

HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name LONGLEA STATE SCHOOL NO. 1921 (FORMER)
Address 26 Longlea Lane LONGLEA **Grading** 2008 Local
Building Type School - State (public)
Assessment by Context Pty Ltd



Recommended Heritage Protection VHR No HI No PS Yes

Architectural Style Victorian Period (1851-1901)

Maker / Builder Unknown

Integrity

High

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

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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]

Contextual history of education in the former Shire of Strathfieldsaye

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.[7] 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.[8]

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. [9]

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. [10] 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.[11]

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.[12] 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

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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 Longlea State School No. 1921, 26 Longlea Lane, Longlea

The Longlea State School No. 1921 building was previously used at Axedale between 1866 and 1877. The building was relocated and re-erected at Longlea in 1877. The cost of removing and rebuilding the school at Longlea came to a total sum of £477/4/00.[13] The school opened on the 23rd July 1877, providing accommodation for sixty pupils. The building incorporated an attached four room teachers quarters.[14]

The school had affiliations with many other local schools in the area, and in 1878 the school operated half time with State School No. 1634 Junortoun as well as with State School No 1788 Upper Axe Creek North at some point.[15] Attendance at the school was sporadic and by 1886, the average attendance was ten pupils.[16]

Repairs were undertaken at the school in 1921, and the building was also painted at this time. By the 1920s, a residence had also been established, providing accommodations for the Head Teacher, but the date of construction of this building is not known.

Longlea State School No. 1921 underwent remodelling in September 1926.

The school closed in 1951 as the result of falling attendance. It was reopened in 1957, for a number of years, and remained in operation until closing in 1975. Longlea State School was reopened again in March 1977, with an enrolment of twelve students.[17]

It is not known when the shelter shed at the school was constructed, and it is possible that this building was also relocated from another school site to Longlea.

The school is currently owned by the City of Greater Bendigo and utilised by various community groups.

[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] Peterson, Richard (1993), *Historic Government Schools: A Comparative Study*, Heritage Management Branch,

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Building Division, Department of Planning and Development, Victoria, p.1.

[8] Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd (2002), *Heathcote - Strathfieldsaye Thematic History*, City of Greater Bendigo, 2002, p. 51.

[9] Peterson, Richard (1993), p.1.

[10] Peterson, Richard (1993), pp. 1 - 3.

[11] Burchell, L. E. (1989), *Survey of One Room State Schools 1900 - 1940*, L. E. Burchell, Victoria, p. i.

[12] Randell, J. O. (1985), *McIvor, A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote*, Shire of McIvor, Heathcote, Victoria, p. 151.

[13] Back to Longlea Committee (1977), *Limelight on Longlea*, Longlea, Victoria, p. 3.

[14] Back to Longlea Committee (1977), p. 3.

[15] Back to Longlea Committee (1977), p. 3.

[16] Back to Longlea Committee (1977), p. 3.

[17] Back to Longlea Committee (1977), p. 3.

Secondary sources

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

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

Peterson, Richard (1993), *Historic Government Schools: A Comparative Study*, Heritage Management Branch, Building Division, Department of Planning and Development, Victoria

Earth Tech Engineering Pty Ltd (2002), *Heathcote - Strathfieldsaye Thematic History*, City of Greater Bendigo

Burchell, L. E. (1989), *Survey of One Room State Schools 1900 - 1940*, L. E. Burchell, Victoria

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

8.0 Building community life

8.2 Educating people

Description

Physical Description

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The former Longlea school is one of a number of one room weatherboard schools that were built during the 1870s in country areas. It is from a set of standard designs produced by the Public Works Department and consisted of one long classroom with a teacher platform. It is similar the former Costerfield school although Longlea has the gable roofed porch. It is likely that the rear window is a later alteration as this design tended to have two smaller windows in the gable end, and the styling of this window is similar to those put into schools c.1900. Of particular interest is the existence of the large shelter shed with weatherboard walls and timber lattice to the upper parts of the walls.

Physical Condition

Good

Conservation Policy

Regular painting of the timber surfaces is recommended.

Comparative Analysis

Longlea is one of the most intact schools in the study area and is similar to the former Costerfield school.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former Longlea State School no. 1921 including all the fabric of c.1875 timber building, teacher's quarters, and shelter shed is significant.

How is it significant?

The former Longlea State School is of local historic, architectural significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

The former Longlea 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 historical significance for the Longlea community as a site of education since the 1870s. The school is also socially important for its associations with other local schools at Axedale, Junortoun, Upper Axe Creek North. The history of the school's closing and reopening from the 1950s is also important in demonstrating the changing socio-economic circumstances of Longlea. *Criterion A*

The school is aesthetically significant for its early public works Department design of the 1870s, its degree of intactness and the shelter shed. It has comparisons with the school at Costerfield but is more intact. *Criterion D*

Assessment Against Criteria

HERCON CRITERIA

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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*

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 the school at 26 Longlea Lane, Longlea be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the Greater Bendigo City Planning Scheme with the schedule entry as shown below. 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.'