

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: POLICEMAN'S HOUSE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Coleraine Road NAREEN

STUDY NUMBER: 080

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 122 **SECTION:** no **PARISH:** PARISH OF TARRAYOUKYAN
section

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA ; VicRoads 54 B7; on the west side of the Coleraine Road about 0.5km north of Nareen.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Policeman's House (former), Coleraine Road, Nareen. Looking north from Coleraine Road

Image Date: 11/09/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the stone house and all the land.

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: POLICEMAN'S HOUSE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Coleraine Road NAREEN

STUDY NUMBER: 080

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The building is a single storey symmetrical stone house with a verandah at the front and a stone skillion at the rear. The walls are coursed random rubble and are limewashed or painted. There are four rooms with two stone and brick chimneys at the northern end, the one in the rear room being used for cooking. The gabled roof is corrugated iron with weatherboards filling the gables, suggesting that an earlier hipped roof may have been replaced. There is a mid-twentieth century skylight in the kitchen roof. The verandah posts are timber. The windows are small six-paned casements and the ledge and brace front door is half-glazed. There is a corrugated iron porch with a timber floor at the rear of the kitchen. The whole suggests a relatively primitive form of construction.

There is no surviving front garden and there are only three substantial trees associated with the dwelling, a plum tree [*Prunus species*] in the rear yard and peppercorns [*Schinus molle*] on the northern side. The front fence and gate are a simple picket design.

HISTORY:

Ewan Neeson (1970, p. 19) writes that in July 1873 Edward Willis, squatter, stated the following "Improvements on Allotment 122, Parish of Tarrayoukyan, 312 acres 2 roods 21 perches, owner Mary Willis, two miles of post and rail fence, red gum, with five galvanised wires, value 180 pounds. A stone and pisa [sic] house of four rooms, shingle roof, value 140 pounds, total 320 pounds. The above improvements were all made on the allotment in 1865, the year the ground was taken up." He continues "the house referred to is the stone building just north of Nareen, on the hill; this was used as a police station in the 1870s. This is the oldest authentically recorded building still standing in the Nareen districts."

However, the primitive form of construction, especially if pise was used, suggests that the building may have been earlier. It was possibly connected with the Koolomurt squatting run, which was taken by Edward Willis in September 1859, or from the original Kout Narin run, which dates from the 1840s.

Elsewhere (p. 39) Neeson states that "A police station was set up at Nareen in 1875, it was requested mainly it is thought by Willis of Koolomurt, who claimed that he was having sheep stolen, he had successfully challenged one selector in Court in 1871 over the theft of 28 sheep which he identified by earmarks after they were shorn by the selector and claimed as his own.

"The Nareen Police Station came under the control of the Hamilton Police district, under the administration of Superintendent David Douglas Chambers. The station was set up in a building rented from Mr E Willis - this is of course the old stone building on the hill about half a mile north of Nareen village.

"The Nareen Police station was broken up on 26th June 1880 and as far as can be ascertained was not re-opened. The reason for the closing down was believed to be because of the shortage of police in Victoria, as this was when many employed in endeavour to capture the Kelly gang. A man named McConchie lived in the building later, he carried on the trade of saddler and bootmaker. There has been a suggestion that a policeman lived there at that time too, however no official record of this exists."

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies
3.19 Marketing and retailing

Theme 7
7.6 Administering Australia
7.6.3 Policing Australia

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: POLICEMAN'S HOUSE (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Coleraine Road NAREEN

STUDY NUMBER: 080

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

CONDITION:

The building is in fair condition and retains a high degree of integrity. For the most part, the walls are structurally sound and the roof is watertight.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Policeman's House, Coleraine Road, Nareen is a single storey symmetrical stone and pise cottage of simple, even primitive construction. The date of its construction is given as 1865 but may be earlier. The cottage was used as a police station from 1875 to 1880 and subsequently as a saddler and bootmaker's. It is located just north of the settlement of Nareen. The cottage, now abandoned, is substantially intact and is in fair condition.

How is it significant?

The Policeman's House, Coleraine Road, Nareen is of historic and architectural significance to the community of Nareen and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Policeman's House, Coleraine Road, Nareen is of historical significance as possibly a very early building in the Wando district, dating at least from the time of the Land Selection Acts. Its usage as a police station was a direct reflection of the tension between squatters and selectors. It is of architectural interest for its early form, type of construction and detailing.

COMPARISON:

SSG 0448 Stone House, Nareen Chetwynd Road, Nareen

SSG 0450 Kilmuir, Nareen Road, Nareen

SSG 0845 Saddler's Shop (Former), 75b Bell Street, Penshurst

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

28-Oct-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
Ewan Neeson	A Place of Oaks: History of Nareen and Tarrayoukyan 1836-1970	1970	19, 39
Paul de Serville	Pounds and Pedigree, The Upper Class in Victoria 1850-80	1991	347-8, 493
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	160-1, 230-1