

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	FORMER SCHOOLS AND RESIDENCE		
Address	69 Nankervis Road MANDURANG	Grading	2008 Local
Building Type	School - State (public) Staff housing		
Assessment by	Context Pty Ltd		



Recommended Heritage Protection	VHR No HI No PS Yes
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Architectural Style	Victorian Period (1851-1901) Vernacular
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Maker / Builder	Unknown
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Integrity

Altered

History and Historical Context

History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye

The land around the former Shires of Strathfieldsaye and McIvor had a long history prior to the arrival of Europeans. The Jaara Jaara people are the original inhabitants of the area.

The area around Port Phillip was explored by Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor General of New South Wales, and a large party in 1836, on the homeward leg of a journey to Portland Bay. Impressed by what he perceived as the bounty of

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the land, Mitchell named the area *Australia Felix*.^[1]

The Port Phillip district was opened up for settlement soon thereafter, and much of the land in the Western districts of Victoria, including the former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye, was subsequently dominated by a series of pastoral runs. Most of the area around the town of Axedale and the numerous small towns in its vicinity was licensed to David Jennings as part of the Campaspe Plains run. The run covered an area of more than 144,900 acres and was populated with an estimated 12,000 sheep. A portion of Campaspe Plains was licensed to A. Jennings and George Playne in 1840 and the 67,000 acre station became known as Axedale. In the coming decade the holders of the license changed a number of times. By the time the leasehold over the land was cancelled in 1865, the run had greatly reduced in size.^[2]

Following the cancellation of leasehold, land holdings were of a smaller scale and pastoralists were gradually overtaken by farmers. The discovery of gold at Bendigo and the surrounding areas changed the face of the district and brought about new patterns of settlement and expansion. William John Bulling claimed to be the first man to discover gold at McIvor, and he was granted a £400 reward for the find. By 1853, over one hundred prospectors had assembled at Wild Duck Creek in the hopes of striking it rich. This number expanded the following year, and included some 2,000 Chinese immigrants.^[3]

The Strathfieldsaye Road District was proclaimed in the Government Gazette on the 12th August 1861, and encompassed within it the parishes of Axedale, Strathfieldsaye, Eppalock, Mandurang, Sedgwick and Lyell.^[4] The process of election of the board was punctuated by rivalries between Catholic and Protestant faiths, a characteristic of the district which infiltrates much of its history. Strathfieldsaye met the criterion prescribed to become a Shire in 1863, a transition that was officially proclaimed on the 17th September of that year.^[5]

In 1864, Strathfieldsaye Shire was divided into three wards; Mandurang, Strathfieldsaye and Axedale.^[6]

History of Mandurang

The area around Mandurang was initially known as the Sheepwash, so named for its situation on Sheepwash Creek. The township emerged for the provision of services to outlying farms, and postal services to Melbourne commenced in prior to 1900. By the late 1870s, several vineyards, as well as a steam tannery and ginger beer manufacturing plant were in operation in the vicinity of the town.^[7]

By the late 1800s, the citizens of Mandurang had established state schooling facilities, as well as several Churches. Surrounding farmers were largely focussed on the production of hay for the Sandhurst market, though development of new technologies undoubtedly changed the way in which farming was carried out. Mandurang largely avoided the glow of the gold rushes, and was predominantly a farming community well into the 1900s.

History of Mandurang School No. 1952, 69 Nankervis Road, Mandurang

The Mandurang School No. 1952 originally commenced as a non-vested National School No. 403 on September 1 1861, under the guidance of Head Teacher Isaac Whitworth.^[8]

A replacement school No. 1952 opened at the Nankervis Road site in 1877. The land was described as 'five acres of thickly timbered land on the slope of a hill'.^[9] The new school cost £470/0/64 to build. It was a standard design single room school for 60 pupils, measuring wooden 30 feet by 18 feet. A four room adjoining teachers' quarters, also according to a standard design, was constructed at the same time.^[10]

The school and quarters were painted in 1881, and minor repairs undertaken. The Head Teacher, Mr. Prankherd, donated a new bell to the school around this time.^[11] In 1886 an underground tank was built on the site, and fencing undertaken in 1892.^[12]

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Two additional rooms were added to the residence in 1905. The work was undertaken by contractor Magee Bros., at the cost of £58/10/08. In 1911, it was recommended that the gallery be removed from the school building and that the school be repainted. These works were not completed until four years later.[13]

Frank Shielow commenced as Head Teacher at the Mandurang School in 1912 and was said to have had significant influence in the approval and support for alterations and improvements to the school and grounds.[14] Shielow recommended that the site receive new fencing, garden beautification works, and a new library.[15] Additional works took place in 1914 with the construction of a shelter shed, for the cost of £25.[16]

Renovations were carried out at the residence in 1915-16. Works involved the conversion of two rooms into a single, larger room. Unspecified repairs and renovations to the schoolroom. The cost of these works was £312/7/614. It is also noted that during 1914- 1918 a tennis court was constructed on the site.[17]

The Depression of the 1930s saw only minor repairs being dealt with, until 1946 when site works including 'filling, grading, surfacing and drainage' took place.[18] In 1942, the Head Teacher H.T Croxford was given permission for the residence to serve as the Mandurang Post Office.[19] It is assumed that the Head Teacher was no longer living there at the time.

