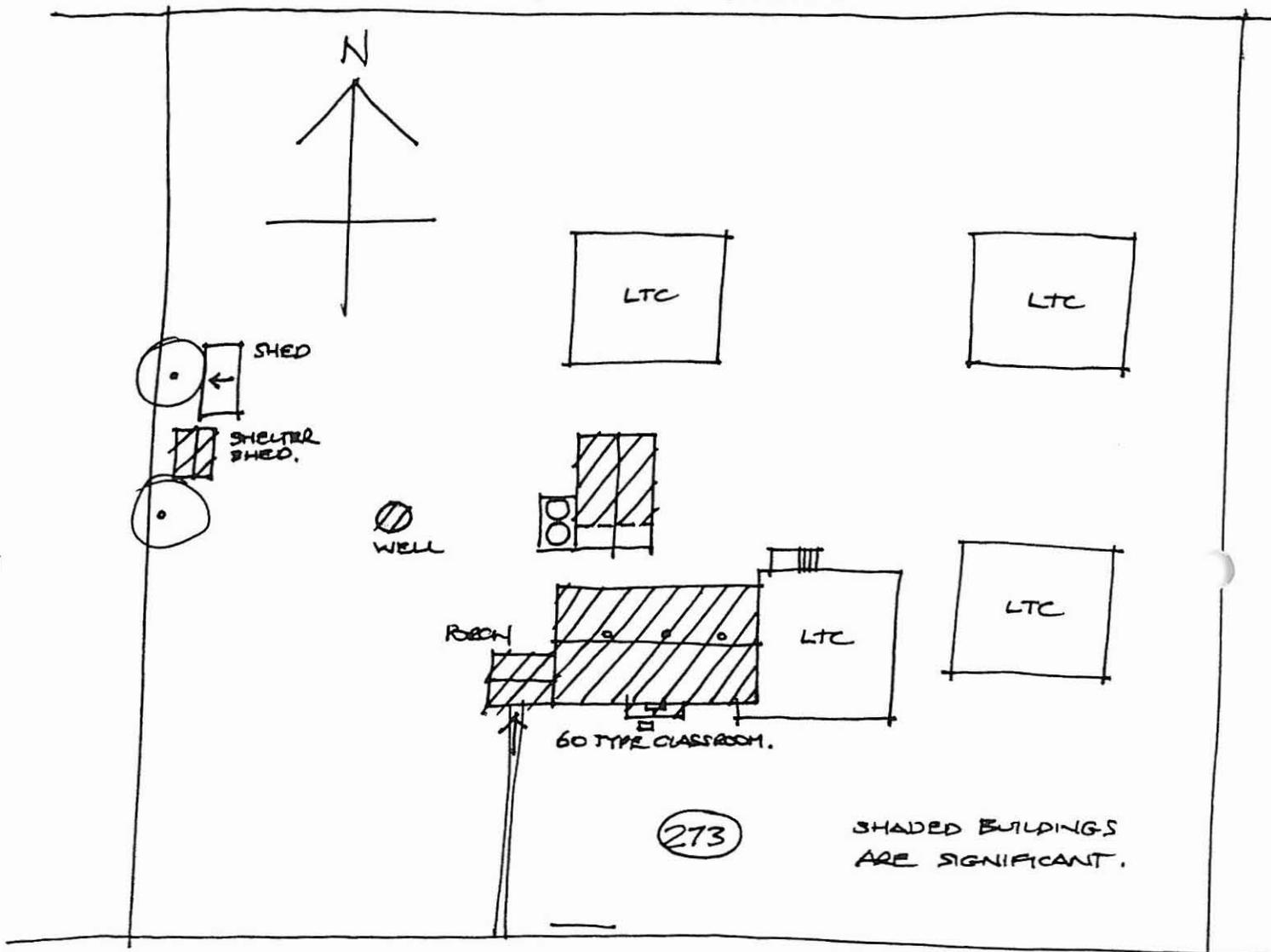
It is of local historical significance for its association with educational developments and in demonstrating the effect of government action in the town and its community life, whilst remembering that the initial stimulus and financial contribution came from the community itself. It is of local architectural significance as a representative and relatively intact example of an Edwardian rural schoolroom and of the work of the important Public Works Department architect S.E. Bindley.

Finally the school is of local social significance as known and valued by the community as part of the sense of identity of the place and a traditional community focus and meeting place.

INTACTNESS: Reasonable. There is a large window in the west end (a usual alteration), and the east end is concealed by a LTC addition. The porch door has been relocated to the south side and a flat shelter roof added.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Reasonable. It needs maintenance; the paint is weathering. Closure?

HARDY STREET



MUDDY LANE