



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 6.2 Establishing schools
- 6.5 Educating people in remote places
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 402 Education & science
- 603 Early settlers
- 108 Government policy

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The asymmetrical side gable façades, the scalloped hood over the front window and the protruding red brick chimney make *Brooklyn School* an aesthetically pleasing example of vernacular architecture (Criterion 1.1)

The distinctive simple form and isolated position in the picturesque undulating farming country on the east bank of the Carburnup Brook, together with the Cypress trees, make *Brooklyn School* a landmark in the area. (Criterion 1.3)

Brooklyn School is part of the Little Schools Trail (part of the Geegelup Heritage Trail) of 25 former school sites within a 30 km radius of Bridgetown, and is the only surviving designated school building on the trail. (Criterion 1.4)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Brooklyn School illustrates the tenacious determination and co-operative actions of a small, isolated, rural community in the early twentieth century to provide a school building to enable the education of their children, and the type of building that they could afford to erect themselves. (Criterion 2.1)

Brooklyn School was built in 1918, the final year of World War I, by settlers in the area of Glentulloch, most of whom came to pioneer agricultural settlement in this area following completion of the railway to Bridgetown in 1898. (Criterion 2.2)

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

Brooklyn School was built on land owned by Alfred Cullen, who was well known for his assistance to local settlers. Its subsequent owners, the Wheatley family, maintained it for more than 50 years and played an important role in the project to conserve the place that commenced in 2006. (Criterion 2.3)

Brooklyn School also illustrates the Education Department's practice of establishing single room classrooms in regional areas where the minimum number of students required was extremely small when compared with current practice. (Criterion 2.2)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Brooklyn School has the potential to provide information about vernacular construction techniques and materials used during this period, for example, the use of handmade nails. (Criterion 3.2)

Sub-surface deposits beneath the school building floor may contain artefactual material relating to the use of the place. Additionally, through the use of archaeological techniques the location and nature of former structures at *Brooklyn School*, for example the toilets and shelter shed, may be identified and investigated for the additional information they can reveal about life at the school. (Criterion 3.1)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Brooklyn School is highly valued by the community of Bridgetown and others whose families were associated with the building and operation of the school (1918-36) and as the only 'little school' remaining on its original site in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes evidenced by its inclusion in the Municipal Inventory and the community project to conserve and restore the place. (Criterion 4.1)

Brooklyn School contributes to the local community's sense of place as a well known landmark on Carburnup Road. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Brooklyn School is a rare example of a single room school built by local settlers, without any government aid, on privately owned land, that remains on its original site. The place is also a relatively rare example of a school building of timber construction in a Vernacular architectural style. (Criterion 5.1)

Brooklyn School demonstrates the early twentieth century practice of establishing small single room schools in sparsely populated areas of Western Australia, which is a design and function no longer practised in most areas of the State since the introduction of school bus services post-World War II. (Criterion 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Brooklyn School illustrates the phenomenon of the one room school, a common building in the rural areas of Western Australia in the Inter-War period, but now rare. (Criterion 6.1)

Brooklyn School illustrates the way of life in an era before widespread motorised transport when there was a greater population density in smaller land holdings in the farming areas around Bridgetown. It also illustrates the community spirit

present at that time in these small farming communities, and the ability and willingness to pool resources to provide their own facilities. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

In March 2009, major restoration works are in progress to restore *Brooklyn School*, which apparently was in need of considerable work before this project began in 2006. In recent years, members of the local community have been donating time and materials to the restoration project and original fabric in usable condition has been reinstated where possible and some material remains stored on site to be reinstated.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Brooklyn School displays a high to moderate degree of integrity. While it is no longer used as a school, it is being restored and is likely to be used for interpretative purposes.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Brooklyn School displays a high degree of authenticity. It retains its original form and as much as possible of the original fabric has been retained.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Robin Chinnery, Historian, and Lynne Farrow, Architect, in 2008, with amendments and/or additions by Office of Heritage and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Brooklyn School is a one-room schoolhouse of timber construction clad with vertical jarrah boards with a medium pitched gable roof of corrugated iron in a Vernacular architectural style. In 1918, it was built by local settlers at Sunnyside, in the Bridgetown district, on two acres of land owned by Alfred Cullen, and served its intended purpose until 1936. A shelter shed, erected by contractor John White in 1922, is no longer extant. In 2006, the late Gerry Wheatley, owner of the land, and his wife, Gwen, together with members of the Bridgetown community, some of whom had long term associations with *Brooklyn School*, commenced an on-going project to restore it, which was continuing in 2009.

In 1852, A.C. Gregory undertook the original survey of the Geegelup area (later known as Bridgetown). In 1855, the first pastoral leases in the district were granted to Edward Hester and John Blechynden, who took up large holdings to which they introduced sheep and cattle. In 1862, John Allnut began to establish an orchard in the district, which laid the foundation of the fruit growing industry in the area.¹ In 1868, following requests from the European settlers to lay out lots for Geegelup townsite as an inducement to a blacksmith, carpenter, wheelwright, and shoemaker who had been there for some time to settle and to encourage others to follow suit, T. Campbell Carey surveyed the townsite. He suggested it be named Bridgetown and it was so proclaimed by Governor J. S. Hampton on 4 June, the same month in which the first 56 lots were offered for sale on the townsite.² By 1872, there were seven buildings including 'the police station, a general store, a small building for a hotel, John Blechynden's and Joe Smith's houses' in the town.³ By 1879, there were 20 households, several stores and public houses at Bridgetown, which grew slowly in the 1880s. Pastoralism and timber cutting continued to predominate in the district as the fledgling fruit growing industry continued to have difficulties due to its distance from markets in the Colony.⁴

In the 1890s, the building boom in the wake of the Western Australian Gold Boom brought increased demand for sawn timber. Numerous spot mills opened in the Bridgetown area, with the first steam driven mill opening in 1895, and expansion of this industry brought an increase in population in the town and district.⁵ In 1898, the railway between Donnybrook and Bridgetown was completed and opened, encouraging expansion of the timber industry and providing the means for the fruit growing industry to expand as it brought the markets on the Goldfields within reach. Following completion of the railway many construction workers

1 'Commemorating Fifty Years of Federation, 1901-1951: Nelson District Jubilee Celebrations' Battye Library PR 8679/BRI/51; and *Bridgetown Centenary Year 1868-1968* (Shire of Bridgetown, 1968) p. 4.

