

---

# PENSHURST AND DISTRICT BUTTER AND CHEESE CO. LTD



23353 Butter Factory Former Penshurst  
0895



23353 Butter Factory Former Penshurst  
0896



23353 Butter Factory Former Penshurst  
0897



23353 Butter Factory Former Penshurst  
0898

---

## Location

Chesswas Street and French 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 - December 16, 2003

#### What is significant?

The Penshurst and District Butter and Cheese Co. Ltd. was established in 1898. It was located close to the former railway station on land in Chesswas and French Streets. The move was typical of the many butter factories established across the Western District at the time. The principal products were butter and cheese made from fresh milk but, by 1934, condensed milk and dried milk powder were prepared and marketed in large quantities, and other important products included cocoa and milk, casein, milk sugar, baby foods, and calf food. Mr. A. Hughes MLA opened the present brick factory in 1929. It is a single storey red brick building with a loading platform and office at the southern end. The other buildings have been demolished. The company merged with the conglomerate Murray Goulbourn in 1966 after which the factory closed. The surviving building is in fair condition and has been altered unsympathetically.

#### How is it significant?

The Penshurst and District Butter and Cheese Co. factory is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Penshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

#### Why is it significant?

The former Butter factory is of historical significance to the township of Penshurst as a representation of the dairying industry, which started in the area around the turn of the century, and as one of the major employers in the town. It is of historical significance for the physical reminder of a previous industry within the township associated with closer settlement, and a way of life, which is no longer supported. The Penshurst butter factory is historically important as one of two such factories in the study area. It is of architectural significance as one of the few surviving industrial complexes within the township of Penshurst.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1929,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23353
Property Number	

---

## Physical Conditions

Ruinous

## Physical Description 1

The butter factory was located in the triangular area bounded by French, Chesswas and Factory Streets, immediately to the east of the Penshurst Botanical Gardens and close to the former railway line. It has changed in its appearance over the years with section being added and demolished. The present building is single storey, built of red brick and with a gabled corrugated iron roof, which includes a large monitor roof for ventilation. There is an elevated loading platform sheltered by a cantilevered verandah at the southern end with a small room at one end under the same roof. The front wall of this room, possibly intended as an office, includes a large cement render sign with the name of the company. The double door leading onto the platform and the surrounding brickwork have been altered.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.12 Feeding People

3.12.2 Developing sources of fresh local produce

3.12.4 Preserving food and beverages

3.13 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity

### **Usage/Former Usage**

Abandoned.

### **Integrity**

Fair degree of integrity

### **Physical Description 2**

W. J. Smith, first manager

### **Physical Description 3**

LP 31140

*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/>*