

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: KOLOR-PURDEET HOMESTEAD (FORMER SITE)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Penshurst-Warrnambool Road PENS HurST

STUDY NUMBER: 342

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 4 **SECTION:** 11 **PARISH:** PARISH OF YATMERONE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475C52; VicRoads 73 F8; located on the west side of Penshurst-Warrnambool Road, approximately 6.0kms south of Penshurst and 1.6kms north of the intersection of Kolor Lane and sited on a rise at the edge of the lava flow.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Heritage Inventory



Original Kolor Site, Penshurst-Warrnambool Road, Penshurst

Image Date: 23/09/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the ground around the original homestead site including an area of 10,000 square metres but excluding all buildings and works dated after 1928.

(River Red Gum) on either side of the waterhole (the scene depicted by Louis Buvelot in "Water pool at Coleraine") and an area of 10m around any edge of the water hole.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

There is little evidence of the original homestead and other works surviving at ground level other than some flat bluestone blocks which may be paving slabs immediately in front of the modern shearing shed. These do not appear to be the footings of a wall and are too flat to be natural. Nor do any of the plantings appear to be of any great age other than the row of Elm trees along the highway frontage. Some of these may now be missing and they have suckered in recent years. The original house is said to have been burnt down. The second house, built for the Rowe family about the turn of last century has been relocated to 17 Burchett Street, Penshurst. The third house, built for the Morton family in 1956, a cream brick break-fronted bungalow survives in good condition. Other farm buildings of corrugated iron including the shearing shed, a barn and sheds survive from recent times. Otherwise, there are works and the remnants of a garden and orchard associated with the second house and a row of senescent Cypruss trees across the rear of the homestead site and along the southern boundary. There is a rubbish dump, perhaps dating from very early times, north-east of the barn. The springs which attracted the first occupants and were clear are now boggy. The whole estate was extensively planted, mostly with Radiata Pines on outcrops of rock, after it was purchased in 1928 by the Morton family. Only footings survive from the earlier buildings with elm suckers marking the site. There were two walnut trees but they have now gone. The stables were pulled down about the same time.

HISTORY:

John Cox (1813-1853) took up the Mount Rouse run in 1839 (B&K, 51). He was the son of James Cox of Clarendon near Evandale on the River Nile. Cox had whaling and mercantile interests at Port Fairy prior to arriving in the area (ibid.). He was ejected from the Mount Rouse run in April 1842, as the land was required to form an Aboriginal Protectorate under the Chief Protector of Aborigines, George Augustus Robinson. Nominally, the Protectorate was extensive, being some 100 square miles, and Robinson was responsible for Aborigines throughout the Western District.

The Protectorate had failed by 1851, at which time tenders were invited for grazing rights on what was then called Purdeet and Kolor. Adolphus Sceales was the successful tenderer for both parts but refused to complete the lease due to the lack of labour resulting from the gold rush (B&K, 267). David Hutton then took over the Purdeet licence, which was finally cancelled in 1872, and John Twomey took up the Kolor licence, which was cancelled in 1870 (B&K, 267). The land immediately around Mount Rouse was reserved as a public park and for a water reserve.

The history of the Purdeet or Kolor run is complicated and it is still not perfectly clear. There does seem to have been two separate runs after 1851. Alexander Donaldson lodged a lease application in March 1848 stating that he had occupied the run for four years (Shire of Mount Rouse, 1964). "Caveats against granting the lease to Donaldson were recorded on 8 July 1848 from Matthew Gibb of St Patrick's Day run and Edward Bell of Green Hills run. Gibb claimed the station called Purdeet was in his run and belonged to him. Bell made a similar claim." The Caveat Commissioner upheld the protests, ruled that Purdeet did not exist and allocated the land to St Patrick's Day. The official Purdeet was surveyed out of the Mount Rouse Aboriginal Protectorate in 1851 and the "recorded description by C. C. Horrell, draftsman on 27th June of that year accurately fits the Cheviot Hills station—occupied in 1852 by David Hutton" (Shire of Mount Rouse, 1964). When Adolphus Sceales withdrew, Hutton's tender of 404 pounds per annum for the next eight years was accepted. It may be that the Hutton family lived in the Purdeet homestead from 1851 when the lease was obtained, until a new house, called Cheviot Hills was built when the land was secured as freehold. At the end of May 1852, "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". Alternatively, it may be that the Hutton family lived in the Old Kolor or Purdeet homestead on the Penshurst-

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Warrnambool Road until a new house, called Cheviot Hills was built on the land secured as freehold.

