
AITKEN'S WATTLE & DAUB COTTAGE



23338 Aitken s Wattle and
Daub Penshurst 0775



23338 Aitken s Wattle and
Daub Penshurst 0776

Location

57 Bell Street PENSHURST, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

Aitken's wattle and daub cottage, located at 57 Bell Street Penshurst is a modest dwelling constructed in two stages. The earlier section was built about 1855 using vernacular building techniques including wattle and daub construction. While the corrugated iron roof over the 1855 section is modern, the timber 'in the round' rafters, and remaining hand split shingles belong to this early vernacular structure. The external and internal walls have been clad in fibro-cement sheeting, concealing and protecting the wattle and daub fabric. The later, adjoining structure, probably built in the 1870s, is a simple timber building of one principal room, with a modern addition at the rear. The massive fireplaces in both sections are made of bluestone.

The position of the house at the rear of the large block is a legacy of the demolished tannery, which operated for at least fifty years at the front of the block facing the main street of Penshurst.

How is it significant?

Aitken's wattle and daub cottage is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Peshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Aitken's wattle and daub cottage is of historical significance as the oldest surviving residence in Peshurst. It dates from the earliest land sales in the area, following the closure of the Mount Rouse Aboriginal Protectorate. The house and the now demolished tannery were associated for about 70 years with the pioneering Aitken family. The retention of the humble house with its vernacular construction techniques is historically significant, reflecting the desire of the Aitken family to retain the structure at a time when their wealth and social status increased considerably. The house and tannery complex has historical significance for its associations with the development of industry and commerce in Peshurst. It has further historical significance for its long occupancy by Robert Aitken, civic leader, and local councillor for many years, and later occupancy by the Kelly and Eales families, who were early settlers in the district.

Aitken's wattle and daub cottage is of architectural significance as a rare surviving example of vernacular building techniques, including wattle and daub walls, timber 'in the round' rafters, and a few remaining hand split roof shingles. The high degree of integrity of the fabric of this early dwelling reflects its history of regular maintenance and improvements, and uninterrupted use as a family home.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1855,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	EALLES' COTTAGE,
Hermes Number	23338
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The condition of the store is very good.

Physical Description 1

The A. J. Page Electrical Store at 91a Bell Street, Peshurst has two parts. To the south of the site is a plain, utilitarian structure built of Mount Gambier Stone with a corrugated iron roof and a stepped pediment surmounting the facade. The eastern part of the site has a wide driveway and rear area currently used for storage. The physical layout of the site reflects its earlier use as a motor garage and workshop. The original doorway provided motor access to the garage has been infilled with a smaller modern door and glass surrounds. Large modern display windows are located on either side of the entrance. There are two symmetrical chimneys located to the front of either side of the building.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.19 Marketing and Retailing

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

4.1 Planning urban settlements

Usage/Former Usage

shop

Integrity

Good degree of integrity, despite the loss of original front door and windows.

Physical Description 2

R Schramm

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>