
Former Long Gully Primary School No. 2120



Long Gully State School

Location

17 Jackson Street LONG GULLY, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0968

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO545

Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Architecturally, the school is one of the wealth of magnificent schools designed in the study area during the late 19th century, each one sited high within its cleared school reserve allowing it maximum prominence. This example uses its site well with its picturesque roofing and spirelet. It is located near to the mine sites which

supported the school-age population and inspired the formation of the hamlets in which the schools took a prominent visual role.

Historically, the school evokes the effects of the 1872-3 Education Act which inspired massive school construction across the colony, particularly in the still well-populated reef mining areas such as Long Gully.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk & Bendigo Heritage Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1993;
Construction dates	1878,
Architect/Designer	Public Works Department,
Hermes Number	34267
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

One of the area's great wealth of late 19th century government schools, the Long Gully school sits high on a hillside which still has ample evidence of the mining activity which once surrounded this site. Enhanced by this elevated siting, the school's picturesque roofing presents gables, hips, turrets and tall chimneys in a deliberately complex design which nevertheless sits on a basically standard classroom layout.

Constructed in two brick colours (red, cream) on a rusticated basalt base, the school still possesses its slate roof cladding and ornate timber detailing. Trusses placed in the main gables, fretted keyhole details to another (bellcote?), unusual square-section gable finials and the bracketed helm-head profile given to the two-storey southern wing, all add to the richness of the detailing and form. A skillion form verandah also extends around the school, supported on chamfered timber posts with fret-sawn simple ogee brackets at each. Perhaps the most distinctive element is the tapered spirelet which sits centrally in the east elevation. The zinc (?) tiling and riveted ridge cappings lend an exotic texture to the design's most decorative element. The scrolled iron finial, turned finial base and rosettes to the pinnacle underneath, are all valuable details.

To the east is an old weatherboard (reputedly Specimen Hill) school. Designed in a simple gabled form with gabled porch and multi-pane sash windows, it is typical of late 19th and early 20th century rural schools and halls; most of the former having been altered or demolished. It presents a marked contrast to the adjoining structure.

Integrity

External - Parts of the Long Gully school verandah have been built-in and larger windows installed, all done in an empathetic manner, probably early this century. Many skylights have been added and the perimeter fence replaced. A deck-roofed skillion dormer has been added to the rear roof, a skillion room bay added to the west and numerous portables.

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/>