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# TORBANK WOOLSHED



23441 Torbank Woolshed  
Tobermory Rd Penshurst  
1713



23441 Torbank Woolshed  
Tobermory Rd Penshurst  
1714



23441 Torbank Woolshed  
Tobermory Rd Penshurst  
1715

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## Location

Tobermory Lane PENSURST, 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 12, 2004

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 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, Peshurst 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.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1956,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23441
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The woolshed is in good condition.

## Physical Description 1

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).

## Historical Australian Themes

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

## Usage/Former Usage

shearing shed

## Integrity

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

## Physical Description 2

Ian Ritchie, owner in 1956.  
Geoff Dickeson, builder.

*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/>*