

# FORMER KERRIE PRIMARY SCHOOL NO.1290



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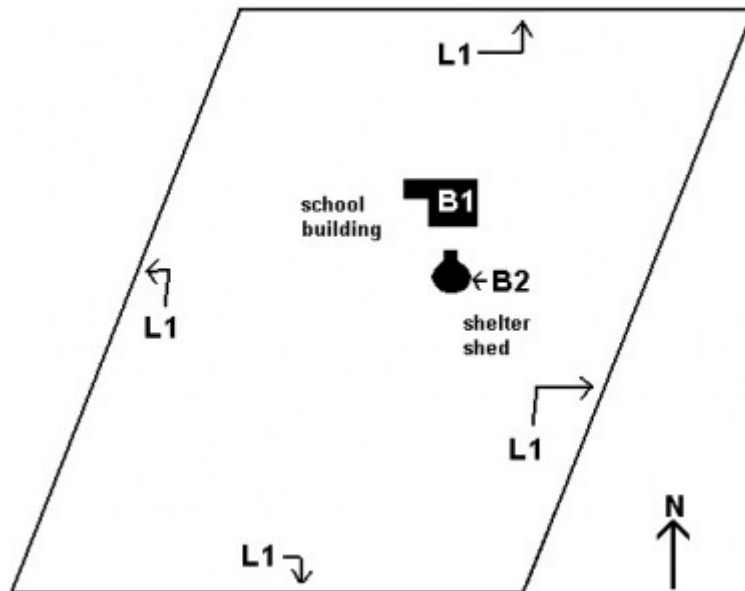
1 primary school number 1290 bolinda cherokee road kerrie property view dec1998



primary school number 1290 bolinda cherokee road kerrie rear elevation dec1998



primary school number 1290 bolinda cherokee road kerrie shelter shed dec1998



kerrie primary school plan

## Location

7 CHEROKEE ROAD KERRIE, MACEDON RANGES SHIRE

## Municipality

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1631

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO53

## VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

## Amendment to Registration

May 27, 1999

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 9, 1999

What is significant?

The former Kerrie Primary School No. 1290 was opened as a non-vested Rural School known as the Railway Steam Saw Mills School in or before 1870. The Education Department took over the school in 1874 and purchased a new site on which was placed a portable timber school with quarters and a shingled roof. The new building was completed by March 1877. From 1879-81 the school was known as Mount Hope Saw Mills School but in 1891 its name was changed to Kerrie. The school is a single room weatherboard building with an entry porch added later. The configuration of windows and doors has been altered since construction and the weatherboard cladding is a later alteration. Internally the school has a timber floor, horizontal timber wall lining between main horizontal and vertical timber framing members and a coved ceiling. The site also includes a decagonal shed with a porch directly behind the school building. The decagon shed has vertical timber cladding and a gable porch with horizontal weatherboards and a finial. Both buildings have a corrugated galvanised iron roof. The Red Cedar and Douglas Fir trees which surround the school were planted after world war one, for every man who served in that war.

How is it significant?

The former Kerrie Primary School No. 1290 is of architectural, historical and social importance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The former Kerrie Primary School No. 1290 is of architectural importance as a rare example of a prefabricated

school building. Kerrie Primary School has been recognised as one of only two Old Style (1875-1879) Early Education Department portables confirmed to remain extant in Victoria. The other example is the former Koolomurt Primary School. The survival of early-prefabricated buildings in Victoria is rare. Although reclad on the exterior with weatherboards the building still demonstrates details common to prefabricated timber buildings. The timber decagonal shelter shed is a rare intact example of an early outdoor structure, once characteristic of Victorian schoolyards.

The former Kerrie Primary School No. 1290 is of historical and social importance as a reminder of the saw milling operations of the late nineteenth century in the area. When it was first opened in 1874 it was known as the Railway Steam Sawmills School. It is of social importance as it indicates the utilisation of public buildings in small country towns. The school was also used as the local Post Office, church and Sunday School and is once again being used as a community building. Kerrie Primary School demonstrates the early and common practice by the Education Department to use portable buildings, because of the ever changing nature of education and populations. The Red Cedar and Douglas Fir trees which surround the school and were planted after World War 1 for every man who served in that war, are an unusual example of a War memorial. Commemorative trees were usually planted as avenues.

## Permit Exemptions

General Conditions:

1. All alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

Exterior

- \*Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- \*Removal of any extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.
- \*Installation or repair of damp-proofing by either injection method or grouted pocket method.
- \*Regular garden maintenance.
- \*Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering systems.

Interior

- \*Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme.
- \*Removal of paint from originally unpainted or oiled joinery, doors, architraves, skirtings and decorative strapping.
- \*Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and/or flexible floor coverings.
- \*Installation, removal or replacement of curtain track, rods, blinds and other window dressings.
- \*Installation, removal or replacement of hooks, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.
- \*Refurbishment of bathrooms, toilets including removal, installation or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping, mirrors, wall and floor coverings.
- \*Installation, removal or replacement of kitchen benches and fixtures including sinks, stoves, ovens, refrigerators, dishwashers etc and associated plumbing and wiring.
- \*Installation, removal or replacement of ducted, hydronic or concealed radiant type heating provided that the installation does not damage existing skirtings and architraves and provided that the location of the heating unit is concealed from view.
- \*Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that all new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cords, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ. Note: if wiring original to the place was carried in timber conduits then the conduits should remain in-situ.
- \*Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- \*Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors

Construction dates 1877,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place,

Other Names RAILWAY STEAM SAWMILLS SCHOOL, MOUNT HOPE SAW MILLS SCHOOL,

Hermes Number 614

Property Number

## History

Contextual History: Kerrie is situated between Bolinda and Woodend, and on the first slope of Mt Hope, a Southern part of the Great Dividing Range. Kerrie consists of a hall, school, tennis court and local residences. Cherokee is 3 kilometres further up the mountain (Blake. L.J, 1973, Vol. 3 p.758).

