

(Map 2) This map was given to the surveyor and did not have the inspector's 'blue cross' on it showing the agreed Oban Road site. The surveyor obviously concluded that he was required to survey the Williams Road site.

Inspector Dew clarified the situation for the Department in a letter dated: 29th July 1921.

"The site in Williams Road is the one that the people had in mind first, but they decided on the Oban Road site on the day of my visit. The site in Williams Road would cost more. The land in Oban Road has a fall to the West but the slope is not such as to be a serious drawback. It will facilitate drainage."⁵

In correspondence with the Public Works Department on the 24th February 1922 the secretary of the Education Department advised that the transfer of land for the Ringwood North school was registered, the name of the vendor being Mr Willie S Williams and that the land was a gift,⁶ precise survey measurements being provided by the Public Works Department Plan of Part of Portion 24, Parish of Warrandyte. (Figure 3) On 9 March 1922, the Minister for Education approved an expenditure of £675 for building a school house to accommodate forty students.

From the time Mr Williams' donation of land to the Department was registered, to the time the new school opened, some twenty months elapsed. In an article published in the Melbourne Age an 'anxious parent' wrote of the frustration at the delay in having the school erected on the agreed site. "The need of a school has been more severely felt than ever...if the school opened tomorrow there would be an attendance of fully 80 children."⁷ The Department reacted to the article by detailing the time-frame and action taken to respond to the need for a school the same day. In its response, the Department stated: "This is one among many cases in which the Minister has authorised the erection of new school buildings and as far as possible, these works are being carried out in their order of urgency."⁸

The Minister for Education, Sir Alexander Peacock advised local member Everard on 9 April that tenders for the new school house at Ringwood North had been advertised in the Government Gazette.⁹

E.S. Murray won the tender and erected a single-room weatherboard structure measuring twenty-one feet, six inches by twenty-one feet. The final cost in erecting the building was £671.10.0 with fencing and outoffices. It was designed to accommodate 55 children on the basis of 10 sq.ft per child or 45 children in dual desks. The school committee also requested that a shelter or annex be erected "in some way" to protect children from the weather. This was placed on the west side of

⁵ School Building Files,(VPRS: 795, Box 2970), Dew to the Director, Education Department, 29 July 1921

⁶ School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970), Secretary, Public Works Department to Secretary, Education Department, 24 February 1922.

⁷ The Melbourne Age, 30 October 1922.

⁸ Education Department's reply published in the Melbourne Age; 2 November 1922.

⁹ School Building Files, (VPRS: 795, Box 2970)