2 Letters from Assistant Surveyor T. Campbell Carey to Surveyor General Captain Roe, 2 February and 20 April 1868, in *Bridgetown Centenary Year* op. cit., p. 3; and *Government Gazette* 16 June and 30 Sept. 1868.

3 May, John 'Recollections' in *Blackwood Times* 16 March 1934.

4 *Bridgetown Centenary Year 1868-1878* op. cit., p. 7.

5 Gaines, C. 'Bridgetown 100 Years of History' (Typescript Thesis, 1970, Battye Library) p. 4.

settled in the district further boosting the population, which had increased to 210. Small settlements developed as the area was opened up, some in association with the timber mills in the area and others with industries such as tin mining at Greenbushes.⁶ Fruit became an important export crop with markets developed both in Western Australia and overseas.⁷ In the late 1890s to early 1900s, the population continued to grow and the need for schooling for settlers' children in the district led to the establishment of a number of small, one teacher schools in the early twentieth century.⁸ Additionally, the soldier settlement scheme of the post-War period saw large-scale growth in land development and further growth in the provision of small, single teacher schools.⁹ The dispersed settlement of these groups on farms across the district, and the distance to larger settlement areas such as towns, meant that numerous smaller schools close to farms and other occupation clusters were the norm. During the 1885 to 1914 period local administration of the district was also established first with the Nelson Road Board situated at Bridgetown with further division of administrative control occurring later.¹⁰

In the late 1890s to the early 1900s, a number of small one teacher schools were established in sparsely populated areas of Western Australia including the South West and the Great Southern regions. Often they were initially accommodated in temporary premises that were rented until enrolment grew sufficiently to justify the Education Department building a school, and/or in a local hall that served the dual purpose of hall and school. One of the earliest such schools in Bridgetown, Greenbushes and Boyup Brook districts was established in 1894, about half way between Newbicum and Dwalganup, where the teacher boarded with the Forrest family. Dwalganup School closed in 1903, ahead of the 1904 opening of the school at Scott's Brook that was built under the Education Department.¹¹

Following the granting of Responsible Government in 1890, a Grant-in-Aid Scheme was introduced in 1894, to assist with funding of halls to be built in agricultural areas. It reflected the British tradition of government assisting construction of public buildings including Mechanics' Institutes, miners' and railway institutes, and workers' halls that provided a meeting place, social venue, library, classroom, reading room and venue for lectures, in various combinations of these functions, some of which had been built in Western Australia in the preceding period. From 1894 to 1914, a Grant-in-Aid, comprising land and/or funds towards construction was available on request from a community, with the predominant occupation of the applicant community dictating the type of facility erected, and public buildings that received subsidies included agricultural halls, municipal and road board offices, and public libraries.¹² *Brookhampton Hall*

6 *Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Municipal Inventory*. Prepared for The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes by Heritage & Conservation Professionals May 1995, reviewed by The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes June 2001. p. 11.

7 *Ibid.* p. 12.

8 'Commemorating Fifty Years ...', *op. cit.*

9 Gregory, J & Smith, L. *A Thematic History of Public Education in Western Australia*, prepared by the Centre of Western Australian History for the Building Management Authority, 1995. p. 28-29

10 *Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Municipal Inventory*. Prepared for The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes by Heritage & Conservation Professionals May 1995, reviewed by The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes June 2001. p. 12.

11 Schorer, A. *History of the Upper Blackwood* South-West Printing & Publishing Co. Ltd., Bunbury, 1968, pp. 143-144.

12 Candy, P. C. & Laurent, J. (Eds.) *Pioneering Culture: Mechanics' Institutes and Schools of Arts in Australia* Auslib Press, Adelaide, 1994, pp. 1-8 and 126-150.

(1899: RHP 00713), a timber weatherboard clad building, is an early example of a hall erected in a rural area of Western Australia to serve as a school and hall, and it was used also for church services, which was not uncommon for such halls.¹³

In 1902, A.E. Lynn, of Blackwood, as the district was often still known, inquired about establishing a school near Bridgetown. The Education Department requested details of the children and the building to be provided for use as a school, and advised if a school could not be provided the Department would furnish books, slates etc. The form returned noted 'any of the residents would give ground for site' for a school.¹⁴ Following correspondence between the Department and Lynn, including a guarantee from the residents of salary and accommodation for a teacher, the Department approved the opening of a school at 'Glenlynn' (also 'Glenlinn'), which opened in temporary accommodation on 2 February 1903.¹⁵ On 21 February, the teacher advised the intended building was nearly completed, and it came into use shortly thereafter. In June, Lynn advised it was probable they would not have use of the building after October and requested a new building be erected, but the Department decided not to proceed, and the school was closed.¹⁶

On 6 May 1905, a meeting of local settlers at the Blackwood agreed to request a school, and B. H. Blechynden of 'Glentulloch', representing nine local residents, wrote to the Minister for Education on 14 June, to appeal for a school as they had 14 children of school age and, with the district expanding, more were expected. Mr. A. Cullen, who did not have any children, offered to donate a centrally situated school site, two acres in area, which partly straddled the boundary between his Locations 623 and 626. The location of families with children who would attend the school, and the site of the school 'recently established' at 'Glenlynn' six to seven miles away through hilly country that the settlers considered was not a suitable site for children from their locality, were also noted.¹⁷ Alfred 'Alf' Cullen and his wife had settled in the district in 1898, living in a tent until land was cleared and a cottage built. He worked hard and eventually prospered, and later built a beautiful home at 'Brooklyn'. Well known for giving 'a helping hand to many in the district', Alf Cullen was widely mourned following his accidental death in August 1940.¹⁸

On 2 September 1905, Cullen and Saunders on behalf of the local residents submitted the application form to the Department, noting the nearest school was six miles away. There were seven boys and seven girls aged 6 to 14 years, most of whose families were Church of England, with one Wesleyan family and one Methodist family, within a three mile radius of the proposed school. There was no building available as new arrivals to the area did not have any accommodation available, and the teacher could be accommodated at a rental of 12s. weekly.¹⁹ The Inspector General went to Bridgetown to visit 'Glenlynn' and 'Glentulloch', but could not visit 'Glentulloch' as roads were impassable. He noted one family lived closer to 'Glenlynn' than 'Glentulloch'; two children on the application lived at the

13 Brookhampton Hall, RHP 00713, Assessment Document, pp. 3-5.

14 Correspondence in 'Brooklyn (Glentulloch) Buildings, Works Etc.' Education Dept. file, SROWA Cons 1497 Item 1908/5286, Oct. -Nov. 1902.

