

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BORAM BORAM CEMETERY

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Boram Boram Lane PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 262

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

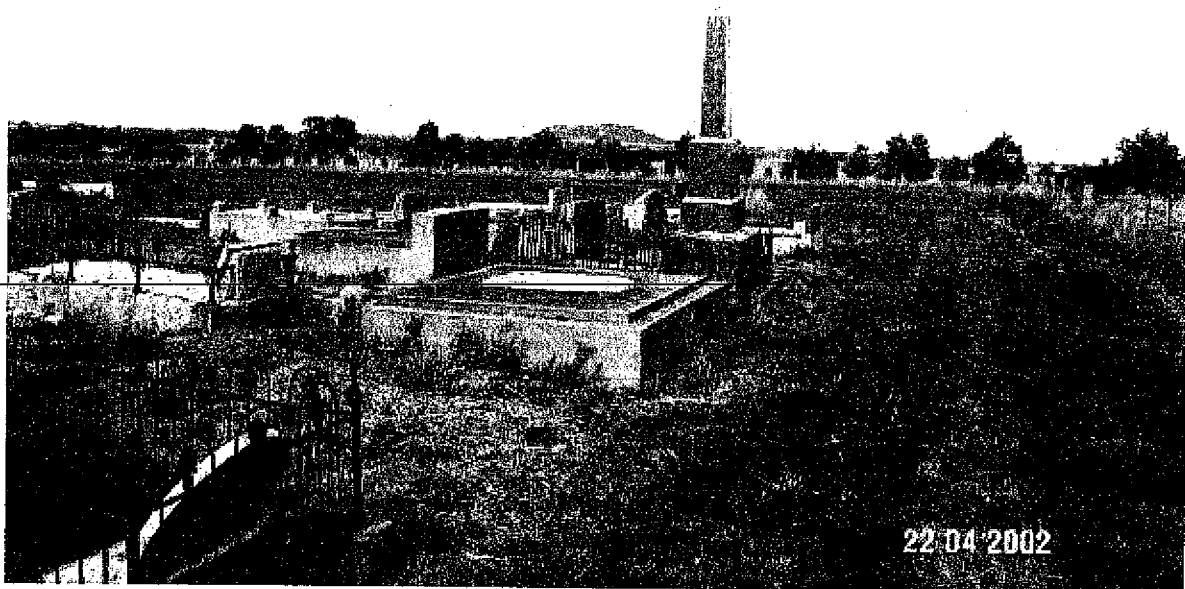
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF BORAMBORAM

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475 A14; VicRoads 73 F7; located on the south side of Boram Boram Lane off the Hamilton Highway 5.5kms north-north-west from the Penshurst PO.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Boram Boram Cemetery, Penshurst, view to Mt Rouse

Image Date: 22/04/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the graves, tombstones and other works and all of the cemetery reserve.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Boram Boram cemetery comprises 8 acres [3.2ha] and appears to be divided into denominational areas in the usual way although there are some names common to different areas. Clusters of graves are widely distributed across the whole reserve with large spaces in between.

It has the remains of a formal layout with wide serpentine paths bisected by a straight path leading from the gateway. The remains of red scoria can be seen on the paths. There are no surviving substantial plantings. The remains of one tree stump, probably a Cypress can be seen about 20m from the front gate and about 5.0m from the simple fibro-cement shed which is the only structure on the site. This shed appears to date from after the Second World War.

HISTORY:

It is not known when the Boram Boram cemetery was officially gazetted but the earliest grave located is dated 1860. The cemetery contains the graves of local pioneering families including: Eales, Chesswas, O'Brien, Olle, Barker, Waller, Ritchie, McIntyre and Kinnealy as well as many others. Perhaps the most interesting gravestone is that of the six of the seven men who were accidentally killed on the Koroit Railway on the 1st March 1890. A bronze plaque placed by the local historical society in 2000 is located close by. Interestingly there is a separate grave with an almost identical gravestone for another worker, Michael McMahon, also killed on the railway who died in July, 1890.

