

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** TOOLANG HOMESTEAD COMPLEX (FORMERLY MAORI PARK)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** off Parkwood Road COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 246

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

**OTHER NAME/S  
OF PLACE:** MAORI PARK

**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** B      **SECTION:** XIV      **PARISH:** PARISH OF TOOLANG

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 431 C5; VicRoads 72 F4; located in Toolang Road on the south side above Tulloh Creek approximately eight kms north-east of Coleraine.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local

---



Toolang Homestead, Parkwood Road, Coleraine. Façade.

**Image Date:** 14/05/03

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the front wing of the original house, but excluding the interiors and the later extensions, and the immediate garden within 50m of the house and to the edge of the haha terrace.

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** TOOLANG HOMESTEAD COMPLEX (FORMERLY MAORI PARK)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** off Parkwood Road COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 246

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The core of the main house is an early stone building, dating from about 1870, and probably a stone kitchen wing to one side. It is said that the stone used was sandstone quarried on the property. The original house appears to have been simple and conventional comprising a front verandah, a central hall and four main rooms with a service area at the rear. Like many homesteads in the area, it appears to have been deliberately sited to take advantage of the view down to the River Wannon below, to Mount Napier on the south-east diagonal and to Melville Forest on the south-west diagonal.

The original house has been substantially modified both in the Interwar period to convert it into a bungalow form and in the late 1980s to revert it into a Victorian form. The former change included the addition of a second floor, as an attic, and a new roof in the mid-1920s. A separate kitchen wing may have been incorporated with the main house. The new gables were typically half-timbered with groups of three double-hung sash windows in each. Extensive verandahs were also added. The rear courtyard was enclosed and converted into a large, central room. Further renovations occurred after 1936. A sunroom was added to the side verandah in the late 1960s or early 1970s. In the late 1980s, the second storey was removed and the roof replaced, the verandah remodelled and extensive living areas, including outdoor areas, and a large garage were added at the rear.

The house is surrounded by a large and substantial garden. It was described in 1973 as including "many oaks, liquidambers, claret ash, birch" which suggests that it dates from the Interwar period (Leake, 51). The garden also includes a swimming pool, paving and stone garden walls "constructed from stone salvaged from the Gringegalgona stables" (Gibbs, pers. comm. 21/7/03).

## HISTORY:

George Trangmar was born in Brighton, England and landed at Portland in Victoria in 1849, with his brother Thomas in 1849, with the view to join their brother James in business as merchants. George and Thomas both went to the goldfields at Bendigo before returning to Portland, Thomas joining James as a merchant while George went inland to Coleraine. In 1852, George Trangmar purchased the store situated on Allotment 8 Section 8, Whyte Street Coleraine. The store had been built in 1847 by Mr. Bell, the proprietor of the Kororoite Inn who sold it to a Mr. Bowen in 1849.

Trangmar's Store flourished and became an essential part of the Coleraine Township. Not only did it provide the service of general merchants, selling produce and general goods, it also housed the first post office and National Bank. In 1854 Trangmar married the daughter of a local family, Matilda McKebery and built a residence designed by architect James H Fox, erected in 1864. It is now demolished.

By 1866, George Trangmar had purchased many blocks of land both in and around the township of Coleraine, much of which he sold for a healthy profit as civic and other organisations required land for building. This is a significant shift from his mercantile interests and may reflect an ambition to establish pastoral interests equivalent to those of the early squatters. It parallels the advancement of several others in the district such as Thomas Brommell of Hensley Park, for example.

In 1866, he invited his brother to join him in a partnership of Trangmar's Stores as his interests developed further afield. Whilst living in Coleraine, he was a magistrate, member of the Shire Council, Shire President, Local Post Master, District Coroner, and Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages (HS, 24/04/1919 'Obituary of George Trangmar'). He was also a founding member of the Coleraine Pastoral and Agricultural Society and the secretary of the Great Western Steeplechase for many years in the time of Adam Lindsay Gordon. George Trangmar died at Toolang on 24th April 1917 and was buried in the Coleraine cemetery. Matilda Trangmar had died at Toolang on 10th June 1898. The Trangmar family were active supporters of the Holy Trinity Church in Coleraine. The three stained glass windows of the apse were donated by George Trangmar as a memorial to the life's work of the Rev. Russell (CA 24/04/1919).

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** TOOLANG HOMESTEAD COMPLEX (FORMERLY MAORI PARK)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** off Parkwood Road COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 246

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

In 1866, Trangmar successfully applied to the Lands Office at Hamilton for land, to which he added more land by purchasing the adjacent properties, including part of the Dundas Run, owned by Tom Young to create a landholding of some 5,302 acres. He named the property 'Toolang'. Allotment B of section XVI of the Parish of Toolang was transferred on the 23rd October 1877. Together with allotments A2 and C, the land comprised just over 638 acres, almost exactly the same area as a pre-emptive right. He also purchased allotment C2 and D in his own name. 'Pixie' in the Australasian (22/05/1909) states that "Toolang is a Western District aboriginal word, signifying a dry strip of stringybark for lighting a pipe or stringybark forest".

Initially, Trangmar built a small 2 or 3 room house and a hut for a domestic married couple who serviced the house. In 1869, a woolshed and the men's quarters were constructed, and quarrying began on part of the property called 'the rocks' for a new stone homestead which was constructed in 1870.

