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# MEENIYAN STATE SCHOOL NO.3165 (FORMER)



Tarwin Valley Primary School image173

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## Location

6 GEALE STREET, MEENIYAN, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2022

### What is significant?

The Meeniyan State School No. 3165, to the extent of the building designed by J.B. Cohen of the Public Works Department and constructed in 1905-06 and extended c.1913, at 6 Geale Street, Meeniyan is significant.

It is a weatherboard two room school with a hipped corrugated iron roof with ridge gablets, and a gable and skillion porch to the east side added prior to 1913. The north elevation has a decorative flying gable end with a vertical ladder frame supported on extended fret brackets, and there is another ladder framed to the bracketed porch gable. A deep frieze along the upper part of the wall is of shingled weatherboards and there are high six-pane hopper windows in the side and rear walls. Internally, the original side windows can be seen in the wall covered by the foyer and the interior of the hall has a coved tongue and groove board ceiling.

Non-original alterations and additions and other buildings on the site are not significant.

### How is it significant?

The former Meeniyan State School No. 3165 is of local historic, representative, aesthetic and social significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

**Why is it significant?**

Historically, it is associated with the development of Meeniyan and the surrounding district in the early twentieth century when the community had grown to the extent that a permanent school was justified. It is now one of the oldest surviving school buildings in South Gippsland Shire and one of the oldest buildings in Meeniyan. (Criterion A) It is of architectural significance as a representative example of a school constructed prior to 1910, which was individually designed by district architect, J.B. Cohen. It is notable for the distinctive flying gable end with a vertical ladder frame supported on extended fret brackets and the deep frieze along the upper part of the wall of shingled weatherboards, which shows the influence of the Queen Anne style. (Criteria D and E)

It has social significance as a place that has strong associations with the local community through its use as a school for over 110 years. The school was established with the support of the local community, and they have continued to play an active role in the development of the school since its opening. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1906, 1905, 1905,
Architect/Designer	Public Works Department, Cohen, JB, JB Cohen,
Other Names	Tarwin Valley Primary School, extra, Meeniyan Primary School,
Hermes Number	30893
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The former Meeniyan State School No. 3165 constructed in 1905-06 is a weatherboard two room hall with a hipped corrugated iron roof with ridge gablets. It has a gable and skillion porch to the east side added prior to 1913 (see early photos). The north elevation has a decorative flying gable end with a vertical ladder frame supported on extended fret brackets. A deep frieze along the upper part of the wall is of shingled weatherboards and there are high hopper windows in the west side.

The original windows in the north wall below the flying gable have been replaced with modern frames much diminishing the integrity of this important elevation. The original side windows can be seen in the wall covered by the foyer. The interior of the hall has a coved tongue and groove board ceiling. Despite the replacement of the windows, it remains the most architecturally distinguished of the one room schools erected in the Shire.

The 1913 Sloyd room is a small half hip building located close to the north boundary. It is now used as a general classroom and no longer contains any original equipment.

*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/>*