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## STATE SCHOOL NO. 947



23383 State School 947  
Glenthompson 1080



23383 State School 947  
Glenthompson 1082



23383 State School 947  
Glenthompson 1081



23383 State School 947  
Glenthompson rear 1083

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### Location

Memorial Drive, GLENTHOMPSON VIC 3293 - Property No 0048&9

### Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

### Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

### Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 5, 2004

What is significant?

The former State School No. 947 of Glenthompson is located in the road reserve between the main carriageway of the Glenelg Highway and Memorial Drive . The school building is the second to have been built on the site. The first school was built in 1868, but was destroyed by fire in 1900. The current school was constructed in 1901, and is a typical pattern book timber school building with later, modern additions at the rear and on the east side. The school has a small porch with timber belfry and school bell above. The original chimney breast survives in the original school room and has the main Honour Board on it. New classrooms, to standard designs, and an office were added in 1957, 1962 and 1969. The architect responsible for the timber building was Mr. W. Bell of nearby pastoral property, Cherrymount, and the builder was Mr. Williamson. The school survives in excellent condition and retains a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

State School No. 947, at Glenthompson is of historical, social and architectural significance to the community of Dunkeld and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant? State School No. 947 is of historic significance as the expression of the community of Glenthompson and the struggle for education, and for its association with over 130 years of continuous schooling on the site. It is of social significance as the focus for the community, and is of architectural significance for its use of traditional forms and fine construction techniques.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1901,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23383
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The physical condition of the school is very good. The original ceiling in the large classroom has been lowered, but remains intact above a false ceiling of acoustic tiles.

## Physical Description 1

The school consists of early 20th century rooms at the front, facing Memorial Drive, with modern additions at the rear and on the east side. The earliest part of the school was constructed in 1901, and consisted of one large room with a chimney on the west side and a porch and bell tower on the north side. A second classroom was added on the west side in the 1930s when, probably, the chimney breast was repositioned. The school is a single storey timber building now generally symmetrical about the porch. There are pairs of 12-paned double hung sash windows with hopper clerestories above on the facade. On the southern side there are four larger 12-paned double hung sash windows. On the east and west sides the windows are small hoppers at a high level. Minor differences betray the addition on the western room such as the lack of the high level roughcast frieze and eaves brackets.

Internally, there are the usual schoolroom accoutrements of blackboards, built-in cupboards and modern furniture. The chimney breast survives in the original room and has the main Honour Board, a memorial to those who fought and died in the World Wars, on it. The interior walls are lined with boards and the ceilings have been relined with acoustic tiles and flush fluorescent lights.

The most distinctive feature of the building is the small porch (no longer used for access) with a belfry above. The porch is supported by open timber buttresses which pass through the interior, form the upper roof and support the

belfry. The lower roof of the porch is low pitched, gabled and supported by open brackets at the eaves line. It has a conventional finial. The belfry is treated as a small open spire and the original bell exists in working order. The original corrugated iron roof has been replaced with Colorbond.

New classrooms, to standard designs, and an office were added in 1957, 1962 and 1969. A rotunda in the schoolyard, with associated seating and landscaping has been constructed in the last 5 years. There is one large deciduous tree [*Ulmus procera?*] in the playground but no other substantial plantings.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Theme 6 Educating

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Primary school

## **Integrity**

High

## **Physical Description 2**

William Bell, teacher

## **Physical Description 3**

School 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/>*