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# PENSHURST HOTEL



23200 Penshurst Hotel and War Memorial 0881



23200 Penshurst Hotel Bell Stables 0811



23200 Penshurst War Memorial 0071

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## Location

92 Bell Street N-E corner Martin and Bell Streets PENSHURST, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 26, 2003

What is significant?

The Penshurst Hotel is located on the north east corner of the main crossroads at the centre of the township of Penshurst. The hotel is a two-storey bluestone building with elevations to both Martin and Bell Streets. The building has had the original verandah removed and several unsympathetic additions, including a brick porch to the west and a concrete block extension to the south-east of the main wing. The public bar has been altered internally. The ruins of substantial stables, apparently of two-storeys, survive in the rear yard. The Penshurst Hotel is believed to have been built in the 1850s, although the architect and builder are unknown. The building is in fair condition, although the interiors have been substantially altered, and the integrity has been compromised by unsympathetic additions and the removal of timber and iron verandah.

How is it significant?

The Penshurst Hotel is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Penshurst and to the Shire of

Southern Grampians.

Why is it significant? The Penshurst Hotel is of historical significance as the only surviving hotel in Penshurst, which at the turn of the century boasted six or seven hotels. It is an important remnant of an earlier, more prosperous period in the history of the town. Its position on a prominent in the absolute centre of town, opposite the important civic buildings such as the court house and post office indicates the importance of the hotel since the 1850s.

The Penshurst Hotel is of architectural significance as rare surviving example of a two storey bluestone hotel dating from the 1850s.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1850,
Hermes Number	23200
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The building is in sound structural condition but has been compromised by the removal of the windows, the demolition of the verandah and the construction of the concrete block extension.

## Physical Description 1

The Penshurst Hotel is a two-storey bluestone building with elevations to both Martin and Bell Streets. The original timber window frames and sashes have been replaced with green powder-coated aluminium windows. The cast iron and timber verandah, which was probably added some time after the original construction and appears in old photographs, was demolished after the Second World War, but evidence in the walls survives. A brick porch has been added on the west side of the building, and a concrete block extension has been added to the south-east of the main wing. The public bar has been altered internally. (The other interiors have not been inspected.) The ruins of substantial stables, apparently of two-storeys, survive in the rear yard.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies  
3.22 Lodging people

Theme 8: Developing Australia's Cultural Life  
8.4 Eating and drinking

## Usage/Former Usage

Continuing as a hotel.

## Integrity

Fair degree of integrity apart from replacement of windows, missing two storey cast iron verandah and additions on west and south-east elevations.

## Physical Description 2

William Murphy, first licensee and owner.  
John Earls, sometime owner and licensee  
John Buchanan Morris, licensee

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*