

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MADIGAN'S STORE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Martin & Bell Streets PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 240

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: PENSURST STORE; OLLE'S STORE

PRECINCT: Penshurst

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 2 **SECTION:** 13 **PARISH:** PARISH OF BORAMBORAM

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475J C11; VicRoads 233 O11; located at the south-west corner of the intersection of Martin and Bell Streets in the centre of the township.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Madigan's Store Martin St, Penshurst

Image Date: 13/02/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings (excluding the interiors) and all of the land, being allotment 2, Section 13, Township of Penshurst.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Madigan's Store is a typical single storey general store. The walls throughout are in coursed rockfaced bluestone. It has a bullnose verandah supported by and partly cantilevered from timber posts. The façade, which faces east on Martin Street, includes two entrances with substantial timber doors and five double-hung two-paned (possibly modified) sash windows. These openings have simple architraves, shallow segmental arches and keystones all in painted render. The parapet is very simply detailed in an abstracted Classical style with a shallow pediment supported by consoles. It includes the words 'Penshurst Store, est. 1867'. The frieze below is painted with the words 'General - T. Madigan - Merchant'. The side of north elevation on Bell Street has a side entrance, possibly for the residence, and a twelve-paned double hung sash window. These openings also have simple architraves, shallow segmental arches and keystones all in painted render. At the rear, and associated with the residence, there is a bluestone chimney with a distinctive flared capping. The roof is corrugated iron. [The interiors have not been inspected.]

HISTORY:

The land on which Madigan's Store stands, Allotment 2 of Section 13 of the Township of Penshurst, was purchased from the Crown by J. Blair on February 12th 1858 (Department of Lands and Survey, 1957). The purchaser was most likely to be James Blair who was the first Police Magistrate for Portland, a Crown Lands Commissioner and one of the most important public servants in the Western District. It is not known if it was he who first developed the site, although it is unlikely since he purchased many blocks in Penshurst and other towns.

The general store now known as Madigan's was built in 1863, according to its pediment, a time when Penshurst was consolidating as a town with the construction of several substantial buildings including the Shire of Mount Rouse Council Chambers, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church and St Joseph's Catholic Church, all in Martin Street. There were four general and other produce stores in Penshurst with interconnections according to shared staff and ownership.

The first important owner of the general store appears to have been John Earls, trading as John Earls and Co. He had other business interests in association with William Hoare, storekeeper, and William Murphy, publican and farmer. (SMR RB 1871 #302.) One of his staff was Harry Olle, a young Englishman who had arrived at Penshurst with his parents in 1857. (V&IM, Vol. 2, p. 66.) After several years drifting across western Victoria, including time with other general stores in Hamilton and Horsham, and on the Ararat diggings with his brother, Harry Olle returned to Earls' employment. Then he leased separate premises and went into business for himself, eventually purchasing the property at 108 Bell Street, now known as Penshurst Motors. But by 1900, Harry Olle, storekeeper is also rated as the occupier of the store and premises at the corner of Martin and Bell Street when it was owned by John Ritchie. (SMR RB 1900 # 428.) The Olle family was one of the largest and most successful in the town.

Another important family, the Madigan's, was associated with this site from the beginning of the twentieth century. Ellen Madigan, and eventually her estate, is consistently rated as the owner although her husband Timothy Madigan is sometimes listed as a joint owner. (SMR RB 1906 #473 and 1920 #609.) Timothy Madigan is consistently listed as the occupant of the general store although his son, Jack Madigan, described as an agent, is also listed as operating a motor garage on the site from about 1925. (SMR RB 1925 #630.) It seems that the motor garage had been established by Thomas Hill in 1920 before he moved to his own premises at 108 Bell Street, now Penshurst Motors. (SMR RB 1920 #549.) An undated photograph from the early 20th century shows that three timber shops were erected on land between the bluestone store and Malcolm's Produce Store, facing Martin Street. It is believed that these shops housed a bootmaker and a Dalgety agency, before they became Ryan's motor garage for several years until burnt down (Mrs. C

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Kinnealy, pers Comm.).

