

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** NATIONAL HOTEL

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 70 Whyte Street COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 031

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** SHAMROCK HOTEL

**PRECINCT:** Coleraine

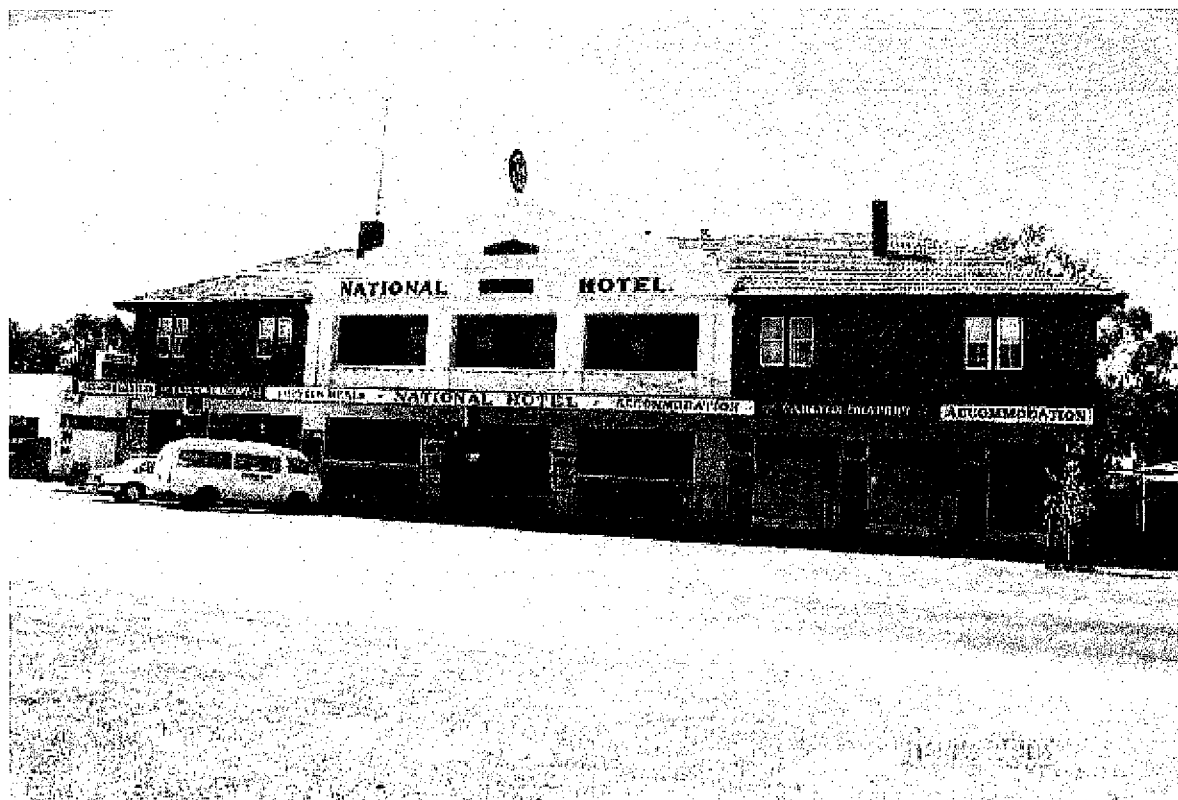
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** Part **SECTION:** 2 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE  
CA  
4&5

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 430JH4 No. 4; VicRoads 228C9; located on the north side of Whyte Street, the Glenelg Highway, in the centre of Coleraine opposite the former Shire of Wannon Offices.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



National Hotel, 70 Whyte Street, Coleraine. View Looking north from Whyte Street.

**Image Date:** 01/02/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

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

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The National Hotel is a very large, symmetrical two storey red brick building with public bar, lounge, dining room and commercial premises on the ground floor and twenty-five bedrooms on the upper floor. (The provision of shops on the street frontage is rare but not unknown even in the nineteenth century.) It is unusual for the hotel not to be located on a street corner. The façade is dominated by a pedimented portico, recessed into the building on the upper floor, and marking the main entrance to the hotel. The portico is rendered and uses abstracted classical details as trabeation and to form a pediment. The original 'oatmeal' tiles survive as the dado to the façade. The main roof, clearly visible from the street, is a simple hip with eaves and is covered with terra cotta tiles. This, along with the small scale of the fenestration, suggests a domestic quality to the architecture.

## **HISTORY:**

The land on which the National Hotel now stands was purchased from the Crown on 26 April, 1854. Allotment 4 of Section 2 was purchased by P. Myles, and Allotment 5 was purchased by R. Jerrett. There is very little information available regarding these first owners.

As most towns began as a hotel at the crossing of a watercourse, the hotel, or Inn played an important part in the development of a settlement. The Koroite Inn (now demolished) was established as the first hotel in Coleraine in 1846, and played an important role in the provision of accommodation and meals for those travelling the Melbourne - Adelaide Road. When the town was surveyed, settlement pressures soon followed and more Inns were established to supply the growing needs of the many settlers and itinerant workers in the area. These hotels acted as the first social and recreational places within the township, used to hold meetings, delivery church services, hold petty sessions for court, they hosted travelling entertainment's as well as providing food and drink.

The importance and role of hotels within small towns is demonstrated in Coleraine in 1881. The population of Coleraine was 667 people (319 male, 348 female) in 1881, and they were able to support 7 different hotels (Troeth, 36).

The National Hotel, as an establishment, dates from the granting of its publican's licence in 1868 (CA, May 2, 1868. ) It is one of several surviving from the nineteenth century but the original building, formerly called the Shamrock Hotel, was demolished and rebuilt in 1934 by the Ballarat Brewing Company (Troeth, 37). The architects may have been Smith and Molloy, John Vernon, Les Coburn and Percy Richards, all of Ballarat. The National Hotel is said to have been popular with commercial travelers, especially after the arrival of the railway in 1888. This may explain the construction of such a large hotel during the Great Depression.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

3. Developing local, regional and national economies  
3.12.5 Retailing foods and beverages  
3.22 Lodging people  
3.23 Catering for tourists

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

8. Developing Australia's cultural life  
8.4 Eating and drinking  
8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **CONDITION:**

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The building is in excellent condition and retains an excellent degree of integrity.

**INTEGRITY:**

Very high degree of integrity

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The National Hotel, formerly the Shamrock Hotel, at 70 Whyte Street, Coleraine is the second hotel building on the site. The original licence was issued in 1868. The present building was constructed under the ownership of the Ballarat Brewing Company in 1934, an unusual time for such a large building, considering the Depression. The building, which retains its original function, is located in the centre of the town and is one of a cluster of hotels, some now demolished or delicensed. It is in excellent condition and is substantially intact externally and internally.

How is it significant?

The National Hotel, 70 Whyte Street, Coleraine is of architectural and historical significance to the community of Coleraine.

Why is it significant?

The national Hotel is of architectural significance as one of the largest and most imposing buildings in the main street, and of historical significance as the site of one of the earliest hotels in Coleraine and for its continuing role in the provision of accommodation, food and other services to the travelling public.

**COMPARISON:**

035 Black Horse Inn (Former), 66 Whyte Street, Coleraine

014 Coleraine Hotel, Whyte Street, Coleraine

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

31-Aug-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
Centenary Celebrations Committee	Coleraine Centenary Celebrations, October 7 to 14 1939	1939	
Coleraine Albion 02/05/1868		1868	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
Malcolm Troeth	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988	37