


Place name	Former Bendigo East State School No. 3893	
Address	93 Strickland Road, East Bendigo	<b>Extent of overlay</b> 
Place type	School	
Survey date	June 2013	
Date of construction	1915	
Recommendation(s)	Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay	

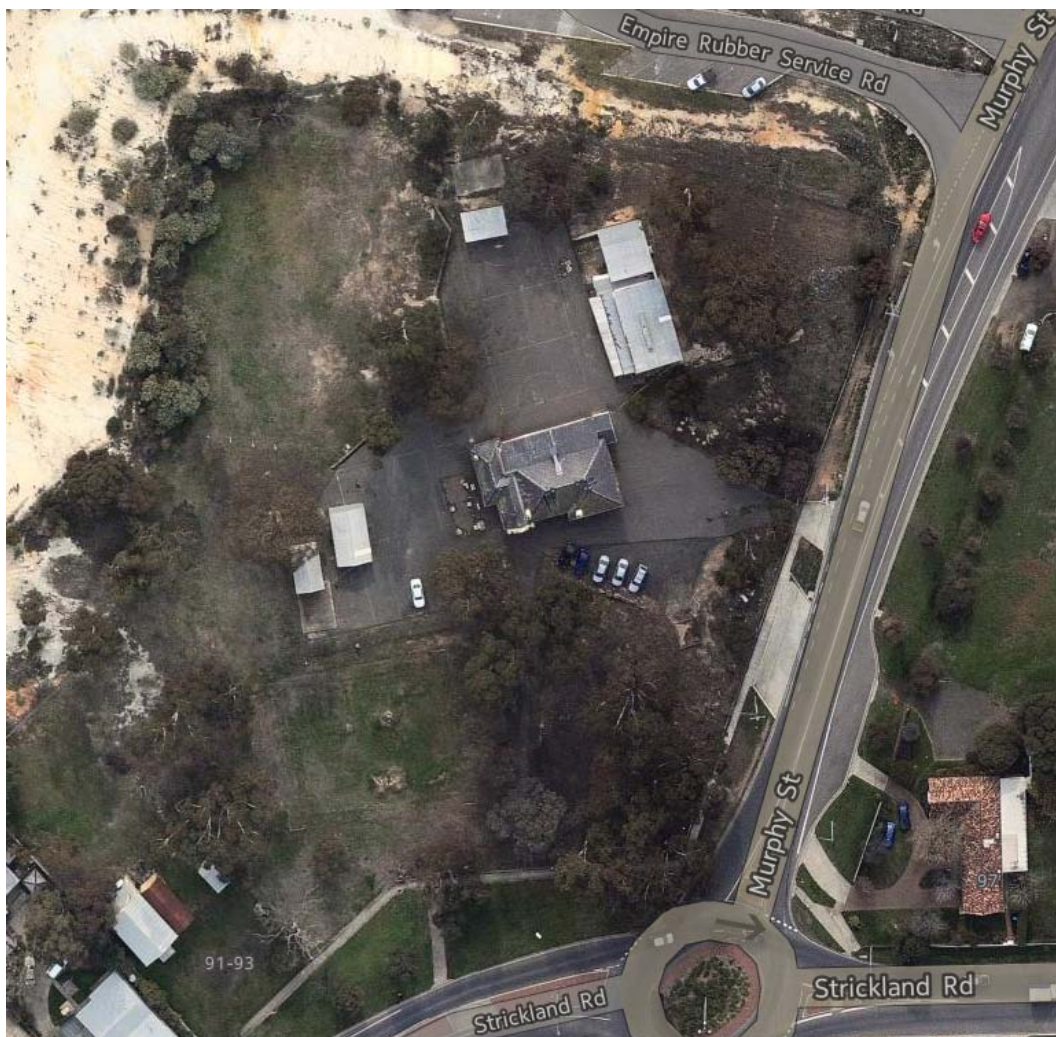


Figure 1 Recent aerial image of the subject site, with the school building at centre.  
Source: [www.nearmap.com](http://www.nearmap.com), 11 July 2013.



