

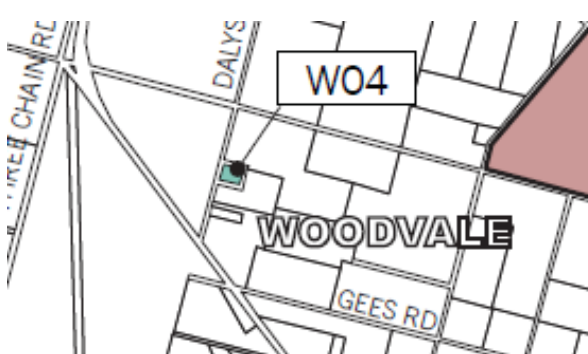
<b>Name</b>	Woodvale Hall (former school, no. 1531)	<b>Reference in 1998 Marong Study</b>	W04
<b>Address</b>	Daly's Road, near Bendigo-Pyramid Road intersection, Woodvale	<b>Map reference</b>	VicRoads 44 4E
<b>Building type</b>	Public hall (former school)	<b>Survey date</b>	June 2010
<b>Date of construction</b>	1875	<b>Recommendation</b>	Include in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
<b>Significance</b>	Woodvale Hall (former school) is of local historic, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.		



Left: Woodvale School, pictured c. 1895 (Source: Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984, p. 38). Right: West and north elevations.



Left: Rear (south) and east elevations, note skillion addition at left of picture. Right: War memorial to the north of the public hall grounds.



Left: Aerial view, 2010 (Source: City of Greater Bendigo). Right: Proposed Heritage Overlay map, with the subject site shown as W04.

**Intactness**      ✓ Good      Fair      Poor

## History

As with many gold rush settlements, early community life at Sydney Flat (Woodvale<sup>1</sup>) was frenzied, haphazard and notable for transient and predominantly male populations. Despite this, by 1858 there were three schools at Woodvale, in the area between Nuggetty and Poverty Gullies and on Sydney Flat near the Old House at Home Hotel. There was another school at nearby Myer's Flat to the west, reflecting the size of the local population by that time.<sup>2</sup>

By 1873, a James Wood was lobbying the Board of Education for a school at Woodvale. The following year tenders were called for the present school building, located on Daly's Road, a short distance north of Woodvale's historic centre and close to the Old House at Home Hotel. The contract was won by Bendigo builder, F Button, for the sum of £632, 5/10.<sup>3</sup> The original specifications and plans were for a much larger school. The completed school (the subject building) with a capacity for 100 pupils, had a shingle roof, deal floorboards and was built of bricks carted from Eaglehawk. It opened on 1 June 1875 with George Whitfield as head teacher. Shortly afterwards, Whitfield erected a residence in the grounds (demolished).<sup>4</sup> By 1877, the average attendance was 77. At that time the school was known as the Nerring School no. 1531,<sup>5</sup> the name changing to Sydney Flat School in 1902 and Woodvale School in 1936.<sup>6</sup>

Water storage and the provision of clean water were notable problems in the early years; a 370-gallon tank proved inadequate, and the shingles tainting the supply of storm water.<sup>7</sup> The issue was resolved with the provision of an underground tank. The shingle roof was replaced by corrugated sheet metal after 1890. Renovations (unspecified) were carried out in 1912, at a cost of £137. Further works in 1914 saw the removal of the internal gallery and original desk platforms.<sup>8</sup> The school community and local residents planted cypress trees as a memorial to seven former students who fell in World War I. Tablets were fixed to each of the trees in 1926. Electricity was installed in 1955, and the school finally closed on 15 January 1962.<sup>9</sup> In recent years the former school has been restored. The building, now used as a public hall for meetings and functions, is maintained by a local community association.

## Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

Victoria's themes and sub-themes:

- 8.2: Educating people
- 9.5: Advancing knowledge

## Description & Integrity

The former Woodvale School is a standard gabled bichrome brick school room of the late Victorian period, with an entrance porch to the south and a skillion-roofed lean-to addition to the east. The building is located in the approximate centre of a large, gently sloping and partly treed allotment on the south side of Daly's Road, close to the Bendigo-Pyramid Road intersection.

