

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: FINTONA

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 49 Gage Street COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 008

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

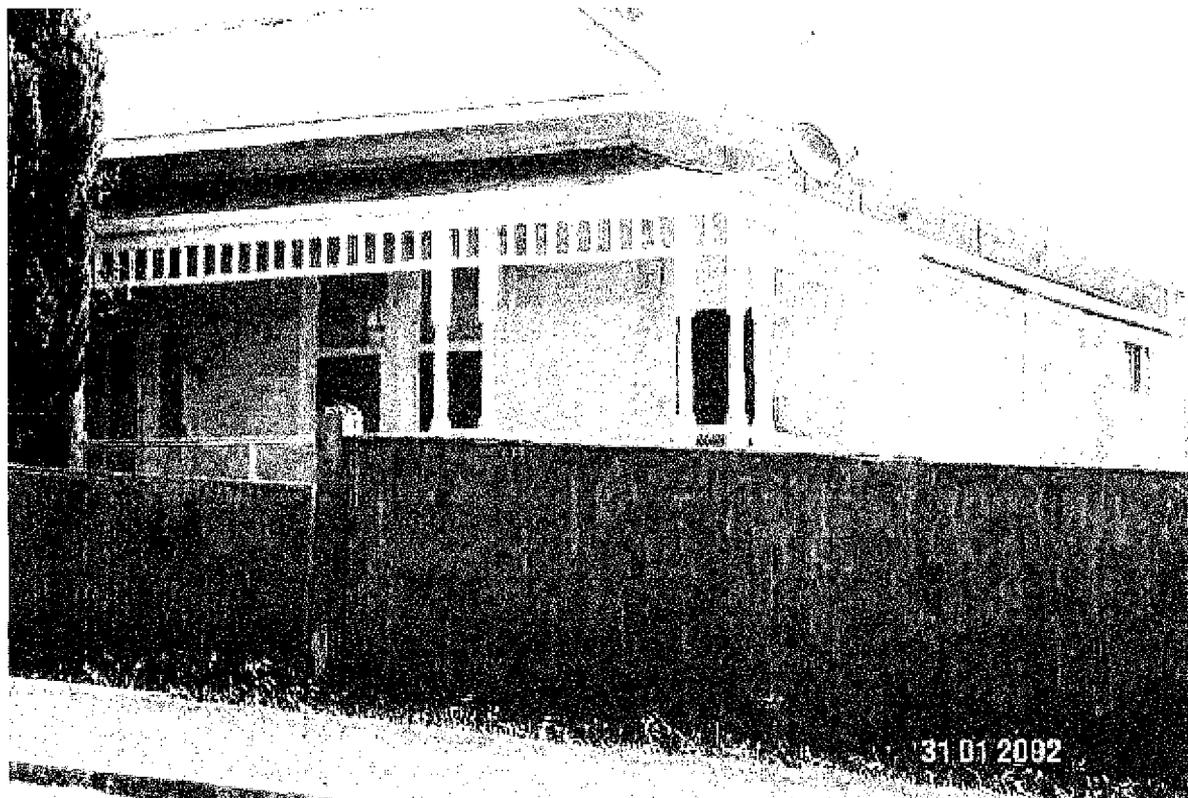
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 & Pt 3 **SECTION:** 31 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430J G5; VicRoads 228 C10; located on the north-west corner of the intersection of Gage and Church Streets facing east on a slight rise overlooking the town.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Fintona, Gage Street, Coleraine. Looking west from Gage Street.

Image Date: 31/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings (including the main house, the boundary fences, and the coach house, stables and loft), the Prunus shiroae, the Prunus [almond] and all the land known as Fintona, cnr Gage and Church Streets, Coleraine.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Fintona is a typical late Victorian style residence constructed in 1893 of timber weatherboards with a corrugated iron roof. Its design is symmetrical, with a central doorway flanked by single-paned double-hung sash windows on each side. The timber verandah, which encircles the house, has a pediment with decorative cast iron marking the front door. The simple turned timber posts are paired and there is simple timber fretwork. Sections of the verandah have been enclosed with weatherboard to create service areas and the north side has large recycled window sashes used as infill. A pair of tall corbelled chimneys are symmetrically positioned. The original framed corrugated iron fence survives with large timber posts and one picket gate. Two large Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) mark the front gate. There is a *Prunus shirotae* in the south-east corner of the of the garden beside a subsidiary pedestrian gate. There is a very large Almond (*Prunus dulcis*) beside the surviving coach house, stables and loft above located towards the north-west corner of the site. A more modern garage with extensions has been built in front.