The main building of the former Bendigo East school, viewed from the east.



The south and west elevations of the main school building.

**Intactness**      ☐ Good      ☒ Fair      ☐ Poor

**History**



In 1912, the Victorian State Government announced plans to establish railway workshops in both Bendigo and Ballarat, in an effort to encourage 'decentralisation' of industry in the state. A site to the east of Lake Weeroona, near the junction of the rail lines to Echuca, Heathcote and Eaglehawk was selected in October 1912. It was estimated that 350 men would be employed at the workshops.<sup>1</sup> A freezing works and crushing plant were also being established in the area.<sup>2</sup>

In anticipation of development of the area with the arrival of workers to East Bendigo, the Minister for Education, Sir Alexander Peacock, promised to investigate the establishing a school near the railway workshops.<sup>3</sup> A site of 5 acres was reserved for the school in 1913 within a larger site which had been reserved for public purposes.<sup>4</sup> Tenders for the construction of the new State School were advertised in March 1915. An accompanying article in the *Bendigo Advertiser* noted that East Bendigo had made 'rapid progress' in recent years, both due to the railway workshops, and the improvement of irrigation to small farm holdings. As such, the area was 'full of promise'. The nearby former power magazine buildings were dismantled at this time, and the bricks were used to construct the school – 'a much more substantial building than is usually given to a school of this size'.<sup>5</sup>

The newspaper article also noted that the design of the building was 'one of the most effective ... externally and one of the most useful and healthful inside'.

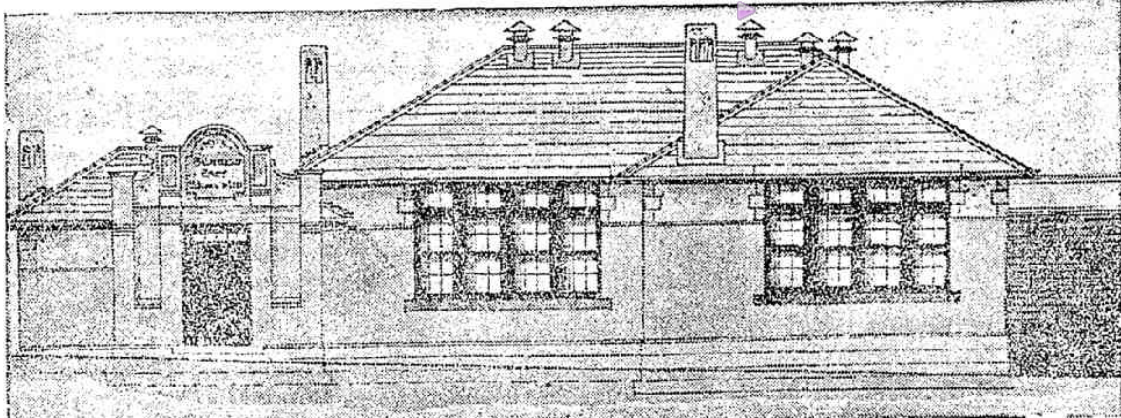
The upper portions of the building will be rough cast, and other ornamentations will consist of reinforced lintels and sills to windows ... The two main classrooms will measure 31 ft. 6 in. by 24 ft. and 26 ft. 6 in. by 24 ft. On the north side a verandah 56 ft. in length and 13 ft. in width will run along these two rooms, and may be used as an open-air school.<sup>6</sup>

In addition to the two classrooms and verandah, the new building had a corridor, cloakroom, store and office. It was completed at a cost of £1,157.<sup>7</sup>

The new East Bendigo State School No. 3893 was opened on 1 February 1916. The brick building could accommodate approximately 150 children in its two classrooms. Mr Thomas F Bisset was the first head teacher, with Miss Burgess the assistant teacher.<sup>8</sup> In November that year, the school held a stall for Flower Day on the corner of Hargreaves and Mitchell streets, the first opportunity for the school to take part in a public celebration.<sup>9</sup>

