

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: POLICE STATION AND RESIDENCE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 33 Glendinning Street BALMORAL

STUDY NUMBER: 378

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Balmoral

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 4 (part) **SECTION:** 3

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 388J C4; VicRoads 227 T3; located on the north-east side of Glendinning Street immediately adjacent to the former court house and current police station.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Police Station & Residence (Former), 33 Glendinning Street, Balmoral

Image Date: 1/12/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

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

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The former Police residence and station, located at 35 Glendinning Street is a single storey asymmetrical Victorian timber house dating from about 1880. The house has six main rooms and a partially enclosed gable at the front of the house. The windows are 4 pane double hung sashes.

The eastern portion of the verandah is enclosed to form a single room police station with a four paned window. Timber house with verandah. Filled in part of the verandah is the old police station.
In fair condition

HISTORY:

The land on which the former lock-up, Police residence and Police Station and former Court house now stand is now described on Township Maps as a 'Police Reserve' (Department of Lands and Survey, 1958). However, the earliest survey maps of the Township of Balmoral, dating from between 1855 and 1860 note a 'Police Paddock Reserve' on the north side of Mather's Creek, to the west of the Glenelg River. It is likely that the current 'Police Reserve' was Gazetted in the 1860s, when the first which is now known as the Police Reserve does not appear as a is described as 2 acres of Police Reserve in the Parish Plan, was probably reserved in the earliest survey for the township of Balmoral in the 1840s. However, the township plan of Balmoral in 1860 shows that the land which is now the Police Reserve was at that time four separate allotments 1, 2, 3 & 4 of section 3. This indicates that the Police Reserve was not created until after 1860, probably at the same time as the first Policeman was appointed. It is possible that this was Isaac Gelston Gray, a police officer who was appointed to Balmoral in February 1860.

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 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). Gray resigned from the Police Force when he purchased the Black Horse Inn in December 1865.

It is not known who the other Police in the area were, but in 1875, Victorian Mounted Policeman Gorman was stationed at Balmoral (HS n.d). Rogers (25) remembers the tale of Constable Gorman trying to catch those who were stealing black wattle bark from Crown Land in the wattle-stripping frenzy of the late 1880s. "Constable Gorman was on the lookout for poachers of Government Bark. He eventually caught Robert Gillies and James Green with a couple of tons of bark which he promptly confiscated. Apart from fining the offenders the off Government sold the seized bark for five or six pounds per ton. Another story of Constable Gorman and wattle...Gorman knew that Harry Snell was stealing wattle bark from the Crown Lands but he was difficult to catch. One day Constable Gorman tied his horse to a young wattle and quietly walked further on with the intention of catching Snell in the act. When he returned to his horse after a fruitless search, he found that Snell had just stripped the bark from the tree to which Gorman's horse was tied and had disappeared bark and all" (ibid.).

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It appears that the former Police residence dates from the 1880s, and it is likely that prior to this, the police station was housed in rented premises, or a more primitive structure at the same location. The eastern section of the verandah has been enclosed, and acted as a police station for many years. The former Police Station and Residence are now used as a private residence.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme: 7 Governing

7.6 Administering Australia

7.6.3 Policing Australia

7.6.4 Dispensing justice

7.6.5 Incarcerating people

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:

Fair

INTEGRITY:

Fair degree of integrity externally.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Police residence and Station, located at the eastern end of Glendinning Street, Balmoral is a single storey asymmetrical timber house in the Victorian vernacular style. The house dates from about 1880, and may be the second police residence and station, replacing an earlier rented premises on another site or an earlier structure on the same site. The house was used as a police station and residence from the 1880s until the mid nineteenth century. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design. The house is in fair condition and retains a good degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Police residence and station is of historical significance to the community of Balmoral and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Police residence and station is of historical significance as a reflection of the police presence in Balmoral, and their important role in the community. It is of further interest as an example of a police station being the less significant structure, built into the verandah of the house.

COMPARISON:

080 Policeman's House, Coleraine-Nareen Road, Nareen

248 Police Station and Residence (former), 35 Martin Street, Penshurst

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

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REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
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Bruce Trethowan	The Public Works Department 1851 - 1900 An Architectural History, Research Report	1976	
David Saunders	Historic Buildings of Victoria	1966	205
Department of Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Balmoral, Parish of Balmoral, County of Dundas	1958	
W. J. (Jack) Rogers	Balmoral	n.d	25,44