

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** MOUNT KOROITE HOMESTEAD (ORIGINAL SITE)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Heffernan Lane COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 343

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 430; Located at the junction of Heffernan Lane and the tributary of Bryan's Creek.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Heritage Inventory



Mt Koroit Homestead original site, Heffernan's Lane, Coleraine

**Image Date:** 09/02/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the garden and yards including all surviving plantings, fences and other works.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

This, the original site of the first homestead is located in Heffernan Lane off the Cavendish-Coleraine Road. It is in a small creek valley rather than on a hillside, which is unusual. Nor is it close to the main route between Hamilton and Coleraine. It is not known when or why this site was abandoned in favour of the higher site. It was most probably linked to the purchase of the pre-emptive right. Several early (possibly pre-dating 1860) plantings survive at the original site including four Italian cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens*), apple and pear trees, possibly a mulberry tree, and some minor bulbs. Most interestingly, there is a rare private cemetery located on the hillside opposite the original homestead site. The three sites, of the old homestead site, the new homestead site and the cemetery should be viewed as a whole, and in relation to each other. Mount Koroite was subdivided from the Koroite or Dundas run

## **HISTORY:**

The Koroite, Mount Koroite or Dundas run, Portland Bay District No. 306, was first taken up by the Whyte Brothers in March 1840 (B&K, 1974, 230). It soon passed to W. J. Purbrick and then to J. G. Robertson in November, 1843. In February 1845 it passed to William Young and Adam Turnbull after whom Adam Young, who is buried in the Mt Koroite cemetery, was possibly named. They also leased nearby Winninburn together (B&K, 151). In July 1858, the Mount Koroite lease passed to a W. Young, possibly William Young alone, or William Young Junior. In 1864, J and G Young challenged the cost of their license because only 640 acres (later amended to 962 acres) remained, the rest having been alienated in 1863 (Run File, PRO). Nonetheless, the rent was calculated on 2,340 acres of second class sheep country since no official notification had been received to the contrary. The lease was cancelled in 1867.

It was possibly William Young Junior who built the new homestead on the hill immediately above the original. From documentary and physical evidence this seems to have been in the 1860s. Although now much altered and extended, it appears to have been a conventional small house, facing east, of four main rooms with service wings forming a courtyard on the west side. An alternative, although less likely date, would be 1873 when the property was sold to John Finn Kirby for 40,000 pounds (Smith, Vol. 3, 548; HHC, Mount Koroite notes).

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies  
3.5 Developing primary production  
3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5: Working  
5.8 Working on the land

## **CONDITION:**

The remaining plantings are in poor condition, and damaged by cattle. There is a high archaeological potential at this site.

## **INTEGRITY:**

No built remains surviving. Several tree including two *Cupressus sempervirens* and several fruit trees.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The original site of Mount Koroite Homestead is located about eight kilometers east of the township of Coleraine, and north of the second homestead, which is located at the top of the hill. The only fabric which remains at the site of the original homestead are two Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), several fruit

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trees and potential archeological artifacts. The Mount Koroite run dates from the very early 1840s and has been associated with a variety of important pastoral families, including the Whyte Brothers, Pubrick family, the Turnbull's and the Youngs. The site and the remaining fabric of the site is in poor condition, and has been damaged by cattle, although the archaeological potential may be high.

How is it significant?

The former Koroite Homestead site is of historical and archaeological significance to the community of Coleraine, and the Southern Grampians Shire as a Heritage Inventory Site.

Why is it significant?

The original site of Mount Koroite homestead is historically significant as one of the earliest runs in the area, for its associations with key individuals and as an example of an abandoned homestead site. It is of archaeological significance for the information it may reveal about the early squatting period generally, the establishment at Mount Koroite in particular and families of the earliest pastoral times.

## COMPARISON:

034 Wilderness Homestead Complex (original), Wilderness Road, Gritjurk  
041 Hilgay (former), Hilgay Road, Coleraine

**ASSESSED BY:** AEN

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

9/02/2002

## 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
Paul de Serville	Mt Koroite Estate Important Sale of Agricultural Lands	1886	9
	Pounds and Pedigrees	1991	467
R. V. Billis and A. S. Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	108, 159, 164, 230