

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: STATE SCHOOL NO. 486 (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 67 Watton Street PENS HurST

STUDY NUMBER: 277

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Penshurst

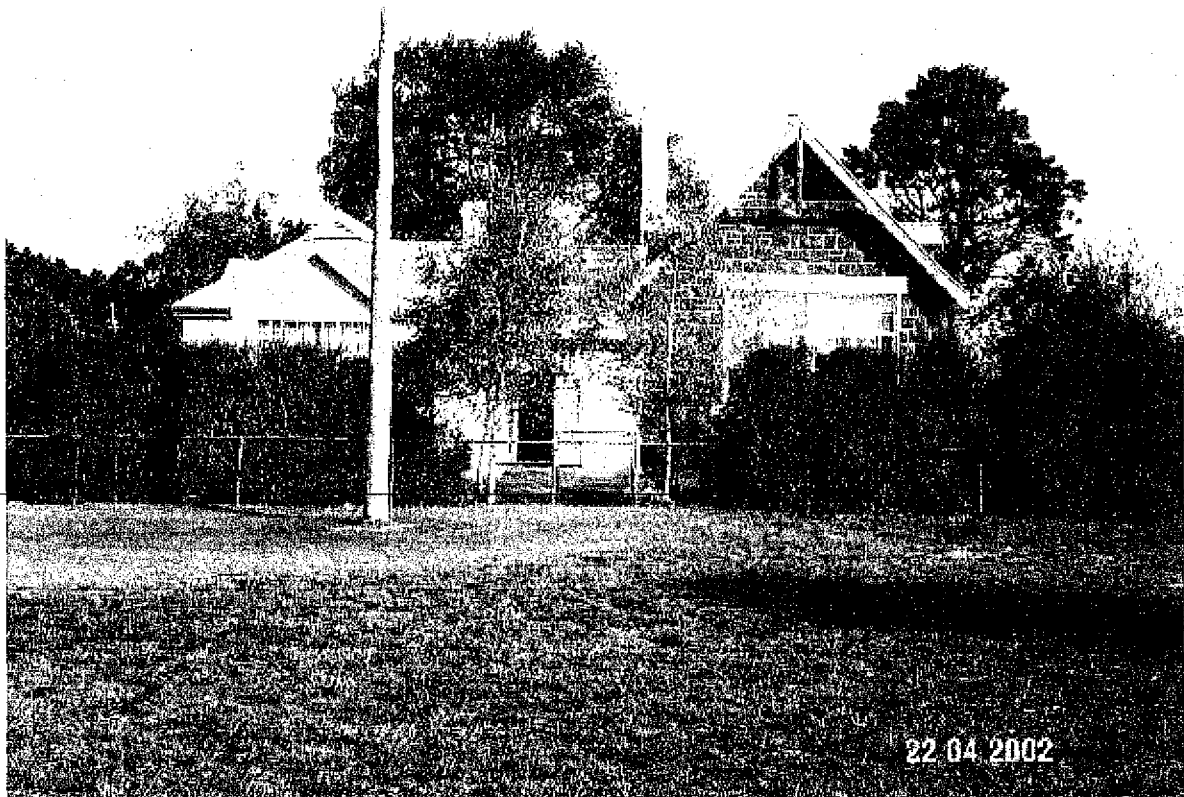
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 9 **SECTION:** 6 **PARISH:** PARISH OF YALIMBA

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475J ; VicRoads 233 ; located on the south-east corner of Watton and French Streets, in the middle of the township.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



State School No 486 (Former), 67 Watton St, Penshurst

Image Date: 22/04/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the former school building including the exterior and interiors, but excluding the interiors of the modern extensions, and all the land of allotments 8, 9 and 10 of section 6 of the Township of Penshurst.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The former State School building is a standard design for small schools, with a porch at the southern end and divided into two classrooms by a central corridor. The main school room is constructed from rough coursed bluestone, with a corrugated iron roof with gables with timber louvers. Large windows admit light on the south side. There is a chimney in the southern classroom on the west wall. Later timber additions, dating from the 1920s or 1930s have been made to the east of the schoolroom. These have been modernised and rendered, although much of the original fabric may remain beneath.

HISTORY:

Penshurst State School, Number 486 began in Bell Street, in the centre of Penshurst, on land reserved as a National School and then as a Common School.

The National School opened in 1858 in two stone rooms, with an enrolment of 34 pupils. The first teacher was Mr. Patrick D. Baxter, a qualified ship's master. Mr. Baxter also served as the first secretary of the district roads board in 1863.

The first school building was erected by the parents and the Centenary of Mount Rouse Shire History states that in 1860 they required 168 pounds to complete the building and they required a grant from the government of 75 pounds. Mr. Daniel Ritchie, a prominent local land owner, was the head of the advisory board. He undertook to supply "a few books, paper, etc. and necessary number of desks and forms for the number of pupils actually in attendance."

Modern state education was established by an Act of Parliament in 1872. National schools became state schools under the banner of 'free, compulsory and secular' education. The Penshurst National or Common School buildings did not become the new state school.

Land was reserved in 1873 as a "State School", comprising one acre and two roods (Department of Lands and Survey, 1957). The new bluestone school was established this much larger site on the corner of Watton and French Streets as State School No 486.

The State School continued to be housed in this building until 1962, when a new modern building was erected on land secured on Kolor Estate, fronting Ritchie Street and the Hamilton Highway.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 6 Educating

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

CONDITION:

The former State School is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

Good degree of integrity but the original form has been compromised to some extent by the modern extensions.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The former State School No. 486 is located on the south-east corner of Watton and French Streets, in the middle of the township of Penshurst. It is the second site for the State School in Penshurst, the first being constructed in 1858 as a two roomed stone building in Bell Street, which survives within a private residence. The second State School was built after 1873, and is constructed of rough coursed bluestone. Timber extensions were added in the early twentieth century, and these have been further altered in the late twentieth

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century. The building served as a State School for 90 years, until a new State School was built on land donated from Kolor Estate in 1963. The building has since been used for various purposes, until most recently it has been converted into a private residence. The architect for the building was most likely to have been from the Public Works Department. The building are in good condition, although the twentieth century timber extensions have been much altered. The school room retains a high degree of integrity, but the integrity of the later extensions has been compromised.

How is it significant?

The former State School No. 486 is of historic, cultural and architectural significance to the township of Penshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former State School 486 is of historic significance as the expression of the early community's struggle for education, and for its association with over 150 years of schooling in the area. It is of cultural significance as the focus for the community. The school is of architectural significance for its use of traditional forms.

COMPARISON:

248 Common School (Former) and Residence, 83a & b Bell Street, Penshurst

103 State School, 124 Church Street, Coleraine

089 National School (former),, Cnr Henty and Church Sts, Coleraine

195 State School No. 1418, Knight's Road, Byaduk North

206 State School No. 1978, Monroe Street, Branxholme

160 State School No. 4362 (former) and Residence, Zig Zag Road, Konong Wootong North

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:

Author	Title	Year	Page
L J Blake, ed.	Vision and Realisation , Vol 2	1973	22
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Penshurst, 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	