

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BRANXHOLME HERITAGE PRECINCT

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Henty Highway BRANXHOLME

STUDY NUMBER: 402

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

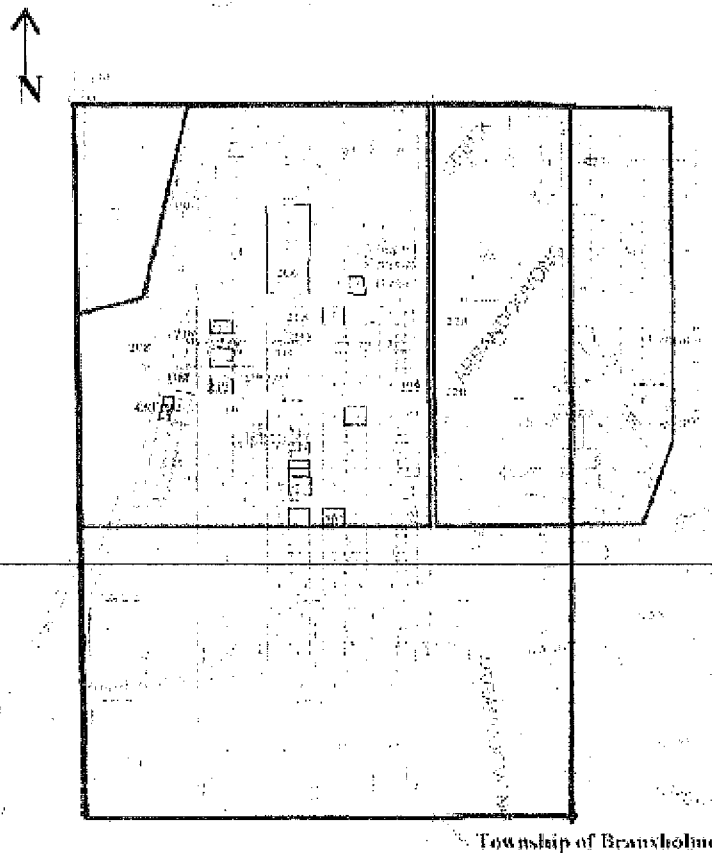
PRECINCT: Branxholme

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473J; VicRoads 233; located on the Henty Highway 25 kms south-west of Hamilton on the Arrandoovong Creek.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Branxholme Heritage Precinct: Red = Heritage Overlay * Green = Significant Landscape Overlay

Image Date:

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings and infrastructure constructed before 1952 including not only the buildings specifically identified as typical or outstanding examples of their type, but also those which contribute in a minor way. 2. All the land, both public and private, which is included within the official boundaries of the Township of Branxholme.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: PENSURST HERITAGE PRECINCT

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton Highway PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 403

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

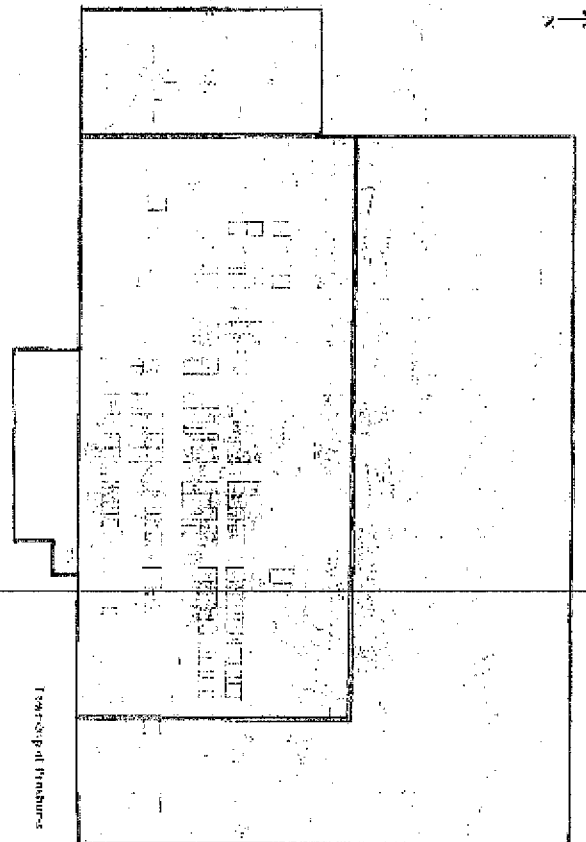
PRECINCT: Penshurst

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 475J; VicRoads 23; located on the Hamilton Highway

