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**HO 238****96-106 SPRINGVALE ROAD, NUNAWADING**

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<b>Building:</b>	Nunawading Primary School		
<b>Address:</b>	96-106 Springvale Road, Nunawading	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	48 F8
<b>Building Type:</b>	School	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1926
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown	<b>Builder:</b>	Unknown

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Image: Nunawading Primary School.  
Source: HLCD Pty Ltd, January 2009.



Image: Aerial View.  
Source: City of Whitehorse, 2009.

### History:

Local dissent and the two mile distance to primary schools in Blackburn, Mitcham and Vermont finally persuaded the Education Department to establish a school in Tunstall (Nunawading's original name). The Education Department advertised for land in the local newspaper, *The Reporter* in 1923, and several local landowners offered land for sale. In the meantime, the local Methodist Church offered their hall for lease to the Education Department, which was located near the Tunstall Railway station. The Education Minister accepted the offer and a temporary State School opened in November 1923 under head teacher Henry Tysoe.<sup>63</sup>

The selection of suitable land was not without controversy amongst the local residents. In March 1924, the Department opted to purchase four acres of land from Herbert Summerscales and the District Inspector recommended a school building that would accommodate 150 students. Some local residents protested the decision stating that, the site was on the outskirts of the settlement; the price of £950 was excessive for the site and location; and it was opposite boning mills.<sup>64</sup>

The hall leased for the school from the Methodist Church was proving inadequate for the school, with 80 students and 3 teachers sharing the space that had no fireplaces

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<sup>63</sup> Lesley May, *The History of Nunawading Primary School No. 4190*, n.d

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*

and insufficient lighting. Tenders were called in June 1925 for construction of the new school and completion of the T-shaped brick building occurred in April 1926. It is thought that the opening took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 1926. A request for tar paving on the south and east sides of the building was made shortly after the school was built and requested in preparation for winter of that year.<sup>65</sup>

The school name changed in 1948 from Tunstall to Nunawading, which provided consistency with the area, Post Office and Railway Station, also known as Nunawading by this stage.<sup>66</sup>

The landscape was rural when the school was established and it remained that way until post war development occurred. In the late 1940s, a discussion was generated by the parents about the teacher shortages, and the distances some teachers were travelling to attend the school. There was a shortage of residences near the school, and it was felt that if the Education Department purchased two dwellings nearby it would encourage more teachers to the school. The Education Department refused this request on the basis of the proximity of the railway station. The area was characterised predominantly by orchards, and cattle were still driven to Mitcham via the lemon orchards. There were also tracts of bushland around, one of which was between the back of the school and a nearby orchard property. In 1951 Springvale Road was a single bitumen road and footpaths were cinder instead of clay.<sup>67</sup>

In 1952, there were 155 students and the school had reached full capacity. The Education Department provided extra classrooms, and a weatherboard extension was added to the main brick building in time for the start of 1953 school year. By 1955, 266 children were enrolled. A number of dwellings were being constructed within a 1 mile radius of the school, and enrolment numbers were expected to jump. The sheds on the school property became makeshift classrooms and three additional classrooms were earmarked for completion by 1957. By the following year 500 students were recorded and 2 rooms plus an 8 x 8 feet store room and 16 x12 feet staff room had been added to the school. Three more rooms were available for use in 1960. A canteen was constructed in May 1961. In 1966, a purpose built library was opened called the John G. Mannes Library. In 1967, Springvale Road was earmarked for duplication. A new school was opened in Donvale to which a number of students transferred. A southern wing was opened in 1971 and an additional art and craft building was completed in 1973.<sup>68</sup>

The school is now fully surrounded by suburbia and has a frontage to one of the busiest thoroughfares in the City of Whitehorse. There are no orchards or bushland left and nearby public parklands are all that remain of the open spaces that was once so prevalent around the school.

### **Description:**

The main building at Nunawading Primary School, 96 - 106 Springvale Road, Nunawading is a T-shaped brick structure with a rendered stone art deco inspired entrance portico to the east. The weatherboard lean-to addition to the rear, on the west side was completed in 1952. The main central 'T' (bottom of T facing north) section is constructed of red brick and laid in a Flemish bond. To each side of the entrance portico is a set of two large symmetrically placed timber framed double-hung sash windows, with a timber framed fixed window overhead. The sash windows each contain twelve panes each, with the fixed windows containing six. There is a concrete lintel that runs the entire length of the area covered by the windows, with a matching concrete sill underneath. The same order of windows sits symmetrically on the west

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<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> Ibid.

side of the building (at the end of the 'T'). The roof of this section is hipped and covered in burnt clay terracotta tiles with two undecorated brick chimneys with one course of capping.

