

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: STONE COTTAGE (NAREEN)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Nareen-Chetwynd Rd NAREEN

STUDY NUMBER: 083

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

**OTHER NAME/S
OF PLACE:** AVONDALE

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: B1 **SECTION:** V **PARISH:** PARISH OF DEWRANG

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 386 D 35; VicRoads 54 A8; located on the Nareen-Chetwynd Road 0.5km west of the interesection of the Coleraine Rd.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Stone Cottage, Nareen - Chetwynd Road, Nareen. Rear elevation

Image Date: 01/11/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the cottage and all of the garden which survives within a 30m radius from any edge of the cottage.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

A single storey symmetrical stone cottage with a timber verandah at the front, now collapsed. The walls are coursed random rubble bluestone. The main windows are 12-pane double-hung sashes. The front door is four panelled, with the upper two glazed. There is a rectangular fanlight above the door. The roof is a simple hip with corrugated iron. There are two stone and brick chimneys at either end of the main wing. The chimney at the northern end is covered with ivy recently poisoned. A detached kitchen wing, apparently in timber, is now collapsed and partially removed.

Towards the northwest of the house there is a mature lemon tree (*Citrus limon* 'Meyer') which appears to be in good condition. Towards the south-west of the house there is a senescent Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*). The garden also contains a range of fruit trees, and the remains of a typical selector's garden with a variety of ornamental shrubs, bulbs and rhizomes (although only a few have survived grazing pressures).

HISTORY:

The land on which the stone cottage stands was originally part of the large pastoral holding Koolomurt very close to its southern boundary with Satimer. In the 1860s, the Land Selection Acts allowed much of the 'land locked' country tied up in huge pastoral runs to be taken up by smaller selectors. The Dewrang Parish Plan of 1930 shows that M. Healy took up 193 acres of agricultural land extending south from what would become the Chetwynd-Nareen Road. The land was purchased from the Crown on September 20th, 1876. As much of the land around this allotment was purchased earlier, in the mid to late 1860s, it is possible that the 193 acres which was purchased by M. Healy was carved from a larger portion which had been purchased in the first sales resulting from the Land Selection Acts. The nearest cemetery lists two M. Healy's, Martin, and his wife Mary, nee Bohan, who were married in 1873 (PIV, Reg No. 414). It is likely that they were the selectors who purchased the land in 1876. Martin and Mary Healy were from Tipperary in Ireland (according to their gravestones and marriage registration), although it is not known when they arrived in Australia, nor any details regarding their life. Their gravestones also record that they died at 'Avondale', which may be the name of the cottage. The exact date of construction is not certain, but may be as early as the 1860s, prior to the purchase of the subdivided allotment. It has almost certainly been built as the result of Land Selection Acts in the 1860s. The cottage has been finely built and may be architect designed. It is not known who designed or built the stone cottage, or the timber extension, which has been removed.

Mary and Martin Healy had five children, Patrick Daniel (1874), Bridget Honora (1875), Sarah Ann (1878), Mary (1879) and Ellen Agatha (1890) (PIV, Reg. No. 7879, 21891, 1594, 12490). It seems that none of the children married, and all continued to live in the district, as they are all buried in the nearby Tarrayoukyan cemetery. Patrick died in 1924 at age 50 and was buried in the Tarrayoukyan Cemetery, and Mary died 1958 at age 79. Bridget and Ellen continued to live in the cottage, and were known locally as the 'Misses Healy' until their deaths in 1967 and 1972 respectively. Since this time, the cottage has remained abandoned, and the timber extension to the west of the cottage was removed in the 1980s. The gardens have fallen into disrepair, and a substantial corrugated iron woolshed and sheep yards has been built on the southern slope above the cottage.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

- Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economics
- 3.5 Developing primary production
- 3.5.1 Grazing stock
- 3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

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Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

Poor condition but intact materials and detailing to the mid-twentieth century or earlier.

INTEGRITY:

Medium level of intactness

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The stone cottage and remnant garden is located approximately 500 metres south west of the intersection of the Chetwynd-Nareen Road and the Nareen Road, near the hamlet of Nareen. The cottage is typically that of a pastoral selector, symmetrically arranged, of four rooms with a passageway. It is constructed from coursed random rubble bluestone, and has a central four-paneled door with twelve pane double hung sash windows arranged either side. A timber verandah, now collapsed, has been attached to the front of the house, which faced north east overlooking the nearby creek. Two brick chimneys are symmetrically arranged at either end of the cottage, and the roof is a simple hip, clad in corrugated iron. A substantial timber extension (perhaps a detached kitchen) has been removed from the western side of the house, although the footings and timber stumps remain to show its extent. The garden that surrounds the cottage indicates the remains of a typical selector's garden, with a number of fruit trees, subsistence garden, and a range of ornamental shrubs, bulbs and trees. A large Stone Pine (*Pinus pinea*) is located to the south of the cottage.

How is it significant?

The stone cottage is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The stone cottage located on the Chetwynd-Nareen Road is of historical significance for its long association with the Healey family, typical Irish selectors, who retained ownership of the original land taken up by Martin Healey in 1876. This land remained in the family until the last of the Healey family for about 100 years. The cottage is of further historical significance because it reflects the major change in land ownership brought about by the land Selection Acts of the 1860s, particularly in the Nareen district.

COMPARISON:

067 Kilmuir, Coleraine Rd, Nareen

080 Policeman's House, Coleraine Rd, Nareen

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

29/10/2001

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
Anthony F. Neylon - personal communication 21/10/2003		2003	
Department of Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	
Department of Lands and Survey	Parish of Dewrang	1956	