



# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** SHOP AND RESIDENCE

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 102 Whyte Street COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 028

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The shop at 102 Whyte Street is a simple single storey brick shop with a canted corner door, partly glazed and in two leaves, and a large window divided into three panes on the main street frontage. Although old, this window may be a replacement of an earlier window with smaller panes. The shallow pitched roof is corrugated iron. The very short sheets of iron suggest an early date of construction. The timber verandah over the footpath in both Whyte and Gage Streets has lost its simple cast iron brackets, visible in 1988 photograph. It also has a corrugated iron roof of short sheets suggesting the same date of construction as the shop.

The dwelling is weatherboard with a corrugated iron roof. It has the simple form of a symmetrical vernacular cottage. The verandah, possibly a later addition, is timber enclosed at the western end with weatherboards and has a corrugated iron roof with a bullnose profile. There is a weatherboard skillion addition at the rear of the shop. There are two brick chimneys, one on the north side serving the shop, the other on the western elevation serving the dwelling.

## **HISTORY:**

The land on which the former shop and residence (102 Whyte Street) stands is Allotment A of an un-numbered section, set at the extreme western end of the original township boundary along Whyte Street. The site is half an acre on the north west corner of Whyte and Gage Streets, and was first occupied by the site of John L'Estage's rural store licence (Troeth, 51). John L'Estage married Mary Tully in 1859 (VPI, Reg. No. 1651). The information provided in the Births, Deaths and Marriages registers indicate that although they remained primarily in south west Victoria, the L'Estage family moved often, as evidenced by the birthplaces of their children. Xavier Francis (their first) was born in 1860 in an unknown location (ibid. 8903), followed by John, William and James, born in Belfast (now Port Fairy) 1861, 1862 and 1864 respectively (ibid., 3285, 19209, 7016); Mary Hanna, who was born in 1866 in Kerang (ibid., 5198); Rebecca Florence, born in Hamilton in 1869 (ibid., 15954). It seems that the L'Estage family settled in Coleraine at some time prior to the birth of Charles Johnston in 1871 (ibid., 8069). Their last two children were born and registered in Coleraine in 1875 and 1876 (Margaret and Ellenor) (ibid., 14884, 21994). The L'Estage family ran a rural store, although they must not have owned the land, as it was first purchased from the Crown by chemist, Robert C. Miller on February 27, 1874, for an upset price of 30 pounds per acre, and a valuation of 130 pounds (HS 30/01/1874).

Robert C. Miller had operated as a chemist from a store across the street (Glenelg Ratebook 1872-73, 385). Miller was married to Hannah Milne(s), and they had previously been in Mortlake, where their first child, Anna Isabella was born in 1870 (VPI, Reg. No., 17893). The Miller's arrived in Coleraine at some time prior to 1872, when their second child George Russell was born (ibid., 15089), and remained in Coleraine until after 1876, in which time, two more children, Alfred Henry and Mary Elizabeth (ibid., 14779, 1598). Miller added a residence to the store in 1874 (Glenelg Ratebook 1874-75, 53). Between 1876 and 1878, the Miller family relocated to Heywood, where the remainder of their four more of their children were born (Robert, Lydia, Stanley and Harold) between 1876 and 1884 (VPI). By 1886, the Miller family had relocated to Casterton where their last two children were born (Alice Maud and Walt Augustus) in 1886 and 1888 (ibid.).

Despite leaving Coleraine in the mid 1870s, Miller retained ownership of the store and residence at 102 Whyte Street until the early twentieth century. The Glenelg Ratebooks from the latter part of the nineteenth century indicate that Miller leased the premises to a number of chemists. The first was William Tate, who took a lease from 1877 to 1883. Tate's marriage certificate states that he was born in London (VPI, Reg. No. 2796), and must emigrated to Australia in the mid nineteenth century. Although the date of his arrival in the district is unknown, he married the daughter of Henry Nickoll, a local merchant who owned many allotments in the township of Coleraine. His daughter Mary married William Francis Tate in 1878 (ibid.) and their two children were born in Coleraine in the following two years; Francis Pointer, in 1879 (ibid., 8204A) and William De Bentheim in 1880 (ibid., 7693). It is likely that the Tate family moved from the area after the expiration of the lease, as there is no record of any Tate in the Coleraine or other local cemeteries, nor in the VPI.

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The next leaseholder of the property was John Nicholas who held the lease from 1883 -1894 (Glenelg Shire Ratebooks 1883-94). Nicholas was born in Collingwood 1855 (VPI, Reg. No. 9352), and arrived in the Coleraine area early in 1883. While in the area, he met and married Hamilton born Mary Ellen McSheehy in 1886 (ibid., 91), and together they had two children, George Watson in 1887 (ibid., 2055) and Aileen Sutton in 1888 (ibid., 28243). There is no record of where the Nicholas family went after the lease at 102 Whyte Street expired.