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Penshurst Heritage Precinct: Red = Heritage Overlay * Green = Significant Landscape Overlay

Image Date:

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings and infrastructure constructed before 1954 including not only the places specifically identified as typical or outstanding examples of their type, but also those which contribute in a minor way. 2. All the land, both public and private, which is included within the precinct boundaries defined by the red and green lines on the plan of the Penshurst Heritage Precinct.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: PENSURST HERITAGE PRECINCT

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Hamilton Highway PENSURST

STUDY NUMBER: 403

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The grid of the township of Penshurst is set on a rigid north-south orientation. Unlike other towns, it had no running water other than an everlasting spring. The earliest formal subdivision of the township provided for sections divided into allotments, and suburban allotments beyond. The sections, for the most part, include ten standard allotments of 50,000 square feet or two roods (4,644 square metres). These allotments increase in size further from the town centre, ranging from little more than one acre (0.407 hectares) to six acres (2.428 hectares). The main streets are Martin Street (Belfast and Warrnambool Road) described as "track from Port Fairy & Donaldson's Station" and Bell Street. Bell Street became the de facto main street because Cox Street, named after John Cox, the original squatter in the area still occupied Weerangourt, was actually the road to Geelong or Macarthur. One of Howell's 1851 plans shows a reserve for the Police at the centre of the town and indicates the Protectorate's huts still standing at the northern end and overlooking the spring. There were eventually reserves for the Church of England, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and a Common School as well as for other purposes. The practicalities of the plan can be traced back to the subdivision for towns in the colony of New South Wales promulgated by Governor Darling in the 1820s and adopted, more or less, by the colonial government of Victoria. The theory behind the plan can be traced back as far as the colonial towns and cities of the ancient Roman Empire.

The intersection of Martin and Bell Streets became the major intersection because of its central location, higher ground and de facto intersection of the major routes. The Penshurst Hotel, established in the early 1850s was located on the north-east corner of this intersection. But it seems that the spring and the Protectorate's huts influenced the precise alignment of the streets directly.

The introduction of the Hamilton-Warrnambool railway line and the brief spur line to Dunkeld in the late nineteenth century was an intrusion on some of the northern allotments of the township. A substantial area was allocated to the lines and the station ground, including a large elevated water tank for re-filling the engines, which survives. The station has been demolished and the railway tracks have been removed. State government departments now occupy the land.

Several large public open spaces were reserved on three sides of the township. The Public Gardens Reserve, located to the north of the township, at the spring comprises about 13 acres. For a long time it was left undeveloped but then it was planted out with pines donated by the State Nursery at Mount Macedon in 1872. These were removed in the early 1920s and replaced with a donation of 75 "ornamental" trees from the State Nurseries. At the end of the twentieth century the reserve was planted out again as a wetlands. The other public open space within the township is the Cricket and Recreation Reserve, which comprises 10 acres. Beyond the town boundaries to the south-east is the Mount Rouse Reserve which has been planted out several times, with pines and later with natives.

Many substantial buildings survive. The Presbyterian and Catholic churches, and the residences associated with them, are in Martin Street, at the centre of the township. The Catholic congregation did not build on its reserve but on allotments 1-4 of section eight. The Moderne style St Joseph's Catholic School now addresses the north-west corner of Martin and Cobb Streets with a curved corner. The cream brick Mechanics Institute, on the next corner, has been completed remodelled from its original bluestone and is the largest structure in the town. Beside it are the small but elegantly detailed former offices of the Shire of Mount Rouse. The post office, combined with the postmaster's residence, and the court house form a distinctive group at the intersection of Martin and Bell Streets. The war memorial at its centre enforces the importance of this intersection.

Bell Street retains a substantial number of commercial buildings and is one of the more intact such streets in the Shire. The shops that survive extend east and west down Bell Street as it falls away from the central civic area. The former Madigan's Store is perhaps the most important, at the intersection of Martin and Bell Street. The former National Bank in Bell Street complements the group. The former Bank of Victoria, on the other hand, is