

Victorian Heritage Database place details - 23/5/2019 FORMER PROTESTANT ORPHAN ASYLUM AND COMMON SCHOOL



Location:

150-220 MCCURDY ROAD FYANSFORD, Greater Geelong City

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number: H7721-0464

Listing Authority: HI

Extent of Registration:

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 1095.

Former Protestant Orphan Asylum & Common School, McCurdy Road, Geelong, City of Greater Geelong.

Extent:

1. All of the buildings known as the former Protestant Orphan Asylum and Common School marked B-1 and B-2 on Plan 603091 endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.
2. All of the land marked L-1 on Plan 603091 being part of the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 6022 Folio 388 endorsed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G3 25 January 1996 pp.219-220]

Statement of Significance:

Following a local campaign to raise funds for the construction of an orphan asylum, the former Protestant

Orphan Asylum was built in 1855 as a result of an architectural competition to the designs of Geelong architect Andrew McWilliams on land granted by the government. The north wing was added in 1857. In 1865 the Common School was constructed to a design by architect Joseph Lowe Shaw. Both buildings are constructed of basalt with freestone dressings in the picturesque Gothic style. The complex was bought by Australian Portland Cement Company Limited following the removal of the Orphanage to another site at Belmont in 1933.

The former Orphan Asylum and Common School are architecturally, historically and socially significant to the state of Victoria.

The former Orphanage Asylum and Common School are historically significant at a state level through their association with the history of child welfare and education in Victoria. The complex is of social significance as evidence of the social conditions in nineteenth century Victoria and demonstrates the extent of poverty in a large regional centre.

The former Orphanage, as one of the first four orphanages set up in Victoria during the 1850s, is of considerable historical and social importance. It illustrates the extent of child destitution in Victoria during the nineteenth century and the attempts by the government and individuals to deal with the problem of destitute and neglected children.

The former Common School, a significant element of the complex, is historically important for its associations with the early history of education in Victoria. It was set up under the Common Schools Act, enacted in 1862 in an attempt to reduce denominational influence and amalgamate schools established under the National and Denominational Boards.

The former Protestant Orphan Asylum is of architectural interest as an extraordinary example of the work of early Geelong architect Andrew McWilliams, and was the winning entry in a competition for the design of the building.

The complex is of historical interest through its association with the Australian Portland Cement Company Limited (now known as Geelong Cement) formed on 30 October 1889 with shareholders from Geelong and Melbourne. The company established the first cement works in Australia on the Moorabool River flats at Fyans ford which had limited success until the First World War when the need for concrete increased and overseas supplies ceased.

Heritage Study	
Year Construction Started	1855
Architect / Designer	McWilliams, Andrew
Architectural Style	Victorian Period (1851-1901) Picturesque Gothic
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place
Municipality	["GREATER GEELONG CITY"]
Other names	ORPHANAGE
History	