
SCHOOL TEACHER'S RESIDENCE (FORMER)



23360 School Master s
Residence Former 59 Bell St
Penshurst 0916



23360 School Master s
Residence Former 59 Bell St
Penshurst 0917

Location

59 Bell Street, PENSHURST VIC 3289 - Property No 0119

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?

The former teacher's residence is located at 59 Bell Street, Penshurst. The land on which it stands was purchased from the Crown by members of the Ardlie family of Warrnambool, probably as speculation. The present house was built about 1900 for Robert Aitken Junior, the tanner who operated his father's tannery next door and a leading member of the community. Its Queen Anne style is typical of the Federation period. It is one of the better examples in Penshurst and is notable for its controlled asymmetry, picturesque roofline and diagonal corner window. In this it can be compared with the Police Residence built in 1914. No architect or builder has been connected with its construction. The house was purchased by the Education Department in 1924 as a teacher's residence. It remains substantially intact and in very good condition.

How is it significant?

The former teacher's residence is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Peshurst and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former teacher's residence is of historical significance both as a typical example of housing at the turn of the century reflecting the success and prosperity of the second generation of the Aitken family and specifically as the residence of the state school teacher for about fifty years. It is of architectural significance as one of the best examples of the Queen Anne style in Peshurst.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1900,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23360
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The house and garden are in good condition.

Physical Description 1

The former teacher's residence is a large weatherboard house built in the Federation Domestic Queen Anne style typical of the period. The massing and floor plan of the house while asymmetrical are balanced about the central front door. The corrugated iron roof is hipped except for gables at the ridge line, a gable over the projecting front room and a small gable over the rectangular corner bay window. The rendered brick chimneys, since painted, add to the elaboration of the roof line. The verandah is timber with paired columns and a simple frieze. The house is set in a large open garden which several mature trees surviving, including two Walnut trees, and a Magnolia Grandiflora.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 6 Educating

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

Usage/Former Usage

residential

Integrity

High degree of integrity

Physical Description 2

Robert Aitken Junior, first owner
Education Department owner after 1924
Frank Hammond, possible architect.

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/>