

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NAME: Old School House complex, Inman Valley **PLACE NO.:** 26451

Address: 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, SA, 5211

1. BRIEF HISTORY OF OLD SCHOOL HOUSE, INMAN VALLEY

Schooling in the Inman Valley started in 1854 but was first provided in a purpose-built facility around 1886 with the construction of the Inman Valley School. The school house combined a school room and residence for the school master. Historic photographs show student numbers between 10 and 25, who would have all been taught in the single school room.

A new wooden school house with a much larger school room was added to the property in 1954, and the old school room became the library. The site ceased to be a school in around 1970 and was sold into private hands. The new owners converted the property into their residence and built backpackers' accommodation for travellers on the nearby Heysen Trail. The property was again sold in 2005 and the backpackers business was closed. The property is now a residence.

Short Chronology:

1854	Schooling starts in the Inman Valley
c1886	School Room and 3-room Residence constructed
1954	Wooden classroom constructed. Old school room converted into the library.
c1970	Backpackers accommodation built
1970- 2005	Backpacker's hostel operated
2006	New laundry and bathroom added to the 1886 School House

2. DESCRIPTION:

The former Inman Valley School property, now a private residence, features a c1886 School House (main residence), 1954 wooden School House (now an art workshop and spare bedroom), former backpackers' hostel, and a new large metal shed.

The c1886 School House is complete but has seen numerous alterations and additions for residential purposes. The school was originally a single-story, stone structure with

four rooms; one school room and three for a residence (see sketch plan). The school room and residence living room, each with an altered fireplace, sit under a double hipped roof. The adjacent kitchen and bedroom feature are located under a skillion roof. The wooden floorboards have been replaced throughout, but the wooden ceilings, complete with vents, remain intact. The stonework to the original building is generally intact and in fair condition with minor evidence of physical damage. Lower sections of the walls have been repatched with what appears to be concrete mortar, and almost all the exterior walls have been covered in a concrete wash or varnish. An original external stair to the west has been replaced by a new wooden one. A lean-to section was added to the south to accommodate a laundry and bathroom, and the eastern side has been extended for an office.

The 1954 classroom remains highly intact and in good condition. It is a simple wooden structure with a gable corrugated-iron roof, its walls are clad in weatherboard and it stands on wooden piers. The single large classroom retains two blackboards and has windows along the south wall. Two doorways lead to a long room on the north side, apparently once a lunch room now converted into a small kitchen and spare bedroom.

The 1960s concrete-block backpackers' accommodation with three adjacent rooms under a gable roof remains in good condition.

A new, very large shed has been constructed over what is thought to have once been the school's tennis courts.

3. ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Comparability / Rarity / Representation:

How the Place compares with the quality of other similar places:

- **entered in the South Australian Heritage Register**
- **entered in the heritage registers of jurisdictions**

Schools are extensively represented in South Australia's heritage registers, with 116 entered in the South Australian Heritage Register, 274 included in lists of local heritage places in Council Development Plans, and 13 listed as contributory places (ie located within Historic Conservation Areas).

The Old School House, Inman Valley, including both school rooms, does not compare well with the schools already entered in the South Australian Heritage Register, which tend to be large structures or complexes that architecturally express their role in the wider community. State Heritage Places such as the Adelaide High School, the Kapunda Primary School and the Burra Community School have multiple classrooms and were able to accommodate many students from the surrounding region. The Old School

House at Inman Valley has a very simple design and catered for students in the immediate local area.

The Old School House, Inman Valley compares much better with schools included in lists of local heritage places. These schools vary in scale and architectural detailing, but tend to be similar in that they are an historic marker of education and community facilities to local settlements across the State. The Old School House, Inman Valley is such a feature to the local inhabitants of Inman Valley and surrounds.

Rarity (uniqueness) or commonness of the Place in South Australia

School Houses, such as the c1886 and 1954 Inman Valley examples, were very common in small communities across South Australia and continue to be well represented.

Assessment against Criteria (Under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*):

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the state's history.

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the provided Guidelines for State Heritage Places that note:

The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases which have played a significant part in South Australian history. Ideally it should demonstrate those associations in its fabric.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if they are of a class of things that are commonplace, or frequently replicated across the State, places associated with events of interest only to a small number of people, places associated with developments of little significance, or places only reputed to have been the scene of an event which has left no trace or which lacks substantial evidence.

The Old School House complex in Inman Valley, including the c1886 and 1954 school houses, reflect the gradual expansion of education facilities in South Australia from the late 19th century to c1970. Their designs reflect the continuing evolution of the State's expectations for the quality of school facilities, although the Old School House complex does not provide an outstanding representative of this in the context of the state's development.