The first Purdeet or Kolor homestead appears to have been located to the south-west of the present cream brick house on the edge of the lava flow. It was situated between the north-south line dividing the bottom quarters of the Protectorate and the Peshurst-Warrnambool Road. The original house is said to have been burnt down. The second house, built for the Rowe family about the turn of last century was relocated to 17 Burchett Street, Peshurst between Watton and Cobb Streets. The present Kolor homestead and the Kolor woolshed (now on part of a nearby property, Terringa) were built in 1868 for John and Daniel Twomey.

John Joseph Twomey was born in Meenveragh, County Cork, Ireland, and came to Port Phillip in 1843 (Grove, in Ellis (ed.), 236). He purchased the land on which the present Kolor Homestead stands, and with his son Daniel, they purchased almost all of the remaining land in the Parish of Purdeet (Department of Lands & Survey, 1955). The Twomey family were very influential in the area in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It appears that John Twomey's son's Daniel, Edward and Timothy all carved properties from the land that was first taken up Daniel and John in the late 1850s and early 1860s. John and Daniel were in partnership on Kolor (14,300 acres), Edward held nearby Langulac (6,947 acres) and Timothy held nearby Banemore (10,829 acres) (de Serville, 491).

In the early 1870s, Daniel Twomey is listed as the owner of "Twomey's Purdeet Farm" which is rated by the Shire at 60 pounds when it was occupied by James and Michael Egan (SMRRB, 1872, #336 & 337). Also in the early 1870s, a Henry Rowe, labourer owned and occupied a house at Boram Boram which must have been humble since it was rated at 10 pounds, a relatively low figure (SMRRB, 1870, #362). He had married Flora Munro in 1865 (VPI, Reg. No. 4219). They had four children between 1866 and 1876 including their second child and first son, James Henry in 1868 (VPI, Reg. No. 18565). It seems likely that it was James Henry Rowe and his wife Edith who later occupied the first house. He died in April 1939 and she died in July 1939. Both are buried in the Boram Boram cemetery.

Kolor remained in the Twomey family until 1928. The last Twomey heir was killed in World War One, and Kolor was put up for subdivision under the Closer Settlements Act, in the early 1920s. In 1928, the Morton family purchased the original site and Andreas Rentsch, the son of one of the earliest settlers at Tabor, purchased the present homestead. The father of the present owners, Graeme and Donald Morton who grew up there, ran their property as a dairy and, at that time, all the surrounding land was dairying land. The modern house is now abandoned.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 working on the land

CONDITION:

A very high degree of archaeological potential around the house and possibly at other points associated with the homestead.

INTEGRITY:

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The original Kolor or Purdeet homestead site was established in the early 1850s after the closure of the Mount Rouse Aboriginal Protectorate and the settlement of Penshurst either by John Joseph Twomey, an Irishman or by David Hutton, an Englishman. One or other built a timber house, stables and, presumably, other working buildings probably by the end of 1851. It may be that the Hutton family lived in the homestead until a new house, called Cheviot Hills was built for them on the land which they had secured as freehold. Alternatively, the Twomey family may have occupied it because John Twomey purchased the freehold including the old homestead site. He and his son Joseph built the present Kolor homestead in 1868. Who occupied the house after this time is not known but Joseph Twomey owned the land until it was sold in 1928 after he died. It was then purchased by the Morton family who lived in the house until a new cream brick house was built after the Second World War. The old house was moved to Penshurst where it survives at 11 Burchett Street. Little remains above ground at the original site.

How is it significant?

The original Kolor or Purdeet homestead site is of historical significance to the community of Penshurst and to the Southern Grampians Shire as a Heritage Inventory Site.

Why is it significant?

The original Kolor or Purdeet homestead site is of historical significance for its connections with the Huttons and the Twomeys, both important and influential pastoral families in the area, and for providing a contrast to their later more substantial homesteads. It reflects the unusual subdivision of the land around Penshurst and its sale under the Land Selection Acts. The place has further significance for its subsequent subdivision and sale under the Closer Settlements Act and conversion to a dairy farm under the Morton family's ownership which continues to the present.

COMPARISON:

052 Kolor Homestead, Penshurst-Warrnambool Road, Penshurst

341 Cheviot Hills Homestead Complex, Ritchie Street, Penshurst

343 Mount Koroite Homestead (Original Site), Heffernan's Lane, Coleraine

034 Wilderness Homestead Complex (Former Site), Wilderness Road, Gritjurk

045 Park Hill (Original Site), Schuller's Road, Yulecart

116 Ardachy Homestead Complex, Dartmoor-Hamilton Road, Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

30/08/2002

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
Department of Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	var.
Ian Cameron	They Came of Bold and Roving Stock	1996	var.

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Paul de Serville

Pounds and Pedigrees

1991 p.
171,
520

R V Billis and A S Kenyon
Shire of Mount Rouse

Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip
Rate Books, various years

1974 var.