

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** A. J. PAGE ELECTRICAL STORE

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 91a Bell Street PENSHURST

**STUDY NUMBER:** 255

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** R SCHRAMM'S GARAGE

**PRECINCT:** Penshurst

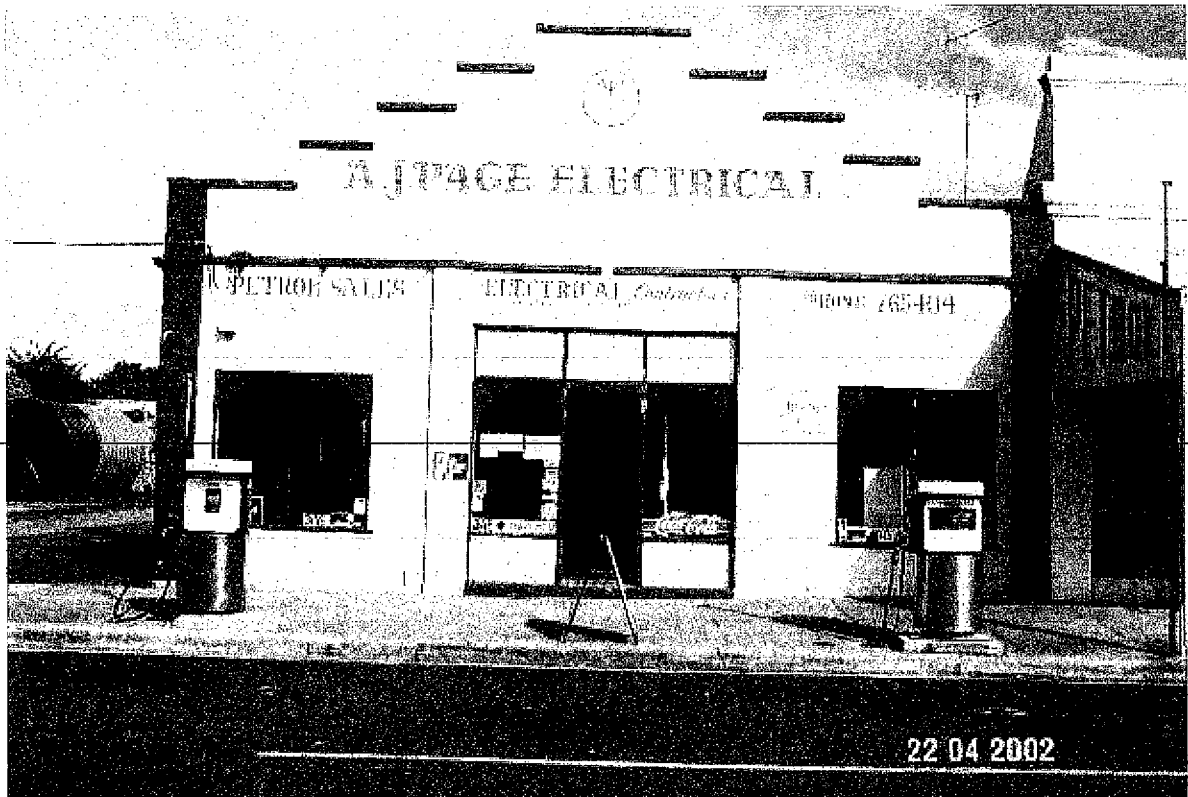
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 9      **SECTION:** 14      **PARISH:** PARISH OF YALIMBA

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 475J C11; VicRoads 233 O11; located on the south side of Bell Street, in between French & Martin Streets in the centre of the township.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



A J Page's 89 Bell St, Penshurst

**Image Date:**

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the building and all of the land, excluding the interiors.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The A. J. Page Electrical Store at 91a Bell Street, Penshurst has two parts. To the south of the site is a plain, utilitarian structure built of Mount Gambier Stone with a corrugated iron roof and a stepped pediment surmounting the façade. The eastern part of the site has a wide driveway and rear area currently used for storage. The physical layout of the site reflects its earlier use as a motor garage and workshop. The original doorway provided motor access to the garage has been infilled with a smaller modern door and glass surrounds. Large modern display windows are located on either side of the entrance. There are two symmetrical chimneys located to the front of either side of the building.

## **HISTORY:**

The land on which 91a Bell Street, Penshurst stands was originally part of a larger block, Section 14, Allotment 9. This allotment, consisting of two acres ran from the corner of Bell and Martin Streets on the south-east corner 250 chains south and 200 chains to the east. The land was purchased from the Crown on 8th September 1854 by W. McDowell (Department of Lands and Survey, 1957). McDowell does not appear to have owned any other land in Penshurst, and no mention is made of a W. McDowell in the first (1863) Shire of Mount Rouse rate books, or in later rate books.

There is no indication of what may have previously been on the site. Roy Schramm operated a motor garage and workshop at 91a Bell Street from the early twentieth century until in the late 1930s, when the shop became Schramm's Electrical. On 11th November 1936, Roy Schramm sought permission from the Mount Rouse Shire to erect an electric wire from the Hotel to the butchers shop (Mackiehan, 1964). The State Electricity Commission supply arrived in Penshurst in 1937. Murray Hedgcock (1999) recalls the arrival of mains electricity being celebrated by a grand ceremony in the Mechanics Institute, late in 1937 when the power was switched on "by a grand old lady of the district (Mary Chesswass), the street blazing into life"(p.1).

It is thought that the shop has been used as an electrical shop since the late 1930s. The shop transferred to A.J Page Electrical in the 1960s.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies  
3.19 Marketing and Retailing

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities  
4.1 Planning urban settlements

## **CONDITION:**

The condition of the store is very good.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Good degree of integrity, despite the loss of original front door and windows.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

A.J Page Electrical, located at 91a Bell Street Penshurst has a large driveway and storage area to the south and to the east, a small Mount Gambier Stone building with a corrugated iron roof with a stepped pediment in the same material. The building was used as a motor garage and workshop upto the late 1930s. The building has had some alterations, including the modern display windows set symmetrically on either side of a much altered garage door, designed for motor entry. No architect or builder has been associated with the design. The door has been filled in with display windows on either side. The building is in very good condition, and retains a good degree of integrity, despite the loss of original front door and windows.

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How is it significant?

A.J Page Electrical store is of historical significance to the Shire of Southern Grampians and the township of Penshurst.

Why is it significant?

A.J Page Electrical is of historical significance as it is the site of the first electrical connection in Penshurst. It is important for its continuing use as an Electrical store since the late 1930s. The store is the only operating electrical store and service within the township of Penshurst. The site is also of historical significance as on of the most prominent locations and earliest allotments purchased within the township, associated with the first land sales. The store is of historical significance as it is representative of the importance which the people of Penshurst placed on the arrival and continuance of electricity in the township of Penshurst. It is also of Historical significance for its association with the Schramm family, a well respected family of Penshurst.

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## COMPARISON:

253 Penshurst Motors, Bell Street, Penshurst

248 Shramms Service Station, Bell Street, Penshurst

**ASSESSED BY:** aen

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

21-May-02

## 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
	Township of Penshurst	1955	
J. Mackiehn	Shire of Mount Rouse Shire Centenary	1964	
Jack Chesswass	Memories from Penshurst's Past	2000	
Murray Hedgcock	Penshurst Revisited	1999	

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