
HO44 - Former Diggers Rest School



Former School

Location

1286-1292 and 1290 Calder Highway DIGGERS REST, Melton Shire

Municipality

MELTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO44

Heritage Listing

Melton City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The former School building, at 1290 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, is significant as a moderately intact example of the 'Edwardian single room' school building type established by the Public Works Department for the Education Department in the early twentieth century. Although relocated to this site, the building still demonstrates early design qualities and is a legacy of the PWD's stylistic development for the period, and the subdivision of nearby pastoral estates for farming in the early twentieth century.

The former School building, at 1290 Calder Highway, is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). Although relocated, it still demonstrates original design qualities of an "Edwardian single room" school building type established by the Public Works Department for the Education Department in the early twentieth century. These qualities include the floating gambrel roof form, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters, and the bank of three timber framed twelve paned double hung windows with three paned hopper sashes above. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the modest scale, single storey height, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, face brick chimney and the corrugated sheet metal roof cladding.

The former School building, at 1290 Calder Highway, is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). It is an expression of the history of State primary education in the area, and in particular the small schools that were built, and shifted, to accommodate fluctuating rural populations. It is also expressive of the competing claims of the Holden and Kororoit districts for a school in the nineteenth century, and the break-up of the large nearby pastoral estates in the early twentieth century.

The former School building, Calder Highway, is socially significant at a LOCAL level (AHC G1). It has been restored by the community, and houses the Diggers Rest historical society.

Overall, the former School building, Calder Highway, is of LOCAL significance.

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|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007; |
| Construction dates | 1916, |
| Other Names | 1286-1292 & 1290 Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, |
| Hermes Number | 30029 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The former School building, Calder Highway, Diggers Rest, is set on an open site characterised by rudimentary grassed areas with some garden beds and nearby asphalt parking.

The modestly scaled, horizontal timber weatherboard, "Edwardian single room" type school building is characterised by a floating gambrel roof form clad in corrugated Colorbond. Wide overhangs with exposed timber rafters are features of the eaves and help to create the appearance of a floating roof. A reconstructed face brick chimney adorns the roofline at the side.

Other early features of the design include the bank of three timber framed twelve paned double hung windows with three paned hopper sashes above.

At the rear is a skillion addition and access ramp. Although relocated, the building still presents original "Edwardian single room" type qualities.

Integrity

Integrity - Moderately intact

Physical Conditions

Physical Condition - Good

Historical Australian Themes

Melton Historical Themes: 'Community'

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/>