

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: TORBANK WOOLSHED

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Tobermory Lane PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 351

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1B **SECTION:** VI **PARISH:** PARISH OF YALIMBA EAST

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475 D3; VicRoads 73 H7; located on the north side of the southern extension of Tobermory Lane 11.0kms east of Penshurst, near Muston's Creek and immediately to the south of the Torbank homestead.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Torbank Woolshed, Tobermory Rd, Penshurst

Image Date: 1/03/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the woolshed and all of the yards and all of the land within a 25m radius of any edge of the main woolshed.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The woolshed is constructed from reinforced concrete over a sloping site about 300m south of the Torbank homestead. The building is supported on reinforced concrete columns which allow clear access below the main floor and board. It is oriented to maximise the use of light with a clerestory or skylight window running the full length of the building on the south side and small windows at the west end to encourage sheep to run easily into the shed. The skylight and lower louvre windows are said to provide ventilation to dry wet sheep. The skylight windows were replaced early in 2002 and other works were done to the yards. An elevated wing on the south side with large doors allows for loading sheep directly onto trucks. The original roof was corrugated asbestos sheeting. There are galvanised pipe yards on the south side, which replaced the original timber yards in 1975 (pers. comm., David McCulloch, 2004).

HISTORY:

The land on which the Torbank woolshed now stands, comprising some 80 acres, was sold by the Crown to Daniel Ritchie on 13 September 1869. The English-born Daniel Ritchie (1816-1865) was a squatter who held the runs of Blackwood and Woodhouse to the north of Torbank (De Serville, 484). His eldest son, Robert married Lillian Ross, the daughter of William Ross, the owner of The Gums, the run to the south of Torbank. Ritchie owned most of the surrounding land, sold as a result of the land Selection Acts, including the blocks to the east fronting Muston's Creek.

The Torbank woolshed was built in 1956 for Ian Ritchie of Blackwood. The builder was a local, Geoff Dickeson, of D Dickeson & Co., Hamilton (HS, 4/5/02, 18). It cost the substantial amount of 27,000 pounds to build but this was at the end the wool boom associated with the Korean War and the more general prosperity after the Second World War. The construction is unusual for its use of reinforced concrete, for its orientation to maximise light and for its innovative internal planning. It can be compared with another but simpler reinforced concrete woolshed at Batesworth Homestead Complex, Batesworth Lane, Penshurst. Geoff Dickeson is also thought to have built the woolshed at Nareen for the Fraser family (Mrs., G Dickeson, Pers. Comm. 29/10/02). The woolshed underwent extensive renovations in 2002 when it was owned by David McCulloch.

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

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

The woolshed is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

Substantially intact although clerestory windows were replaced in 2002 and other works were done to the yards.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Torbank Woolshed, which was built in 1956, is on the western bank of Muston's Creek about 11kms east of Penshurst. It was built for Ian Ritchie of Blackwood by local builder, Geoff Dickeson. It cost 27,000

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pounds to build. The woolshed is constructed from reinforced concrete on piers over a relatively steep slope. The woolshed was considered innovative for its form, plan and detailing. It is one of the last great woolsheds to be built in the Western District. The building is in good condition, having been renovated in 2002 and retains a good degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Torbank Woolshed, Tobermory Lane, Penshurst is of architectural and historical significance to the Penshurst community and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Torbank Woolshed, Tobermory Lane, Penshurst is of architectural significance for its unusual use of reinforced concrete, its orientation to maximise sunlight and for its innovative planning.

It is of historical significance as a relatively late example of the construction of a large woolshed in the Western District and for reflecting the end of the wool boom begun by the Korean War and the more general prosperity after the Second World War.

COMPARISON:

389 Batesworth Homestead Complex, Batesworth Lane, Penshurst

058 Clunie Woolshed, Glenferrie Road, Harrow

047 Winninburn Homestead and Woolshed, Heenan-Ferrier Road, Tarrenlea

295 Banemore Woolshed and Ruins, Twomey's Bridge Road, Penshurst.

ASSESSED BY: tfh & mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

27/10/2002

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
	Torbank woolshed ready for next 50, Hamilton Spectator	2002	18
Mrs G Dickeson		2002	
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigrees	1991	484