An avenue of honour associated with the school was established in late 1920. Known as 'Anzac Avenue', it was noted to be situated 'at the Bendigo East State School' to honour those who had enlisted from the 'environs' of the school. A ceremony was held in December 1920 to place name plates at each tree, with the first placed by headmaster Mr R I Lee, a returned soldier.<sup>10</sup> This avenue has not survived, and the 27 plaques placed at the base of the trees are now held at the Soldiers Memorial Institute.<sup>11</sup> Additional rooms were provided in 1959, 1963 and 1969.<sup>12</sup>

The East Bendigo State School was closed in the mid-1990s, under a state-wide program of mergers and closures of schools by the Victorian Government.<sup>13</sup> The school merged with White Hills Secondary College to open as Weeroona College in 1999. The former school property is now used as an office.



Drawing of the south elevation of the new State School at East Bendigo, 1915 (source: *Bendigo Advertiser*, 27 March 1915, p. 4)

## Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes

### 8.0 Building community life

#### 8.2 Educating people

### Description and integrity

The former Bendigo East State School is located on a large allotment to the north-west corner of Strickland Road and Murphy Street in East Bendigo.

The main school building is a single-storey brick structure set on a stone plinth, asymmetrical in plan, with a hipped roof clad with slate, punctuated by three rendered brick chimneys. Roughcast rendered detailing features to the main south facade and the west elevation, while large multi-paned windows feature to the south elevation. The projecting east wing is balanced by a smaller entry wing to the west. This wing has an elaborate rendered pediment, inscribed with lettering reading 'Bendigo East School No. 3893 – 1915'. The double entry doors appear to be non-original. The north elevation has a skillion-roofed timber structure which while not inspected at close quarters, appears to be an addition.

The area immediately surrounding the main building is asphalted for playing surfaces, while the remainder of the site is informally landscaped with a number of mature gum trees. Demountable classrooms and outbuildings are located to the north and east of the main building.

### Comparative analysis

The former Bendigo East State School is one of a number of schools constructed in the Bendigo area since the town's formation. Most were constructed in the Victorian era and are earlier than the subject site, the schools in the outlying areas of Bendigo were typically small, often with only a single classroom, set in an informal landscaped setting with utilitarian outbuildings. No directly comparable examples have been identified within the Bendigo area.

### Assessment against criteria

*Criteria amended from VPP Practice Note 'Applying the Heritage Overlay' (September 2012)*

*Criterion A – Importance to the course or pattern of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural or natural history (historical significance).*

The main school building at the former Bendigo East State School is of historical significance as referencing the expansion of the East Bendigo area in the 1910s. The increasing industry in the area, including the establishment of the railway workshops in 1912, resulted in an influx of inhabitants and the consequent need for schooling facilities for the children of the workers. It is also of historical significance as a major focus for primary education for a period of approximately 80 years. The school clearly was a major focus for the local community, as reflected in the choice of the site for the establishment of an avenue of honour following WWI (since removed).

*Criterion B – Possession of uncommon rare or endangered aspects of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural or natural history (rarity).*

N/A

*Criterion C – Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Greater Bendigo's cultural or natural history (research potential).*

N/A

*Criterion D – Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places and environments (representativeness).*

The main brick school building at the former Bendigo East State School is good and externally relatively intact example of a brick school building of the 1910s.

*Criterion E – Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).*

The building exhibits design qualities and detailing typical of the early twentieth century. Of note are the elaborate rendered pediment and the use of roughcast finish, including to the distinctive tapered chimneys in combination with the red brick.

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

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 a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).*

Historically, the school has been a focus for the East Bendigo community. The school closed in the mid-1990s. It is very likely that there exists a level of attachment to the place, including on the part of former pupils.

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

N/A

## **Statement of significance**

*What is significant?*

The 1915 brick school building at the former Bendigo East State School, 93 Strickland Street, East Bendigo, is of significance. The rear timber addition is not considered of significance and none of the other buildings on the site are significant.

