

WONGA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 3241 AND RESIDENCE

Place No. 250

ADDRESS	- Dudley Road Wonga Park	Last Update
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DESCRIPTION An Edwardian timber schoolroom, gable-roofed, with a brick chimney and fireplace, lobby and cloakroom, now altered and extended. It was originally 21'6" x 21' internally, designed to accommodate 32 dual desks (64 pupils). It has two small highlight windows facing the fireplace and a large window facing the door. The gable has expressed timbering decoration, and there are Kemp & Sheehan conical roof vents. This plan was the most popular at the time and the design used frequently.

The residence is a 4-roomed double-fronted timber Californian Bungalow, the right bay set forward, with the verandah under the main room at left. The roof is a gable across with a minor gable projecting at the right. The upper gables jetty on joists. The windows are triples with highlights.

There are a number of other school buildings on the grounds that reflect stages in the development of the school. One is a timber LTC classroom.

Oak trees mark the front boundary; there are also two large oaks within the grounds.

Condition	Excellent	Integrity	Minor Modifications
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Threats	None apparent	Key elements	
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Designer

HISTORY The present timber school and residence was opened in 1912, replacing an earlier 1895 school that had burned down. The first application for a school was from residents of the Eight Hour Pioneer Settlement and a two acre site was gazetted on 19 July 1895. The site was cleared for 6 pounds and an unused portable classroom from Braybrook Junction No. 3113 relocated here. It was named Warrandyte East No. 3241 and opened in 6 November 1895. The name was changed to Wonga Park in March 1898.[1]

On 5 April 1911, fire destroyed the school. A new timber schoolroom in a type common in the 1910-14 period was built at a cost of 370 pounds. The building was designed by J B Cohen of the Public Works Department Architect's Branch, and the builders were C J Knox and Son. The new school was opened on 11 March 1912 with a sports meeting and a cantata performed by the students in the evening.[1]

A 1912 photograph shows a group of parents and pupils outside the new school building. Many local families are represented including the Hoopers, Cockings, Shaws, Webbs, Reads, Irwins, Coupers and Collyers.[2] Many of these families played an active role in the establishment of the district orcharding industry. Some of the houses of these orchard families survive today, as does the school attended by their children, forming an important part of the district's heritage.

In 1920-21 a teacher's residence was built by H J McBain for 702 pounds and sixpence. By 1927-8 it already needed 60 pounds, fifteen shillings spent on repairs. In 1951 a second classroom (LTC type) was erected. Other additions and classrooms were made later.[1]

Creation Date	1895, 1912, 1920-21	Change Dates	
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Associations		Local Themes	
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Eight Hour Pioneer Settlement		6.03 - Schools	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Of local significance as a timber schoolroom of a characteristic type designed by J B Cohen, built in 1912 (replacing an earlier school erected in 1895) and a teacher's residence dating from 1920-21. and school built for the children of the district's orcharding and farming families, and successor to the earlier school located here to serve the children of the Eight Hour Pioneer settlers. It is historically significant for its association with the Eight Hour Pioneer Settlement and as an early surviving community building in Wonga Park. It is of social significance as a traditional community focus in Wonga Park and as a central part of Wonga Park's identity. It is the only Edwardian school in the municipality and the teacher's residence is the only surviving

example in the municipality. The school site contains examples of a range of standard school building types, along with the school residence, a rare local example illustrating the evolution of a school site and community. (criterion A4, B2, D2, H1)

LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
None Specified			

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	
Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:		

Conservation Management

Extra Research

- BIBLIOGRAPHY** [1] Wonga Park State School, DTHS Newsletter, Sept. 1995; L. Burchell "Survey of One-room state schools, p. 10; L. J. Blake " Vision and Realisation", pp. 406-7; R. Peterson, "Historic Government Schools".
[2] Border Country, p.43.