15 *ibid.*, 28 November 1902-10 June 1903.

16 *ibid.*, 28 November 1902-10 June 1903.

17 B. H. Blechynden to Minister for Education in *ibid.*, 14 June 1905.

18 McAlinden, Ida Amelia *People and Places* Paterson Brokensha Pty Ltd, Perth, 1952, p. 145.

19 Cullen and Saunders to Education Dept. in *ibid.*, 2 Sept. 1905.

Warren but would board at 'Glentulloch' if a school was granted; and the mother of one six year old girl proposed to send her to 'Glenlynn' rather than 'Glentulloch' as she could then travel to school with relatives rather than travelling alone. In the circumstances he recommended not proceeding with a school at 'Glentulloch' at this date and advised Blechynden there were insufficient children.²⁰

In November 1905, the local settlers reapplied for a school at 'Glentulloch' as they had 'on offer a room with a water tank attached, fairly central' that would be 'a good school', available for rent to the Department at £5 per annum.²¹ The Department noted the proposed school was unlikely to have an average attendance of 10 children, and advised the regulations for schools in sparsely populated districts specified a teacher would be provided if residents provided a building at no charge and subsidised students sufficiently to pay a teacher at least £60 per annum, inquiring whether they could do so.²² There was no written response from the settlers and no further application until December 1907, when H. J. Machin applied for a school, and lodged a new application form noting there was no school nearby for the six boys and four girls listed. The proposed location for the school was on 'homestead farm 6830', where the best of 'a couple of possible sites' could be selected; a 'groomed' timber weatherboard house 'lined inside with a 4 ft. iron dado papered and acol (?) hessian papered rooms 13 ft. 6 ins. sq., 11 ft. high, ceiling sheet iron', was available for rent as a school building at 7s. 6d. per week including cleaning; and accommodation could be provided for a teacher at 14s. per week for a lady or 18s. for a gentleman.²³

In February 1908, Inspector Wheeler visited 'Glentulloch' and reported there were insufficient children for a full-time school, but consideration might be given to establishing a half-time school there and another at 'Winnigup', six miles away, where settlers were also applying for a school, with a teacher to alternate between the schools, which was a not uncommon practice. Wheeler reported the room suggested at 'Glentulloch', which was part of the residence of Albert Stockin with whom Machin's two school age children were residing, was not suitable as the only entrance was through the living room, the room was unlined and it had no ceiling or fireplace. Machin was advised a teacher could be supplied if residents paid the salary, and subsequently Stockin was notified the Department was considering a half-time school for 'Glentulloch' if he could provide a suitable room. In early May, Machin informed the Minister for Education he was prepared to install a fireplace, a door to the exterior and an extra window in the aforesaid room, and to rally residents to raise £4.10s. per head as required to fund the teacher's salary of £60 per annum. On 29 May, after receiving written confirmation from Machin, the Inspector General advised the Department was ready to open half-time schools at 'Glentulloch' and 'Winnigup' as soon as a teacher could be appointed. By late June, the school room was ready, now having two double windows, a door to the exterior and a stove for heating, a ceiling and papered walls, and a separate outhouse had been erected. Machin advised the Education Department the settlers would prefer a full time school and 'could make up the deficiencies in the teacher's salary in the unlikely event attendance dropped below an average of ten.'²⁴ The matter was to be progressed

20 Memo. and letter in *ibid*, 12 and 22 Sept. 1905.

21 Blechynden to Inspector General in *ibid*, 6 November 1905.

22 Letter in *ibid*, 9 November 1905, and

23 Correspondence, and application form signed H. J. Machin in *ibid*, 10 and 30 December 1907.

24 H. J. Machin to Inspector General in *ibid*, 26 June 1908.

as soon as possible, but a lack of teachers available for small schools delayed opening of the two schools, which were to be only part-time as teachers were 'in such short supply', and they did not commence until 27 July.²⁵ Extant files do not record any further information about this Glentulloch School. Mrs. Faith Machin (née Seaton), the last teacher at Brooklyn School in 1936, stated a Mr. Russell taught alternate weeks at the Machin's residence at 'Burnbank Farm', on Carburnup Brook, and at Glenlynn School in 1912.²⁶

The 1914-1945 period was characterised by further attempts to encourage settlement of the South West of Western Australia, particularly the Group Settlement Scheme of the 1920s, which was established in the area between Bridgetown and Manjimup in 1923. Additionally, this period was characterised by an increase in community awareness reflected in the establishment of service organisations and clubs²⁷ a trend which can also be applied to the co-operative efforts of the Glentulloch community in the provision of a school. Some schools opened as an Assisted School in a rented room or building, such as that at Kulikup, which opened in a room at Mrs. Jilly's property in November 1914, preceding the establishment of a government school when enrolment grew sufficiently. In 1916, when 16 children were enrolled at Kulikup, two acres of land were reserved for the purpose of a school, and well known builder F. L. Kleeman won the tender to build the school at a cost of £250, which opened in April 1917.²⁸ *Brooklyn School*, built by local settlers in 1918, to accommodate up to 30 pupils, described as 'an excellent school of best quality materials', cost less than half this amount, and having been provided by the local community at no cost to the Education Department, was highly praised by the Director of Education.²⁹

On 27 September 1916, four residents of the 'Glentulloch' district applied to the Education Department for a school to be established at the site they proposed 'midway along south line Loc. 626 of Mr. Cullen', near the site proposed in 1905.³⁰ The nearest school at this date was at 'Glenlynn', five miles away, and the proposed school was needed for five boys and four girls from five families, including the Machins and Blechyndens, who were among those who had applied in 1907-08. They advised there was no building available for a school, but the parents would provide accommodation for a teacher. They were informed this was an insufficient number of children for a government school, but an assisted school could be considered, for which the government would grant £7 per child. The parents would have to make up the balance of the salary for the teacher and also provide a school room with 'at least 11sq.ft. of floor space for each scholar', a timber floor, a fireplace, and proper light and ventilation.³¹ The parents would have to be responsible for finding a teacher although the Department would

25 Correspondence and memos. in *ibid*, June-July 1908. Note: Extant files do not record any further information about this school.

26 Mrs. A Machin, correspondence, 1979, re Brooklyn, typescript, courtesy Bridgetown Historical Society.

27 *Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Municipal Inventory*. Prepared for The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes by Heritage & Conservation Professionals May 1995, reviewed by The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes June 2001. p. 14.