The entrance portico consists of a flat roof behind a parapet. To either side of the rectangular double doorway are un-chamfered rusticated stone pilasters joined together through an art deco stepped parapet over the doorway. Protruding out from the top of the pilasters is art deco detailing that consists of parallel line motifs that continue around the rest of the entrance portico. The only denotation of an arch around the doorway is a decorative keystone, above which lies 'School No 4190'. The double entrance doors contain four panels in total. The smaller bottom two are filled in with timber tongue and groove panels while the larger upper two contain specially designed lead light windows. In the window to the left (when facing the school to the west) the word 'Tunstall' is incorporated onto a scroll with flora of eucalyptus branches and flowers surrounding it. The window on the right is mirrored with the word 'School' written on the scroll. To the right of the doors sits a small timber framed double-hung sash window.

The 1953 weatherboard lean-to addition is constructed in a board and batten style with a corrugated iron roof. To the north and the west of the extension is a single timber square awning window. Double timber tongue and groove panelled doors appear in a small alcove on the west side, with two six-panelled fixed timber windows above.

The remainder of the site contains a number of weatherboard classroom and pavilion buildings constructed in the late 1950s, 1960s and early 1970s. They have a pre-fabricated appearance and skillion roofs. One block of these buildings is directly west (behind) the original 1920s section. It includes the 1966 library. North of that is another late 1950s block and south of it is the 1970s wing

#### **Comparative Examples:**

The examples discussed may demonstrate similar aspects of heritage significance to the City of Whitehorse. Those already in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay in the Whitehorse Planning Scheme have a HO number. Others are drawn from *Final Heritage Assessments Report*, HLCD Pty Ltd, 2010 and *Whitehorse Heritage Review 2001, Places of Potential Cultural Heritage Significance*, Ward, 2001 which both include properties being reviewed by Council for potential future inclusion in the Heritage Overlay. In some cases where the use of the property is significant, comparisons may be made with places which are not recommended for heritage protection but provide a historical context for analysis.

The following primary schools are currently included in the Heritage Overlay:

Surrey Hills Primary School, 2 Beatrice Avenue, Surrey Hills, 1890, (HO16)  
Former Burwood Primary School, 166-172 Burwood Hwy, Burwood, 1865 (H975 – Victorian Heritage Register)  
East Burwood Primary School, 401 Blackburn Road, Burwood East, 1907 (HO48)  
Vermont Primary School, 4-10 Nurlendi Road, Vermont, 1871, 1907 & 1922 (HO66)  
Blackburn Primary School, 181-195 Whitehorse Road, Blackburn, 1889 & 1923 (HO89)

All of the above schools were established before or close to 1900. Two of the primary schools included in the Heritage Overlay, Vermont and Blackburn, demonstrate expansion in the 1920s. The Nunawading Primary School is the only example of the establishment of purpose built school buildings in the 1920s in the City of Whitehorse. There are also very few civic buildings left in Nunawading to demonstrate the earlier township of Tunstall which was at its peak in the 1920s.

**Significance:**

**What is significant?**

The Nunawading Primary School containing the 1926 brick school building fronting Springvale Road and excluding later additions and later buildings.

**How is it significant?**

Nunawading Primary School is of historical, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Whitehorse.

**Why is it significant?**

Nunawading Primary School is of historical significance as a rare surviving civic building demonstrating the early township of Tunstall. Established in 1926 as the Tunstall Primary School, it catered for the children of orchardists and farmers in the area at the time. (Criteria A & B)

Nunawading Primary School is of local aesthetic significance for the 1926 School Building which is an excellent intact example of an Education Department Primary School constructed during the 1920s. (Criteria D & E)

Nunawading Primary School is of social significance for its important associations with previous and current students and teachers who attended or worked at Nunawading Primary school. (Criterion H)

**Historical Images:**



Image: Nunawading Primary School, Springvale Road, Nunawading.  
Source: Andrew Ward, *City of Whitehorse Heritage Review 2001: Places of Potential Significance*, City of Whitehorse, September 2001.