

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BLACK HORSE INN (Former)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 66 Whyte Street COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 035

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 3 **SECTION:** 2 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430J H4; VR 228 C9. Located on the north side of Whyte Street, between Winter and Henty Streets.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Black Horse Inn (former), Whyte Street, Coleraine.

Image Date: 01/02/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the building and all the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The former Black Horse Inn, located at 66 Whyte Street Coleraine, is a small, single storey rendered hotel in two sections, constructed of locally made bricks. The eastern half is the taller, with a single arched entrance and two double hung sash windows. This may have been the residential section of the hotel. It is in a simple Renaissance revival style with rusticated walls, an intermediate cornice, from which spring the arches of the door and windows, all surmounted by a plain frieze and parapet. The western half is lower, possibly the older portion and may have been the public bar. It has a central doorway, now much altered, and a large window, now plate glass, on either side.

The former Black Horse Inn is typical of smaller hotels in the mid nineteenth century, single storey, brick, opening directly onto the main street, containing a bar, residence and a few small rooms for accommodation and stables at the rear.

HISTORY:

Hotels are an important feature of townships, as many towns began as an inn near the crossing of a watercourse. As the first social centres and places of entertainment and meeting, they have played an important part in the development of communities.

The land on which the former Black Horse Inn now stands (CA 3, Sec. 2) was purchased from the crown by W. Hurd on April 26th, 1854. The hotel was in existence by 1865 (Bailliere, 94). The first ratebook entry for the property is not until 1872-3, where Isaac Gray is listed as the owner and occupier of a hotel.

According to Troeth (39), the Black Horse Inn was purchased by Isaac Gelston Gray, a retired police officer, in December 1865 from the former proprietor William Harding. The license was transferred on 8th January, 1866. In January 1867, tenders were called for additions and alterations to the hotel by Hamilton architect, John S. Jenkins. In July 1869, Gray opened a grocery and drapery store after completing extensive alterations to his house, and converting part of the premises into a general store. From this time, the Black Horse Inn functioned on several levels, as a store and hotel, and later as an auction house.

According to Cox (53), the Black Horse Inn was an early meeting place for many of the local community groups, including the Coleraine Caledonian Society, the Coleraine Farmer's Society, the Common management Committee and the committee formed to establish the Mechanics Institute. Gray was 'considered to be a congenial host and under his ownership the Black Horse Inn gained a reputation for the lavish dinners he provided'. Gray also encouraged musical entertainment, hosting travelling singers and concert groups. Foley's Company, a musical group performed to a full house on two successive nights at the Black Horse Inn in April 1872 (CA, 06/04/1872).

Gray was born in 1834 in Belfast County Down, Ireland, to a watchmaker and jeweller, William Gray and his wife Marion. Gray was a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary until he emigrated, together with his brothers Archibald and James in 1857. On arrival in Melbourne, Gray joined the Victorian Police, and was appointed as a mounted constable on 11 March, 1858.

Gray served as a mounted constable with the gold escort between Ballarat and Geelong from 1858 until he was injured in an accident at Meredith in July 1859 when his horse fell on him. After recovering from this accident, Gray served for a short time as a mounted policeman at Portland, and was then transferred to Balmoral, where he took up duties in February 1860. Shortly after his arrival, Gray met and married Catherine Scott, the daughter of a local contractor and former overseer of Gringegalgona, William John Scott.

Gray and his new bride were transferred to Coleraine in November 1860, where he was appointed the first policeman to serve the town. The Coleraine Albion reported that the appointment of 'such a constable must be

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the greatest possible boon to our rising population; and under his active supervision, we will hope to see crime in this locality speedily diminish' (CA 6/11/1860). While establishing a Police Camp within the township, Gray rented premises from Mr McKebery. As there was no lock up, prisoners were attached to a large log (Emerson, 5). Gray resigned from the Police Force when he purchased the Black Horse Inn in December 1865.