28 Schoreer, A., *op. cit.*, pp. 153-154.

29 Inspector Wheeler to Director of Education, & Director to Minister for Education in 'Brooklyn (Assisted Attendance)', *op. cit.*, 6 & 10 Sept. 1918.

30 Application for school, in 'Brooklyn (Assisted Attendance)', Education Dept., SROWA Cons. 1497 Item 1918/1669, 27 Sept. 1916.

31 Correspondence in *ibid*, 27 and 30 Sept. 1916.

assist where it could, but no guarantees could be given.³² Mr. Blechynden responded that only eight children were required under recent regulations, but the Department advised ten were necessary as the rule requiring eight students was applicable only where an existing building was available.³³

In April 1917, G. W. Henfrey, who had three children aged two, six and eight years, appealed to Frank Willmott, MLA, for assistance in obtaining a school at 'Glentulloch', noting the children were 'entitled to a little consideration from the Government'.³⁴ Nothing further appears to have eventuated until March 1918, when Mr. Blechynden informed the Director General of Education 'we are building a school room which will be ready for use at beginning of next term, after Easter', and requested the Department to send furniture and provide a suitable teacher, and 'Please kindly do your best to have this done at your very earliest, as the majority of the Children are well over the age and have not been to School yet'.³⁵ He was asked to supply information about the classroom, whether anyone in the district could serve as the teacher as it was still difficult to find teachers for small schools and if someone local was available the process could be expedited. If average attendance was eight children the Department would be obliged to find a teacher. The parents signed and returned the required guarantee and the application form, listing five boys and three girls of school age and five who would attain school age in the next three to four years. There were also three or four other children of school age staying with relatives living in the area who would attend the school when it opened.³⁶

The parents of the Blechynden, Henfrey and Machin children agreed to board the schoolteacher on a monthly or quarterly rotation at 15s. per week board and where possible to provide a single room for the teacher. The Department advised a teacher could not be provided unless a separate room was guaranteed.³⁷ In late June, Inspector Wheeler visited 'Glentulloch' and reported that he estimated 16 children could attend the proposed school as there were additional children in the area who had not been involved in the application for provision of the school room, which he described as follows:

A fine building ... about 18'x16', constructed of seasoned jarrah T & G boards and ceiling also of jarrah. The floor is also of jarrah, and a verandah, also floored, runs along outside the building, with seating accommodation. There are two large windows, one door and a large brick chimney. An 800 gallon tank is being provided, and two outhouses are in course of erection. An area of excellent land has been cleared, and is quite ready for cultivation. In short there is a building equal to one of our standard schools, and it will be ready for occupation in two weeks time.³⁸

Wheeler recommended immediate despatch of stock and furniture for the school, and appointment of a teacher, suggesting the possible transfer of Miss White from 'Springside', 'as her home is but a few miles away'.³⁹ A small desk and two large desks were sent from Busselton and a teacher's desk from Bridgetown. On

³² Director of Education to B. H. Blechynden, in *ibid*, 30Sept. 1916. Note: Blechyndens were among early settlers in Bridgetown district, where they played a prominent role. The 1916 application noted five Blechynden children, aged 2 to 10 years.

³³ Correspondence in *ibid*, 31 Oct. and 4 Nov. 1916.

³⁴ G. W. Henfrey to Frank Willmott, MLA, in *ibid*, 18 April 1917.

³⁵ Blechynden to director General Education in *ibid*, 20 March 1918.

³⁶ Correspondence in *ibid*, 23 March-5 April 1918.

³⁷ Correspondence in *ibid*, 25 and 28 June 1918.

³⁸ School Inspector Wheeler to Director of Education in *ibid*, 28 June 1918.

³⁹ *ibid*, and annotation.

18 August, Blechynden reported their arrival and completion of the school building. He advised 'We have called it 'Brooklyn' as it is on Mr Cullen's property 'Brooklyn', and noted the school 'goes by the name 'Brooklyn'.⁴⁰ Miss Nellie White was appointed and Mr. Willmott officially opened the school on Saturday, 31 August.⁴¹ On 2 September, the children duly arrived for school but the teacher was absent as she was ill, and so classes did not commence until 9 September.⁴²

Four local families had paid £100 in cash to build the school, in addition to 'gift of land etc.'⁴³ When Inspector Wheeler reported the costs for *Brooklyn School*, he noted 'an excellent school of best quality materials' had been achieved for under £100 including the cost of clearing the site, and the school building would easily accommodate 30 children.⁴⁴ The Director of Education forwarded the information to the Minister, noting this was less than the government paid for construction of schools and 'If we could get buildings put up at this price, it would make a wonderful saving in the cost of providing small country schools'.⁴⁵ The Director also wrote to B. H. Blechynden, of 'Glentulloch', that he was pleased 'residents have provided such a satisfactory school building for Brooklyn'.⁴⁶ In 1918, the name of the school was sometimes noted as 'Brooklyn (late Glentulloch) School', which led the Director to append a note that 'late Glentulloch' was misleading because the school building was 'an entirely new one erected by the parents'.⁴⁷

In April 1921, W. J. Gobbart, Secretary of the Tweed Road Progress Association sought assistance from J. H. Smith, MLA, and wrote to the Minister for Education, seeking improvements to *Brooklyn School*. A shelter shed was 'urgently needed' because without this amenity the 15 children were 'liable to get wet through..... quite a common occurrence last winter'.⁴⁸ There was no drinking water as the small (100 gallons) tank had been dry by Christmas. He stated that four years ago the Department had offered to supply a water tank if the local farmers built a tank stand, which they did, but a tank had not been supplied. An annotation on the letter stated there was no record of this offer and that the settlers provided the small tank when they erected the school building.⁴⁹ On 30 November, Mr. Machin advised Wheeler had promised the tank if they built the stand and renewed the request so the 17 students could have a drink of water at the school 'instead of having to go to the creek'.⁵⁰ On 29 December, approval was granted for a second hand tank to be relocated from Bridgetown to *Brooklyn School* at an estimated cost of £9.10s.⁵¹ In late July 1922, it arrived at *Brooklyn School*, where the awaiting stand had been erected 'so the old tank would overflow into the new tank', but the man from Bridgetown who installed it raised the height of the stand

40 Correspondence in *ibid*, 25 July to 18 August 1918.

41 Blechynden to Inspector Wheeler in *ibid*, 18 and 26 August 1918.

42 Belchynden to Inspector Wheeler, 3 Sept. 1918, and file note, in *ibid*, Sept. 1918.

43 Machin to Director of Education in 'Brooklyn – Buildings, Works etc, Water', *op. cit.*, 30 Nov. 1921.

44 Inspector Wheeler to Director of Education, in 'Brooklyn (Assisted) Attendance', *op. cit.*, 6 Sept. 1918.

45 Director of Education to Minister for Education in *ibid*, 10 Sept. 1918.

46 Director of Education to J. H. Belchynden in 'Brooklyn – Buildings, Works etc, Water', *op. cit.*, 3 Sept. 1918.

47 Notes in 'Brooklyn (Assisted) Attendance', *op. cit.*, most undated, and 5 Dec., annotation 9 Dec. 1918.

48 Letters from W. J. Gobbart in 'Brooklyn – Buildings, Works etc, Water', Education Dept., SROWA Cons. 1497 Item 1918/1737, 26 and 27 April 1921.

