

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** COURTHOUSE (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 33 Martin Street PENSURST

**STUDY NUMBER:** 347

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Peshurst

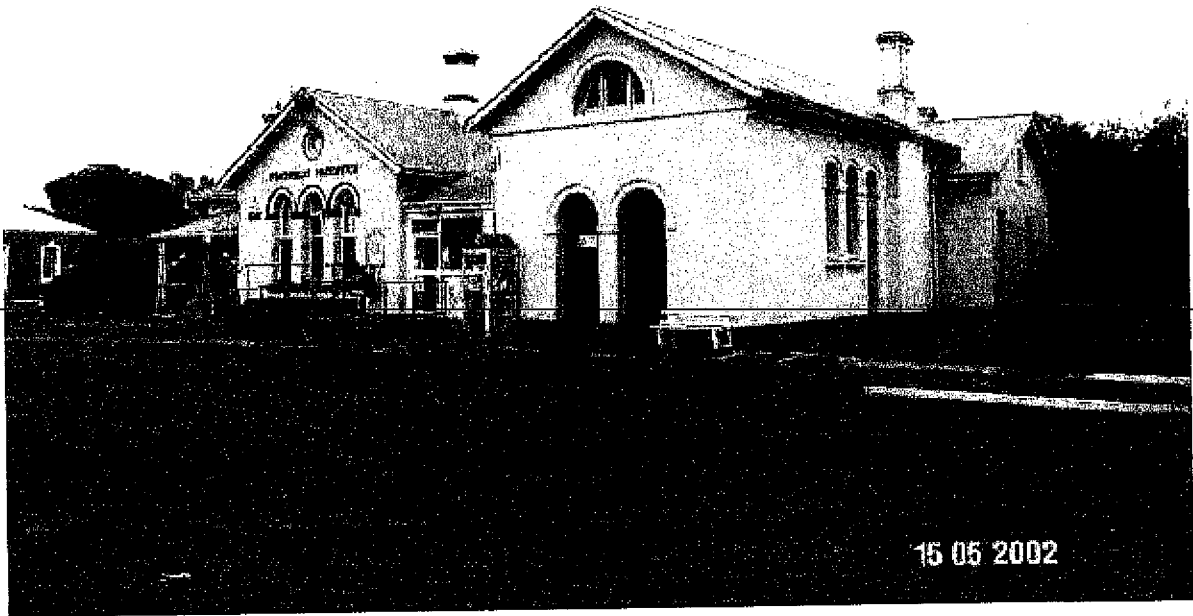
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 1A      **SECTION:** 18      **PARISH:** PARISH OF BORAMBORAM

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 475J C11; VicRoads 233 O11; located on the north-west corner of Bell and Martin Streets beside the Post Office in the centre of the township.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



2045 Post Office & Courthouse (Former) Peshurst.jpg

**Image Date:** 15/05/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the building including the interiors, the fixtures and furniture, the toilets at the rear and all of the land.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The building is a typical single storey court house with a central room and offices at the rear. The building is symmetrical and has a notionally Palladian form and the usual Italianate style. It is built of bluestone with a cement render. High level windows light the main chamber and there is a fireplace eastern wall with marble mantles. The bench for the magistrate, the witness box and other fittings, as well as loose furniture survive.

## **HISTORY:**

Michael Challiger states that the courthouse was built in 1877 and was designed by the Public Works Department architect, A T Snow (Challinger, 152). It cost 3,851 pounds to build. This was several years after the Coleraine and Balmoral courthouses and eighteen years after the Hamilton courthouse was begun. The adjacent post office was built twelve years later and joined to the courthouse. The courthouse closed in 198, ownership was transferred to the Shire of Mount Rouse (succeeded by the Shire of Southern Grampians) and is now occupied by the local historical society.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme: 7 Governing

7.6 Administering Australia

7.6.4 Dispensing justice

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life

8.5 Forming Associations

8.5.1 Preserving traditions and group memories

## **CONDITION:**

The building is in good condition

## **INTEGRITY:**

High degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

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What is significant?

The Penshurst Courthouse is located adjacent to the Post Office, on the corner of Bell and Martin Streets in the centre of Penshurst. The building is typical of Post Offices designed by the Public Works Department in the late nineteenth century, illustrating a notionally Palladian form and the usual Italianate style. The court house was built in 1877 and was designed by the Public Works Department architect, A T Snow. The courthouse closed in the 1980s and is now used to house the Mount Rouse and District Historical Societies collection. The building is in good condition and retains an excellent degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Courthouse is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Penshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Penshurst Courthouse is of architectural significance as a typical example of the Public Works Department oeuvre. The intactness of its nineteenth century interiors provides an accurate interpretation of its former use as a practicing court. It has further architectural significance as one of a group of substantial civic structures in Martin Street which form a focus for the Coleraine community.

The former Penshurst Courthouse is of historical significance because it was the location for the administration of justice for the district for over a century. Located in a prominent position next to the post office, the Penshurst Courthouse has further historical significance as a landmark site, and is one of a group of buildings

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forming the focus of the town.

## COMPARISON:

090 Balmoral Court House, 35 Glendinning St, Balmoral

004 Coleraine Courthouse, 78 Whyte Street, Coleraine

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh & mgt

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

15-Feb-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
Michael Challenger	Historic Courthouses of Victoria	2001	152
Trethowan, Bruce	The Public Works Department 1851 - 1900 An Architectural History, Research Report	1975	