

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MURDAM LODGE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton Highway PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 284

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: part Q **SECTION:** 12 **PARISH:** PARISH OF BORAMBORAM

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475 C3A ; VicRoads 73 F7; located on the north side of the Hamilton Highway, approximately 3.0kms north-west of the township of Peshurst and about .2kms past the bridge over Murdam Creek.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Cottage Murdam Lodge Hamilton Highway Peshurst.

Image Date: 15/05/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the ruined cottage, the adjacent Elm tree, *Ulmus procera*, and all the land of Certificate of Title, Vol. 4055 Fol. 829.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The single storey bluestone cottage is a vernacular structure with a typical plan of four rooms and a central passage. It is unusual in that the passage is parallel to the main road. A large Elm (*Ulmus procera*) has been planted adjacent to the cottage. Little of the garden survives.

HISTORY:

The land on which the ruined cottage at Murdam Lodge stands was purchased from the Crown by Joseph Hammond who bought the adjacent allotments Q, R, S, T, and V of section 12 and, on the other side of the Hamilton Road, the adjacent allotments H and W of section 11 of the Parish of Boramboram. The land may have been sold by 1851. The cottage and the modern house beside stand on allotment Q. Nobody by the name of Joseph Hammond is rated as an occupier in the first rate book nor as an owner in later ratebooks. A quarryman, William Hammond is rated as occupying a house in Penshurst owned by William Anderson. (SMR RB 1872 #362.)

It is not known when or for what purpose the ruined cottage was built. Its plan is simple and typical but unusually oriented facing up and down the road. It may be that it was associated with another building, much larger and possibly one of the early inns of Penshurst, located on the site of the present modern house. Several clues, both documentary and physical prompt this speculation. On a plan of Suburban and Country lands and the Township of Penshurst near Mount Rouse, dated 1851, allotment Q of section 12 of the Parish of Boramboram is the first 'country' land on the road to Hamilton just past the land reserved for suburban allotments but not yet subdivided. It is one of the few allotments to include the purchaser's name. The modern house is built on old stone footings. It is located just past the creek crossing and, although not very distant from Penshurst, the terrain is difficult being rocky and marshy.

The owners in the late nineteenth century were the Campbells who sold to Patrick Spring in 1902. On his death in 1916, the property passed to Ellen May Keilar (nee Spring) who died in 1949. Probate having been granted, the property passed to John William Spring in 1949. The modern house, now called Murdam Lodge, appears to date from this period.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
8.12 Living in and around Australian homes
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

Ruinous condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity despite ruinous condition

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The bluestone cottage and adjacent Elm Tree (*Ulmus procera*) on the land of the modern Murdam Lodge is located on the north side of the Hamilton Highway, approximately 3.0kms north-west of the township of Penshurst. The cottage is a simple vernacular form, with four rooms. The central passage is unusual as it is parallel to the main road. The mature Elm is located immediately adjacent to the cottage, and is thought to date from the same time as the cottage was constructed. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design. The structure is abandoned and in ruinous condition, but retains a high degree of integrity. The Elm is in good condition.

How is it significant?

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The cottage and adjacent tree at Murdam Lodge are of historical significance to the township of Peshurst and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Murdam Lodge is of historical significance for its association with the Hammond family, long time residents of Peshurst, and for its continual ownership in this family for over 120 years. It is of further historical significance as a representative example of a small vernacular bluestone cottage which demonstrates a previous way of life, and use of local materials to construct homes.

COMPARISON:

280 Bluestone Cottage, 11 Burchett Street, Peshurst
285 O'Brien's Cottage, Hamilton Highway, Peshurst

ASSESSED BY: AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE:

19-Dec-03

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
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Peshurst, County of Villiers	1957	
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Rate Books 1872	1872	#362
