

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** PENSURST MOTORS

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 106 Bell Street PENSURST

**STUDY NUMBER:** 252      **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** OLLE'S GENERAL STORE; HILL'S MOTOR GARAGE

**PRECINCT:** Penshurst

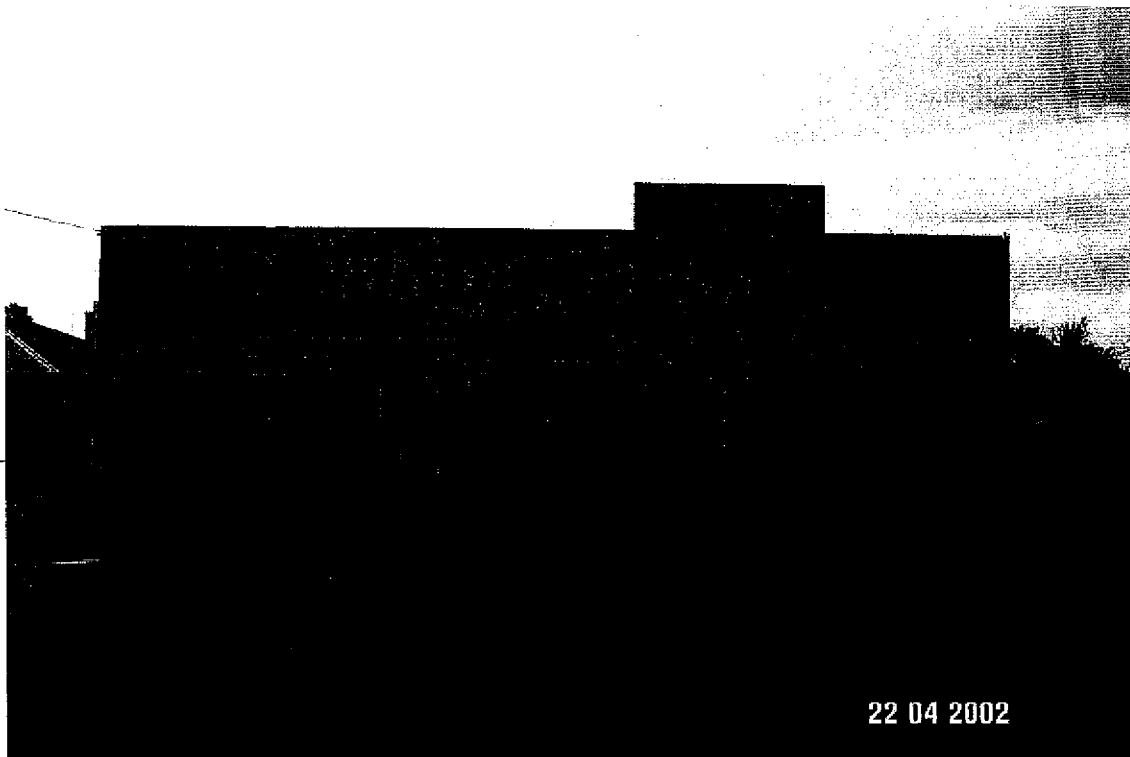
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 7      **SECTION:** 18      **PARISH:** PARISH OF BORAMBORAM