HISTORY:

Then land on which Fintona now stands was first purchased from the Crown by W. W Hassall on 13 November, 1866, being Allotment 1 of Section 31 (Township of Coleraine, 1955). There is no information available regarding W.W Hassall, although there are some recorded burials of Hassall in the Coleraine Cemetery.

Dr Samuel Connor arrived in Australia in 1882 from Stonyford, Ireland. Shortly after his arrival in Australia, he settled in Coleraine to practice medicine. While in Coleraine, he met his wife, Florence Arden, born at Hilgay near Coleraine in 1858 and later from Claude Lorraine at Tahara (VPI, Reg. No. 13147). Florence and Samuel were married in 1883 and had three children between 1885-1888, one of whom (Samuel) died at the age of three, and another, John was killed in active service at Gallipoli in 1915 (VPI Reg. No. 5979; Coleraine Cemetery Index).

Dr. Samuel Connor received his medical education at Queens College, Belfast; graduated at Queens University Ireland in 1881, Royal University Ireland in 1885 and Melbourne University in 1886 (Sutherland, 62). After practicing in Coleraine for some time, Dr. Connor resided in Geelong for twelve months, returning to Coleraine in September 1893 (CA in Troeth, 101). Samuel remained in Coleraine until his deaths in 1927 at the age of 66, his wife Florence moved to Melbourne at some time prior to her death in 1942 (Coleraine Cemetery Index).

On his return to Coleraine, Dr Connor purchased Allotments 1, 2 and 3 of Section 31, prior to this time, the rate books note that Allotment 3 already had a dwelling constructed upon it (Wannon Shire Ratebooks). Later in 1893, Connor called for tenders for the construction of a residence and doctor's surgery on Allotment 1 at the corner of Gage and Church Streets Coleraine.

Samuel Connor's youngest son, Joseph Ivan (known as Ivan) became a leading dermatologist in his own right in the 1920s. He married Annie Jean MacNamara in 1934. Otherwise known as Dame Jean MacNamara, she was internationally renowned for her research into the treatment of poliomyelitis, as the founder of the first centre for spastic children, as a world authority on infantile paralysis and as the person who first thought of using myxomatosis for the eradication of rabbits in Australia.

Since Joseph (Ivan) and Annie (Jean) both lived and worked in Melbourne, it is likely that after the death of her husband in 1927, Florence Connor moved to Melbourne to be closer to her only surviving child. Doctor Tonkin succeeded Doctor Connor, and possibly purchased Fintona from his widow, and Doctor Tonkin was succeeded by Doctor Wayne as the general practitioner for Coleraine and surrounding area.

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Between the 1950s and the 1970s, little information is known about the history of the occupants or the building, however the house was converted into flats at some stage in the 1970s. These flats are used for rented accommodation.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

3.26 Providing health services

8.13 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

The condition of the main house is fair. The condition of the boundary fences is poor but with a good degree of integrity. The condition of the coach house, stables and loft is poor but with a good degree of integrity.

INTEGRITY:

Integrity of the house has been compromised by its conversion to flats. Other wise the grounds and the coach house, stables and loft are substantially intact.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Fintona is a single storey timber house and, formerly, a doctor's surgery located at the north-west corner of Gage and Church Streets, 4 blocks south of the centre of Coleraine. It was constructed in 1893 for Dr Samuel Connor who had recently immigrated from Ireland. The house is typical of the period and situation, being symmetrical about the front door and modest in its detailing. It appears to have been designed by the local civil engineer, Arthur Hill. The corbelled chimneys are of interest. The original fence and remnants of the garden survive. The original timber coach house, stables and loft survive in the north-west corner of the site. Fintona was of the home and surgery of several doctors. The house has been converted into three flats, which has compromised its integrity. The property is in fair condition.

How is it significant?

The residence and former doctor's surgery known as Fintona are of architectural and historical significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Fintona is of architectural significance as one of a small number of substantial architect designed late 19th century timber residences in Coleraine. Historically it is significant as the home and surgery of several local doctors.

COMPARISON:

007 Fairview, 101 Church Street Coleraine

ASSESSED BY: mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

16-Jul-01

EXISTING LISTINGS:

Name

Southern Grampians Shire Planning Scheme

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

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REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Alexander Sutherland	Victoria and it's Metropolis Vol. IIA: Country Districts	1888	62
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
Malcolm Troeth	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988	162
Wannon Shire Council	Wannon Shire Ratebooks 1889-90	1890	#126