

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: SCHOOL TEACHER'S RESIDENCE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 59 Bell Street PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 274

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Penshurst

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: part 5 **SECTION:** 15 **PARISH:** PARISH OF YALIMBA
and 6

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475J ; VicRoads 233 ; located on the south side of Bell Street between Scales and French Streets, facing north and on the east side of the township.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



School Teacher's Residence (Former), 59 Bell St, Penshurst

Image Date: 09/05/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house but excluding the interiors, the major plantings in the garden including the two walnut trees, and the magnolia tree, and all of the land, being the north half of allotment 4 Section 15 of the Township of Penshurst.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The former teacher's residence is a large weatherboard house built in the Federation Domestic Queen Anne style typical of the period. The massing and floor plan of the house while asymmetrical are balanced about the central front door. The corrugated iron roof is hipped except for gables at the ridge line, a gable over the projecting front room and a small gable over the rectangular corner bay window. The rendered brick chimneys, since painted, add to the elaboration of the roof line. The verandah is timber with paired columns and a simple frieze. The house is set in a large open garden with several mature trees surviving, including two Walnut trees, and a Magnolia Grandiflora.

HISTORY:

The land on which the former School Teacher's Residence stands was purchased from the Crown by M. A. Ardlie, allotment 5, and by E. Ardlie, allotment 6 of section 15 of the township of Peshurst, on 17th December 1857, apparently as a speculation. Mary Ann Ardlie, nee Braim, lived in Warrnambool and was possibly the daughter of Dr Thomas Henry Braim, the early teacher and Anglican minister at Belfast (Port Fairy). No person with the surname Ardlie is listed in the Shire of Mount Rouse ratebooks in the 1870s.

By 1900, the owner of the land was Robert Aitken Junior, a tanner and the son of the man who established the tannery next door. In 1913 he held the office of Secretary of the Board of Managers of the Presbyterian Church. He was a Shire of Mount Rouse councillor from 1920 to 1927. For many years the younger Robert Aitken is listed as the owner and occupier of a house, tannery, premises and Allotment 1, part Allotments 2-3, Allotments 4-8 and Allotment 10 of Section 15, Peshurst. The present house appears to have been constructed about 1900. No architect or builder has been connected with its construction although the competence and conservatism of the design suggests that Frank Hammond, the local architect, may have been responsible. It was purchased by the Education Department in 1924 and used as a teacher's residence until after the Second World War.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 6 Educating

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

The house and garden are in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The former teacher's residence is located at 59 Bell Street, Peshurst. The land on which it stands was purchased from the Crown by members of the Ardlie family of Warrnambool, probably as speculation. The present house was built about 1900 for Robert Aitken Junior, the tanner who operated his father's tannery next door and a leading member of the community. Its Queen Anne style is typical of the Federation period. It is one of the better examples in Peshurst and is notable for its controlled asymmetry, picturesque roofline and diagonal corner window. In this it can be compared with the Police Residence built in 1914. No architect or builder has been connected with its construction. The house was purchased by the Education Department in 1924 as a teacher's residence. It remains substantially intact and in very good condition.

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How is it significant?

The former teacher's residence is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Peshurst and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former teacher's residence is of historical significance both as a typical example of housing at the turn of the century reflecting the success and prosperity of the second generation of the Aitken family and specifically as the residence of the state school teacher for about fifty years. It is of architectural significance as one of the best examples of the Queen Anne style in Peshurst.

COMPARISON:

243 Common School (Former) and Residence, 83 A & B Bell Street, Peshurst

248 Police Station (Former) and Residence, 35 Martin Street, Peshurst

265 Edwardian Timber House and Garden, 26 French Street, Peshurst

277 State School No 486 (Former), 67 Watton street, Peshurst

ASSESSED BY: tfh & mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

09-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
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Peshurst, County of Villiers	1957	
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse, In the Centre of the Fertile Western District of Victoria: Centenary Celebrated	1966	