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

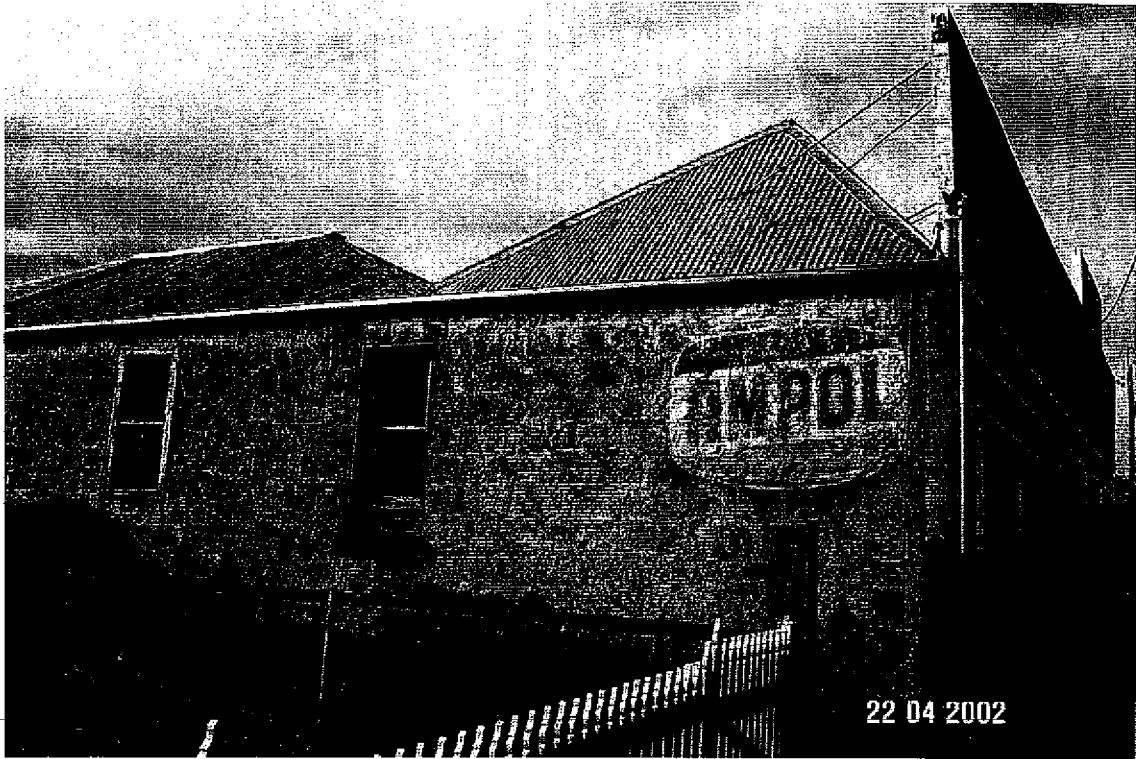
CFA 475J C11; VicRoads 233 O11; located on the north side of Bell Burchett and Martin Streets in the centre of the township.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Penshurst Motors 106 Bell St, Penshurst

**Image Date:** 22/04/02



Penshurst Motors 106 Bell St, Penshurst, REAR

**Image Date:** 22/04/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings, excluding the interiors, and the whole of the allotment, being allotment 7 of Section 18 in the Township of Penshurst.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The building which houses Penshurst Motors consists of large stone buildings with which appear to date from the 1860s (but may be later) and which are now much altered at the front, probably as late as the 1960s. The buildings have newer corrugated iron roofs. The façade of Penshurst Motors is in two parts. The western section is a display room with a symmetrical arrangement about a double-leaved glazed door, slightly recessed, with plate glass windows on either side. The windows may date from an earlier period. The eastern section includes three large openings two of which are glazed and one of which acts as the entrance to the work shop. One parapet unites the façade but is centred over the workshop rather than the display room. There is a single petrol pump in the street at the gutter line. The side walls are of limewashed rock faced bluestone laid in 12" courses and pointed on the west side. The western wall has two window openings which are finely dressed with chiselled edges but with modern double hung sash windows. An office with service counter divides the display area from the workshop. The main workshop is a large open space under a timber trussed roof. Faded advertisements for Ampol painted onto the bluestone survive on the east and west walls.

## **HISTORY:**

The land on which Penshurst Motors stands was purchased from the Crown on 4th September 1852 by a T. Adamson (Department of Lands and Survey, 1957). The stone walls appear to date from the 1860s (but may be either earlier or later). The site may have been associated with the Hamilton to Hexham mail service. This was operated by Saunders' mail Coaches and later by Cobb & Co.