49 *ibid*, 25 May 1921.

50 Machin to Director of Education in *ibid*, 30 Nov. 1921.

51 Correspondence between Act. U/Sec., Works and Trading Concerns and Act. Director of Education in *ibid*, 21 and 29 Dec. 1921.

and so water from the old tank could not overflow into the new one.⁵² Then he 'went to unnecessary extra work ... to rig up drainpipes for this, which in effect mean overflow from the old tank' was 'wasted', which Machin deplored, before concluding 'But thanks anyway for the tank, the children will appreciate it.'⁵³

Meanwhile, in 1921, approval was arranged for the Public Works Department (PWD) to supply materials for a shelter shed free of charge if the parents erected it. However, they refused as they considered the proposal 'quite unfair', noting they had built *Brooklyn School* and gave it to the Department 'free', asserting the Director of Education 'promised a shed, fence and tank at once' when their president Mr. Machin spoke with him in July, but they had received 'nothing'.⁵⁴ In December, the Director applied for approval for erection of a shelter shed and some fencing as the school was unfenced.⁵⁵

In March 1922, the Education Department advised it had no record of a promise to erect a shelter shed if the parents erected it and it was not the practice to build a shelter shed until average school attendance reached 50. Sunnyside Progress Association asked the Acting Director of Education to reconsider providing a shed at *Brooklyn School* as the 18 students had no shelter to eat their lunch. He replied the 18 ft. x 5 ft. verandah to the east side of the building must suffice as the Department did 'not have funds to provide shelter sheds for small schools.'⁵⁶ At Bridgetown, H.J. Smith, MLA, introduced Mr. Machin, representing the Progress Association, to Mr. Colebatch Minister for Education. Machin told him two settlers had built *Brooklyn School* at a cost of £120 'and gave it free to the Department', and the grounds on which the request for a shelter shed had been refused. The Minister reiterated the regulation, and Machin said 'We have given everything and cleared the land', to which Colebatch responded 'If that is so, I will vary the regulation, and give you the shed.'⁵⁷ Subsequently approval was granted for a shelter shed at *Brooklyn School* at an estimated cost of £45.⁵⁸

In August 1922, plans for the shelter shed show a standard design timber framed weatherboard clad shed, 10 ft. x16 ft., with a skillion roof angled towards the open side, with seating attached to the other sides.⁵⁹ In September, approval was granted for fencing *Brooklyn School* at an estimated cost of £14.⁶⁰ Tenders were called for erection of the shed and fencing and the contract was awarded to John White, of Perth, at £68.15s., to commence work on 25 November for completion 25 December.⁶¹ When he was on site it was found there was approval for only seven chains of fencing, which was insufficient for the two acre site. Machin advised there was a fence 'the length of the ground, belonging to Mr Cullen', and 'It would be a pity not to complete the job', and obtained approval for White to

52 Correspondence in *ibid*, Feb. to July 1922.
53 Machin to Director of education in *ibid*, 26 July 1922.
54 Correspondence in *ibid*, May 1921.
55 Correspondence in *ibid*, December 1921.
56 Correspondence, and notes from deputation to Minister for Education, in *ibid*, 13 March to 24 April 1922.
57 Notes from deputation to Minister for Education, *ibid*, 21 April 1922.
58 Correspondence and memos. in *ibid*, 17 to 24 May 1922.
59 Shelter shed plans with letter from Act. U/Sec., Works and Trading Concerns to Director of Education, in *ibid*, 14 August 1922.
60 Correspondence in *ibid*, Sept. 1922.
61 Act. U/Sec. Works and Trading Concerns to Director of Education, in *ibid*, 23 Nov 1922; *Government Gazette* 27 October 1922; and Annual Report for Education Department, 1923, in *Votes and Proceedings* 1924, Vol. 1, p. 53.

erect an extra six chains.⁶² On 1 February 1923, the works were completed, but payment was withheld as the shed was too close to the school building because the Parents' Association had altered its position. They pledged to remove it to the original intended site if required, but it was decided it was not worth the trouble.⁶³ The files do not mention any departure from the standard plan. However, an undated photograph of *Brooklyn School* shows the shelter shed with a gable roof a short distance south of the school building where it remained into the late 1940s, but it was removed at a later (unknown) date.⁶⁴

On 27 January 1926, the first Certificate of Title was issued for Nelson Location 623, which included the site of *Brooklyn School*, the registered proprietor being Alfred Cullen, who continued to own it until his death in 1940.⁶⁵

On 5 February 1927, Miss White reported the water tank had become polluted over the holidays so she had arranged to have it cleaned. In the meantime she asked permission to arrange for water to be carted to the school as the children had to bring their own. As requested she provided a quote and permission was granted on 17 February⁶⁶, evidencing difficulties faced by small rural schools. In March-April, average weekly attendance at the school fell below the minimum of eight children.⁶⁷ An inspection report noted the building was leaking through the walls and there was no cupboard other than the teacher's desk, and an annotation thereon noted 'Parents must provide satisfactory building'.⁶⁸

On 22 June 1928, the school was closed due to lack of accommodation for the teacher, and inquiry was made as to the possibility of transferring quarters from 'Sunnyside'. Extant files do not record what accommodation was arranged for the teacher, who re-opened the school on 24 September.⁶⁹ Average weekly attendance fell below the minimum of eight children in October, and Miss White was required to explain to the Department and to advise parents an average of eight must be maintained or the school would be closed.⁷⁰ Approval had been given for provision as funds allowed of 'flat iron sheets' for blackboards where schools did not have sufficient blackboard space, and *Brooklyn School* received a wall blackboard in November.⁷¹ An inspection report noted an extra water tank was needed and the shelter shed needed to be boarded in at one end, which was completed in autumn 1929.⁷² In December 1929, it was reported the interior of

