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# PENSHURST FLAX MILL



23375 Flax Mill Penshurst  
1020



23375 Flax Mill Penshurst  
1019



23375 Flax Mill Penshurst  
1018



23375 Flax Mill Penshurst  
1021

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## Location

Penshurst-Dunkeld Road 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 - December 19, 2003

What is significant?

The Penshurst Flax Mill is located on the east side of the Penshurst-Dunkeld Road about 1.0kms north of the township. Although the complex at its peak had a number of buildings over the site, only two adjacent structures survive from the original complex. The original function of the remaining structures is not certain. Both are two storey, timber-framed and corrugated iron clad buildings. The Penshurst Flax Mill was set up as a temporary, subsidiary of the successful Strathkellar in 1940, and the complex began permanently in 1944. The Flax Mill employed fifty people on a full time basis, and at times employed an extra 50 casual staff. The Mill closed in 1951, and has been disused since this time. The building was burnt recently. The buildings are in poor, ruinous condition, but retain a fair degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Penshurst Flax Mill is of historical significance to the township of Penshurst and the Shire of Southern Grampians.

Why is it significant?

The Penshurst Flax Mill is of historical significance as it represents the Australian Government's desire to move toward self sufficiency in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The Mill was developed as a subsidiary of the successful Strathkellar Flax Mill, which it should be viewed in relation to. The Mill is of further historical significance as the major employer in the township for 10 years, between 1940-51. The mill is also of significance as it represents an industry which, although short lived, was an extremely important part of the township and surrounding area.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1944,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23375
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

Seriously compromised by the loss of the other buildings in the complex.

## Physical Description 1

The former Penshurst Flax Mill is located on the Dunkeld-Penshurst Road, approximately one kilometre from the centre of two structures survive from the original complex. The original function of the buildings is not certain. They are both two storey, timber-framed and corrugated iron clad buildings. The windows are large and of an industrial design. The buildings were burnt recently, and are now in a ruinous condition.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

3.8 Moving goods and people

3.13 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life  
8.10 Pursuing excellence in the arts and science  
8.10.5 Advancing knowledge in science and technology

### **Usage/Former Usage**

Abandoned

### **Integrity**

poor degree of integrity especially following fire.

### **Physical Description 2**

Mr. Bruce Hogg, director of Flax Fibres Pty. Ltd.  
Mr. A A Lee, Inspector of Agriculture (in charge of Flax Section)  
Mr. W B Miller, Senior Inspector of Agriculture

*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/>*