The Old School House complex at Inman Valley does not meet this criterion.

(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the provided Guidelines for State Heritage Places, that note:

The place should demonstrate a way of life, social custom, industrial process or land use which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest. This encompasses both places which were always rare, and places which have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if their rarity is merely local, or if they appear rare only because research has not been done elsewhere, or if their distinguishing characteristics have been degraded or compromised, or if they are at present common and simply believed to be in danger of becoming rare in future.

Historic school buildings and residences are extensively represented in South Australia's heritage registers. The school complex in Inman Valley is not rare or uncommon.

The Old School House complex at Inman Valley does not meet this criterion.

(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the state's history, including its natural history.

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the provided Guidelines for State Heritage Places, that note:

The place should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The information should be inherent in the fabric of the place. The place may be a standing structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological site.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion simply because they are believed to contain archaeological or palaeontological deposits. There must be good reasons to suppose the site is of value for research, and that useful information will emerge. A place that will yield the same information as many other places, or information that could be obtained as readily from documentary sources, may not be eligible.

The c1886 Old School House at Inman Valley has been altered to suit its current residential use. Both the c1886 and the 1954 school houses are typical examples

of their respective period and will yield the same information as many other heritage-listed school buildings throughout South Australia.

The Old School House complex at Inman Valley does not meet this criterion.

(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the provided Guidelines for State Heritage Places, that note:

The place should be capable of providing understanding of the category of places which it represents. It should be typical of a wider range of such places, and in a good state of integrity, that is, still faithfully presenting its historical message.

Places will not be considered simply because they are members of a class, they must be both notable examples and well-preserved. Places will be excluded if their characteristics do not clearly typify the class, or if they were very like many other places, or if their representative qualities had been degraded or lost. However, places will not be excluded from the Register merely because other similar places are included.

Both the c1886 and the 1954 school houses are typical examples of small school houses of their period and are not an outstanding representative of this class. The c1886 school house has been partially altered internally, removing some of its historic features. The 1954 classroom, while largely intact and in good condition, has a simple exterior design with few features to distinguish it as a classroom. Its interior fit out is common in classrooms across the state.

The Old School House complex at Inman Valley does not meet this criterion.

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the provided Guidelines for State Heritage Places, that note:

The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its time. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly shows them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.

Places would not normally be considered under this criterion if their

degree of achievement could not be demonstrated, or where their integrity was diminished so that the achievement, while documented, was no longer apparent in the place, or simply because they were the work of a designer who demonstrated innovation elsewhere.

Both the c1886 and 1954 school houses have simple designs and do not demonstrate a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or are an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics for their time.

The Old School House complex at Inman Valley does not meet this criterion.

(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the provided Guidelines for State Heritage Places, that note:

The place should be one which the community or a significant cultural group have held in high regard for an extended period. This must be much stronger than people's normal attachment to their surroundings. The association may in some instances be in folklore rather than in reality.

Places will not be considered if their associations are commonplace by nature, or of recent origin, or recognised only by a small number of people, or not held very strongly, or held by a group not widely recognised, or cannot be demonstrated satisfactorily to others.

The Old School House complex in Inman Valley may have a special association with the local Inman Valley community but not with the wider community of South Australia.

The Old School House complex at Inman Valley does not meet this criterion.

(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the provided Guidelines for State Heritage Places, that note:

The place must have a close association with a person or group which played a significant part in past events, and that association should be demonstrated in the fabric of the place. The product of a creative person, or the workplace of a person whose contribution was in industry, would be more closely associated with the person's work than

would his or her home. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why one place is more significant than others.

Places will not generally be considered under this criterion if they have only a brief, incidental or distant association, or if they are associated with persons or groups of little significance, or if they are associated with an event which has left no trace, or if a similar association could be claimed for many places, or if the association cannot be demonstrated. Generally the home or the grave of a notable person will not be entered in the Register unless it has some distinctive attribute, or there is no other physical evidence of the person's life or career in existence.

The Old School House complex in Inman Valley does not have a special association with a person, organisation or event of historical importance.

The Old School House complex at Inman Valley does not meet this criterion.

