

# PENSHURST RACECOURSE



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst 1541



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst 1540



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst 1537



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst 1539



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst 1542



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst 1547



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst 1548



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst bar  
toilets 1543



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst 1546



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst bar  
toilets 1544



23379 Grandstand  
Racecourse Penshurst  
seating 1545

## Location

Racecourse Road PENSHURST, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 14, 2004

What is significant?

The land on which the Penshurst Racecourse is located, about 1.5kms north-east of the township, was reserved for the purpose in 1865. Races were held there immediately if not before, with liquor being supplied under the licence of local publicans. It may be that the great horseman and poet, Adam Lindsay Gordon and his riding companion, Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh, who had close connections with Penshurst, raced there. The small conventional timber and bluestone grandstand was built in 1896 when the Monterey Cypresses may have been planted. It has been much altered and extended. Other facilities followed including a kiosk used as a bar, stalls for horses, the judges' box and the other facilities necessary for official thoroughbred racing. No architect or builder has been associated with the design of the grandstand. The grandstand and the other buildings are in fair condition. The cypresses are senescent and have poor form.

How is it significant?

The Penshurst Racecourse is of historical significance to the community of Penshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Penshurst Racecourse is of historical significance for its association with the early history of racing in the western District and the passion for and importance of good horsemanship in rural Victoria in the nineteenth century. It has further historical significance for its continuous association with the thoroughbred horse racing industry over 100 years.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1896,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23379
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The buildings are in fair condition.

## Physical Description 1

The grandstand is typical in its raking form over ground floor facilities. The bar and toilets are in the bluestone ground floor and the stand is constructed in timber. The bluestone walls are full height at the front but are only to sill height at the sides and rear. The roof is a simple gable and there are remnants of cast iron decoration as brackets on the front posts. The grandstand is simple compared with those at Coleraine and especially Hamilton racecourses. A substantial grassed mound has been formed in front of the stand to extend and improve the viewing area. A single storey skillion addition has been made at the rear. A similar extension for toilets has been made at one end which, like the grandstand wall above it, is clad with corrugated iron. The original timber windows have been replaced by aluminium framed sliding windows. The original weatherboards have been replaced by pressed cement sheeting.

The kiosk is a timber structure with a low-pitched hipped corrugated iron roof. It has large panels which are hinged to open up the bar and provide some shelter. A crude metal verandah has been added on the grandstand side to improve the shelter. V-jointed boards form the panels and the wall below the bar where they are set diagonally.

The judges' box or tower is located immediately adjacent to the grandstand. It tapers slightly and is raised on a high metal frame, including an intermediate landing, and then consists of three storeys above. Possibly originally clad in timber, the walls are now imitation brick sheeting. Its roof is a simple skillion. Access is from a metal ramp at the rear. There is a satellite dish located at the base of the tower.

The planting around the course is not distinctive and comprises for the most part senescent common Monterey Cypresses, *Cupressus macrocarpa*.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life

8.1 Organising recreation

8.1.1 Playing and watching organised sport

8.1.2 Betting

8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests

## Usage/Former Usage

Continuing as a racecourse

## Integrity

The grandstand retains a high degree of integrity

## Physical Description 2

Adam Lindsay Gordon

Cuthbert Fetherstonhaugh Junior

## Physical Description 3

Racecourse and Recreation Reserve

*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/>*