
FORMER NATIONAL SCHOOL

Location

16-18 BANYAN STREET AND 99-101 TIMOR STREET WARRNAMBOOL, WARRNAMBOOL CITY

Municipality

WARRNAMBOOL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7321-0054

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO21

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Interpretation of Site

Both driveways leading off the roads to the rear of the buildings appear built up. The one off Timor Street is shorter and gentler than that off Banyan Street. From available historical information the school building was built in a hollow on the south eastern part of the site. It is possible that part of the school building would have fronted one of the streets with its rear section probably elevated on high stumps. The south eastern corner of the site, the low ground, may have also served as a playground. The archaeological remains associated with this site are likely to be confined to post holds and isolated cultural deposits associated with school activities. Some surface drains would also be expected.

Archaeological Significance	The predicted remains of the National School could provide information on the size of the school building classroom, which could give a pupil to space ratio which could then be compared to other contemporary schools in Victoria. The location of the school building would be informative as it could provide an insight into potential impacts to the health of the pupils. Cultural deposits could also indicate the teaching materials available as well as what type of toys the pupils played with. Archaeological potential due to the ground at the rear of the building being sealed with tar.
Historical Significance	On this site was opened the first undenominational school of what was then known as the National Systemt. The National System was entirely unconnected with any religious denomination, although religious instruction could be given by any denomination at particular hours during the day in a separate room of the school. The National System was popular in many early rural or remote settlements, where there were several denominations, none of which were large or wealthy enough to run an educational establishment independently. The school on the corner of Timor and Banyan was also the first purpose-built school house in the settlement of Warrnambool.
Hermes Number	146622
Property Number	

History

In 1849 the first school under the National system was opened on this site. The school building was constructed in 1850, and for several years consisted of a barn-like structure with white-washed walls. In 1866 the local patrons actively canvassed for subscriptions to erect a new building on a fresh site, as the old school was situated in a hollow.

The Governement granted a new site, facing the bay, alongside the present Custom House. However, not enough money could be raised for a new building, so the patrons determined to improve the old building and also the adjoining master's residence. These improvements were made in 1867. When the school was merged into the present State school in 1876, the buildings were sold by public auction and converted into cottages.

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/>