

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BRICK RUIN

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: off Coleraine-Nareen Road NAREEN

STUDY NUMBER: 464

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

**OTHER NAME/S
OF PLACE:** SUNNYSIDE?

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF TARRAYOUKYAN

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 387 C16; VicRoads ; located about 500m off the Coleraine-Nareen Road on the eastern side and about 750m north of the intersection with McDougall's Lane

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Sunnyside ruins, Coleraine-Nareen Road, Nareen

Image Date:

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All of the remains of the brick ruin, all of the woolshed, all of the garden and all of the orchard and all of the land within an 80m radius of any edge of the brick ruins.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The ruins of Sunnyside suggest that it was a single storey asymmetrical brick house. Several rooms survive with four brick walls, some of which have been rendered, although many have been destroyed. There are two large chimney stacks which survive, and the remains of fireplaces. The ruins are located in the remains of a typical late nineteenth century homestead garden. The garden retains some of the original plantings including several Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), a row of Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*), an Irish Strawberry Tree (*Arbutus unedo*), Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) and other mature trees. Beyond the homestead garden an orchard survives with a number of different types of fruit trees, including Pear (*Pyrus comminus*), Apple (*Malus species*) and Plum (*Prunus species*). Adjacent to the ruins of the house a timber woolshed survives in poor condition.

HISTORY:

The land on which Sunnyside stands was taken up after the Closer Settlement Acts of the 1860s, as the selection of John and Catherine Neeson (Neeson, 14). It was allotment 123 in the Parish of Brim Brim, and consisted of 383 acres, 3 roods and 37 perches. John Neeson was born near Augherclooney, County Antrim Ireland. In May 1856, he married Catherine Laverty, and in November of that year they sailed for Portland.

After arriving in Portland, the Neeson's worked on various large pastoral properties between Nareen and Harrow, including Springvale, Clunie and Lake Wallace North (*ibid.*), before purchasing Sunnyside in 1865. It is believed that the Neeson family built the imposing brick house at Sunnyside, the ruins of which remain in about 1867, when they permanently settled there.

While at Sunnyside, the Neesons had several children die, and their remains are buried on the property, although their graves are unmarked and unknown (*Ibid.*).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

The house is ruinous, and in very poor condition.

The woolshed has been abandoned for some time and is in fair condition.

The garden and orchard are in fair condition.

INTEGRITY:

Low level of intactness, but may be high archaeological potential.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Sunnyside is located about 500m off the Coleraine-Nareen Road on the eastern side and about 750m north of the intersection with McDougall's Lane. The complex consists of the ruins of a substantial brick house and timber woolshed, set in the remains of a large garden, with several surviving mature trees and an orchard. Sunnyside was developed by the Neeson family, who purchased the land as selectors in 1865, building the house when they settled on the land after 1867. The land has been retained in the Neeson family for over

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130 years. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design of the house or woolshed.

How is it significant?

Sunnyside is of historical and archaeological significance to the community of Nareen and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Sunnyside is historically significant as a representative example of a successful selectors homestead dating from the late 1860s. The close proximity of house, orchard and woolshed demonstrates the self sufficiency of those who came looking for land in the 1860s and 1870s after the Land Selection Acts. Sunnyside has further historical significance for its long history of ownership by an important local family, the Neesons, who have been in continuous ownership of this property since 1865. Sunnyside has archaeological significance for its potential to yield further artifacts and information which will provide us with a better understanding of our past and the way we once lived.

COMPARISON:

317 Ruined House and outbuilding, Mirranatwa School Road, Mirranatwa

ASSESSED BY: AEN & TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

9/03/2004

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
Ewan Neeson	A Place of Oaks: History of Nareen and Tarrayoukyan	1970	14-15
