
MIRAM EAST SCHOOL SITE

Location

MIRAM EAST ROAD MIRAM, WEST WIMMERA SHIRE

Municipality

WEST WIMMERA SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7125-0001

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2023

What is significant?

The memorial plaque, the concrete slab and the ring-shaped structure in the ground

How is it significant?

Locally significant to the people of Miram, Diapur, Kaniva and Nhill regions

Why is it significant?

The site of the Miram East State School 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. The decision to construct the building of mudbrick is also choice which provides the building with a greater degree of significance, as this was not a common material for construction in Victoria. The site has potential to contain archaeological features, deposits and artefacts from the occupation period of the school.

On 30 May 1911, W Alexander became the sole proprietor of SPI 1LP63154. In February 1936, Arthur Alexander leased the land to the Victorian Education Department, who constructed a small school which opened the same year under the name Miram East. In December 1952 the school closed. Historical letters and telegrams from 1954 indicate that there was a tank stand and a tank on site, "supplied by the Department for school purposes" (PROV VPRS 795-P0000, 4539). The school building had mudbrick walls, a cement floor, and a paper ceiling, measuring 18 metres long and 12 metres wide. The tank and its stand were purchased after the school closed and were removed from the site, while the building was dismantled shortly afterwards. The only evidence showing the location of the school is a cracked concrete slab and a nearby circular feature assumed to relate to the former location of the tank. The history of the site is 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.

Interpretation
of Site

Hermes
Number

210636

Property
Number

History

On the 30 May 1911, W. Alexander became the owner of SPI 1/LP63154 (see parish map attached). The Miram East School was opened in February 1936 on land owned by Arthur Alexander, who was also the secretary and treasurer of the Miram East School (see 'Part 1', 'Part 2', 'Part 3' and 'Part 4' attachments). In 1937, it was noted that Mr R. Dyer was the chairman of the School Committee and Mr Gribbin was the headmaster (Border Chronicle, 24 December 1937, p. 9). Records indicate that access to water was an issue with the school from its earliest days, and an 800 gallon tank and stand were constructed shortly after (PROV VPRS 795/P0000, 4539). Discussions with the West Wimmera Shire Council confirmed that Arthur Alexander built the school and leased it to the Victorian Education Department, which is confirmed by documents held by the Public Record Office Victoria (PROV VPRS 795/P0000, 4539), and it operated for 16 years until closing in 1952. The tank and tank stand were purchased by AS Alexander in 1954 and were removed from the site. It was also noted that the school buildings had been dismantled by 1954. The Miram East School was not located on any historical parish maps.

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/>