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- 62 Machin to Smith in 'Brooklyn – Buildings, Works etc, Water', op. cit., n.d., 1922.
- 63 Correspondence between Act. U/Sec. Works and Trading Concerns and Director of Education, and annotations, in *ibid*, 13 and 19 Feb., 27 March and 5 April 1923.
- 64 Correspondence in *ibid*, Dec. 1946- Dec. 1947; Brooklyn School, rear view, photo 6, neg. 9, photo album of 'Little Schools', Bridgetown Historical Society, and "Brooklyn" School Sunnyside 1918-1936 Restoration Project 2006', courtesy Roger Machin ; and Roger Machin, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, site visit, March 2009.
- 65 Certificate of Title Vol. 911 Fol. 36.
- 66 Correspondence in 'Brooklyn – Buildings, Works etc, Water', op. cit., Feb. 1927.
- 67 Memos. and correspondence in 'Brooklyn (Assisted) Attendance', op. cit., March-April 1927
- 68 Inspection report, in 'Brooklyn – Buildings, Works etc, Water', op. cit., 1927.
- 69 Correspondence and memos. in 'Brooklyn – Buildings, Works etc, Water', op. cit., June 1928.
- 70 Correspondence and memos. in 'Brooklyn (Assisted) Attendance', op. cit., Oct. 1928.
- 71 Correspondence and memos. in 'Brooklyn – Buildings, Works etc, Water', op. cit., May- Dec. 1928.
- 72 Inspection report, and U/Sec. Works and Labour to Director of Education in *ibid*, 27 Nov. 1928 and 4 May 1929 respectively.

Brooklyn School was badly in need of renovation, which was completed on 24 June 1930, including the lining.⁷³

In 1932-34, enrolment and attendance at the school continued to be of concern, which was exacerbated by re-opening of Sunnyside School (formerly known as Glenlynn School) about 5.5 miles away. In August 1934, the District Inspector recommended closing *Brooklyn School*, where eight children were enrolled, and that they be encouraged to attend Sunnyside School, where nine children were enrolled, as it was closer for children from one of the three families at *Brooklyn School*. In July-September average weekly attendance was less than eight in all but one week. On 20 September, teacher Catherine Stephens was advised due to this low attendance the school would close on 28 September, and she was transferred to Kalannie.⁷⁴

On 12 November 1934, Messrs. Elphick and Giblett, parents of seven of the eight children previously enrolled at *Brooklyn School*, who lived farther from Sunnyside School, applied for an assisted school at the place, and enclosed the necessary guarantee to meet the cost above the level of government assistance to fund the teacher's salary. The PWD asked the Director of Education to advise whether *Brooklyn School* was permanently closed because it was 'in an awkward position as it is a private building' but the PWD had spent 'approximately £150 over years on improvements', and it would need to negotiate with the owners for their removal and/or purchase if the closure was permanent.⁷⁵ On 22 November, Giblett was advised of approval for an assisted school to open on 4 February and the names of possible teachers, from whom Miss Cora Campbell was selected.⁷⁶

Reg Giblett (b. 1918) recalls the one room *Brooklyn School*, with the teacher's desk in one corner and students' desks set out on an east-west alignment. At the right side as one entered from the Carburnup Road entrance gate a school garden was laid out with a pathway and garden beds, where they grew a good supply of vegetables and a limited number of flowers. The Cypress trees (*Cupressus macrocarpa*; some of which survive in 2009) were mature trees. At either side of the school ground towards the rear fence was a toilet (w.c.) for boys and one for girls. The children rose early to complete their various chores on the farm then walked barefoot to school in all weathers. For Reg, as for most other country children in the Great Depression, there was no opportunity to go away for a secondary education and he remained at *Brooklyn School* until age 14, when he began full time work. Throughout their lives he and other past students, former teachers, and their families have continued to highly value *Brooklyn School*.⁷⁷

In February 1935, Brooklyn Assisted School opened, and operated until 24 September 1936, when it closed subsequent to the resignation of the teacher, Miss Faith Myra Seaton, who was boarding with the Giblett's. Two of the children enrolled were over 14 years and it was not expected to reopen that year.⁷⁸ In March 1937, Mrs. Elizabeth Dixon suggested relocating *Brooklyn School* to

⁷³ Inspection report, and Principal Architect to Director of Education, in *ibid*, 16 Dec. 1929 and 14 August 1930 respectively.

⁷⁴ Correspondence and memos. in 'Brooklyn (Assisted) Attendance', *op. cit.*, from 1932 to 25 August 1935.

⁷⁵ Correspondence in *ibid*, 12 to 17 Nov. 1934.

⁷⁶ Correspondence in *ibid*, 22 Nov. to 24 Dec. 1934.

⁷⁷ Reg Giblett, conversation with Robin Chinnery, at Bridgetown, March 2009; and Roger Machin *op. cit.*

⁷⁸ Memos., file notes and correspondence, in *ibid*, Feb. 1935 to Sept. 1936. Note: File notes differ as to date Brooklyn Assisted School opened in 1935, 4 or 14 Feb.

Maranup Road, Bridgetown, but this was not implemented.⁷⁹ In July, with 'no prospect of the school reopening in the near future' the Education Department decided to relocate the furniture etc., which was taken to Bridgetown and put into storage to await further use,⁸⁰ as was general practice in such circumstances.

On 30 August 1940, Alfred Cullen died and probate of his will was granted to the executrix, his widow, Clare May Cullen, on 9 October, and the transfer of Nelson Location 623 to her was registered on 17 March 1941.⁸¹

In December 1946, L. Wheatley made inquiry to the PWD to purchase *Brooklyn School*, which was unused. The Under Secretary for Works noted the building was not in their ownership 'but we improved it significantly', and suggested contacting Mr. Giblett, one of the original settlers who built it, to determine if they were interested in selling it. In February 1947, the Director of Education advised 'Brooklyn School may be regarded as permanently closed', and later that year the PWD's interest in it was sold to Wheatley 'on whose land the structure stands'.⁸² However, transfer of Nelson Location 623, which included the site of *Brooklyn School*, to Leopold William Wheatley was not registered until 18 May 1951.⁸³

The 1945-1975 period in the Bridgetown area saw increased settlement and further assisted migration, and the town of Bridgetown continued to develop and prosper as the main service centre for the surrounding rural area. Mixed farming and orchards continued as the dominant agricultural industries with some diversification in mining in the area also seen.⁸⁴ In the post-World War II period, introduction of school bus services in regional areas to bring children into town to school led to the closure of most small schools in sparsely populated areas, including in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, where all but one of the little schools had closed by 1953, and the last of them, Yornup Primary School closed due to low attendance in 1984. As elsewhere in the State, few places that accommodated such schools have survived and retained the vestiges of this use, most having been dismantled, relocated, and/or converted to other purposes, including some that continued in use as community halls.

