

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MOORALLA CIVIC BUILDINGS MEMORIAL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: East West Road MOORALLA

STUDY NUMBER: 329

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

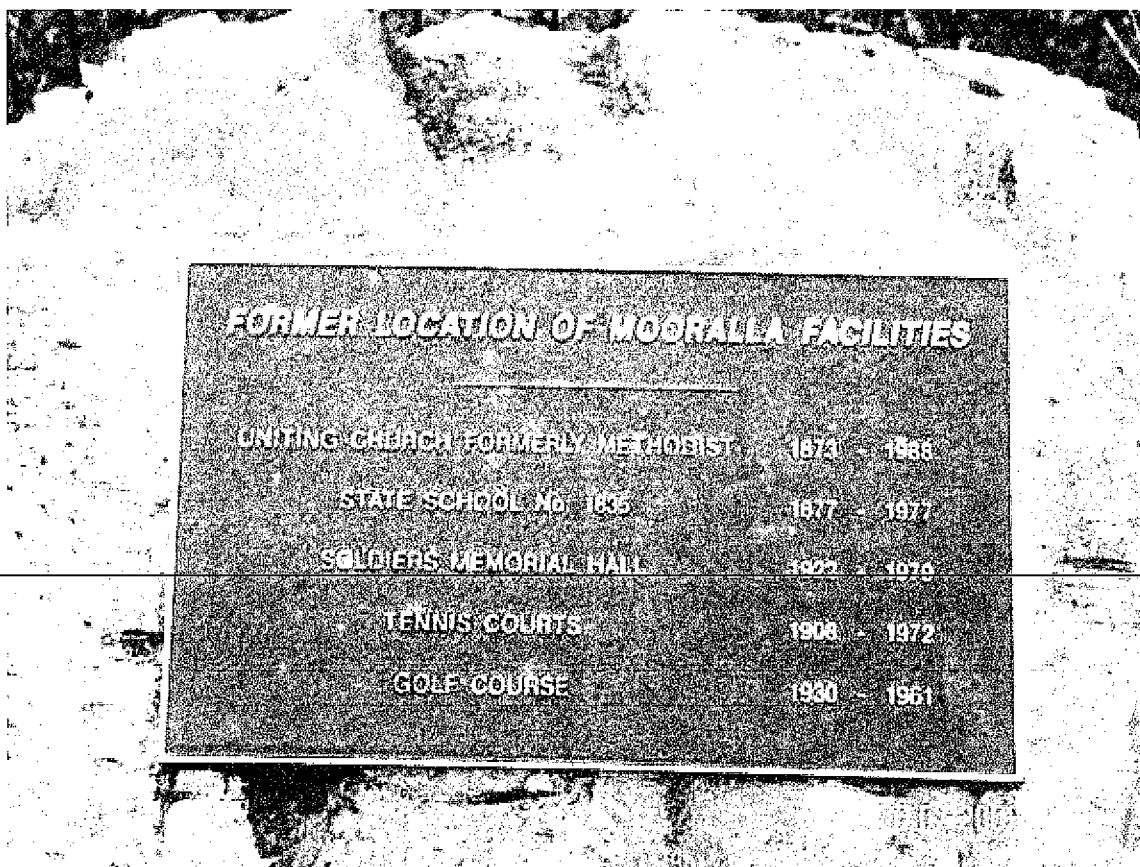
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF WOHLPOOER

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 389 C19; VicRoads 55 D8; in roadside reserve on East West Road.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Mooralla Civic Buildings Memorial, East West Road, Mooralla

Image Date: 06/07/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. The plaque and sandstone boulder on which it is mounted, and the land in the immediate vicinity.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Mooralla Civic Buildings Memorial is a cast bronze plaque, mounted on a large Grampians sandstone rock. The memorial has been placed outside the site of the former Mooralla Uniting Church, now demolished, in the centre of the abandoned village. The inscription reads:

'Former Location of Mooralla Facilities
Uniting Church Formerly Methodist 1873-1988
State School No 1835 1877-1977
Soldiers Memorial Hall 1922-1979
Tennis Courts 1908-1972
Golf Course 1930-1961'

The only remnant of the former Uniting Church is the wrought iron front gate, mounted between two wooden posts, and a hairpin crinkle wire fence extending along the front of the site.