Electricity was supplied to the site in 1944. The former teachers' residence was at that stage being used as a meeting premises for the Young Farmers Club. Additional land was gazetted to the school site in 1945, after the Head Teacher requested that 'the area of the blind lane of 3 roods, 16 perches be added.'[20] A new bicycle shed was erected in 1949. The old shelter shed was converted to a classroom at this time. The shed was set on blocks and base, boarded in and floored for use as a learning area.[21]

Various maintenance works continued over the years including repainting in 1951 and white ant eradication in 1952. A verandah was added to the craft room in 1956.[22] Beautification works were carried out in 1956 and repainting and a new verandah new floor took place in 1975.

The 1970s saw much attention paid to the school grounds for the school's centenary celebrations. A new room was to be added to the school in late 1977.[23]

The site is currently privately owned and the buildings used as residences.

[1] Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor, p. 1.

[2] Spreadborough, Robert and Anderson, Hugh (1983). *Victorian Squatters*, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale, p. 150

[3] Spreadborough & Anderson (1983), p. 31.

[4] Hewat, Tim (1983), *Bridge Over Troubled Waters, A History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye*, Shire of Strathfieldsaye, Victoria, pp. 11 - 12.

[5] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 18.

[6] Hewat, Tim (1983), p. 107.

[7] Whitworth, Robert P. (1879). *The Victorian Gazeteer and road guide: containing the most recent and accurate information as to every place in the colony*, Melbourne, F. F. Bailliere.

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[8] Blake, Vision and Realisation, 1973, Vol 2, p 442

[9] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 6

[10] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 6

[11] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 6

[12] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 8

[13] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 10

[14] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 10

[15] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 10

[16] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 10

[17] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 10

[18] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 12

[19] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 12

[20] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 12

[21] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, pp 12 - 13

[22] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 10

[23] Mandurang School Centenary, 1977, p 14

Secondary sources

Hewat, Tim (1983), *Bridge Over Troubled Waters, A History of the Shire of Strathfieldsaye*, Shire of Strathfieldsaye, Victoria

Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor

Spreadborough, Robert and Anderson, Hugh (1983). *Victorian Squatters*, Red Rooster Press, Ascot Vale

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Relevant Historical Australian Themes

8.0 Building community life

8.2 Educating people

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Description

Physical Description

69 Nankervis Road comprises several buildings associated with the former Mandurang School. These include a residence facing Nankervis Road, (now planted with vines in front). This is likely to have been the teachers residence of 1877. Behind this building is a gable roofed one room school building that appears to be the original school building of 1861. On an adjacent parcel of land the school building of 1877 stands, now used as a residence. This is a standard design of gable roof form with porch. Additions and alterations have taken place to each of the buildings, most noticeably verandahs that link the residence and 1861 building. The buildings show how the Mandurang School evolved. The grounds include an underground tank, a shelter shed of c.1940, a bike shed of c. 1949, and a tennis court and these are of secondary interest. All of the buildings are of timber frame with weatherboard cladding and there are brick chimneys with corbelled tops to the residence.

A small parcel of land fronting Nankervis road has been used for the Country Fire Authority and a large shed has been built.

Physical Condition

Good

Conservation Policy

Guidelines (Specific)

The following specific conservation actions are recommended, should the opportunity arise: None specified.

Comparative Analysis

The Mandurang School represents one of the best complexes of school and residence still extant in the study area.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Mandurang School, including the school of 1861, teachers's residence and school of 1877, is significant.

How is it significant?

The former Mandurang School, residence and grounds at 69 Nankervis Road is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

The former Mandurang School and residence is historically and socially significant for its association with the provision of early educational facilities prior to the Education Act of 1873, and after the Act when standard school designs were

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built in many rural communities. It contains buildings from each of these periods, and later buildings such as a shelter shed, bike shed associated with the school. *Criterion A*

The buildings are of aesthetic interest for their demonstration of school design before the provision of public education, the provision made for teachers, and a representative example of a one room rural school. Although examples of these buildings can be found elsewhere in the City of Greater Bendigo it is rare to find a group still extant. *Criterion D*

Assessment Against Criteria

Criteria:

Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion C Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

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

Criterion D Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

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

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

Criterion H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

Recommendations 2008

External Paint Controls

No

Internal Alteration Controls

No

Tree Controls

No

Fences & Outbuildings

Yes

Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted

Yes

Incorporated Plan

Yes

Aboriginal Heritage Place

No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that 69 Nankervis Road be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the Greater City of Bendigo Planning Scheme with the schedule entry as shown above. The extent of registration is the whole of the property as defined by the title boundaries. The recommended Incorporated Plan is the 'Permit Exemption Incorporated Plan -

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Former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye.'