*How is it significant?*

The brick school building at the former Bendigo East State School is of local historical, social and aesthetic (architectural) significance.

*Why is it significant?*

The main school building at the former Bendigo East State School is of historical significance as referencing the expansion of the East Bendigo area in the 1910s. The increasing industry in the area, including the establishment of the railway workshops in 1912, resulted in an influx of inhabitants and the consequent need for schooling facilities for the children of the workers. It is also of historical significance as a major focus for primary education for a period of approximately 80 years. The school clearly was a major focus for the local community, as reflected in the choice of the site for the establishment of an avenue of honour following WWI (since removed).

Bendigo East State School, which closed in the mid-1990s, is likely to be of social value at the local level. It has been a long-standing focus for the East Bendigo community, and there may very well be a level of local attachment to the place, including on the part of former pupils.

The main brick school building at the former Bendigo East State School is of architectural significance as a good and externally relatively intact example of a brick school building of the 1910s. The building exhibits design qualities and detailing typical of the early twentieth century. Of note are the elaborate rendered pediment and the use of roughcast finish, including to the distinctive tapered chimneys in combination with the red brick.

**Recommendations**

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay in the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme.

The heritage building is located on a very large site and it is not considered necessary to include the full extent of this land within the HO. Sufficient land should be included within the HO as a heritage curtilage and to ensure appropriate management to support the heritage values of the place.

Historically it appears that the main entry to the site was along a long path from Strickland Road. Relatively early in the school's history, this southern approach from Strickland Road was planted as an avenue of honour, one of hundreds of avenues planted by communities across Victoria following the end of WWII and throughout the 1920s. This avenue was removed and the plaques relocated to an appropriate repository.

Given this and the fact that only distant views are available from Strickland Road, it is considered appropriate to consider a reduced curtilage which seeks to protect the closer angled views from Murphy Street but excludes the Strickland Road frontage. This is on the basis that the primary long elevation is oriented to the south-south-east, towards Strickland Road but also providing good views from Murphy Street.

In identifying this extent, it is noted that this is as a management measure, and that future development would not be precluded on this land, providing the presentation of the heritage building was considered. Depending on the nature of future development in proximity to the building there may also be an opportunity to allow for views to it from within the site.

External paint controls	No
-------------------------	----

Internal alteration controls	No
Tree controls	No
Outbuildings and fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-3	No
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 1995	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted	Yes
Name of Incorporated Plan under Clause 43.01-2	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No

### Identified by

Graeme Butler & Associates, *Eaglehawk and Bendigo Heritage Study* (1993)

Lovell Chen, 2013

### References

Report for the City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Advisory Committee, January 2012

- 
- 1 *Bendigo Advertiser*, 23 October 1912, p. 5.
  - 2 *Vision and Realisation*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, 1973, v. 2, p. 576.
  - 3 *Bendigonian*, 3 February 1916, p. 20.
  - 4 *Argus*, 30 September 1913, p. 5.
  - 5 *Bendigo Advertiser*, 27 March 1915, p. 4.
  - 6 *Bendigo Advertiser*, 27 March 1915, p. 4.
  - 7 *Vision and Realisation*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, 1973, v. 2, p. 576.
  - 8 *Bendigonian*, 3 February 1916, p. 20.
  - 9 *Bendigo Advertiser*, 4 November 1916, p. 11.
  - 10 George Mackay, *Annals of Bendigo: 1910-1920*, Cambridge Press, Bendigo, 1926, p. 464.
  - 11 'Bendigo East State School Memorial Plaques', Monument Australia, accessed via <http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/ww1/display/30356-bendigo-east-state-school-memorial-plaques>, 4 December 2013.
  - 12 *Vision and Realisation*, Victorian Government, Melbourne, 1973, v. 2, p. 577.
  - 13 *Age*, 7 November 1992, p. 2.