The school has a sandstone plinth laid in random (irregular) coursed rubble, bluestone sills and bichrome window heads with cambered soffits. The red brick walls on the front (south) elevation are laid in English bond with a two-course strip in cream brick running round the building and its porch. The gable vents are bullseyes, with bichrome surrounds to the south face. The roofs of the original components (main school room and porch) are simple gables, clad in corrugated galvanised steel; the main roof has three gablet vents to the west. The brick chimney is original. The bargeboards have long finials, with the main upper finial supported on a cross-beam and the porch finial serving as a flagpole. Timber finials are not original. The porch bargeboard is supported on two projecting purlins. Toothed brickwork at the north end anticipates an extension never built – as noted in the history (above), the original plans and specifications were for a much larger building. The windows to the north elevation have four sashes in two bays, probably added in the Federation period. Inside, the coved and painted timber ceiling linings and decorative ceiling vents are intact, as are the roll of honour, blackboard and fireplace. The lean-to addition may date to the 1960s, although its windows appear earlier indicating they may have been relocated during the construction works.

There is a white-painted timber toilet to the east of the allotment, twinned with no internal division. To the south of the entrance are the memorials to the seven former pupils, with a row of recently replanted cypress trees behind. The allotment is enclosed to the south by a low wire and post fence.

The cast iron entrance gates, painted green, were installed in 2004. These were a donation by Neil M and Dagmar V Daly, members of the fourth generation of Dalys in the Woodvale community and dedicated to the memory of Roy and Janet Daly (nee Bayliss).

The former school appears to be in sound condition.

### **Comparative Analysis**

The bichrome structural detailing and the gablet vents evident at the former Woodvale school building are hallmarks of a number of schools of the late-Victorian period designed by H R Bastow, senior architect with the Department of Public Works. The chimney corning in exposed corbelled brick, its single relieving course line in cream brick, the window heads, entry gable gablet vents and cross-braced finial are identical with those on Bastow's Helen Street School at Northcote, also 1874.<sup>10</sup> These details are also largely identical with those on Bastow's Mount Pleasant School at Ballarat, also 1874, except that the window-heads there are surrounded by dog-toothed drip moulds.<sup>11</sup>

### **Assessment Against Criteria**

#### *Amended Heritage Victoria Criteria*

*Criterion A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.*

The former Woodvale School (no. 1531), completed in 1875, on Daly's Road at Woodvale is of local historical significance. It provides evidence of the consolidation of Sydney Flat (Woodvale) as a community in the 1870s, following the frenzy of the early gold rushes of the 1850s. Its use for nearly a century, from 1875 to 1962, demonstrates the size and longevity of the local community into the second half of the twentieth century. The former school remains in use as a public hall, maintained by a local community association.

*Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City the of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.*

N/A

*Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural history.*

N/A

*Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places or objects.*

The former Woodvale School demonstrates a number of characteristics of schools of the late-Victorian period designed by H R Bastow of the Department of Public Works. These include the bichrome structural detailing, gablet vents, chimney corning in exposed corbelled brick, the single relieving course line in cream brick, the window heads, entry gable gablet vents and cross-braced finial.

*Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics in the context of the municipality.*

The former Woodvale School (no. 1531) is of local aesthetic/architectural significance. It is a largely externally intact example of a late-Victorian bichrome brick gabled school building, which is similar in form and details to a number of contemporaneous (1870s) schools in Victoria designed by H R Bastow, senior architect with the Department of Public Works. Excepting the rear lean-to addition, and the windows to the north elevation which were probably added in the Federation period, the school presents externally predominantly as built. Elements of note include the bichrome window heads, chimney corning, gablet vents and cross-braced finial. The steeply pitched roof also has picturesque qualities, giving the building considerable prominence in its informal treed landscape setting; the row of memorials is also significant.

*Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.*

N/A

*Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of the place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.*

The former Woodvale School is of social significance, as a focus of the local community for nearly a century. Former students who perished in World War I are commemorated by the memorials and replanted trees in the grounds, while the recently planted cypress trees maintain this approach, emphasizing the local importance of the property and echoing those originally planted by the school community after the war. The former school is also valued for remaining in use as a public hall, maintained by a local community association.

