
BEHNKE'S STONEMASON'S YARD AND COTTAGE

Location

51 Martin Street, PENSHURST VIC 3289 - Property No 0030

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 13, 2004

What is significant?

Behnke's Stonemason's Yard, located on the Hamilton Highway on the western edge of Penshurst opposite the Botanic Gardens and permanent spring, has always been associated with families in the construction industry. It began as the yard of carpenters and builders, the Gunn family. One descendent, Graeme Gunn became a highly regarded and award winning Melbourne architect in the second half of the twentieth century. Subsequently it became a plumber's and builder's yard, the last being the partnership of the McNiece and Hatherell families who moved to another site after the Second World War. From the early 1950s, the yard was owned and occupied by the Behnke family who were stonemasons as well as general building contractors.

How is it significant?

Behnke's Stonemason's Yard is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Penshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Behnke's Stonemason's Yard is of historical significance to the township of Penshurst as a representation of the building industry in general and particularly of the stonemason's trade, which was of critical important from the earliest times. It is of historical significance as the best physical reminder in the study area of that trade, which is now little supported. It is of architectural significance for its long-term connection with the construction industry.

Construction dates	1872,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23367
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The cottage and sheds are in fair condition.

Physical Description 1

There is a small bluestone cottage towards the north-west corner of the site on the street boundary. From its form, scale, materials and detailing this appears to date from the earliest period. It is not occupied and appears not to have been used as a residence for a long time. Behind the cottage there are extensive modern sheds and substantial plant for storing and processing stone. Near the cottage and along the street frontage there are various samples of stone masonry.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

Usage/Former Usage

stonemason's yard

Integrity

Excellent degree of integrity

Physical Description 2

The Gunn family, carpenters and contractors
The Edlich family, blacksmiths and coach builders
The McNiece family, plumbers
The Hatherell family, master builders
The Behnke family, contractors and stonemasons

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/>