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FORMER SCHOOL BUILDING H0533
60 Hamilton Hwy, Fyansford, Victoria? ~~Investig. Ed?~~

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MEMORANDUM

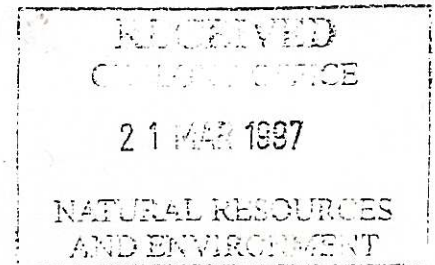
TO: Graham Bowley
Natural Resources and Environment, Geelong

FROM: Frances O'Neill
Heritage, Building Services Agency

SUBJECT: Fyansford Primary School no. 1691

DATE: 13 March 1997

Fyansford



The town of Fyansford, 48 miles from Melbourne, is named after Captain Foster Fyans, the first Police Magistrate for the area from 1837 to 1840. Fyans took up land there when he first arrived in the area in 1837. Fyansford is situated on the Moorabool River just north of its junction with the Barwon and on the main road from Geelong to Ballarat. Its position led John Atkins to build an inn on the western bank of the Moorabool in 1843. Traffic through the township during the gold rushes led to the building of another inn and a wooden bridge in 1854.¹ In 1865 Fyansford was described as an agricultural and pastoral district with numerous vineyards and orchards.² A paper mill was set up in 1876 and a cement works began operations in 1889.³

Fyansford Primary School

Fyansford Primary School No. 1691, Hamilton Highway, Fyansford, opened as a Common School no. 913 in 1867. In its opening year it had an enrolment

¹ Ian Wynd. *Geelong the Pivot*. 2nd ed. . Geelong, Geelong Historical Society, 1986. P. 58

² Bailliere's *Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide*. Melbourne, 1865.

³ W.R. Brownhill *The History of Geelong and Corio Bay*. Melbourne, 1955. p.575

of 95 children and an average attendance of 28 girls and 28 boys. There were 32 destitute scholars at the school, for whom the government contributed £9.11.0 for their fees. The other students paid £21.7.6 in fees in 1867.

As a result of the Education Act of 1872, the school was taken over as a State school. A site for a State owned building was obtained by the Department of Education and gazetted as Crown land reserved for school purposes on 28 November 1872.

The one room school was constructed in 1875 by contractor J. Pile and Sons in stone with a shingle roof at a cost of £599.4.0. On 1 January 1876 the school became State School no. 1691 and No. 913 was struck off the roll. It had accommodation for 100 children.

The shingle roof was replaced or covered with iron in 1899.1900.⁴ In 1928-29 some drainage work and repairs and renovations to the school were carried out by contractor, B. J. Perrott. The gable windows were probably enlarged at this time. A new accoridian screen to partition the school into two classrooms was installed in 1929.30.⁵

The school is an important example of the work of Public Works Department architect H. R. Bastow.

Fyansford was selected as the Rural Training School for Geelong and district in 1927.

In September 1989 the school was selected to represent the Barwon South Western region in the curriculum innovation awards. It won the award in November 1989.⁶

The Architect

Henry Robert Bastow was born on 3 May 1839 and lived in Bridport, Dorset before migrating to Australia. In 1863 he was working as an Architect and Surveyor in Hobart. He took up an appointment with the Victorian Public Service on 30 April 1866 as a draftsman in the Water Supply Branch of the Public Works Department. In 1873 he was working as an Architect and Civil Engineer in the Railways Department and in 1874 he moved to the Education Department. By 1883 he was part of the State Schools Division of the Public

⁴ Victoria Public Works Department Summary Contract Book. VPRS 2143 (Public Records Office, Victoria) Contract no. 112 for 1899-1900 was for Iron roof. Contractor J. W. Tingate at a cost of £53.12.6.

⁵ Victoria Public Works Department Summary Contract Book. VPRS 2143 (Public Records Office, Victoria) Contract no. 255 for 1929-30 was for an Accoridian screen at a cost of £92.13.0.

⁶ Age 27 September 1989 p. 15 and 1 December 1989 p. 15

Works Department and by 1885 was Senior Architect 'in general charge of design and execution of all architectural works.' He was responsible for overseeing the enormous number of schools constructed in the years following the introduction of the 1872 Education Act.

Comparative Analysis

Eight other schools have been identified in the Historic Government Schools study as belonging to the 3 .5. 3 category Early Education Department Single Room Schools (1873-1900) 100 -type (50' x 20').

Glengarry West No. 4426 (Rosedale Shire) was built in timber as Coalville No. 2822 in 1891 and relocated in Glengarry West in 1929. It has not been inspected.

Bungaree No. 1960 (Bungaree Shire) was built in bluestone in 1877 to a design by J. P. Kennison. Some openings have been bricked up but these are reversible.

Coghills Creek No. 1523 (Ballarat Shire) was built in brick in 1874-75. A window has been inserted in the gable end and a partition installed. A porch has been added. No action is recommended.

Corindhap No. 1906 (Leigh Shire) was constructed in timber in 1876-77. A classroom and cloakroom in timber have been added but the original schoolroom is intact. The plan is an unusual one. This has been recommended to the Heritage Register.

Greensborough with residence No. 2062 (Diamond Valley Shire) was built in 1877-79 in brick. It is the only 100 -type extant with a residence. The residence has been converted to classrooms.

Koroit No. 618 (Warrnambool Shire) was built in 1877-78 in local sandstone. Its dimensions differ from the usual ones for this type, being 55 x 21. It appears to be intact and has been recommended as being of local and regional significance in the local area conservation study.

Lucknow No. 1231 (Bairnsdale Shire) was built in brick in 1882. Large windows have been installed in the gable end walls. A similar classroom in timber has been added. No action is recommended.

Warrenheip No. 1591 (Buninyong Shire) was built in 1875 in brick with 2 fireplaces. It has had a window inserted in the gable end and a partition installed. A brick classroom, washroom and cloakroom have been added. No action is recommended.

Of the three stone schools in this category, Koroit appears to be intact and has been recommended as being of local and regional significance in the local area conservation study. Bungaree has been recommended for consideration by the Heritage Council as architecturally significant. Some openings have been bricked up but these are reversible. However it is derelict and it is not known if further deterioration has taken place since the last inspection. Fyansford is not intact as built: its gable windows were enlarged to improve lighting for the students in the 1920s .

The three masonry schools, Koroit, Bungaree and Fyansford were constructed in the early years after the Education Act of 1872.

Heritage Status.

Fyansford Primary School is not included in the Heritage Register or the Government Buildings Register. It has not been included in the Register of the National Estate. It has not been classified by the National Trust. It is not so far included in the Local Planning Scheme of the Greater Geelong City Council.

Recommendation.

Fyansford Primary School is not recommended for addition to the Heritage register. It is of local significance as an example of an early Education Department single room school constructed of bluestone and should be protected under the Local Planning Scheme.