

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: GLENELG WANNON WATER BOARD OFFICE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 88A Whyte Street COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 038

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: MCCLARTY ARCHER & CO

PRECINCT: Coleraine

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 4 **SECTION:** 1 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430J; VicRoads ; located on the north side of Whyte Street, the Glenelg Highway between Gage and Winter Streets in the centre of Coleraine

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Glenelg Wannon water board office (former), 88a Whyte Street Coleraine.

Image Date: 09/02/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

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

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

A single storey, single fronted brick shop, now much altered from its original design, with a residence at the rear. The façade now has a large plate glass window and a single door with a simple stepped pediment above. Importantly, the bricks used in the carcass of the building are very small and locally made (Troeth, 59). This reinforces the claim that the building is the oldest surviving commercial building in Whyte Street if not Coleraine. The roof is corrugated iron.

HISTORY:

Allotment 4, Section 1 was first purchased by Robert Gage on November 28, 1854 (Department of Lands and Survey, 1955). The first ratebook entry lists Louis Lesser storekeeper as occupant and owner of a brick cottage and storehouse on Allotment 4 and part of Allotment 5, Section 1 (Ratebooks, 1872-73, entry 95). Malcolm Troeth (1988) quotes the Coleraine Albion, September 2, 1892 as reporting that the store was constructed in 1859. During the 1880s the ratebooks indicate that the business was combined with the adjacent and larger stores owned by Abraham Lesser, by which it seems to have been eclipsed.

The Glenelg Wannon Water Board was constituted under the Water Acts and gazetted on 19th December 1984. The Board has since been superseded by the Glenelg Region Water Authority under municipal reforms introduced by the Kennett Government. It had included eleven members, nine of whom were elected directly by the voters of five Electoral Districts and two of whom were elected by the Councillors of the Shires of Glenelg and Wannon. The Board was responsible for the supply of fresh water and for the disposal of sewerage in the Casterton, Coleraine, Merino Balmoral and Sandford districts. Its principal office was in Coleraine. It was responsible for the Konongwootong Reservoir, of 1,800ml, which supplied two service basins at Casterton and two at Coleraine. The sewerage at Coleraine was collected in a gravity reticulation system and is pumped to treatment works 3kms west of Coleraine. After treatment, the effluent is used to irrigate pasture with surplus flows in winter passing to Koroite Creek. These arrangements continue under the new authority.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.11 Altering the environment

3.11.1 Regulating waterways

3.11.3 Irrigating land

3.11.5 Establishing water supplies

3.19 Marketing and retailing

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

Theme 7: Governing

7.6 Administering Australia

7.6.1 Developing local government authorities

7.6.6 Providing services and welfare

CONDITION:

The building is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

Poor degree of external intactness, has not been internally inspected.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

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What is significant?

The former Glenelg Wannon Water Board Office at 88A Whyte Street, Coleraine is a small single storey, single fronted brick shop with a residence at the rear. It was built as early as 1859 as a store, possibly for Robert Gage, and was subsequently owned by the brothers, Louis and Abraham Lesser, who were storekeepers in Coleraine in the latter quarter of the nineteenth century. The year 1859 has been suggested for its construction, a claim which is reinforced by the unusually small bricks which were used in its construction. The building has been much modified and now appears in a condition which reflects the mid twentieth century. For at least ten years it was used as the principal office of the Glenelg and Wannon Water Board. It is presently used as professional rooms.

How is it significant?

The former Glenelg and Wannon Water Board Office is of scientific and historical significance to the township of Coleraine and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Glenelg and Wannon Water Board Office is of scientific significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire as it represents the introduction and administration of reticulated water supply and sewerage disposal within the township of Coleraine and surrounding area. It is of historical significance for its associations with the Lesser family, who were important local businessmen. The building is also of historical significance as potentially the oldest surviving commercial building in Coleraine.

COMPARISON:

231 Lesser's Store, 86 Whyte Street, Coleraine
028 Store and residence, 102 Whyte Street, Coleraine
027 Store and residence, 107 Whyte Street, Coleraine
075 Store and residence, 100A Whyte Street, Coleraine

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

08-Sep-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
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	
Karl L. J Holzer	Victorian Municipal Directory	1992	954
Malcolm Troeth	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988	59
Shire of Wannon	Shire of Wannon Ratebook 1872-3	1872	#95