History of Place: The school at Kerrie opened on 1 January 1874 under HT Esther S. Mitchell, and known as Railway Stream Saw Mills. As a non-vested Rural School No. 4, Railway Steam Saw Mills School was in existence in 1870 and presumably some years earlier. In 1870 the school had an average attendance of 20 out of a total of 45 enrolled and had been granted salary aid by the Board. Miss Mitchell had been appointed Head Teacher on 13 May 1872 and remained when it became State School 290. In a letter to the department on 29 November 1873 William Patterson, Correspondent of the Railway Steam Saw Mills Committee, said It is the desire of the committee of management that the above school should continue with the Department after 1 January 1874, also that they are willing to lease the building, but are more anxious that it should become entirely the property of the department. The department leased these school buildings as from 1 January 1874 at the rate of 8s 4d per month. State School 1290 thus officially opened as from 1 Jan 1874, Miss Mitchell remaining as Head Teacher until 31 December 1874 (Blake. L.J, 1973, Vol. 3 p.759).

By May 1875 the Department had obtained a new site for the school. This consisted of two acres of land (lot 56) purchased from William Leonard at a price of £5 per acre. The Department considered buying the leased building and removing it to the new site. However, in August 1875, it decided that a portable school with quarters and a shingle roof be provided for this new site. The latter was apparently about approximately 2 1/2 kilometres from the building leased from Patterson. On 28 November 1876 William McCulloch and Co. agreed to convey this portable building from Melbourne to its new site at a cost of £20 on the instructions of h.R. Bastow, a Public Works Department architect . The erection of the building was completed by March 1877 when Martha Douglas took over the new school as Head Teacher. The building and furniture had cost the department £187. From 1879-91 the school was known as Mount Hope Saw Mills School, while from 1891 onwards it took the name of Kerrie. The school closed on 25 July 1949 and reopened on 30 June 1958 (Blake. L.J, 1973, Vol. 3 p.759).

A printed List of Materials for Portable Buildings signed by Martha Douglas, shows everything listed including floorboards, down pipes, 2 deal mantelpieces, 4 window sills, fascia boards, iron chimneys, 2 cast iron hearths with hobs, materials for desks, seats and forms and two portable closets (National Trust Research Carlotta Kellaway 1979).

The prefabricated building, had various alterations to the partitions, windows and porches 1882, 1885 and 1887 and was also used as a Post Office, a church and a Sunday school (National Trust Research). The exterior was also re-clad in weatherboard soon after its erection.

The school narrowly escaped destruction in an 1897 bushfire. The following May, Mr Grady was paid ten shillings for “protecting department’s premises during recent bush fire”.

The shelter shed was most likely erected in 1907 (National Trust Research).

The Red Cedar and Douglas Fir trees which surround the school were planted after world war one, for every man who served in that war.

The school closed in 1994 and was sold to Romsey Shire. It is now owned by Macedon Ranges Shire Council and managed by the local community who use it for community purposes.

### Assessment Against Criteria

#### Criterion A

The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.

The school is important for its demonstration of Education Department practices in the early history of Victoria. It demonstrates the early and continuing practice of using portable buildings as a result of the ever-changing population fluctuations, which affect schools.

#### Criterion B

The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness.

Kerrie Primary School is rare as it has been recognised as one of only two Old Style (1875-1879) Early Education Department portables confirmed in existence in Victoria. The other example is the former Koolomurt Primary School. The timber decagonal shelter shed is a rare intact example of an early outdoor structure, once characteristic of Victorian schoolyards.

#### Criterion C

The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.

The school is important for its demonstration of the use of pre-fabricated buildings in the early history of Victoria. The school indicates the operation of small country towns in Victoria where public buildings were used for numerous community purposes. The Red Cedar and Douglas Fir trees which surround the school and were planted after World War 1 for every man who served in that war, are an unusual example of a War memorial. Commemorative trees were usually planted as avenues.

#### Criterion D

The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects.

#### Criterion E

The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

Although reclad on the exterior with weatherboards the building still demonstrates details common to prefabricated timber buildings. Combined with the timber decagonal shelter shed and commemorative trees the school is a fine example of a rural country school in a picturesque setting.

#### Criterion F

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements.

The school is important for its demonstration of prefabrication techniques as used for timber portable buildings.

#### Criterion G

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations.

#### Criterion H

Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance

### **Extent of Registration**

#### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1631 in the category described as a Heritage Place:

Former Kerrie Primary School, Bolinda-Cherokee Road, Kerrie, Macedon Ranges Shire.

#### EXTENT:

1. To the extent of: All the buildings known as School Room B1 and Shelter Shed B2 marked on Diagram 602479 held by the Executive Director.
2. To the extent of: All the land marked L1 on Diagram 602479 held by the Executive Director being the land described as Volume 777, Folio 255, Parish of Kerrie, County of Bourke.
3. To the extent of: all of the Red Cedar and Douglas Fir trees planted in the school reserve as part of the World War 1 commemoration.

Dated 6 May 1999.

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 21 27 May 1999 p.1216]

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*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/>*