The passing of the English Metropolitan Internments Act granted the Board of Health in London to provide burial grounds. This seems to have influenced legislation in the Australian colonies. Cemeteries were usually developed in association with particular churches or as a result of public meetings of concerned citizens. "In 1854, an 'Act for the Establishment and Management of Cemeteries in the Colony of Victoria' was passed by the Victorian Government forming the basis of cemetery management as we know it today. The Government had the power to appoint and remove trustees and lend or pay money for the establishment of cemeteries. The trustees were charged with the responsibilities to construct structures and avenues; impose rules and regulations to manage and protect the centuries; allow ministers of religion free access and religious denominations to build mortuary chapels; have the right to veto and remove inappropriate vaults and monuments; and to keep accounts and statements (Sagazio, 13)". The passing of the 'Municipal Institutions Establishment Act' in 1854 became the basis of Victoria's local government. Local councils were given control over amenities including roads, bridges, streets, sanitation and public health. The 'Public Health Act' was also passed in 1854 and it was envisaged that local councils would also have the responsibility for management of public cemeteries. "Under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1889 the Minister for Health and the Department of Public Health became responsible for the management of cemeteries and the responsibility has remained within the Health portfolio since that time (ibid., 15)."

Most small suburban and country cemeteries were simple in layout with graves in straight lines in either a grid or a design of winding paths. The latter was an influence from English cemetery design, particularly from John Claudius Loudon, and to a lesser extent American cemetery design, from such landscape garden designers as Calvert and Vaux. Plantings were typically those with a funereal iconography such as Cupressus funebris, C. sempervirens, various Pinus species, Laurels, Yews and Junipers. Their common quality was their evergreen and sombre foliage. In special cases trees, shrubs or minor plants were planted with specific association for the deceased. Cemeteries were subdivided into sections according to the major Christian denominations. In rare cases there were also sections for non-Christians, such as the Jews.

The Boram Boram cemetery has the remains of a formal layout with wide serpentine paths bisected by a straight path leading from the gateway. There are no surviving substantial plantings.

The cemetery contains modern graves and continues to be used.

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THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 9: Marking the phases of life

9.7 Dying

9.7.1 Dealing with human remains

9.7.3 Remembering the dead

CONDITION:

The cemetery overall is in poor condition although individual graves and gravestone range in their condition from good to poor.

INTEGRITY:

high degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

How is it significant?

The Boram Boram cemetery comprises 8 acres [3.2ha] located on the south side of Boram Boram Lane off the Hamilton Highway 5.5kms north-north-west from the centre of the township of Peshurst. The cemetery takes the traditional form of denominational division, with remains of a formal layout between, being wide serpentine paths bisected by a straight path leading from the gateway. The remains of red scoria can be seen on the paths. There are no surviving substantial plantings. The earliest grave located is dated from 1860, and the cemetery contains the names of many local pioneering families. An unusual gravestone is that dedicated to six of seven men who were accidentally killed on the Koroit Railway on the 1st March 1890. Interestingly there is a separate grave with an almost identical gravestone for another worker, Michael McMahon, also killed on the railway who died in July, 1890. The cemetery overall is in poor condition although individual graves and gravestone range in their condition from good to poor.

What is significant?

The Boram Boram Cemetery is of historical significance as an enduring record of those who have lived and died in the community, as a reflection of passing phases, ways of life and death, particular events, and as a source of documentary evidence. The cemetery has further historical significance for the burials of individuals and families who made important contributions to their community, such as the Eales, Chesswas, O'Brien, Olle, Barker, Waller, Ritchie, McIntyre and Kinnealy as well as many others.

The Cemetery is of social significance for reflecting the customs and tastes of the community, for reflecting different religious values, and for reflecting different economic and social status. It is also important as a place of homage and of passive recreation. It is of architectural significance for its range of tombstones, memorials and iconography reflecting the aesthetics of different periods and groups within the community. It is also of interest for its overall design and position within the broader landscape.

COMPARISON:

135 Coleraine Cemetery, Lower Hilgay Road, Coleraine

180 Tarrayoukyan Cemetery, Tarrayoukyan Rd, Tarrayoukyan

ASSESSED BY: AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE:

16-Dec-03

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

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Author	Title	Year	Page
	'In Touch With History'	25/3/ 2000	3
Celestina Sagazio, ed.	Cemeteries, Our Heritage	1992	13, 15