Extent of Listing / Significant Fabric / Curtilage:

The extent of listing includes:

Not Applicable

The extent of listing excludes:

Not Applicable

REFERENCES:

Nunn, Joy L, *Schools of the Western Fleurieu Peninsula: 125 years, 1856-1981* (Yankalilla Area School Library local history collection, SA 1981)

Files of the State Heritage Unit, DEWNR

Photographic collection of Yvonne Hampton and Frances McFurler

NAME: Old School House complex, Inman Valley **PLACE NO.:** 26451

SITE RECORD:

FORMER NAME: Inman Valley School

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE: c.1886 School House/Residence and 1954 School House

DATE OF COMPLETION: c.1886 & 1954

REGISTER STATUS: **Description:** Nominated
Date: 10 February 2015

CURRENT USE: **Description:** Residence
Dates: 1970 - 2015

PREVIOUS USE(S): **Description:** School
Dates: 1886 - 1970

ARCHITECT: **Name:** Unknown
Dates: c.1886

BUILDER: **Name:** Unknown
Dates: c.1886

SUBJECT INDEXING: **Group:** Education
Category: Primary School

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: **Description:** District Council of Yankalilla

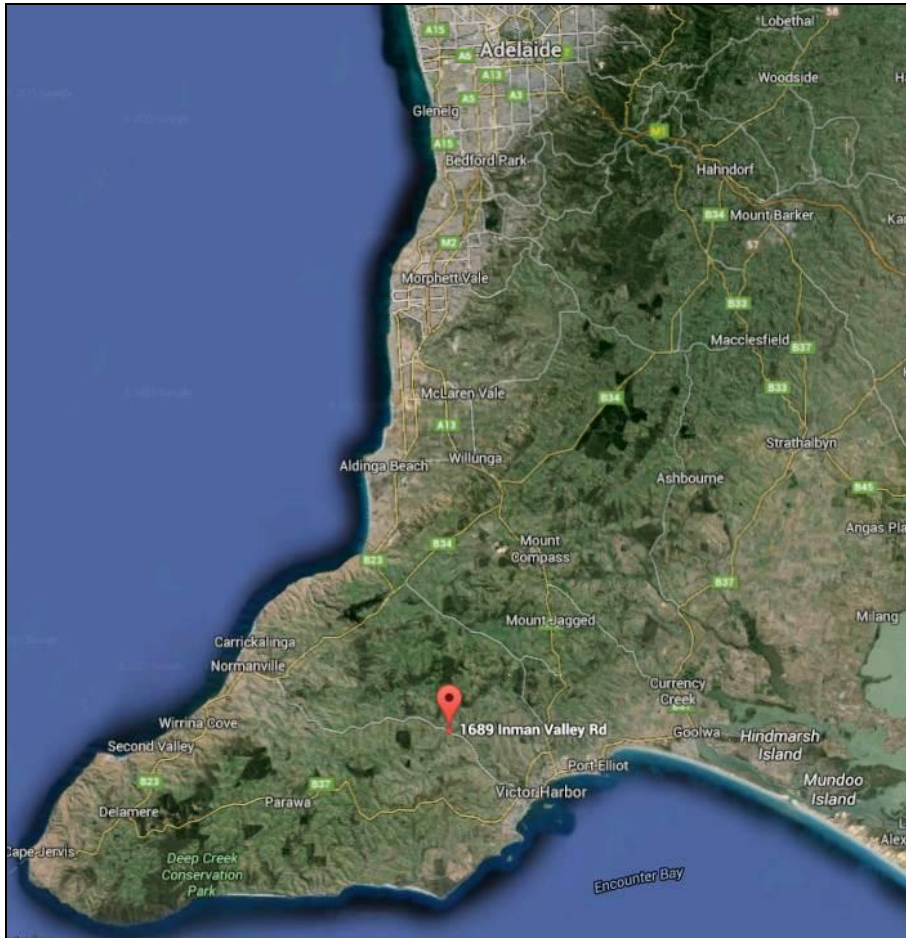
LOCATION: **Unit No.:** Not Applicable
Street No.: 1689
Street Name: Inman Valley Road
Town/Suburb: Inman Valley
Post Code: 5211

LAND DESCRIPTION: **Title Type:** CT
Volume: 6133
Folio: 225
Lot No.: 267
Section: Filed Plan 164986
Hundred: Yanklilla

OWNER:



