

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MYRNIONG HOMESTEAD AND BARN

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Coleraine-Balmoral Road KONONG WOOTONG

STUDY NUMBER: 377

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 7 **SECTION:** 10 **PARISH:** PARISH OF KONONG WOOTONG

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430 B-24; VicRoads ; located on the west side of the Coleraine-Balmoral Road about 6.0kms north of the Glenelg Highway and overlooking the valley of the Konong Creek towards Konongwootong Creek Homestead.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Myrniong, Coleraine-Balmoral Road, Konong Wootong

Image Date: 26/03/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the exterior of the house and all of the exterior of the barn and an area of 25m radius from any edge of the house and the barn.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Myrniong is a deliberately asymmetrical large brick house, constructed in the very late nineteenth century. Unusually, the house is constructed on a very steep slope, and effectively is on two levels. The house is a very late example of the Victorian Italianate. An L-shaped verandah is located at the front of the house, which uses fine cast iron lace for decoration. The roofs are gabled with corrugated iron. Some of the rear sections are enclosed with pressed metal.

The rear of the house is a large curved roof barn, clad in corrugated iron. The origins of this structure are not known, although there are some outbuildings and one residence and shop with a curved roof in nearby Coleraine.

HISTORY:

Myrniong Homestead was built for Basil McConochie Lyon, the son of Basil Lyon, the first storekeeper and official post master at Balmoral and brother-in-law of John McConochie of Konongwootong Creek Homestead, located about 2.0kms south of Myrniong on the opposite side of the Konong Creek and visible from its elevated position (Sutherland, 66). The house is built on land purchased under the land Selection Acts by W and J McConochie, the holders of the Konongwootong Creek Pre-emptive Right and located at what was the centre of the northern boundary of the run. With three of his sons, Basil Lyon Senior selected 960 acres of land in 1869, and some years later his fourth son, George selected a further 320 acres, the brothers working in partnership until 1876 (Sutherland, 66 & Smith, 548).

The exact date of construction of Myrniong is not known, but from its style and materials, particularly the extensive use of pressed metal, it appears to date from the very late 19th century. Nor is an architect known to have been responsible for its design although, because of its unusual plan, form and detailing, this seems likely. One possible architect is C D Figgis who designed Wando Dale Homestead, Nareen and St Andrews Former Presbyterian Church, Coleraine, both built in 1891. Figgis was based in Ballarat but also collaborated with other architects in Melbourne on banks, residences and other churches.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

~~Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies~~

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

CONDITION:

Fair condition

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity (interiors not inspected)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Myrniong is a deliberately asymmetrical brick house constructed on a steep slope over two levels. The house is located on the west side of the Coleraine - Balmoral Road overlooking the valley. The house is a very late example of the ubiquitous Victorian Italianate. An L-shaped verandah is located at the front of the house, which uses fine cast iron lace for decoration. The roofs are gabled with corrugated iron. Some of the rear sections are enclosed with pressed metal. A large curved roof barn, clad in corrugated iron is located about 100 metres to the rear of the main house. Both house and barn are in fair condition, and retain a high degree

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of integrity. There has been no architect or builder associated with the design of the house, but it is possible that C. D Figgis, the architect who designed Wando Dale at nearby Nareen in 1891 was responsible.

How is it significant?

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

Why is it significant?

Myrniong Homestead and Barn are of historical significance for the associations with Basil McConochie Lyon. Myrniong is the only intact structure which provides a link to the powerful and influential McConochie family of Konongwootong Creek. Myrniong is of architectural significance for the sophisticated and unusual design of a house essentially Italianate Victorian over two levels, encompassing a very steep slope. Of further architectural interest is the potential link with architect C. D Figgis.

COMPARISON:

119 Konongwootong Creek Homestead (former), Coleraine-Balmoral Road
369 Wando Dale Homestead Complex, Wando Dale Road, Nareen

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

17/02/2002

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
Alexander Sutherland, ed.	Victoria and Its Metropolis, Vol 11A, Country Districts	1888	66
James Smith, ed.	Cyclopaedia of Victoria, Vol 2	1904	547-8