

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WATT'S GARAGE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 65 Whyte Street COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 379

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

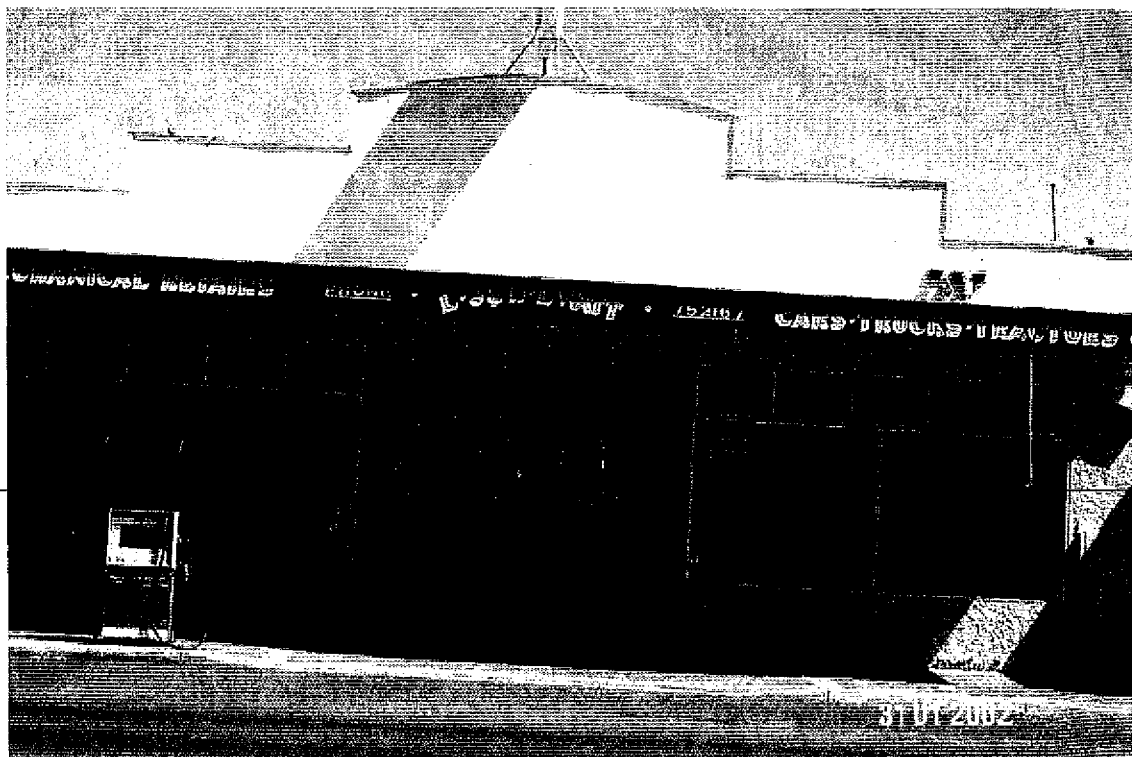
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: part 2 **SECTION:** 8 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE
& 3

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430J H4; VicRoads 228 D10; located on the south side of Whyte Street, the Glenelg Highway, between Henty and Winter Streets, about 2.0kms east of the Post Office.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Watt's Garage, 65 Whyte St, Coleraine

Image Date: 31/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All of the exterior of the buildings and all of the land, being part allotments part 2 & 3, section 8, township of Coleraine.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The garage is a large, single storey brick building with a substantial cantilevered front verandah. The building is symmetrical about a wide central entrance and has shop fronts on either side. The main interior beyond the shop fronts is a large workshop with a metal trussed corrugated iron roof.

There is an important petrol vending machine surviving on the western pier of the façade. A more modern petrol pump survives on the eastern side in front of the verandah.

HISTORY:

The land on which Watt's Garage (parts of allotments 2 & 3 of section 8) stands was first purchased from the Crown on May 20, 1852 by James Blair (allotment 2) and Stephen George Henty (allotment 3) (Department of Lands & Survey, 1955).

Stephen George Henty purchased many blocks in the early Coleraine land sales, and ran businesses from the former Iron Store in Whyte Street. He was the fifth son of the Henty family famed as being the first settlers in Victoria. Stephen was born in Sussex 1811 and arrived in Western Australia in 1829 (Shaw, in Forth (ed.) 66). S. G Henty established the famous Merino Downs, as well as being a prominent land owner in and around Hamilton, and described as 'Portland's leading merchant' (ibid., 66). Between 1852 and 1864, Stephen George Henty owned the pastoral runs of Ardachy, Kadnood, Koroite, Mt. Sturgeon Plains North and Mt Sturgeon Plains South, Strathfillan, Talangour, Wando Vale B, and Bongmire (with William Learmonth) (Billis & Kenyon, 81).

Stephen George Henty was considered to be a very important local man. Not only was he an important merchant and landholder, he was a member of the Legislative Council from 1856-1870, Commissioner of the State Savings Bank and President of the City and Suburban Investment company. He died in Tarrington in 1870 (Shaw, in Forth (ed.), 66).

It is believed that the site was used as a blacksmith's shop for many years prior to the advent of the motor car, and that the current building was constructed about 1920, possibly replacing an early blacksmith's shop. It is likely that the Blacksmith's shop was owned by Mr. McLeod, who is said to have had a smith's shop in Whyte Street from prior to 1850 (Emerson, 5).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.8 Moving goods and people on land

3.8.8 Getting fuel to engines

3.12 Feeding people

3.12.5 Retailing foods and beverages

3.19 Marketing and Retailing

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life

8.4 Eating and drinking

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

CONDITION:

Good condition

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INTEGRITY:

Good degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Watt's Garage is located on the south side of Whyte Street, in the centre of the township of Coleraine. Since the late 1850s it has operated as transport orientated commercial site, first as a blacksmith, possibly under a Mr. McLeod, and since about 1920, as a motor garage. The garage is a large, single storey brick building with a substantial cantilevered front verandah. The building is symmetrical about a wide central entrance and has shop fronts on either side. There is an important petrol vending machine surviving on the western pier of the façade. The main interior beyond the shop fronts is a large workshop with a metal trussed corrugated iron roof. There has been no architect or builder identified as being associated with the building. The building is in good condition with a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant? Watt's garage is of historical significance to the southern Grampians Shire and to the township of Coleraine.

Why is it significant?

Watt's Garage is of historical significance for its demonstration of the sequence of development and adaptation on the site which has been associated with road transport from the mid-nineteenth century. It is of further historical significance for its association with the Stephen George Henty, of the pastoral pioneer Henty family, and for its long association with the Watt family. It is of further historical significance for the coin operated petroleum meter on the facade of the building, which is a very rare surviving example of a petrol meter at a garage. It provides us with evidence of a previous method of payment and service delivery.

COMPARISON:

247 Schramm's Garage, 84 Bell Street, Peshurst

426 Garage, Martin Street, Dunkeld

252 Peshurst Motors, Martin Street, Peshurst

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE: 7/03/2003

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
	Victoria and Riverina, with which is incorporated Victoria 1930, Victoria and Riverina 1931 and Victoria and Riverina, 1931-1932, a biographical record ...	1933	108-9
A. G. L. Shaw in Gordon Forth (ed.)	"Henty, Stephen George (1811-1872), pioneering pastoralist" in The Biographical Dictionary of the Western District of Victoria	1998	66
Centenary Celebrations Committee	Coleraine Centenary Celebrations: October 7 to 14, 1939	1939	16
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Department of Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	

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Department of Lands and Survey

Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong
Wootong County of Dundas)

1955

R V Billis and A S Kenyon

Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip

1974 81