

---

<b>Building:</b>	Vermont Primary School	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	4-10 Nurlendi Road, Vermont	<b>Melway Map Ref:</b>	62 K2

---

<b>Building Type:</b>	School	<b>Construction Date:</b>	1871, 1907, 1922
<b>Architect:</b>	Unknown	<b>Builder:</b>	1871: R Linay

---



---

**Intactness:**  
G[ ] F[x] P[ ]

**Condition:**  
G[x] F[ ] P[ ]

---

**Existing Heritage Listings:**

Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]
Register of the National Estate	[ ]
National Trust	[x]

**Recommended Heritage Listings:**

Victorian Heritage Register	[ ]
Register of the National Estate	[x]
Heritage Overlay Controls	[x]

## History

The school now known as Vermont Primary School first opened in 1869. It was then known as Delaney's Road Common School, and classes were held in the existing Mount Pleasant Methodist church in Forest Hill. The Board of Education soon decided that it was too close to other schools in the shire, and the only alternative was to build an entirely new school further east, closer to Vermont proper. Land was acquired in 1870 on the north-east corner of Delaney's (now Canterbury) Road and McGee's (now Mitcham) Road. The following year, tenders were called for the construction of a timber building. The £117 tender of R Linay, timber merchant of Prahran, was accepted. Construction began in September 1871, and the new building was completed for the start of the 1872 school year.<sup>1</sup>

The number of students steadily increased over the next few decades, and accommodation became a pressing issue by the turn of the century. Around 1900, a second timber school building was relocated from Yarraburn, which became the junior room. This was, in turn, later relocated to Hurstbridge. In 1907, a new room was built onto the west side of the existing building, and a cloakroom added.<sup>2</sup> Student numbers continued to increase, and the original classroom was widened by four feet in 1917 (at extreme right of photograph on previous page). This was hardly sufficient, and after World War One, the school had resorted to leasing the local Mechanics Hall for additional space. A new classroom, office and cloakroom were finally built in 1922.<sup>3</sup>

By this time, parents were concerned with the increasing volume of traffic on Canterbury and Mitcham roads. In 1924, the recently-formed progress association urged the Education Department to relocate the school buildings to a less prominent site. Five years later, four acres of land were purchased nearby, comprising the present site of the Vermont Primary School in Nurlendi Street. It was proposed to relocate all existing school buildings from Mitcham Road to the new site, but this was continually delayed. New buildings were eventually built on the Nurlendi Street site in the 1950s. The original timber school building remained on the corner of Mitcham and Canterbury roads until it was damaged by fire and subsequently threatened with demolition in 1989. It was then relocated to its present location on the Nurlendi Street site.<sup>4</sup> It was refurbished in 1996, and is now known as the C Paine Building.

## Description

The existing building comprises the 1871 school, with the 1907 extension attached to the east. Similar in form, they are both single-storey weatherboard buildings with separate pitched roofs, clad in corrugated galvanised steel. Both buildings are connected at the rear by a small cloakroom wing. A narrow lean-to addition runs along the east side of the 1871 building. The 1907 portion is the more ornamented of the two, with bargeboards and timber slats in the gable ends, supported on carved brackets. Most of the windows are tripartite double-hung timber sashes with multiple panes. Those in the north face of the 1871 building are not original, but appear to be contemporary with those of the 1907 portion.

## Significance

Vermont State School is of local historical significance and aesthetic interest. Its origins can be traced to the Delaney's Road Common School, which was one of the first schools in the area. It is also a rare example in the municipality of an early timber school building. The building's *ad hoc* accretions and additions are demonstrative of the changing pressures of a burgeoning population increasing as the area developed and grew.

## Source

Context Pty Ltd. *City of Nunawading Heritage Survey Project*. 1994. (Graded C+)

- 1 *Vermont State School, 1869-1969*. pp 10-11. 1969.
- 2 Tim Shambrook. *This is Vermont*. Blackburn, 1989. p 21.
- 3 Tim Shambrook. *This is Vermont*. Blackburn, 1989. p 35.
- 4 Diane Sydenham. *Windows on Nunawading*. North Melbourne, 1990. p 161.