For a short time, a journalist, Joseph John Turrell leased an office which may have been part of the general store building. (SMR RB 1930 #760.)

Mr. Madigan regularly organised the showing of films at the Mechanics Institute adjacent to the Shire Chambers, now incorporated into the Public Hall. Alfred Baulch appears briefly as the occupant of the general store in the Depression years when Ellen and Timothy Madigan retired to live in Caulfield. (SMR RB 1930 #405.) She died in 1940 and he died in 1941. Both are buried in the Boram Boram cemetery. Their daughter Alma Madigan ran the general store until at least the late 1970s. (SMR RB 1977 #1156.)

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.8 Moving goods and people on land

3.8.8 Getting fuel to engines

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

CONDITION:

The building is in excellent condition.

INTEGRITY:

Excellent degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Madigan's Store is a typical single storey bluestone general store designed in the Free Classical style. It is located at the very heart of the township of Peshurst, where two main transport routes, Martin and Bell Streets intersect. The façade of the store faces east to Martin Street, and includes two entrances with substantial timber doors and five double-hung two-paned (possibly modified) sash windows. The side of north elevation on Bell Street has a side entrance, possibly for the residence, and a twelve-paned double hung sash window. The location has had a long association with commercial enterprise from the earliest days of the township for well over 100 years. The original purchaser was James Blair, the first Police Magistrate for Portland, a Crown Lands Commissioner and one of the most important public servants in the Western District. It is not know if there were former commercial premises on the site. The building was constructed in 1863, for John Earls, trading as John Earls and Co. No architect or builder has been identified. Several important families have been associated with the General Store other than the Earls family. Harry Olle (a member of possibly the largest and most important commercial family in the town) initially worked for John Earls and later took over the store. The Madigan's (another important and influential family) was associated with this site from the beginning of the twentieth century. Although it has consistently been used as a store, for a short period in the 1920s, the store was used as a motor garage. The building is in excellent condition and retains a very high degree of integrity.

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How is it significant?

Madigan's Store is of historical and architectural significance to the Southern Grampians shire and the township of Peshurst.

Why is it significant?

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Madigan's Store is of architectural significance as a fine example of the Victorian period Free Classical style. The masonry and detailing of the building enhance the architectural significance of the building. Madigan's Store is of historical significance as the site of commercial activity for over 100 years. Of further historical significance is the store and the site's association with very distinguished individuals and successful families, including James Blair, Police Magistrate, the Earls family, the Olle family and the Madigan family. The location of the building on the corner of the main intersection of the town, through which the main Hamilton-Melbourne and Hamilton - Warrnambool transport routes passed is of further historical significance as it demonstrates Peshurst's role in the development of a local and regional economy. The central location of the store also re-inforces the role which Peshurst played as a central meeting point, commercial centre and seat of local government.

COMPARISON:

259 Pair of Shops, Martin and Bell Streets, Peshurst

093 Saddler's Shop (Former), 75 Bell Street, Peshurst

282 Malcolm's Produce Store (Former), Martin Street, Peshurst

249 Butcher's Shop, 90 Bell Street, Peshurst

278 Cook and O'Connor Supermarket (Former), 110 Bell Street, Peshurst

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE: 19/05/2002

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Alexander Sutherland	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol 2	1888	66
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Peshurst, Parishes of Boram Boram and Yalimba, County of Villiers	1957	
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1977	1977	#1156
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1925	1925	#630
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1920	1920	#609 & 549
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1906	1906	#473
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1900	1900	#428
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1871	1871	#302
Surveyor General's Office Melbourne	Suburban and Country Lands and the Thownship of Peshurst near Mount Rouse in the Parishes of Yalimba and BoramBoram, County of Villiers	1855	