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# California Gully Primary School No. 123



California Gully State School

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## Location

4-14 Staley Street, CALIFORNIA GULLY VIC 3556 - Property No 186284

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1623

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO330

## Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Architecturally, the school is well-preserved and one of the best examples of the superb group of government schools built in the district; the school is also ideally sited for its picturesque roof line and possesses a valuable play shelter.

Historically, it has performed a major public building role in the important California Gully mining village area and is symbolic, by its size, of the once thriving gold mining industry which existed there.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk & Bendigo Heritage Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1993;
Construction dates	1882,
Architect/Designer	Public Works Department, Bastow, Henry Robert,
Hermes Number	34401
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

A highly picturesque design among a distinctive group of Bastow school designs, California Gully school is based on Venetian Gothic precedents after the prevailing English use of the style for schools and other public buildings by architects such as Scott and Street. Pointed window openings, three colour brickwork (red, black and cream), stucco mouldings and stone sills provide for an exuberant expression of naturally occurring materials. However, it is the multi-gabled roof line, with helm-head gables and a slender spire and bell-tower combined with the multi-bayed plan, use of verandahs and clerestory lighting which provides the main usual impact. Timber detailing such as the eaves brackets with their nail-head mouldings and the panelled verandah frieze with fretted brackets, combine with the gable trusses to add another structural but decorative layer to the design. Ironwork includes gable apex spirelets and chimneys are of red brick with corbelled tops and stepped and cemented bases.

The plan is shape with separate (boys and girls) entrance under verandahs, either side of the central bay. A rotunda-like shelter shed on an octagonal plan with a lantern set atop a steeply pitched corrugated iron roof, lies to the west of the school. A memorial gateway dedicated to the two world wars is centred on a chain-wire fence at the frontage.

## Integrity

External - Generally original, except for the new and unrelated front fence and temporary classrooms at the rear. Of note is the unchanged windows, an unusual attribute in 19th and early 20th century schools.

*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/>*