Through the latter half of the twentieth century, *Brooklyn School* was periodically utilised for storage of farm materials such as fencing wire. The roof blew off in a cyclone and was duly replaced, and termite damage was repaired as part of the basic maintenance carried out to ensure its survival.⁸⁵

From approximately 1975 to the 1990s a decline in smaller operations around Bridgetown was seen with an increase in corporate ownership of some rural industries. The once comprehensive railway service to the area also declined with the closest passenger railway in 1995 being at Bunbury. Fruit growing and

79 Correspondence in *ibid*, 25 March 1937.

80 Correspondence in 'Brooklyn (Assisted) Attendance', *op. cit.*, 14 to 26 July 1937.

81 Certificate of Title Vol. 911 Fol. 36.

82 Correspondence in *ibid*, 24 Dec. 1946 to 7 Dec. 1947.

83 Certificate of Title Vol. 911 Fol. 36.

84 *Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Municipal Inventory*. Prepared for The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes by Heritage & Conservation Professionals May 1995, reviewed by The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes June 2001, p. 17.

85 Roger Machin *op. cit.*; and Mrs. Wheatley, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, June 2009.

dairying in the area declined and an increase in tourism and the hospitality industry was seen.⁸⁶

On 29 November 1988, Leopold William Wheatley died. In June 1989, probate of his will was granted to the Executors, his son, Gerald Leopold Wheatley, of Bridgetown, and Clive Howard Sargent, of Collie, to whom Nelson Location 623 was transferred in August. On 7 September 1990, the property was transferred to Gerald Leopold Wheatley, whose family continue to own it in 2009.⁸⁷

In 1996, *Brooklyn School* was included in the Municipal Inventory for Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes and recommended for Entry in the Register of Heritage Places.⁸⁸ In the late 1980s, the W.A. Heritage Trails Network developed as a 'Bicentennial Project for Community Participation' the Little Schools Trail was developed as an extension of the Geegelup Heritage Trail. This 212 km drive features sites of 25 so-called little schools that operated in Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes at various periods between 1903 and 1984, and includes *Brooklyn School*, one of the only two which survive in their original location⁸⁹ though the other, P00279 Hall, Winnejup (Winnejup School fmr) was constructed to also serve as a hall. The brochure has encouraged tourists to visit the various sites and 'many people' were stopping 'to look at' *Brooklyn School* in the late 1990s-early 2000s.⁹⁰

In 2006, *Brooklyn School* was in need of considerable maintenance when 'Gerry' Wheatley, his family and some other Bridgetown residents formed a committee, who met at the place to initiate a project to ensure its preservation. Local builder Bob Ashley drew up plans specifying the work needed to repair and conserve the building, and the realisation of the project was made possible by donations of materials, labour and money, and some grant monies obtained through the Shire, which actively supported it.⁹¹

In 2009 the place is vacant.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Brooklyn School is a one room schoolhouse clad with vertical jarrah boards with a medium pitched corrugated iron gable roof in a Vernacular architectural style, constructed by local settlers in 1918, on two acres of land owned by Alfred Cullen.⁹² *Brooklyn School* is located approximately 20 kilometres southeast of Bridgetown on part of Lot 623, Carburnup Brook Road, which bisects the Lot in a north-south direction. The school building is located on approximately one hectare on the northwest corner of the eastern portion of Lot 623 on rising land on the east bank of Carburnup Brook, about 100 metres from the brook, with the red gravel Carburnup Brook Road on the west boundary of the site. The surrounding topography consists of gently undulating cleared farmland with

⁸⁶ *Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes Municipal Inventory*. Prepared for The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes by Heritage & Conservation Professionals May 1995, reviewed by The Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes June 2001. p. 19.

⁸⁷ Certificate of Title Vol. 911 Fol. 36; Roger Machin and Mrs. Wheatley op. cit.

⁸⁸ *Brooklyn School* in Municipal Inventory, Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, Adopted 31 August 1996.

⁸⁹ 'Geegelup Heritage Trail Little Schools Trail'.

⁹⁰ Un-dated news cutting in "'Brooklyn" School Sunnyside 1918-1936 Restoration Project 2006', op. cit.

⁹¹ "'Brooklyn" School Sunnyside 1918-1936 Restoration Project 2006', op. cit.; Roger Machin and Gwen Wheatley, op. cit.

⁹² Apperly, Richard, Irving, Robert, Irving, *Peter A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present* Angus & Robertson, North Ryde, 1989, p. 140-143.

scattered groves of mature indigenous trees. There are also pockets of uncleared land in the vicinity.

Brooklyn School is located approximately 45 metres from the road boundary, with the land rising at a moderate rate between the road boundary and the school building, then at a shallower rate to the east behind the school building. The school grounds are grassed and are surrounded by a fence of timber poles and mesh, with a gate at the southern end of the road boundary. There is a row of Cypress trees (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) to the northeast of the school building, a grove of indigenous eucalypts on the southeast corner, a single eucalypt in the centre of the front yard and two Cypress trees to the southwest of the school building.

There is no visible evidence of the toilets that were formerly located near the eastern boundary at the rear of the grounds, nor of the shelter shed that was to the south side of the building as seen in historic photographs of the place. However, there are likely to be archaeological remains, e.g. stumps or postholes, which could be revealed with further investigation.

Brooklyn School is a simple square gabled building, 5.5 x 5.7 metres, clad with vertical dressed tongue and groove jarrah boards secured with handmade nails. The front facade, which faces the road to the west, has an eaved face and a central double hung timber sash window with a scalloped timber hood over. The stumps are exposed. The north and south side façades are asymmetrical gables, with the apex at the centre line of the classroom, and the roof continuing down at the same pitch over the rear verandah. The north façade has a projecting red brick chimney breast on a granite footing and a chimney over with a corbelled brick capping. The granite base now stands on a recently installed concrete footing, after the chimney, which had been leaning, was levered back into place. Three ironbark stumps to the east of the chimney indicate the location of the former rainwater tank. On the east (rear) façade is an open verandah, approximately 1.4 metres deep and spanning the whole 5 metre width of the east façade. There are no intermediate posts, but two rafters are given additional support from a strut off the east wall. Stencilled numbers remain on the timber cladding for bags and a seat of timber battens runs along the wall. The verandah floor has recently been replaced with new timber boards. The east (rear) wall has a central window opening (the window is missing) and a ledged and braced door at the south end. The eaves are flush and the gutters and downpipes are yet to be reinstated (in March 2009). The building has been recently restumped with 100 x 100 mm dressed timber stumps, which have been set into new concrete footings. Some of the former undressed ironbark post stumps remain on the site.

