

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: RAILWAY WATER TOWER

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Caramut Road PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 294

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Peshurst

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF YALIMBA

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475J E9, Located approximately one kilometre north east of the centre of Peshurst township, between Racecourse Road and the Caramut Road.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Railway Water Tower, Railway Reserve, Caramut Road, Peshurst

Image Date: 21/05/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the water tower and any surviving associated objects and all of the land of within a radius of 10m of the watertower structure.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

An 1880s elevated, cylindrical iron water tank, on iron leg supports.

HISTORY:

In 1870 Thomas Higinbotham, Engineer in Chief of Victorian Railways released details of the proposed railway line between Hamilton and Warrnambool which would pass through the township of Penshurst and have sidings at the settlements of Tabor and Herrnhut. The announcement was the beginning of a twenty-year long wait for construction to begin. It was a period of prolonged and vigorous campaigning because it was hoped that the line would continue on to Adelaide, confirming Hamilton as the capital of the Western District (Garden, 1984). In 1873 a Bill was passed giving the go-ahead for the construction of the line from Ararat to Hamilton, with a link from Hamilton to Portland. The Hamilton Ballarat line was surveyed in 1875 and finally reached Hamilton on 26th October 1877. A number of trunk routes were also opened in the late 1880s, including the Hamilton to Koroit (via Penshurst) line (August 1890), along which a part of the present cable alignment is located, although they proved to be uneconomic and so closures soon began. By the 1920s and 1930sm, rail services were in general decline as road traffic deprived the railways of a large part of their revenue. Each of the lines feeding Hamilton suffered. [Garden, 1984.] The Hamilton to Koroit railway line was finally closed in 1977 and the lines and sleepers removed (Garden, 1984 and Shire of Dundas, 1996). A water tower was an essential component for servicing steam trains. The iron tank used at Penshurst was a typical solution to the need for an immediate solution because it was prefabricated, light weight and easily transportable on the railway under construction.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

3 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.8.6 Building and maintaining railways

4 Building settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

CONDITION:

Good Condition

INTEGRITY:

High degree of intactness

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Railway Water Tower at the Penshurst Railway Reserve is located approximately one kilometre north east of the centre of the township of Penshurst. The water tower is a large squat iron cylinder raised on four steel legs. It is common to those water towers found at many railway stations and reserves, used to service steam trains. The water tower is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Railway Water Tower at the Penshurst Railway Reserve is of historical significance to the township of Penshurst

Why is it significant?

The Railway Water Tower is of historical significance as it is the only remaining structure of what was once a substantial complex of railway buildings and siding. The water tower is representative of the important Hamilton - Warrnambool railway line which passed through Penshurst and the ideas and hopes associated

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with this railway.

COMPARISON:

208 Railway Water Tower, Railway Ave, Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE: 21/05/2002

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
Don Garden	Hamilton, A Western District History	1984	var.,
Mount Rouse Shire Council	Shire of Mount Rouse, In the Centre of the Fertile Western District of Victoria: Centenary Celebrated	1966	
William J Metcalf and Elizabeth Huf	Herrnhut, Australia's First Utopian Commune	2002	var.