

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** MANDURANG SOUTH STATE SCHOOL NO. 1628  
**Address** 86 Mandurang South Road MANDURANG SOUTH **Grading** 2008 Local  
**Building Type** School - State (public)  
**Assessment by** Context Pty Ltd




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**Recommended** VHR No HI No PS Yes  
**Heritage Protection**

**Architectural Style** Victorian Period (1851-1901)  
 Gothic Revival

**Maker / Builder** Unknown

### Integrity

Fair

## 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*.<sup>[1]</sup>

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.<sup>[2]</sup>

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.<sup>[3]</sup>

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.<sup>[4]</sup> 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.<sup>[5]</sup>

In 1864, Strathfieldsaye Shire was divided into three wards; Mandurang, Strathfieldsaye and Axedale.<sup>[6]</sup>

## History of Mandurang and Mandurang South

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.<sup>[7]</sup>

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.

## Contextual history of education in the former Shires of Strathfieldsaye and McIvor

Prior to 1873, education in Victoria was optional, fee-paying and primarily carried out through religious institutions. Education in some was regulated by the Port Phillip Denominational Schools Board, which had been established in 1848, and was responsible for the funding and establishment of Church schools.<sup>[8]</sup> In the districts around Bendigo, education was similarly associated with the establishment of religious facilities.

Providing an alternative to religious education, the Heathcote National School was established in 1853, along with a number of other private institutions that were running in the area.<sup>[9]</sup>

Governor LaTrobe spearheaded the establishment of the National Board of Education in Victoria in 1851, which owned and built "vested" schools throughout the state. While designs were based on those used by the Education Committee of the Privy Council in London, they were not standardised. <sup>[10]</sup>

The Common Schools Act of 1862 manifested a desire to amalgamate schools and do away with denominational influence. Schools were publicly owned and numbered from 1863. Free, compulsory and secular education was introduced with the Education Act of 1872 and became operational the following year. The Education Act became the impetus for the standardisation of designs for schools. Responsibility for their construction rested initially with the Department of Education Architectural Division, but was transferred to the Public Works Department by 1883. [11] One room schools were built according to a series of standardised plans which were determined by the amount and type of seating provided, and there were models for thirty, forty and sixty students.[12]

Development of educational facilities was primarily tied with the development of towns themselves. The first state school constructed in the former shires of Strathfieldsaye and McIvor was built at Heathcote in 1869, and later Mia Mia in 1873.[13] Many of the schools constructed in the district were small portable timber constructions, built in accordance with standard designs by the Education Department and later the Public Works Department. As the population of the small townships around Bendigo increased, so did the need for the provision of schools. Often redundant portable schools were brought in from other locations, and similar circumstances sometimes befell portable schools built for the local McIvor and Strathfieldsaye communities.

The construction of the railway line from Bendigo to Heathcote in the 1880s opened by the district for both import of people and export of produce, and had solidified the nature of many of the smaller townships in the vicinity. This meant the establishment of more permanent educational facilities for some towns, and the establishment of rudimentary ones for others. By the turn of the century a number of regional communities boasted brick schools in place of their previous portable timber facilities. Small portable schools were often extended and renovated, with additional classrooms being added as the need arose.

### **History of Mandurang South State School No. 1628, 86 Mandurang South Road, Mandurang**

The site of the school at Mandurang South was gazetted on the 1st May 1874. The school opened on the 1st September 1875, with Robert Balmer employed as the Head Teacher of the fifty one enrolled pupils. Students were largely made up of members of local working class families, including labourers, timber cutters and prospectors. The school was a wooden building with attached residence, and cost £380/17/6 to build.[14]

Two rooms of the three-roomed residence were demolished in the 1970s. Recent additions include the construction of an undercover area at the rear of the school, a toilet block and storage area.[15]

Mandurang South State School closed in 2000 and the entirety of its student body was transferred to Strathfieldsaye Primary School.

[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.

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- [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.
- [8] Peterson, Richard (1993), *Historic Government Schools: A Comparative Study*, Heritage Management Branch, Building Division, Department of Planning and Development, Victoria, p.1.
- [9] Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd (2002), *Heathcote - Strathfieldsaye Thematic History*, City of Greater Bendigo, 2002, p. 51.
- [10] Peterson, Richard (1993), p.1.
- [11] Peterson, Richard (1993), pp. 1 - 3.
- [12] Burchell, L. E. (1989), *Survey of One Room State Schools 1900 - 1940*, L. E. Burchell, Victoria, p. i.
- [13] Randell, J. O. (1985), *McIvor, A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor, Heathcote, Victoria, p. 151.
- [14] Education Department of Victoria (1973). *Vision and Realisation: A Centenary of State Education in Victoria*, Volume 2, Melbourne, p. 488.
- [15] [www.florahill.vic.edu.au/cluster/ALC.htm](http://www.florahill.vic.edu.au/cluster/ALC.htm) (discontinued)

## Secondary sources

- Burchell, L. E. (1989), *Survey of One Room State Schools 1900 - 1940*, L. E. Burchell, Victoria
- Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd (2002), *Heathcote - Strathfieldsaye Thematic History*, City of Greater Bendigo
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- 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 Building community life

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## 8.2 Educating people

### Description

#### Physical Description

The Mandurang South School is a weatherboard school with attached residence constructed in 1875. It appears to be similar to the design for Emu Creek School that had one class room of 30' x 18' and a two room residence for the teacher. The entrance to the classroom was through the porch and the entrance to the residence was at the end of the other gable. Additional rooms were added to the rear of the school which were later removed to allow for the attached under cover play area. There are two shelter sheds at some distance away from the school.

The school building is designed with intersecting gable roofs in the Gothic Revival style. The gable ends have barge boards and finials, and the roof space is ventilated by a timber slatted vent to the front elevation, and a row of roof ventilators.

The former Mandurang South School is one of the most intact in the study area despite having the windows boarded over.

#### Physical Condition

Fair

### Conservation Policy

The following specific conservation actions are recommended, should the opportunity arise:

Revealing the existing or replacing the original windows based on historic evidence. This would also seem to depend on finding a suitable use for the building.

### Comparative Analysis

Mandurang South State School is one of the most intact in the region.

### Statement of Significance

*What is significant?*

The Mandurang South State School no. 1628, including all the fabric of the 1875 weatherboard building and attached two-roomed teacher's residence, is significant.

*How is it significant?*

The Mandurang South State School is of local historic, architectural, aesthetic and social significance for the City of Greater Bendigo.

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## *Why is it significant?*

The Mandurang South State School site is historically significant for its association with the provision of early educational facilities, which had an important role in the developing community. The school is of social significance for the Mandurang South community as a site of continuous education from 1875 until it closed 2000. *Criterion A, Criterion G*

The school is architecturally significant as one of the most intact schools in the region, and the 30' x 18' classroom is comparable to the Emu Creek School in design in demonstrating the architectural style favoured by the Education Department prior to 1883. The school is aesthetically significant for its demonstration of the Gothic Revival style as applied to school buildings soon after the Education Act of 1873. It is also significant as one of the most intact schools in the region and a good example of the large one class room school. *Criterion D, Criterion E*

## **Assessment Against Criteria**

### **HERCON CRITERIA**

Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion A*

Possession of uncommon rare or endangers aspects of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion B*

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion C*

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

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics. *Criterion E*

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

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 the continuing and developing cultural traditions. *Criterion G*

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history. *Criterion H*

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## Recommendations 2008

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	Yes
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

## Other Recommendations

It is recommended that 86 Mandurang Road, Mandurang be retained as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the City of Greater 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 - Former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye.'