The site of the former Soldiers Memorial hall, immediately to the west of the church, is vacant, except for a wrought iron gate and a pair of rendered brick gate posts. An historic plaque is mounted on the east gate post to commemorate the death of a local resident in World War 2. The inscription reads, 'Erected by residents of Mooralla in memory of Flt Sgt. John S Thomson who lost his life on 6th April 1945 in World War II at the age of 21 years.'

The State School was located on land reserved by the Crown in 1888 diagonally opposite the Soldiers Memorial Hall, on the south west corner of East West Road and Greenaway Road. The site is now covered with a mature grove of predominantly *Pinus radiata*, which was planted when the school was relocated further east along East West Road in 1933. Two large carved gateposts and an iron gate survive in Greenaway Road.

HISTORY:

Although Mooralla was never a large township, its community was strong and active until the 1980s. When the Garfoot family arrived in Mooralla in 1960 they 'found Mooralla a friendly, supporting, close-knit community, with a primary school, tennis club, badminton, cards and the occasional concert held in the hall. A golf course was being laid down on the reserve next to the Lagoon. There was a manual telephone exchange and Post Office [and] a voluntary fire brigade' (Vickery, 6).

The history of the Mooralla Uniting Church is described in 'Back to Mooralla' (ibid., 86-88). The earliest mention of a church at Mooralla is an inspector's report to the Education Department for the establishment of a primary school, dated 5th November 1871. The inspector noted that the local people were planning to build a chapel at the north east corner of Bryant's Selection, near where Mona Park homestead was later established. Prior to the construction of the church, services were held in private homes. The Mooralla Methodist church was opened on Christmas Day 1873, with a Tea meeting in the afternoon, and a public meeting in the evening. The Rev. Henry Cole and other local men made speeches.

The church was built by local people, using pit-sawn and adzed vertical slabs of red gum. John Payne donated timber for the construction of the church (ibid., 17). Succeeding generations of parishioners nailed corrugated iron sheets to the outside, and lined the interior with pine boards. This building survived until the late 1920s, when it was replaced by a simple weatherboard church in the Gothic style.

The Mooralla Methodist church hall was leased from 1877 to 1910 by the Education Department, and was the first primary school in the Mooralla district (ibid., 39).

At the outset, Mooralla church was part of the Hamilton circuit. In 1914 Mooralla became an official Home

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Mission Station of the Methodist church. In 1916, the Rev. C. Irving Benson came out from England to Mooralla for his first clerical appointment. His work with the Central Methodist Mission in Melbourne was recognised with a knighthood. Mooralla church became part of the Cavendish circuit in 1931.

The Mooralla Uniting Church was closed on 18th December 1988, and the building sold. It was demolished in about 1996. All that remains of the church complex are the wooden front gate posts, a wrought iron gate and a hairpin wire fence.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 4: Building Settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

4.6 Remembering significant phases in the development of settlements, towns and cities

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life

8.1 Organising recreation

8.1.1 Playing and watching organised sports

8.7 Honouring achievement

Theme 9: Marking the phases of life

9.7.3 Remembering the dead

CONDITION:

The memorial plaque is in excellent condition. The sites referred to in the inscription are vacant, with the exception of the 1933 State School building, which is in poor condition.

INTEGRITY:

High.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Mooralla Civic Buildings Memorial is located in the roadside reserve on East West Road outside the site of the former Uniting Church. The memorial is a bronze plaque mounted on a large rock, erected in about 1998 by members of the local community. The inscription records the lost public buildings which were located in the immediate vicinity of the memorial, and which formed the community hub of the former village of Mooralla.

How is it significant?

The Mooralla Civic Buildings Memorial is of historical significance to the community of Mooralla and Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Mooralla Civic Buildings Memorial is historically significant as a permanent record of the demolished civic buildings of the former village of Mooralla. The erection of the memorial is significant as a reflection of the commitment of the local community to preserve the memory of its historic environment.

COMPARISON:

062 Nareen Hall Complex, Nareen Road, Nareen

052 Henty Memorial, Glenelg Highway, Carapook

ASSESSED BY: mgt

ASSESSMENT DATE:

06-Jul-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

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Include in VHR **Include in RNE** **Include in Local Planning Scheme**

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Robin Vickery, ed.	Back to Mooralla	1998	var.