
YACKANDANDAH PRIMARY SCHOOL SITE

Location

39 HIGH STREET YACKANDANDAH, INDIGO SHIRE

Municipality

INDIGO SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8225-0131

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO202

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

The extent of the present day school buildings is much greater than during the later 19th early 20th century, and it is likely that the construction of these has destroyed most of the remains of structures dating prior to the 1860s. However, the school yards and land north of the school continues to be abandoned and impact to ground is much less. The grounds are part of the local planning schemes conservation area HO180 and the school building itself has been listed HO202, so that there is protection over the whole area. Some of the features indicated in the 1856 may fall into backyards of the Hammond street allotments, north west of the school.

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| Archaeological Significance | The school grounds and adjoining all allotments are of high significance, with a relatively high potential for further sub-surface archaeological remains of some of the earliest educational and religious establishments in Yackandandah and in the Indigo Shire in general. At least part of the school grounds are relatively intact and based on the location of buildings in the 1856, have a strong potential for sub-surface remains. However, this depends on the extent of subsurface disturbance from building construction and service installation in the site. |
| Historical Significance | The school grounds and adjoining all allotments are of medium significance as the former location of the Church of England, the grounds that contained the earliest full time Primary school in locale, as well as the potential location of the earliest cemetery in Yackandandah. |
| Other Names | Yackandandah First Cemetery, Church of England School, |
| Hermes Number | 162333 |
| Property Number | |

History

Local knowledge suggests that there was a cemetery at the primary school at the corner of Wellsford and High Streets, which in the 1850s was the site of the Church of England school. This account cannot be proved or disproved.

According to the Yackandandah history by Reynolds (1988:36), until the First cemetery at Yackandah was set up in 1859 in the present location to the north east of town; most burials probably took place in the bush, or on the properties of settlers.

However, there are unsubstantiated accounts that it is also possible that people were buried on Church grounds and it is known that the Church of England occupied land on the present school site (Reynolds 1988:12, Yackandandah Plan 1856). The 1856 Township Plan of Yackandandah intriguingly shows the location of several small rectangles to the north east of the Church of England Reserve within Section 5, either hut sites or something smaller (burials?). The plan also shows the location of the church and other features that partly fall north of the current extent of school buildings. According to Reynolds, the Primary School was set up in 1855 on this land. It was a slab and shingle hut, which continued to be used for services during Sundays.

In 1864 the Government proclaimed it a Common School and in 1871, the land adjoining the school, including a brick building, was purchased for 640 pounds and by 1873, the Yackandandah School was described by the District Inspector Craig as 'the most respectable school in the district'(Reynolds 1988: 12). An infant room was added in 1902 (Reynolds 1988:14) and even though other restorations meant that the *by 1916, the rebuilding of the school was approaching completion* there seems to have been a large number of changes since the early 20th century. A photo of the school in Reynolds (1998:15) shows that most of the land around the site was relatively bare and this has changed considerably in more recent years.

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/>