Gray worked tirelessly for the benefit of the community. He sat on a variety of different boards and committees, serving as the manager and secretary of the Coleraine Common, manager of the Coleraine Presbyterian Church, a member of the Mechanics Institute Committee and the committee to establish a reservoir to supply the town with reliable water. He served as a member of the Wannon Shire Council, and a representative of the Balmoral riding for a total of nineteen years between 1872 -1891. He also stood, unsuccessfully for the Victorian Legislative Assembly.

Gray was perceived as controversial and outspoken, as he held strong socialist principles, which often brought him into conflict with local establishment. The Coleraine Albion reported a number of meetings which had ended in uproar 'with Gray the chief agitator'. Gray's supporters were the landless workers, the small selectors, and his constituents in the Balmoral riding. He fought the Wannon Shire Council for the rights of selectors who had pegged land on the Coleraine Common to purchase their selection at a reasonable price per acre.

Gray relinquished his publican's license in 1880, and became an auctioneer until the time of his death, at his home on March 23rd, 1906. He was survived by his wife Catherine and six of their eight children.

It is believed that the Black Horse Inn was delicensed in the early twentieth century, along with many other small hotels. As transportation developed and a wider range of entertainment and recreational activity was established, the smaller hotels closed, while the larger hotels were updated and enlarged.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

3. Developing local, regional and national economies

3.12.5 Retailing foods and beverages

3.22 Lodging people

3.23 Catering for tourists

4. Building settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

8. Developing Australia's cultural life

8.4 Eating and drinking

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

The front of the building is good condition. The rear is in poor condition, with deterioration of several sections of brick wall due to rising damp.

INTEGRITY:

The façade has been changed by the alteration of both doorways, the introduction of a canopy over one and the alteration of all the windows.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The former Black Horse Inn, 66 Whyte Street, Coleraine, is a single storey rendered brick structure composed of two parts. It is the only survivor of a row of small hotels which operated on the northern side of Whyte Street, and included the Victoria and National hotels, since demolished. The lower, western section appears to be the

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older part, and is believed to have been built before 1865. Its original openings have been replaced with a modern plate glass window and a recessed double door. The eastern section is taller, with a single arched entrance and two double hung sash windows. The building is in a simple Renaissance revival style, with rusticated walls, surmounted by a plain cornice and parapet. For many years the hotel was owned by Isaac Gelston Gray, former police officer, who became a publican, then a storekeeper and auctioneer. Changes in the use of the building reflected the various changes in Gray's career. The interiors of the hotel have been altered, and it is presently used as a private residence.

How is it significant?

The former Black Horse Inn, 66 Whyte Street, Coleraine is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Coleraine and the Shire of Southern Grampians.

Why is it significant?

The former Black Horse Inn is of historical significance as the earliest extant hotel, and one of the oldest buildings to survive in Coleraine. It has further historical significance for its association with the colourful local identity, Isaac Gelston Gray, whose varied career was reflected in the many uses to which the building has been put.

The former Black Horse Inn is of architectural significance as a typical example of the modest single storey hotels which lined Whyte Street in the mid-nineteenth century, and for the simple commercial style and form of the building.

COMPARISON:

031 National Hotel, 70 Whyte Street, Coleraine
014 Coleraine Hotel, 87 Whyte Street, Coleraine
148 Cricketers Arms Hotel (former), Hamilton Highway, Peshurst
122 Peshurst Hotel, cnr Martin and Bell Streets, Peshurst
212 Junction Hotel, cnr Brown and McNichol Streets, Branxholme
357 Bunyip Inn, cnr Scott and Barker Streets, Cavendish
171 Western Hotel, 20 Glendinning Street, Balmoral

ASSESSED BY: aen

ASSESSMENT DATE:

09-Feb-03

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

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
F. F Bailliere	Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide	1865	94
G. McGaffin	The Wannon Shire Centenary 1872-1972	1972	
Heather Cox, in Forth, Gordon (ed)	Biographical Dictionary of the Western District of Victoria	1998	53

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Leslie Emerson

A Short History of the Early Days in the Coleraine District

c195 5

Malcolm Troeth

The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine

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