In 1894, Frederick Spooner took over the lease from Nicholas, and occupied the store and residence for five years until 1899. There is very little information available regarding Frederick Spooner, or his family and their time in Coleraine.

Robert Poynter arrived in Coleraine in 1899. He was originally from a farm in Sussex called Maylands, and arrived in Australia in the late nineteenth century. He obtained a traineeship as a chemist in Avoca, and after arriving in Coleraine, took over the lease of the premises at 102 Whyte Street, where he set up as a chemist. Poynter held the lease on the store and residence until 1906, when he moved his business to the former Henty Iron Store, on the north west corner of Whyte and Winter Streets (Stiglich, pers. com. 2001). Robert Poynter he decided to re-train as a dentist at the Dental College in Melbourne in the early twentieth century, family tradition has it that he had to decide to study either veterinary science or dentistry, as in his role as a chemist he treated so many animals and people with dental problems. After completion of his training, he established a dental surgery in Whyte Street, next to the Coleraine Hotel in 1925-26 (ibid.). Mrs. Mardi Stiglich was his dental nurse for many years. Mr. Poynter travelled around the district performing dental procedures. There were three day circuits which took in Harrow, Condah, Cavendish, Balmoral and Edenhope. He practiced one day per week at Casterton, and a half day per week at Merino (ibid.).

Mr. Poynter's first wife, Iva (nee Cruthers), with whom he had two sons and a daughter, died of acute blood poisoning in the early 1920s. He remarried in 1926 and, with his second wife, a widow from Nareen called Valetta Ross, nee Riddoch, he had a son and a daughter (Poynter, pers. comm. 2001).

Their son, John Poynter subsequently became a Rhodes Scholar, one of two from Coleraine. The present Uniting Church Manse was initially called 'Maylands', built by Mr. Poynter as a home for his first family. He subsequently built the second Maylands on the block behind the first, at a cost of £1200 pounds c. 1926 (Stiglich, pers. com., 2001).

The history of the store and residence, its occupants and owners in the twentieth century is not known. The store is currently derelict and vacant. It is not known whether the residence is occupied.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.19 Marketing and retailing

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:**

The building is in poor condition with one purlin of the verandah already failed. The brickwork has been painted. The shop window may have been altered.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Fair degree of integrity.

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

### What is significant?

The small brick shop and attached timber residence at 102 Whyte Street Coleraine are an example of a vernacular building type typical of small towns in the mid-nineteenth century. They can be compared with examples of similar scale and date or contrasted with later, grander examples elsewhere in Whyte Street. The shop seems to date from before 1866. It was first occupied by John L'Estage as a store. It was sold in 1874 by the Crown to Robert C Miller, a chemist. Miller added a residence to the shop in the same year. He remained the owner until the early twentieth century and during this time leased the shop to four consecutive chemists: William Tate in 1877; John Nicholas from 1883-1894; Frederick Spooner, from 1894-1899; and Robert Poynter from 1899-1906. Poynter was an important person who served the local community as a chemist, and later as a dentist. In 1906 Poynter moved his business to the store at the corner of Whyte and Winter Streets, the former S G Henty & Co Store, which was then renovated. He left Edward Poynter in charge of the shop at the corner of Whyte and Gage Streets. The shop is now unoccupied. The shop and residence are in fair condition and retain a high degree of integrity.

### How is it significant?

The shop and residence at 102 Whyte Street, Coleraine are of historical and architectural significance to the community of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

### Why is it significant?

The shop and residence at 102 Whyte Street, Coleraine are of historical significance for their early date, believed to be among the earliest surviving commercial premises in Whyte Street. The shop and residence have further historical significance for their constant occupation by a series of chemists and particularly for their association with Edward Poynter, a chemist who subsequently became a dentist, and who was one of the leading citizens in Coleraine in the first half of the twentieth century.

The buildings are of architectural significance for their simple vernacular forms and intact conditions which help demonstrate the range of shops and residences in Whyte Street.

## COMPARISON:

179 Balmoral General Store and Residence, Glendinning Street, Balmoral  
065 General Store and Residence, Port Fairy-Hamilton Road, Byaduk  
039 J E Goody's Store and Residence, 64 Whyte Street, Coleraine  
396 General Store and Residence, Scott Street, Cavendish  
070 Store and Residence (Curved Roof), 95 Whyte Street, Coleraine

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

28-Aug-01

## 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
	The Hamilton Spectator	30/01/1874	1874
Department of Justice	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888 (reg. No. 1505)		1998
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)		1873

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Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955
Dr. John Poynter	Personal Communication 01/08/2001	2001
Malcolm Troeth	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988 51-2
Mardi Stiglich	Personal Communication 25/06/2001	2001
Shire of Glenelg	Glenelg Shire Ratebooks 1883 - 1894	var.
Shire of Glenelg	Glenelg Shire Ratebooks 1874 - 1875	1874 #53
Shire of Glenelg	Glenelg Shire Ratebooks 1872 - 1873	1872 #385