

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: AVENUE OF TREES

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Martin Street PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 261

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Penshurst

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF YALIMBA

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475J C11; VicRoads 233 O11; located along Martin Street between Ritchie and Cox Streets in the centre of the township.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Avenue of Trees Martin Street, Penshurst

Image Date: 28/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the Avenue including those the pattern of those trees which appear to be missing.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

An avenue of trees are planted in the grass verges of Martin Street from Ritchie Street to Cox Street in the township of Peshurst. These trees are planted in a systematic alternation to form an A B C B A rhythm. The specimens in this pattern are Schinus molle (peppercorn), Platinus x acerfolia (London Plane) and Ulmus procera (English Elm). The trees are planted to match each other on opposite sides of Martin Street. There are some trees missing, particularly outside the public buildings on the west side of Martin Street between Bell and Cox Streets. It appears that primarily those trees which are missing are specimens of Schinus molle (peppercorn).

There are no plaques to suggest that this avenue is a memorial planting or a commemorative celebration planting.

HISTORY:

The Avenue of Trees in Martin Street, Peshurst was planted by local men, Arthur Cook and Jack Ryan. The latter has confirmed that the trees were not planted as a memorial avenue, like the Memorial Avenue in Scaeles Street, but purely for aesthetic reasons. The trees were planted before the Second World War. It seems that some trees have been removed for roadworks and some trees have been replanted. Peshurst's Queen's Jubilee Celebration Committee wrote to the Council advising that at a public meeting, it had been decided to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty, by the planting of trees and the erection of street lights in Peshurst. The Council gave permission to plant trees in the main street [Martin or Bell or the Highway?] under the supervision of the Shire engineer and resolved that Shire labor assist in the planting. Permission to extend also to road from railway station to Bell Street. [which suggests that it is the continuation of the highway]

It is not known who was responsible for the pattern of the planting but its ABACABA rhythm is particularly interesting. The only author of such a design is thought to be the eminent landscape designer, Hugh Linaker. He worked for the City of Ararat at the beginning of his career as Superintendent of Parks and Gardens, laying out the grounds in 1914 of the Ararat Psychiatric Hospital. In 1929 he laid out the grounds of the Buchan Caves Reserve and the Shrine of Remembrance in 1933. Linaker succeeded William Guilfoyle as Government Landscape Designer. It may be that Linaker advised local designers, such as shire engineers and suggested such a pattern.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

- Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
- 8.1 Organising Recreation
- 8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens
- 8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

The surviving trees are fair condition.

INTEGRITY:

Good degree of integrity but several trees are missing.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Avenue of Trees in Martin Street, Peshurst between Ritchie and Cox Streets was planted in the early twentieth century to beautify the town. They are of interest for their mixed plantings in what is an unusual sequential pattern reflected between the cross streets and identical on either side of Martin Street. It may be that the pattern was influenced by the eminent landscape designer, Hugh Linaker who is known to have promoted

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such a pattern. The species are Ulmus, Schinus and Platinus. The avenue of trees is in fair condition, with reduced integrity due to the loss of several trees from the pattern.

How is it significant?

The Avenue of Trees in Martin Street is of aesthetic significance to the township of Penshurst.

Why is it significant?

The Avenue of Trees in Martin Street is of aesthetic significance for their unusual pattern of planting, for reflecting a municipal desire to beautify the town and for their important contribution to the streetscape of Penshurst.

COMPARISON:

271 Avenue of Honour, Scales Street, Penshurst

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

23-May-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
John Hawker	personal communication, 20/4/02	2002	
