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## ST MARTIN'S PRIVATE HOSPITAL (FORMER)



23361 St Martin's Private  
Hospital 89 Cobb St  
Penshurst 1532



23361 St Andrews Manse  
former Martin St Penshurst  
0854

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### Location

89 Cobb Street, PENSHURST VIC 3289 - Property No 0112

### 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 - December 19, 2003

What is significant?

The former St Martin's Private Hospital is located on Cobb Street, on the south side approximately 33m east of the intersection with Martin Street on the southern side of the township of Penshurst. The building is a single storey, double fronted timber house, which has been surfaced with artificial brick cladding in recent years. The building has been extended on both sides, with the addition of extra rooms, at various times in the 20th century. There has been no architect or builder associated with the building, and it is in good condition with a fair degree of integrity, due to the loss of the original verandah.

How is it significant?

St Martin's Private Hospital (former) is of contributory historical significance to the precinct of Penshurst.

Why is it significant?

St Martin's Private Hospital (former) is of historical significance because it provided medical support over several generations to the community of Penshurst and, in particular, it was the place where most people were born. It is of further historical significance for its association with Doctor Janet Paterson Watt, who served in the area for many years, and was unusual as a woman in her profession in the mid twentieth century (especially in a small community). The hospital is of further historical significance as it provides evidence of a past way of life, where private hospitals were housed in residential buildings.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1911,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23361
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The building is in good condition.

## Physical Description 1

The former St Martin's Private Hospital at 89 Cobb Street Penshurst is a single storey, double fronted timber house with a corrugated iron roof. The house has been surfaced with artificial brick cladding in recent years. The building has been extended on both sides, with the addition of extra rooms, at various times in the 20th century. An early 20th century photograph shows decorative timber work on the verandah and in the apex of the front gable, all of which has been removed.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.26 Providing Health Services

3.26.2 Providing hospital services

## Usage/Former Usage

Residential

## Integrity

The building's integrity is only fair, with the loss of original decorative timber work, the false brick cladding, and the accretion of unsympathetic alterations during the 20th century.

## Physical Description 2

Sister McKechnie, nurse

Dr Janet Patterson Watt, medical practitioner

Sister O'Brien, nurse

*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/>*