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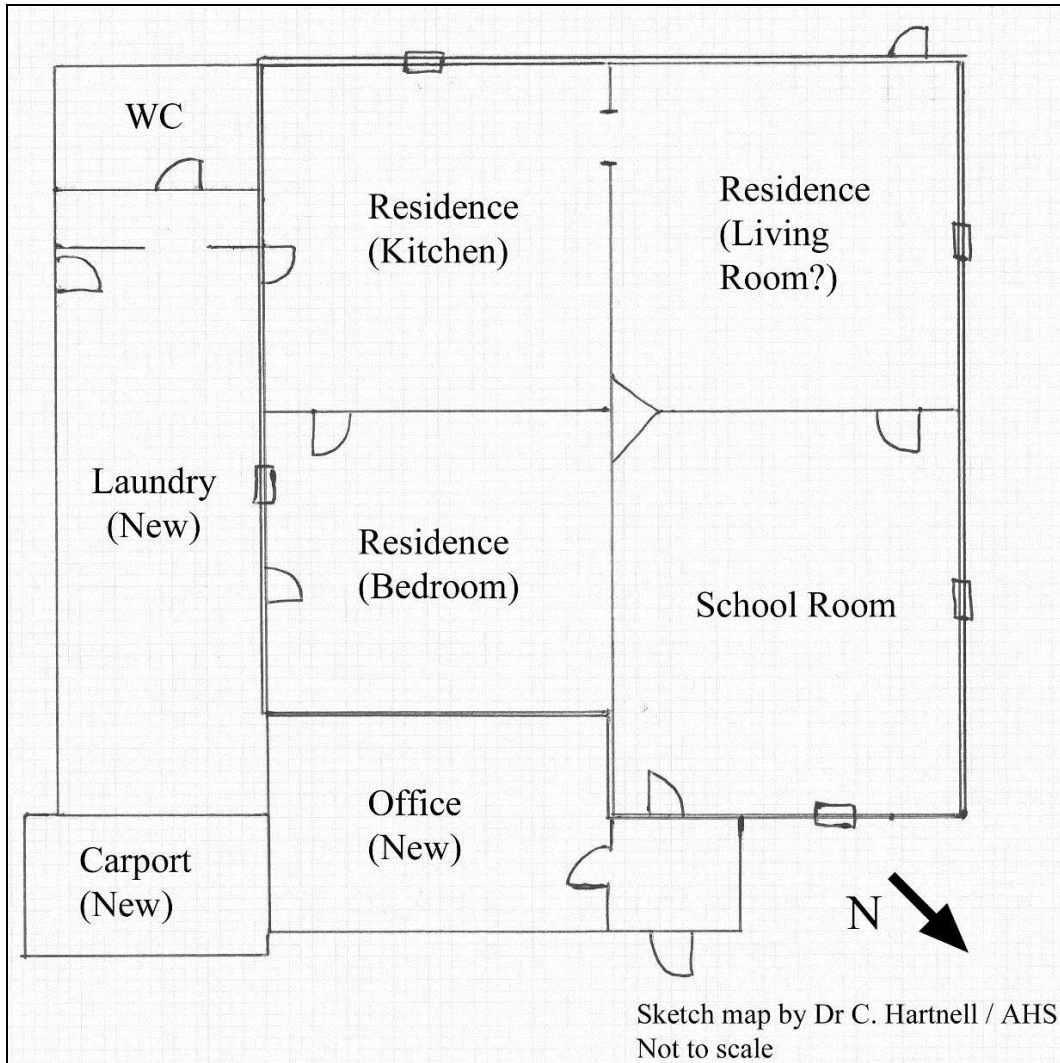
**Location of the Old School House,
1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley (shown as a red dot)**

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Site Plan of the Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley
[Using DEWNR satellite imagery]

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Sketch Plan of the c.1886 School House, Inman Valley (2015)

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Old School House, Inman Valley (1920), looking west
[Printed with permission and thanks to Yvonne Hampton and Frances McFurler]



School kids posing near of the c.1886 Old School House, Inman Valley (Undated)
[Printed with permission and thanks to Yvonne Hampton and Frances McFurler]

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Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking north
[The c.1886 school house is on the right, the 1954 school house, centre back
and 1970s backpackers is on the left.]

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Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking south
[View of c.1886 School House]



Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking west
[View of c.1886 School House, including a number of additions]

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Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking east
[View of the interior of c.1886 School Room]



Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking east
[View of the fireplace of c.1886 School Room, which was significantly altered]

after the School House became a residence]

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Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley
[View of the interior of kitchen within the original residence of the c.1886 School House.
The internal fittings and layout has been significantly altered to meet modern residential expectations]

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Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking north
[View of the 1954 School House]



Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking south
[View of the 1954 School House]

NAME: Old School House complex, Inman Valley **PLACE NO.:** 26451



Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking east
[View of the interior of the large School Room in the 1954 School House]



Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking east
[View of the interior of the Lunchroom in the 1954 School House, altered to become a spare bedroom]

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Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking north
[View of the 1960s former backpackers' hostel]



Old School House complex, 1689 Inman Valley Road, Inman Valley, looking west
[View of the new shed]