Internally, the classroom is 5.3 metres wide and 4 metres deep with 3 metre high ceilings. There is a red brick fireplace in the centre of the north wall. The jarrah surround and bracketed mantle shelf have been removed but are propped against the south wall, waiting to be reinstated. There is a double hung timber sash window in the centre of the west wall with two plain sashes, and a window opening for a former double hung timber sash window in the centre of the east wall. The ledged jarrah entrance door is located at the south end of the east wall and retains its original ironmongery. The walls are unlined (in March 2009), but a photograph of 2006 indicates they were lined with cement sheeting with symmetrically placed jarrah battens. The floorboards have been taken up while the sub-structure was reconstructed and are (in March 2009) stacked on the floor joists waiting to be reinstated. The ceiling is lined with jarrah boards, which are

highly varnished and are in good condition. A small opening in the centre of the ceiling is likely to be a vent, with the cover now missing.

In March 2009 major restoration works were in progress to restore the school. It appears as if the building was previously in poor condition. However, members of the local community are donating time and materials to the restoration and original fabric in usable condition has been stored on site to be reinstated. The problem noted in the documentary evidence of leaking of the cladding should be addressed. It should be noted that vertical tongue and groove cladding is not a watertight method of external cladding.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

In the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, 25 so-called 'little schools' comprising the Little Schools Trail, which is part of the Geegelup Heritage Trail, operated at various periods from 1903, when Glenlynn School commenced (as described in Documentary Evidence above). Some of them, including *Brooklyn School (fmr)*, operated for a period as an Assisted School, under which category the children's parents met the balance of the teacher's salary. Most of these little schools were accommodated in a room at the particular property, such as that at Glenlynn, in a hall built to serve the dual purpose of hall and school as at Winnejup, or as a school at a Group Settlement, such as those at Groups 126 and 132. Of these places only P00279 Hall, Winnejup (Winnejup School fmr) and P03196 Eight Mile Well – Site, are included in the Office of Heritage database while the former, and *Brooklyn School*, appear to be the only schools still extant along this trail. *Brooklyn School* was the only place specifically built as a schoolhouse by local settlers on privately owned land to serve the sole purpose of a school, this function being clearly reflected in its design and construction.

A search of the Office of Heritage database returns 108 timber, or part timber, schools constructed between 1890 and 1920. Of these places, 79 are in regional areas, including 12 which are on the State Register. Only 5 of those on the Register are (or were) one room, single teacher schools constructed in the early twentieth century.

- P00418 *Old Vasse School*, Vasse (1901) - Vernacular
- P00713 *Brookhampton Hall*, Brookhampton (1899) - Federation Bungalow
- P01913 *Alma School (fmr)*, Northampton (1914) - Vernacular
- P03091 *Drakesbrook School (fmr)*, Waroona – Site Only (1898) - NA
- P04914 *Quairading State School & Quarters (fmr)* (1913) - Federation Single School/Vernacular

Of these places *Old Vasse School*, *Alma School (fmr)* and *Quairading State School & Quarters (fmr)* are the most comparable to *Brooklyn School (fmr)*. *Drakesbrook School (fmr)* was destroyed by fire in 2005, and *Brookhampton Hall*, although serving as the earliest school in the area, was constructed to serve as a hall also. Additionally, *Quairading State School & Quarters (fmr)*, although retaining the original timber one-room classroom, has had other elements added.

- P00418 *Old Vasse School*, Vasse (1901)

Old Vasse School comprises an original one room weatherboard and corrugated iron schoolroom, in a Vernacular architectural style, with a verandah, brick chimney and two adjoining rainwater tanks set amongst mature cypress trees.

The place is one of the few remaining examples of the weatherboard one teacher schools built in rural areas during the early stages of settlement which, in 1998, was still functioning in its original purpose. Also on the site are a relocated timber, asbestos and iron one room schoolroom, and a weatherboard and iron toilet block.⁹³

- *P01913 Alma School (fmr)*, Northampton (1914)

Alma School is a compact rectangular shaped, single school room, in a Vernacular architectural style, with a steeply pitched roof, enclosed north facing verandah with one window and an entry door with a highlight window on the north wall and reflects the provision of one teacher schools in rural areas.⁹⁴

- *P04914 Quairading State School & Quarters (fmr)* (1913)

Quairading State School & Quarters (fmr), comprising a single-storey weatherboard and iron school building in a Federation Single School/Vernacular architectural style (1913), with subsequent extensions and alterations, and single-storey weatherboard Teacher's Quarters (1917) is a good representative example of a one-roomed, single teacher country school that was later extended and adapted for continuing educational purposes.

On the available information *Brooklyn School* is rare as the only surviving 'little school' on its original site in the Shire of Bridgetown-Greenbushes, and one of a small number of such schools extant in the State. The Office of Heritage database does not specifically list any 'little schools' and a number of others may be extant and have been incorporated into extended school infrastructure over time. However, as discussed above current information suggests that of the 25 'little schools' on the *Geegelup Heritage Trail, Little Schools Trail* only *Brooklyn School* and P00279 Hall, Winnejup are extant. Others have been destroyed by fire, moved to other locations, or dismantled.⁹⁵

The place also has some rarity value as an example of a purpose built school, in a Vernacular architectural style, erected by local settlers on privately owned land that has continued to be highly valued by the community and is being restored by members of that community.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

'Brooklyn (Glentulloch) Buildings, Works Etc.', Education Department File, SROWA Cons. 1497 Item 1908/5286

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

⁹³ Office of Heritage Assessment Documentation, *P00418 Old Vasse School*.

⁹⁴ Office of Heritage Assessment Documentation, *P01913 Alma School (fmr)*.

⁹⁵ *Geegelup Heritage Trail, Little Schools Trail* (Pamphlet). A Commonwealth/State Bicentennial Project, c.1988.