*Criterion H: Special association with life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Greater Bendigo's history.*

N/A

## **Statement of Significance**

*What is significant?*

The former Woodvale School is a standard gabled bi-chrome brick school room of the late Victorian period, with an entrance porch to the south and a skillion-roofed lean-to addition to the east. The building is located in the approximate centre of a large, gently sloping and partly treed allotment on the south side of Daly's Road, close to the Bendigo-Pyramid Road intersection. The school has a sandstone plinth laid in random (irregular) coursed rubble, bluestone sills and bi-chrome window heads with cambered soffits. The red brick walls on the front (south) elevation are laid in English bond with a two-course strip in cream brick running round the building and its porch. The gable vents are bullseyes, with bichrome surrounds to the south face. The roofs of the original components (main school room and porch) are simple gables, clad in corrugated galvanised steel; the main roof has three gable vents to the west. The brick chimney is original. The bargeboards have long finials, with the main upper finial supported on a cross-beam and the porch finial serving as a flagpole. The timber finials are not original. The porch bargeboard is supported on two projecting purlins. The windows to the north elevation have four sashes in two bays, probably added in the Federation period. Inside, the coved and painted timber ceiling linings and decorative ceiling vents are intact, as are the roll of honour, blackboard and fireplace. The lean-to addition may date to the 1960s, although its windows appear earlier indicating they may have been relocated during the construction works.

*How is it significant?*

The former Woodvale School is of local historic, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.

*Why is it significant?*

The former Woodvale School no. 1531, in Daly's Road, Woodvale, and completed in 1875, is of local historic significance (Criterion A), for providing evidence of the consolidation of Sydney Flat (Woodvale) as a community in the 1870s, following the frenzy of the early gold rushes of the 1850s. Its use for nearly a century, from 1875 to 1962, demonstrates the size and longevity of the local community into the second half of the twentieth century. The former school also remains in use as a public hall, maintained by a local community association. The property is of social significance (Criterion G), as a focus of the local community for nearly a century. Former students who perished in World War I are commemorated by the memorials and replanted trees in the grounds, while the recently planted cypress trees maintain this approach, emphasizing the local importance of the property and echoing those originally planted by the school community after the war. The former school is also valued for remaining in use as a public hall. The property is also of local aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E), as a largely externally intact example of a late-

Victorian bichrome brick gabled school building, which is similar in form and details to a number of contemporaneous (1870s) schools in Victoria designed by H R Bastow, senior architect with the Department of Public Works. Excepting the rear lean-to addition, and the windows to the north elevation which were probably added in the Federation period, the school presents externally predominantly as built. Elements of note include the bichrome window heads, chimney corncicing, gablet vents and cross-braced finial. The steeply pitched roof also has picturesque qualities, giving the building considerable prominence in its informal treed landscape setting; the row of memorials is also significant.

### Recommendations

The subject property is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Greater Bendigo Heritage Overlay. The extent of the Overlay is indicated in the above map. The focus of significance is on the 1870s school building; the skillion addition is not significant. The brick walling should remain unpainted. The setting to the school is also significant, including the informal treed landscape, and the memorials. The 2004 cast iron entrance gates are not historical elements, but may have contemporary value to the community.

External Paint Colours	No
Internal Alterations Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions	No
Victorian Heritage Register	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	No
Incorporated plan	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

### Identified By

Andrew Ward, 1998.

### References

Ken Arnold, *Bendigo its Environs, The Way it Was*, Volume 1, Crown Castleton Publishers, 2003.

Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984.

Andrew Ward *et al*, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Study (Marong) Study Area, Stage 2, 1998.

#### Specific:

- <sup>1</sup> From 1845, the area was regarded as part of Myers Creek, later Myers Flat, and became known as Sydney Flat from 1852, with the present name, Woodvale, being adopted in the 1920s. See, 'History,' [www.woodvale.vic.au](http://www.woodvale.vic.au)
- <sup>2</sup> Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984, p. 33.
- <sup>3</sup> Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984, p. 33.
- <sup>4</sup> *Vision and Realisation*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, 1973, v. 2, p. 482.
- <sup>5</sup> Nerring derives from the Aboriginal name for the area.
- <sup>6</sup> Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984, pp. 34-36.
- <sup>7</sup> Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984, p. 34.
- <sup>8</sup> Ray Wallace, *Sydney Flat Gold to Woodvale Green*, Woodvale Progress Association, 1984, pp. 34-46, and *Vision and Realisation*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, 1973, v. 2, p. 482.

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- <sup>9</sup> *Vision and Realisation*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, 1973, v. 2, p. 482.
- <sup>10</sup> Lawrence Burchell, *Victorian Schools: A Study in Colonial Government Architecture 1837 1900*, University Press-Victorian Education Department, Melbourne, 1980, p. 107.
- <sup>11</sup> Burchell, p. 109, Fig. 142.