

SORELL HERITAGE SURVEY

Address: 680 Nugent Road Wattle Hill 7172		UPI: 2901264	PID: 7851684
Name: WATTLE HILL SCHOOLHOUSE & HALL			
Feature Type: School Hall	Structure Type	Site Feature Type	Dating: 1830 - 1890
			Access Restrictions: Restricted
			Inspection Date: J McCarthy September 96
			Style: Grid ref: 5426 552480 5264920
Indication of Significance: High probable significance		Theme: Education Community Organisations	
Material:	Brick	Corrugated iron	Listings:
Condition:	Good	Good	
Integrity:	Altered, extended sympathetically		
National Estate Criteria:	A4 B2 C2 E1 H1		Photograph Index: 25: 24 - 27
Risk:	Excavation: ☐	Development: ☐	Maintenance: ☐ Vandalism: ☐

SITE DESCRIPTION:

The School.

This is a "T" shaped brick schoolhouse and residence, now a private residence. It is constructed of brick on stone foundations with a gabled cgi roof; there is a skillion section on the western elevation. The school room was in the stem of the "t" and the residence with two upstairs and two downstairs rooms on the head of the "T". The entrance has been moved from the skillion end to the top of the stem. The building has been extensively renovated and reconfigured internally as a private residence with a gabled porch over the door. The weatherboard school toilets are still on the property and are used as a shed.

The Hall.

The hall is of weatherboards with a gable cgi roof. It has roof and gable vents and is located to the west of the school. It has a skillion addition on the eastern end which is used as a garage. There is a large ground to roof sliding door on the northern elevation, probably dating to the building's transfer to private ownership in 1960. The building needs repainting. It was built c1880 and ceased to be used as a hall c1960 after the demise of the Wattle Hill Cricket Club which had its ground opposite.

HISTORY:

Designed by the noted colonial architect, Henry Hunter, the school house was erected at a cost of about £300 in 1869 on a portion on Andrew Counsel's 294 acre property. A contemporary report noted:

"The newly erected pretty school house and teachers' residence at Wattle Hill, a delightful suburban settlement, near then town of Sorrell, are, under the vigilant superintendence of Mr Jonas Gatehouse, Mr John Walker, jun., and Mr. Ephraim Newitt, the local committee, fast progressing towards completion. Mr R. Wiggins, the builder, has been instructed to push forward the work with all speed, which he is doing. The carpentering is going on a-pace and the painters will have, by this, commenced the painting of the finished parts of the buildings; and in a week or tow, Mr Henry Hunter, the architect, will proceed to the place to report upon them. There never has been a public school at Wattle Hill, - the rising generation of which numbers upwards of sixty, nearly, if not all, being of sufficient age to be brought under the tuition of a public school master and mistress. The opening of the school buildings is to be celebrated by a fete, towards which Mr. John Walker, who gave the site, has promised to contribute the handsome sum of five pounds".

The school was closed in 1939 and remained vacant during the war years. Following World War Two it was rented for a time to war widows before being sold to private owners.

BOUNDARY:

The listing boundary is formed by the structures themselves.

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COMMENTS:

The school and hall fulfilled important functions in the community and illustrate that importance through their substantial construction and design. Although modified since its renovation, the exterior of the school is still largely intact as built and conveys the dominant role it played in community life. The building also has an important association with the noted architect Henry Hunter. The buildings have the ability to demonstrate various aspects of Tasmania's history.

The school meets Criteria A4, B2, C2, E1 and H1 for inclusion in the Register of the National Estate. It should be included in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme and should be nominated for inclusion in the Tasmanian Heritage Register and the Register of the National Estate. The hall should be included only in Schedule 3 of the Sorell Planning Scheme.

Note: Additional UPI are; 2901265, 2901263 & 2903053

BIBLIOGRAPHY + PREVIOUS STUDIES:

Evening Mail 6 April, 1869, p2
Pem 1/56 (survey plan)

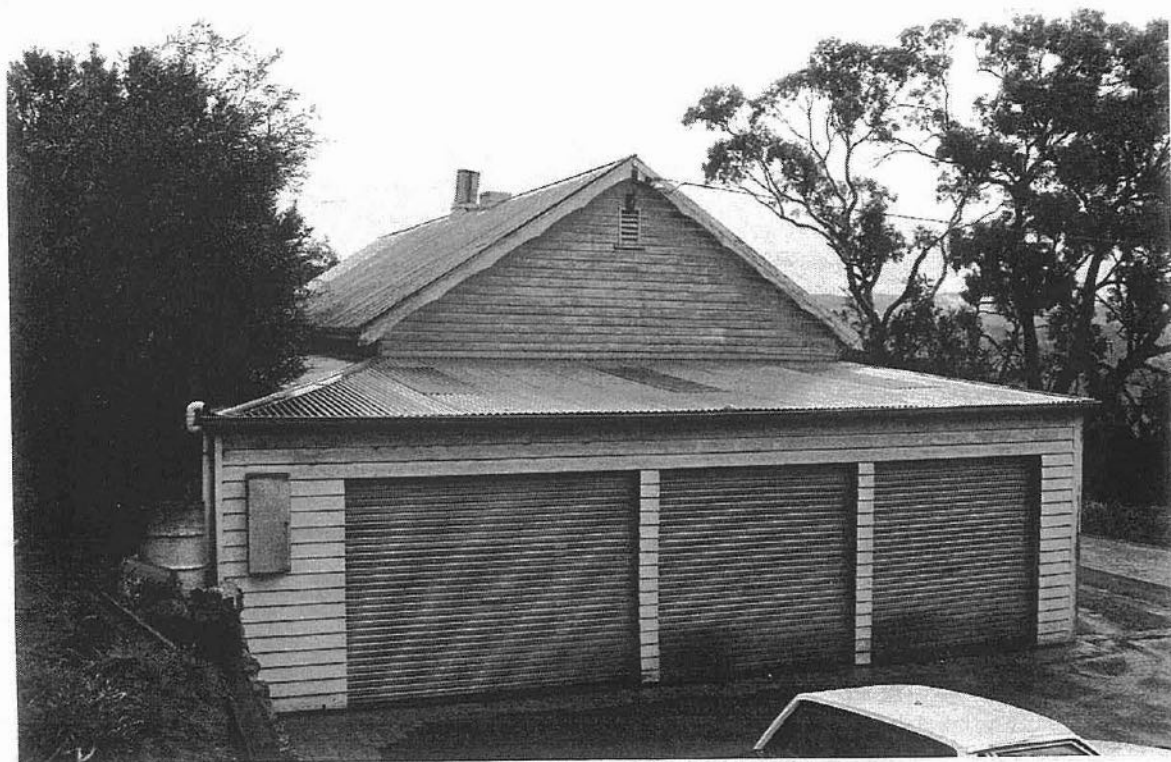
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