In the 1880s, there was a general store on the site owned by a Mrs. Bond which Harry Olle leased when he commenced in business on his own account. Harry Olle had come from England to Penshurst, via Port Fairy with his parents in 1857 (Sutherland, Vol. 2, 66.) He worked at first for John Earls and Co. 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 went into business for himself, eventually purchasing the property at 106 Bell Street, now known as Penshurst Motors. (SMR RB 1905 # 518.) 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.

For a short time, about 1920, Olle's General Store was occupied by John Cook and owned by Julia Cook. (SMR RB 1920 # 472) But then it was taken over by Thomas William Hill, a motor mechanic who had been running a service station from Madigan's General Store. (SMR RB 1921 # 542) In his memoirs, Jack Chesswas who was a boy at the time, recalls "Tom Hill bought Olle's General Store and turned it into Penshurst Motors." Hill did remodel the store substantially by removing the verandah and by painting the parapet with the words in large lettering "Hill's Motors". Hill continued to own the building but his occupation of it was brief, moving his business to Warrnambool perhaps because his wife, Mary Ann had just died. (SMR RB 1922 # 555) It was run as a motor garage for one year by Capes and Co. and for a few years by William French, who is described as a dairyman at the time. (SMR RB 1922 # 450 and 1923 # 535) By 1930, it was run by Ray Schramm, a mechanic who was soon to have a business in his own right next to the Penshurst Hotel. (SMR RB 1930 # 752.) The complex continued to be used in association with road transport until it became vacant recently. It has been modernised by post World War Two alterations which have kept the carcass of the building and the original footprint but changed the fenestration.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies  
3.8 Moving goods and people on land

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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 buildings are in a sound condition structurally but only fair condition overall.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Exteriors retain a fair degree of integrity, other than the façade which has been significantly altered.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

Penshurst Motors is located on the north side of Bell Street between Burchett and Martin Streets in the centre of the township of Penshurst. The structure is comprised of large stone buildings with which appear to date from the 1860s, which are now much altered at the front, probably as late as the 1960s. The buildings have newer corrugated iron roofs. The façade of Penshurst Motors is in two parts. The western section is a display room with a symmetrical arrangement about a double-leaved glazed door, slightly recessed, with plate glass windows on either side. The building was first used to house Harry Olle's general merchant store, and later was used by others as a store. The building has been associated with transport from very early also, possibly being the stopping point for the Hamilton - Hexham postal service since the 1860s. There has been no architect or builder identified as being associated with the buildings. The buildings have been substantially altered, but are in good condition with a fair degree of integrity.

How is it significant? Penshurst Motors is of historical and architectural significance to the southern Grampians Shire and to the township of Penshurst.

Why is it significant?

Penshurst Motors is of historical significance for its demonstration of the sequence of development and adaptation on the site which has been associated with road transport from the mid-nineteenth century. It is of further historical significance for its association with the important and successful Olle family, who were involved in commercial enterprise in Penshurst from the earliest times of the township.

## **COMPARISON:**

247 Schramm's Service Station, 84 Bell Street, Penshurst  
240 Madigan's Store, Martin & Bell Streets, Penshurst  
379 Watt's Garage, 65 Whyte Street, Coleraine  
426 Garage, Martin Street, Dunkeld  
Sartain's Garage, 55 Whyte Street, Coleraine [not in Annabel database!]  
426 Motor Garage (with "Mobilgas" sign), Martin Street, Dunkeld

**ASSESSED BY:** mgt

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

22/05/2002

**EXISTING LISTINGS:**

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## 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, ed.	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol. 2A	1888	66
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Penshurst, County of Villiers	1957	
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1930	1930	#752
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1923	1923	#535
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1922	1922	#555, 450
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1921	1921	#542
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1920	1920	#472
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1900	1900	#428
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1905	1905	#518