

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: DR DICKINSON'S RESIDENCE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 37 Cobb Street PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 276

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Penshurst

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1-5 **SECTION:** 31 **PARISH:** PARISH OF YALIMBA

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475J ; VicRoads 233 ; located at the eastern end of Cobb Street on the south side and in the south\eastern corner of the township.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Dr Dickinson's Residence (Former) 37 Cobb St Penshurst

Image Date: 29/04/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house including all extensions and alterations but excluding the interiors, the stone fences and all the land of allotments 1-5, section 31 Township of Penshurst.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: DR DICKINSON'S RESIDENCE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 37 Cobb Street PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 276

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The house at 37 Cobb Street Penshurst is a single storey timber building with corrugated iron roof. The building appears to have been constructed in two stages, with the rear rooms dating from the mid to late 19th century, while the front rooms appear to date from the early 20th century. A few metres to the west of the house is a well constructed vernacular bluestone outbuilding, which appears to date from the first phase of construction.

HISTORY:

Dr William Miller Dickinson acquired 9 of the 10 allotments of Section 31 at land sales on 21 October and 28 November 1864 (Department of Lands and Survey, 1957). He must have bought the remaining allotment from L. Kaufman shortly afterwards. The first rate book for the Shire of Mount Rouse for 1864 shows Dr W. M. Dickinson as the owner and occupier of all of the land of Section 31 with a new house. In the following year, the property is described as "Section 31 Penshurst, house, garden etc", with a net annual value of 30 pounds. Dr Dickinson was one of the first doctors in Penshurst, and was one of the physicians who attended the religious community at Herrnhut. Following the death of Joseph Krummnow, Dr Dickinson became a trustee of the Herrnhut commune for 2 years while Krummnow's estate was being sorted out. He was a councillor for the Penshurst riding of the Shire of Mount Rouse for the period 1874-76.

Dr Dickinson resided at 37 Cobb Street until 1884, when he leased the property to John Montgomery, surveyor and architect. Montgomery did a range of architectural work in the district including extensions to Stonefield, a homestead south of Penshurst in 1881, a manager's residence at Mount Sturgeon Plains in 1883, the Penshurst Mechanics Institute Hall, the second Tabor Lutheran church and a large bluestone residence for the Caramut Estate in 1884 (Tonkin, 1971). Perhaps his most important commission was a new bluestone house at Banemore, destroyed by fire in 1939, which he designed in 1883 for Timothy Twomey (ibid.) Montgomery died in 1886 (VPI, Reg. No. 10404). By 1887 the property was sold to John Ritchie and Alexander Black. Ritchie sold the property in 1891 to James Finn and Daniel Twomey. Finn's occupation is listed as "station overseer", and it is highly likely that he was the overseer at Kolor, which shared a boundary with Section 31 Penshurst. The property changed hands a number of times in the early 20th century. During the 1940s part of allotments 6 and 7 were subdivided to create the home situated at 43-45 Cobb Street. For much of the later 20th century, the house and allotments 1-5, 8-10 and part allotments 6-7 were owned by Mrs. Edith J Olle. The Olle family arrived in the Penshurst area in the mid 1850s, and became important members of the local business and civic communities.

An obituary for Dr Dickinson appeared in the Hamilton Spectator on 10th January 1888. It stated that "The public of the Hamilton District will regret to learn that Dr. W. M. Dickinson, died at his residence, Box Hill, on Sunday. The deceased gentleman had been suffering from tubercle on the lungs for some time past, and to that ailment he succumbed. Dr Dickinson was for many years a resident of Penshurst, where he was much respected, and came to Hamilton about four years ago. He remained here, practicing his profession, for about two years, and became very popular both as a citizen and a medical man, in his professional capacity winning the utmost confidence of the public in the town and district. He gave evidence in several important cases heard in Hamilton, notably in that which arose out of the Pierpoint murder. He was a justice of the peace, and attended to bench duties both at Penshurst and Hamilton. On leaving Hamilton, Dr Dickinson sold his practice to Dr Coane, and some misunderstanding between the parties culminated in an expensive lawsuit, which, however, ended in favor of the deceased. Dr Dickinson leaves a widow, also a son and daughter, both of whom are grown-up."

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.26 Providing Health Services

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: DR DICKINSON'S RESIDENCE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 37 Cobb Street PENSHURST

STUDY NUMBER: 276

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

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 physical condition of the exterior is very good.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The residence which is known as the Dr. Dickinson's residence (former) is located at the eastern end of Cobb Street on the south side, in the far southeast corner of the township of Peshurst. The residence is a single storey timber building which appears to have been constructed in two stages. The rear rooms date from the mid to late 19th century, while the front rooms appear to date from the early 20th century. A vernacular bluestone outbuilding which appears to date from the first phase of construction is located a few metres west of the house. Although no architect or builder has been associated with the design of the house, it is known that it was constructed for Dr. W. Dickinson, who purchased the land on which it stands in 1864. It is likely that the earliest parts of the house and the bluestone structure date from 1864. Through occupation and ownership, the house has been associated with many important people in the history of Peshurst, including architect and surveyor, John Montgomery, who leased the residence in the late nineteenth century after Dr. Dickinson had departed to live in Melbourne. The exterior of the house is in excellent condition, and retains a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The residence at 37 Cobb Street Peshurst is of architectural and historical significance to the township of Peshurst.

Why is it significant?

The house at 37 Cobb Street Peshurst is architecturally significant as a typical example of a middle class private residence dating from the period of Peshurst's growth, following the 1860s land sales. It is historically significant for its association with important members of the Peshurst community, including Dr William Miller Dickinson, physician, John Montgomery, architect and surveyor, James Finn, overseer at Kolor, and Daniel Twomey, owner of Kolor, and during the 20th century, Mrs. Edith Olle.

COMPARISON:

213 Doctor's Residence (Former), 2 Munroe Street, Braxholme
275 St Martin's Private Hospital (Former), 89 Cobb Street, Peshurst
256 Olle Residence, 143-5 Bell Street, Peshurst
263 Shire Secretary's Residence (Former) 24 Martin Street, Peshurst

ASSESSED BY: mgt & tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

10-May-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR **Include in RNE** **Include in Local Planning Scheme**

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: DR DICKINSON'S RESIDENCE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 37 Cobb Street PENSHURST

STUDY NUMBER: 276

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Ray Tonkin	The Hamilton Spectator, 10/1/1888	1888	
	Tender and Other Notices from the Warrnambool Standard	1971	not numb ered
Shire of Mount Rouse	Rate Books, 1864-1960		variou s