

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** TRANGMAR'S STORE

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 73 Whyte Street COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 0085

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** PEDEN'S STORE, SANDY'S

**PRECINCT:** Coleraine

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 8      **SECTION:** 8      **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 430J. Located on the south side of Whyte Street, between Winter and Henty Streets Coleraine, near the south east corner of Winter and Whyte Streets.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Trangmar's Store (former), Whyte Street, Coleraine. Looking south from Whyte Street

**Image Date:** 01/02/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

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

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Trangmar's Store, located at 73 Whyte Street, Coleraine is an asymmetric single storey brick shop and attached office built in 1905, with later brick, timber and corrugated iron additions at the rear. The store has a corrugated iron roof with a distinctive rooftop skylight over the main shop space. The stucco facade in a classical style has four attached pilasters resting on a ground level podium. Above the store is a Dutch gabled parapet with curved sides crowned by a pediment. The parapet above the office is balustraded. The attached concave profile pavement verandah displays unusual detailing, consisting of a geometrical cross-braced wrought iron frieze with supports of a trefoil design based on the sinuous curves of Art Nouveau.

The original entrance to Trangmar's Store has been altered, with access now gained by a sliding door at the side of the building. The original timber steps remain under a false floor abutting the front display windows. A number of the former multiple paned shop windows remain on site, now used as a false ceiling over the cash register. At the far end of the main shop, double doors formerly led into a small space, beyond which is a second large retail space. The double doors have been relocated within the store.

## **HISTORY:**

In 1847 Mr. Bell, proprietor of the Koroit Inn built a timber store next to his hotel on allotment 8 section 8. It was opened in 1848 under the management of a Mr. Murphy. The store was later sold to Mr. Bowen and purchased in 1852 by Messrs. George and Thomas Trangmar. In 1854, Robert Gage purchased allotment 8 of section 8, although the store remained in the hands of the Trangmars, who added a brick facade to the store to bring it up to the street line when the town was surveyed (Troeth, 63). Robert Gage married Jane McKebery in one of Portland's Presbyterian Churches in 1846 (VPI, Reg. No.3954), he arrived in Coleraine in the early 1850s. Robert Gage purchased many blocks of land in the township, and perhaps was involved with and re-selling the allotments.

George and Thomas Trangmar were born in Brighton, England and landed at Portland in Victoria in 1849, with the view to join their brother James in business at Portland as merchants. George and Thomas both went to the goldfields Bendigo before returning to Portland, Thomas joining James as a merchant while George went inland to Coleraine (HS 24/04/1919).

Trangmar's Store flourished and became an essential part of the Coleraine Township. Not only did it provide the service of general merchants, selling produce and general goods, it also housed the first post office and National Bank. In 1854 Trangmar married the daughter of James McKebery (who later became Wannon Shire President), Matilda McKebery and built a residence designed by architect James H Fox, erected in 1864. They had three children, George (1861) and Rose (1863) (VPI. Reg. No. 3366, 7057), and Robert, died in infancy 1856 (*ibid.*, 3167).

By 1866, George Trangmar had purchased many blocks of land both in and around the township of Coleraine, much of which he sold for a healthy profit as civic and other organisations required land for building. This is a significant shift from his mercantile interests and may reflect an ambition to establish pastoral interests equivalent to those of the early squatters. It parallels the advancement of several others in the district such as Thomas Brommell of Hensley Park, for example.

In 1866, he invited his nephew James William Trangmar to join him in a partnership of Trangmar's Stores as his interests developed further afield (namely in the purchase of a pastoral holding 'Toolang').

George Trangmar had successfully applied to the Lands Office at Hamilton for land, to which he added more land by purchasing the adjacent properties, including part of the Dundas Run, owned by Tom Young to create a landholding of some 5,302 acres. He named the property 'Toolang', and after selling Trangmar's stores to his nephew in 1875 moved to the property, where the Trangmar family continued to live until the early twentieth

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century.

Whilst living in Coleraine, George Trangmar was a magistrate, member of the Shire Council, Shire President, Local Post Master, District Coroner, and Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages (HS, April 24 1919 'Obituary of George Trangmar'). He was also a founding member of the Coleraine Pastoral and Agricultural Society and the secretary of the Great Western Steeplechase for many years in the time of Adam Lindsay Gordon.

George Trangmar retired to live with his daughter, Rose and son-in-law, James Gillespie at 'Toolang', a house in St. Kilda Road, Melbourne. He died there on 24th April 1917 and was buried in the Coleraine cemetery. His wife, Matilda had died at Toolang near Coleraine on 10th June 1898. The Trangmar family were active supporters of the Holy Trinity Church in Coleraine. The three stained glass windows of the apse were donated by George Trangmar as a memorial to the life's work of the Rev. Russell (CA 24/04/1919).

James William Trangmar was born in Portland in 1850 to James and Ann Trangmar (nee Mary) (VPI, Reg. No. 30825). He arrived in Coleraine in 1867, and took over the business from his uncle George in 1875. The following year he married Kate St George McCann, also from Portland, between 1878 and 1888 they had eight children, six of whom survived (ibid.). After taking over the business James W. Trangmar and his wife occupied the brick residence constructed for George and Matilda on allotment 8, section 8 until it was demolished and a new brick store was constructed on the site in 1905. The new store was opened on April 6, 1906. James William Trangmar's family and descendants continued to run the stores until the business closed in June 1969 and the 1905 store was converted into a supermarket. The original shop fittings were removed and the shopfront was replaced. The original 1847 building was demolished in October 1968.

Since this time, the shop has operated as a licenced supermarket, a clothing shop and a bric a brac store.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.12 Feeding people

3.12.5 retailing foods and beverages

3.19 Marketing and retailing

## **CONDITION:**

The main shop is in good condition, although it has undergone many minor alterations. Some decorative features on the parapets have been lost. The loss of the original entrance, shop windows and shop fittings in the late 1960s detracts from the integrity of the interior. The later extension to the rear is in fair to poor condition, with subsidence of floors and evidence of water damage to plaster walls. The office is in good condition, but has lost the grate and mantelpiece from the fireplace.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Fair degree of integrity. The loss of many of the original shop fittings in the 1960s has substantially reduced the integrity.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

Trangmar's Store, 73 Whyte Street, Coleraine is a single storey, double fronted brick shop with a rendered shopfront and attached brick residence. It is located in the main street in the centre of Coleraine. The existing building dates from after 1905. The present shop and dwelling is typical and one of the larger examples in Coleraine. It is in good condition and retains a good degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Trangmar's Store is of historic and architectural significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern

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Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Trangmar's Store is of historic significance for its associations with the most influential and long standing merchants in Coleraine, the Trangmar family. Both George Trangmar and James William Trangmar (his nephew) were substantial and influential people within the township and the community, serving as Justice of the Peace, Shire Councillors and Presidents of many local societies. The building, which replaced a much earlier 1847 structure is a representation of the success of the Trangmar's Stores business, and the rising fortune of the Trangmar family, which is reflected in the classical form of the facade of the building. The store is of further historical significance for its claim to be the longest family run store in Victoria (prior to sale in 1969).

**COMPARISON:**

0231 Lessers Stores (former), 88a Whyte Street, Coleraine.

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

01-Feb-02

**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
	Hamilton Spectator - Obituary of George Trangmar	1919	
Coleraine Historical Society	CHS File - Trangmar's Store		
Department of Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
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G. McGaffin	The Wannon Shire Centenary, 1872-1972: a brief history of the Shire of Wannon	1972	
Nairn, Bede, gen. ed.	Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 6, 1851-1890 R-Z	1976	
Troeth, Malcolm	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988	63-4