

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MATTHEW COOKE'S BLACKSMITH SHOP

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 91 Whyte Street COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 011

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

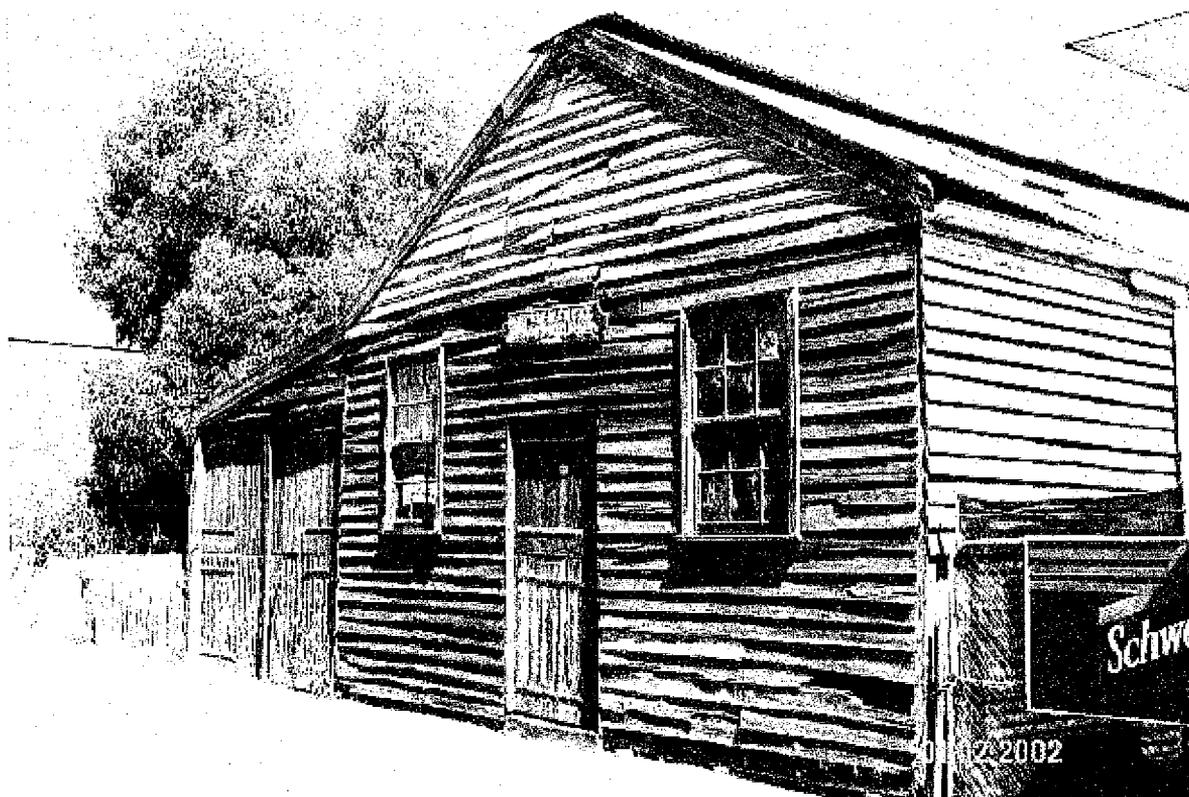
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 6 **SECTION:** 9 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430J , VicRoads 228 , located on the south side of Whyte Street, between Winter and Gage Streets.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: State



Matthew Cooke's Blacksmith Shop (former), Whyte Street, Coleraine. Interior of shop

Image Date: 17/09/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the buildings and land, and all the objects within the building associated with the Blacksmith Forge

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

91 Whyte Street is a timber workshop with a gabled roof and a skillion attached on the east side. The roof is of corrugated iron with a ventilated ridge and the floor is earthen. Large doors on the skillion section were for the access of horse drawn vehicles and other equipment. The building contains relevant equipment and tools of trade.

HISTORY:

The land on which Mathew Cooke's Blacksmith shop now stands was first purchased from the Crown by David Edgar on September 3, 1852 (Department of Lands and Survey, 1955). David Edgar was a very important local landholder, who took up large parcels of land near Harrow. He purchased the adjacent allotments (7 & 8) in Section 9 at the same time.

In November 1886, Matthew Cooke took over John Mallinson's blacksmith shop located in Whyte Street on Allotment 5 Section 9. It is reported that this building collapsed during a storm and a new blacksmith's shop erected in 1888 on the adjacent Allotment 6. Matthew Cooke was born in Portland in 1854 to William and Jane Cooke (VPI, Reg. No 30982). He arrived in Coleraine some time prior 1886, when he married Mary Ann Agnes Wright, who was born in Coleraine to Robert Wright and Annt McCabe in 1865 (VPI, Reg. No. 1505). Matthew and Mary Ann had two children, Eliza in 1886 and William Henry in 1888 (VPI, Reg No. 17178 & 10231). The Coleraine Cemetery records the death of Mary Ann Cooke in 1893, at the age of 29. It is not known whether this was Mary Ann Agnes Cooke (nee Wright).

It is thought that Cooke's son William eventually took over the smithy from his father, and it continued to be passed down the generations, as the blacksmith's shop remained in the Cooke family until the 1980s. Draught horses, riding horses and ponies were brought in to the smithy for shoeing. The Cooke family also travelled around to shoe horses on the properties in the district.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.8 Moving goods and people
3.8.5 Moving goods and people on land
3.13 Developing an Australian manufacturing capacity

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities
4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

CONDITION:

The building is largely intact.

INTEGRITY:

Very high degree of intactness

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Matthew Cooke's blacksmith shop is located at 91 Whyte Street, in the central commercial area of Coleraine. The building was constructed in 1888, replacing an earlier smithy. The structure comprises a timber workshop with gabled roof and a skillion attached on the east side. The roof is of corrugated iron with a ventilated ridge, and the floor is earthen. Large doors on the skillion section were used by horse drawn vehicles and other equipment. The building contains relevant equipment and tools of trade.

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How is it Significant?

Matthew Cooke's Blacksmith Shop is of historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it Significant?

Matthew Cooke's Blacksmith Shop is of historical significance as a rare surviving examples of a blacksmith's shop. Its significance is enhanced by its degree of intactness, and the retention of relevant equipment and tools of trade. It represents a trade that is no longer practiced, but has been associated with the development of the town since earliest settlement.

COMPARISON:

none within the study area

ASSESSED BY: MGT

ASSESSMENT DATE:

31-Jul-01

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
Department of Lands and Survey, Melbourne	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
Departments of Lands and Survey, Melbourne	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Macbeth Genealogical Services	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	1998	
Troeth, Malcolm J	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988	

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