
FORMER GREEN LAKE STATE SCHOOL SITE

Location

BERRIWILLOCK-WOOMELANG ROAD BANYAN, BULOKE SHIRE

Municipality

BULOKE SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7426-0002

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 7, 2023

What is significant?

The potential location of the Green Lake State School and the memorial plaque

How is it significant?

Locally significant to the people of the Green Lake, Banyan, Culgoa and Berriwillock regions. Potential for archaeological remains

Why is it significant?

The site of the Green Lake State School (No. 3921) is significant in a wider context in regards to themes relating to the building of community life, and more specifically to the role it played in educating children during the brief years of its operation. The school sought to provide a State funded education to the children of local farmers in a remote and remote location where provision of a formalised education was extremely difficult. However, it is noted that this was one of thousands of similar schools which operated through Victoria, and it was only in operation for a relatively short period of time. There is also a degree of uncertainty regarding the known history of the school and how it may have functioned.

Based on the above information however, it is considered that the site likely exhibits low archaeological value and fails to meet Threshold A in this regard. Documentary evidence on the site is limited and the potential for the site to contain archaeological remains is considered low. Furthermore, the building was constructed on raised piles above the ground, limiting the information that is likely to be obtained from an archaeological investigation of the site. Any archaeological excavations are likely to only assist in confirming the actual location of the school rather than assist in providing a greater deal of understanding regarding how the site was utilised.

Interpretation
of Site

In 1915, the Green Lake State School was noted as opening, with a newspaper account from 1916 indicating that the school building was the previous residence of Mr Malcolm McLennan which was now owned by Mr Smith who leased it to the Department of Education. A historical search statement (included in the attachments) indicates that neither McLennan nor Smith were associated with SPI 18PP3905, suggesting that the original school was elsewhere. There is also uncertainty about whether the school building was moved to the present location from Tungie, or whether the building was actually moved there in the last years of the school operation, which is reported as having been in 1922 when the school was listed as being closed on the information plaque. The history of the site is however closely linked with its use as a school, and any archaeological evidence is likely to relate to educational activities and the day-to-day function of the school. The site is currently used for private agricultural cropping. As such, agricultural activities such as grazing and ploughing may have impacted any historical archaeological deposits which may be present.

Hermes
Number

210635

Property
Number

History

There is little documentary evidence regarding the school other than the information listed on the plaque, which states that the Green Lake State School was opened in 1915. A 1916 newspaper article in the Sea Lake Times and Berriwillock Advertiser mentioned that a ball and supper was held at the Green Lake State School. However, the article also mentions that “the school building used at present for school purposes was the well-known country residence of Mr Malcolm McLennan, now in the possession of Mr Smith, who has leased it to the Department until a State building has been erected” (Sea Lake Times and Berriwillock Advertiser, 3 June 1916, p. 3). It is unclear if this earlier building was in the same location as the later school building. A historical search statement (included in the attachments) indicates that neither McLennan nor Smith were associated with SPI 18/PP3905, suggesting that the original school was elsewhere. A plan of the layout of the Green Lake State School is provided as an attachment. This shows a small school room with a verandah on the western side and a cloakroom on the north-western corner. There is no indication of other sheds or buildings being present, including toilet facilities. The building is constructed on capped piles although it is unclear if these are concrete or timber. The plan notes that the school building was likely originally constructed for the State School at Tungie before being removed and re-erected at Green Lakes. This is confirmed by tender notifications issued in February 1920 (c.f. The Herald, 5 February 1920, pg. 12). However, it is noted that there are also a cluster of tender requests from 1919 indicating that the reverse was true – that the building was to be moved from Green Lakes to Tungie (c.f. The Herald, 30 October 1919, pg. 12). It is unclear whether the first tenders were in error or whether there was a swapping of buildings. The school building is recorded on the plaque as being closed in 1922. This could not be independently confirmed. In 1944, SPI 18/PP3905 was owned by E.T. McLoughlan. The Green Lake State School itself was not located on any historical maps or aerials of the district.

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/>