

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** MOSSGIEL

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 134-8 Cobb Street PENSHURST

**STUDY NUMBER:** 350

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Penshurst

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 3      **SECTION:** 10      **PARISH:** PARISH OF BORAMBORAM

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA475J B11; VicRoads 233 N11; located on the north side of Cobb Street on the south-west side of the township of Penshurst and adjacent to the hospital.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Mossgiel 134-8 Cobb St, Penshurst

**Image Date:** 21/05/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the building but excluding the interiors and all of the land.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Mossgiel is now an asymmetrical, single storey bluestone cottage with later timber additions to the rear. The original gabled roof has been altered by the addition of a new gable at the front to create a bungalow roof form.

The bluestone section which faces Cobb Street appears to have been designed as a typical four roomed cottage with a central passage, with twelve pane double hung sashes arranged symmetrically on either side of the front door, with the same detail at the rear of the building. There was possibly a detached kitchen.

A weatherboard wing has been added to the rear of the house, projecting from the north west corner. This section and the L - shaped verandah appear to date from the 1920s, when the roof was altered. The double pane sash windows at the front of the house appear to have been replaced at the same time, although one of the original windows survives in the north east room of the original cottage.

## HISTORY:

Township Plan shows lot 3 of section 10 being sold to G. Clarke in December 1858 (Department of Lands and Survey, 1957). George Clarke (or Clark as it is spelt in the Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books) was a labourer in Penshurst in the mid to late nineteenth century (SMR RB 1870-2). He is listed as owning and occupying a house in Penshurst, worth sixteen pounds in 1870, 1871 and 1872 (ibid.), which is likely to be the stone cottage which forms the basis for the current house at 134-8 Cobb Street, making its date of construction prior to 1870.

George Clark was married to Emma Crow Spain, and they arrived in the Hamilton district prior to 1856. Their first children, Caroline (b. 1856) and James (b. 1857) were born in Hamilton (VPI, Reg. No. 2304 & 15880). They moved to Penshurst between 1858 and 1861, when their next child, an un-named female was born (ibid., 5256), and remained there for the birth of their other children, Henry (1863), Albert (1866), Harriet (1867), Alfred (1869) and Helen (1871) (ibid.).

The cottage appears to have been built as a symmetrical two roomed stone structure, which has had later timber additions at the rear, and further alterations in the twentieth century, when the windows and doors were updated, as well as altering the verandah and roofline.

Very little information is known about the history of the ownership of this property.

## THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life  
8.12 Living in and around Australian homes  
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## CONDITION:

The physical condition is fair

## INTEGRITY:

the integrity of the stone cottage has been compromised by the twentieth century alterations.

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Mossgiel is a small painted bluestone house constructed in several phases with timber and bluestone. It is located on the north side of Cobb Street, east of the centre of the township. The core of the house is the

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earliest section, a four roomed cottage built of bluestone, dating from prior to 1870. All of this fabric survives beneath the later additions and alterations. Weatherboard additions have been added at the rear of the house, and substantial alterations have taken place in the 1920s replacing the original windows, doors, verandah and roofline. It is likely that the house was built by George Clark, a labourer, between 1861 and 1870. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design. The house is in fair condition, and retains a fair degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The house is of historical significance to the township of Peshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The house known as Mossiel is of historical significance as it shows the development over time of one of the early bluestone cottages which were typically constructed by ordinary people in Peshurst in the nineteenth century. The links with the Clark family, are also of historical significance. The cottage demonstrates a previous way of life, and illustrates the living conditions which were endured by many working class people in the nineteenth century. The 1920s additions illustrate a change in the fortunes of the Clarke family as well as the township of Peshurst, and reflect the desire for modern architecture to represent a new phase of life.

## COMPARISON:

284 Murdham Lodge, Hamilton Highway, Peshurst

286 Bluestone Cottage, MacArthur-Peshurst Road, Peshurst

**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
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Peshurst, Parishes of Boram Boram and Yalimba, County of Villiers	1857
Shire of Mount Rouse	Rate Books 1872	1872 #68
Shire of Mount Rouse	Rate Books 1871	1871 #68
Shire of Mount Rouse	Rate Books 1870	1870 #68