

Municipality

GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO138

Heritage Listing

Golden Plains Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - September 25, 2009

What is Significant?

The former State School No 1570, now the Murgheboluc Public Hall and Reserve, Hamilton Highway, Murgheboluc was built in 1874 as a result of the introduction of free, compulsory and secular education under the innovative Victorian *Education Act 1872*. The design of the building was standard and the use of local materials was typical. The successful contractor was F. Holyoake. The building was completed in 1874 with further improvement by Holyoake completed in 1877. The school superseded the former non-vested School No. 407 which had occupied the nearby St Andrew's Anglican Church. Its head teacher, Charles Tonner became the head teacher in the new school and stayed until 1890. The school's fortunes fluctuated with as many as 100 children in 1879 but, after a time, its operation reduced to part-time in conjunction with the Mount Hesse No 1370. It closed in 1934. The building became a public hall and the land became a public recreation reserve in the early 1990s. The place is now managed by a committee of management. The building is largely intact, retains a high degree of integrity and is in excellent condition. The reserve is planted out with traditional trees close to the former school and around the perimeter.

How is it Significant?

The Public Hall and Reserve, the Former State School No. 1570, Hamilton Highway, Murgheboluc is of historical, social and architectural significance to the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The Murgheboluc Public Hall and Reserve is of historical significance as the second of two schools which provided a primary education in the Murgheboluc district. They are of social significance generally as a centre for the community of Murgheboluc but more specifically as an expression of the farsighted push for free, compulsory and secular education of Victoria's children. The school building is of architectural significance as a typical and relatively unchanged example of the standard design for small primary schools at the time.

Heritage
Study/Consultant

Golden Plains - Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Phase 2, Heritage Matters P/L,
2009;

Hermes Number

117512

Property Number

Historical Australian Themes

The Australian Heritage Commission devised the Australian Historic Themes in 2001. The following themes have influenced the historical development of the Berringa School No. 905 .

6 Educating

6.1 Forming associations, libraries and institutes for self-education

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

8 Developing Australia's Cultural Life

8.5 Forming associations

8.5.1 Preserving traditions and group memories

8.5.3 Associating for mutual aid

8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

Intactness

Largely intact.

Integrity

High degree of integrity externally and good internally.

Physical Description 1

The hall adopts a standard design for small schools of this period. The plan comprises a single room with a small, off-centre porch. There is a weatherboard extension with a skillion roof on the west side. The walls are squared rock-faced basalt blocks laid on a slightly projecting plinth. Corners and other details of the blocks have dressed edges. There are four twelve-paned double-hung sash windows in the east elevation and pairs of eight-paned casement windows in the front and rear elevations. The windows are original and have not been enlarged, as was common late in the nineteenth and early in the twentieth century. There is a chimney located in the west elevation. The interior has been largely stripped of its fittings. The roofs are corrugated iron. There are substantial plantings of *Pinus pinea* (Stone Pines) towards the rear and near the school and elsewhere in the reserve there are plantings of *Schinus molle* (Peppercorn Trees).

Physical Description 2

The whole of the school building, excluding the interiors, the major plantings and the whole of the land including the reserve.

Extent of Registration

The whole of the school building, excluding the interiors, the major plantings and the whole of the land including the reserve.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>