It is not clear whether George Trangmar, or any of the family actually lived on the property at this time, as his daughter Rose Gillespie (nee Trangmar) states in her memories of the time that she remembers often travelling from Coleraine to see how the new house was progressing. The Homestead is described by Rose Gillespie as having 'stood on a high hill land running down to a pretty creek' (Tulloh Creek) situated to 'look away to Mount Napier from the front verandah and Melville Forest was in the other direction to our left'. The homestead had an extensive flower and fruit garden which was described by Dr. Thornton, the Bishop of Ballarat as 'an oasis in the wilderness'.

The Trangmar family continued to live at Toolang until the early twentieth century when the property was sold to George Broughton Senior. George Trangmar retired to live with his daughter, Rose and son-in-law, James Gillespie at 'Toolang', a house in St. Kilda Road, Melbourne.

Toolang, at Wannan, was purchased by George Alfred Broughton who, according to the Cyclopaedia of Victoria, was 'the owner of The Wilderness Estate, Coleraine, which consists of 7,000 acres, carrying between 5,000 and 6,000 sheep and 150 cattle, and is managed by Mr. H. B. Broughton, one of his sons. Mr. Broughton also owns the Karabeal Estate, near Hamilton, which comprises 3,000 acres, carrying about 4,000 sheep, managed by another son, Mr. A. R. Broughton, and he is assisted at Kout Narrien by another son, Mr. G. E. Broughton, LL.B., who has been admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor, but relinquished the legal profession in favour of sheep-farming' (Smith, 551-2). Broughton divided The Wilderness into four runs: The Wilderness; Ballarook; Toolang; and Kurtuk, one for each of his sons. Arthur Broughton took possession of Toolang and eventually sold to Colin Maslin.

Very little is known about the property in this period, until Mr. G Butler purchased the property in the mid 1920s. It was during this time that the house was altered substantially, with an upper storey added, the internal courtyard being enclosed and roofed to create a large, central room. The property was sold to Mr. D. P. Mein in 1936, who continued to run 4000 acres as a grazing property (as at 1975). It was taken over by Mrs. Fleur Gibbs in 1985 and was added to by the purchase of part of neighbouring Springwood. The property now totals 5,680 acres.

The house was substantially altered and renovated in the late twentieth century, returning it generally to its late nineteenth century appearance. Extensive new living areas, a new entrance and a garage were added at the rear, when the side garden was landscaped. The architect for these works was Peter Mackay of Rosenthal Mackay and Monkton.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 3. Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** TOOLANG HOMESTEAD COMPLEX (FORMERLY MAORI PARK)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** off Parkwood Road COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 246

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries  
3.12 Feeding People  
3.12.2 Developing sources of fresh local produce

Theme 5 Working  
5.8 Working on the land

**CONDITION:**

The house is in excellent condition.

**INTEGRITY:**

substantially altered

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

George Trangmar established Toolang Homestead, off Parkwood Road about 13km east of Coleraine and 9km north of Wannon. Born in Brighton, England he arrived at Portland in 1849 where he was a merchant with his brothers, James and Thomas. After an unsuccessful visit to the Bendigo diggings, George returned to Portland and then purchased a general store in Coleraine in 1853. The business prospered and by the mid-1860s George was able to purchase land both in the town and as a selector. The main house at Toolang was built in 1870. The architect is not known but Trangmar had engaged James H Fox to design his Coleraine home in 1864. It was built of local stone and had a verandah across the façade providing views out into the landscape. The simple Italianate style and symmetrical plan are conventional and conservative. The setting and siting of the house are typical of the Picturesque aesthetic current at the time. George Trangmar died in 1917 and the property passed through various owners being much altered during the Interwar years. It has been altered and extended recently, the front wing reverting to its nineteenth century appearance. Consequently, while the house is in excellent condition it has a low degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Toolang Homestead is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Coleraine and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Toolang Homestead is of historical significance because of its connection with the early and successful merchant, George Trangmar and his family, particularly representing his increased status as a substantial landholder. Although much altered, it is of architectural significance as a typical example of the setting and siting of a modest homestead within the landscape, appropriate the owner's respectable position within the community.

**COMPARISON:**

034 The Wilderness, Wilderness Rd, Gritjurk  
110 Brung Brungle, Brung Brungle Rd, Wannon  
126 Springwood, Brung Brungle Rd, Wannon  
363 Hensley Park Homestead Complex, Hensley Park Rd, Hensley Park

**ASSESSED BY:** aen & tfh

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

20-May-02

**EXISTING LISTINGS:**

**HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** TOOLANG HOMESTEAD COMPLEX (FORMERLY MAORI PARK)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** off Parkwood Road COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 246

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

---

## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
	Hamilton Spectator - Obituary of George Trangmar	1919	
David Gibb	Personal Communication, 21/7/03	2003	
Department of Justice Victoria	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	2001	
Department of Lands and Survey	Toolang County of Dundas	1878	
G. McGaffin	The Wannon Shire Centenary, 1872-1972: a brief history of the Shire of Wannon	1972	
Peter Leake	Homesteads of Australia Felix	1973	51-56
Troeth, Malcolm	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988	
William Smith	Cyclopaedia of Victoria	1903	551-2

---