
PENSHURST FREE PRESS (FORMER)



23333 Free Press Building 90
Bell St Penshurst 0800



23333 Free Press Building 90
Bell St Penshurst 0802



23333 Free Press Building 90
Bell St Penshurst 0801

Location

90 Bell Street, PENSHURST VIC 3289 - Property No 0028

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 15, 2003

What is Significant?

The former Penshurst Free Press building is located on the north side of Bell Street between Martin and French Streets in the centre of the township of Penshurst. The building takes the form of a single storey symmetrical red brick structure in the Edwardian Free Classical style. It has relatively small shop windows, divided into four panes and a glazed timber front door. From 1902 to 1930, the building was used as a Butcher's Shop, first by Joseph O'Brien, and later by Ross & Clark's butcheries. After this, it operated as the Penshurst Free Press Printing office, where the townships only paper was produced between 1930-1980. After the Penshurst Free Press stopped operating, the old press was sold to the Ballarat Museum, and the shop was sold to the Southern Grampians Shire Council. No architect or builder has been associated with the building. The former Penshurst Free Press building is in excellent condition, and retains a very high degree of integrity both externally and internally.

How is it Significant?

The former Penshurst Free Press building is of architectural and historical significance to the township of Penshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The building is of architectural significance as a rare surviving example of an Edwardian Free Classical shop which survives in excellent condition with a very good degree of integrity to its construction date. The building is of historical significance for it uses as a butcher shop, and for its use as the offices of Penshurst's only newspaper, the Penshurst Free Press for over 50 years. Of further historical significance is the changing use of the building, which reflects the changing social and economic focus of the township in the twentieth century, moving away from a community which shopped locally, to the provision of community services.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1900,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	BUTCHER'S SHOP (FORMER),
Hermes Number	23333
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The building is in excellent condition.

Physical Description 1

The former Penshurst Free Press building is a single storey symmetrical red brick building with relatively small shop windows and a glazed timber front door. The doorway is recessed and has been modified on one side to enlarge it. The double hung sash windows are divided into four panes and have bluestone sills. There is a bullnose verandah supported on cast iron columns with limited cast iron decoration. The columns are cast with a plant motif twisting round the shaft. The spandrels of the verandah are filled with vertical boarding. The facade is completed by a simple parapet incorporating a central pediment and end piers. There is limited use of cement render on the parapet as an intermediate cornice and coping cornice. The building included particular details which indicate its former use as a butcher's shop. The a cool room at the rear of the main shop has been removed.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.12 Feeding people

3.12.5 Retailing foods and beverages

3.19 Marketing and Retailing

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.4 Eating and drinking

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

Usage/Former Usage

vacant

Integrity

Very high degree of integrity externally and internally.

Physical Description 2

Joseph O'Brien, butcher and former owner [but double check against rate books.]

Ross and Clark's, butchers

Ross Family, publishers of the Free Press from 1945 to 1980

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/>