

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MOUNT ROUSE QUARRIES

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: off Ritchie Street Mount Rouse Reserve PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 288

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 2 **SECTION:** 1 **PARISH:** PARISH OF PURDEET

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475J F12; VicRoads 73 G8; located at the eastern end of Ritchie Street on the south-east corner of the township of Penshurst.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Mount Rouse Quarry Ritchie St Penshurst.

Image Date: 09/05/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the works and all the land of allotment 1 of section 1 of the Parish of Purdeet and part of the Mount Rouse Reserve used for quarrying purposes.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The quarry is located on the north-east face of Mount Rouse, and removes bluestone from the side of Mount Rouse. The bluestone has been used to construct almost all the stone buildings in and around the township, as well as the roads. The Mount Rouse Quarry is supported by plant and equipment and functional buildings. Access is gained from the eastern end of Ritchie Street.

HISTORY:

Major Mitchell named Mount Rouse in 1836, presumably after the early Sydney settler, Richard Rouse who established Rouse Hill. Briefly, it became the focus for the squatting run leased by John Cox of Port Fairy, from 1839 to April 1842. It may be that the earliest structures on the high ground above the permanent spring in the botanic gardens were built by Cox. Huts were built because, at the end of May 1852, the new leaseholder of the Purdeet run, David Hutton, "asked permission to use the Government huts at Mount Rouse for a short time until he had new huts and undertook to be responsible for all Government property that may be there" (Shire of Mount Rouse, 1964). Cox was required to leave in 1842 so that the Mount Rouse Aboriginal Protectorate could be established. In Ham's 1847 'Map of Australia Felix' there is a 100 square mile 'Reserve' shown which is centred on Mount Rouse with the 'Aboriginal Establishment' indicated by the number '145' just to the north where several tracks intersect. The Protectorate failed and from about 1852 the township of Penshurst began to develop in the upper half of the former reserve and centred on the Protectorate's remaining buildings, now the Police Reserve. The lower western quarter became the new Purdeet run and the lower eastern quarter became the new Kolor run.

In the 1850s, the land immediately around the crater, comprising about 132 acres, was reserved as a "Public Park" and a water reserve of another 25 acres was added immediately to the south. By December 1857, almost all the land around Mount Rouse had been purchased by J. or J. and D. Twomey who were John Joseph Twomey and his son Daniel Twomey, members of one of the few Irish Catholic squatting families. The freehold land on which the quarry was developed was purchased from the Crown by a D. Hourigan on 30th December 1857 as allotment 1 of Section 1 of the parish of Purdeet. The quarry also extends into the Mount Rouse Reserve which was proclaimed in 1877.

There appear to have been at least five quarries on Mount Rouse. It is not known when the various quarries were first opened. While the early ratebooks of the Shire of Mount Rouse, dating from 1863, include the names of several people described as quarrymen, such as James Groves and William Hammond, it is not certain that they were employed in the Mount Rouse quarries, although it seems most likely. One was in use for the construction of surrounding railways and a spur line was built from the quarry to the station linking it with the Penshurst-Koroit line. The embankment for the spur line survives. In 1889 Neil McNeil & Co., railway contractors, applied to the Council for "the construction of a tramway to [a] ballast pit on Mr. Twomey's property at rear of Mt. Rouse" (Shire of Mount Rouse, 1964). The Railways' quarry must have continued until at least 1911 because the Shire purchased 220 cubic yards of scoria at that time. In 1910, the Minister of Lands had given permission to the shire to remove gravel from Mount Rouse (Shire of Mount Rouse, 1964).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.14 Developing an Australian engineering and construction industry
3.14.2 Using Australian materials in construction

CONDITION:

not applicable.

INTEGRITY:

high degree of integrity

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Mount Rouse Quarry is located on the north-east face of Mount Rouse. It is supported by plant and equipment and functional buildings. The quarry mines bluestone which has been used in the construction of many houses, roads and other structures throughout the Shire of Southern Grampians. There appear to have been at least five quarries on Mount Rouse. It is not known when the various quarries were first opened.

How is it significant?

The Mount Rouse Quarry is of historical and scientific significance to the Southern Grampians shire and to the township of Peshurst.

Why is it significant?

The Mount Rouse Quarry is of historical significance as a major employer and as the source of the material for buildings, roads and railways and of scientific significance for the exploitation of a natural resource from an early period.

COMPARISON:

No comparative examples identified within the study area

Boral Resources Country Pty Ltd, Bryant Creek, Coleraine
Mount Elephant Quarries, Derrinallum
Mount Shadwell Quarries, Mortlake
Keilambete Quarry, Terang
Moree Quarries, Chetwynd

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

20-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
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse, In the Centre of the Fertile Western District of Victoria: Centenary Celebrated	1966	
Thomas Ham	"Map of Australia Felix"	1847	