
MARONG PRIMARY SCHOOL NO.400



Front (north) elevation.



West and front elevations,
with landscaped garden at
right.



East elevation.



Later classroom additions,
including the 1930s building.

Location

2-10 LESLIE STREET, MARONG - PROPERTY NUMBER 239586, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO560

Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 14, 2023

What is significant?

The bichrome brick school building, built c. 1870s, located in the south-east of the site is a small single-room school building with gable ends and a gabled porch, steeply pitched roof form, prominent plain barge-boards with exposed purlins and timber finial. The brick has bichrome colouration in red and cream, with the cream used in courses and to delineate quoins at corners and around some openings. There is a brick bay to the east, with a large double hung sash window with nine panes per sash. This wing has a weatherboard extension with a half-hip roof. The large window by the porch in the south elevation has been enlarged, a change which may have occurred later in the nineteenth century or as part of the improvements of 1912.

How is it significant?

The bichrome brick school building (built c. 1870s) at the Marong School no.400 is of local historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance.

Why is it significant?

The bichrome brick school building is historically significant (Criterion A) as the earliest surviving component of Marong Primary School. The school was originally established in 1859, on the present site at a bend in the Bullock Creek in close proximity to the town reserve. It has been the principal focus of State funded education at Marong since its inception. The building was also constructed in a period, between the 1860s and '80s, when the township of Marong was experiencing significant growth and development.

The 1870s building also has social significance as a long-standing building within the school complex, which has served the local school community at Marong for 140 years (Criterion G).

It is also of aesthetic/architectural significance (Criterion E). Although small in size, the brick building has picturesque qualities deriving from its steeply pitched roof form, gable ends and gabled porch. Other elements of note include the asymmetrical cottage-Italianate form, the prominent plain barge-boards with exposed purlins and finials, and the stepped or tapering cream brick quoining.

Theme

8. Building community life 9. Shaping cultural and creative life

Heritage Study/Consultant Greater Bendigo - Heritage Policy Citations Review, Lovell Chen P/L, 2011;

Construction dates 1874, 1936,

Architect/Designer Public Works Department, Education Department,

Other Names Marong State School No.400,

Hermes Number 184930

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Brick building

The red brick building at the south-east of the site is a small single-room school building with gable ends and a gabled porch, steeply pitched roof form, prominent plain barge-boards with exposed purlins and timber finial. The

brick has bichrome colouration in red and cream, with the creams used in a single all-round wall-strip two courses deep and again to delineate quoins at each corner. This quoin expression is in three-tiered tapering courses throughout. The gable has a second two-course stripe and two more pairs of cream-brick three-step 'quoins' each side of the gable vent. The west-facing window has a bi-chrome segmental arch with two more of these stepped 'quoins' flanking it, and the porch window is narrow with a cambered soffit and a simple basalt block sill. There is another brick bay to the east, with a large double hung sash window with nine panes per sash. This wing has a weatherboard extension with a half-hip roof projecting c. 1.5 metres, with two more double hung sashes facing the playground (east). The large window by the porch in the south elevation has been enlarged. This may have been changed later in the nineteenth century or as part of the improvements specified in 1912. Its frame, head and sill detailing appears more typical of this period. The building appears to be in sound condition.

Additional buildings

Behind the brick building is a hipped roofed weatherboard building with two classrooms with two triple-finned chimneys in red face brick and a round porch awning. This is the 1936-8 addition introduced under Percy Everett's aegis at Government Architect. This building has a group of four double hung sash windows to the south elevation but placed asymmetrically, each with six panes per sash. To the north-west of the 1930s block are three timber-framed portables with top-hung windows and low-pitched roofing clad in crimped metal. The wall and apron boarding is vertical apart from the centre unit's end wall, which is horizontally laid weatherboard. The undercrofts have between two and four courses of timber plank screens. These may have been added for the school's centenary in 1959, or soon after. Another timber building sits north of the 1930s block, linked to it by a columned cloister with metal-deck roofing. There is a modern timber-framed shelter to the south of the school ground, close to the brick building.

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/>