

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: MAYLANDS

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 81 McKebery St COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 043

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: Pt C/A **SECTION:** 36 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE
1 Pt 2

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430J G5; VicRoads 228 C10; located on the south-west corner of McKebery and Winter Streets, five blocks south of the main street of Coleraine

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Maylands, McKebery Street, Coleraine. Looking south from McKebery Street

Image Date: 31/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All of the house, the outbuildings, the fence and the front and east side garden and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Maylands is a storey timber residence with a substantial attic storey and a deliberately asymmetrical plan. The house is sited on the side of a hill which increases its picturesque qualities. Its style is Arts and Crafts and its form is that of a bungalow. The walls are weatherboard below the ground floor sill height and rough-cast render above and in the half-timbered gables. The roof is orange 'Marseilles' tiles which may have been imported.

The plan of the house centres on a large hall and a notable dark stained timber staircase. The staircase is said to be of Queensland Maple and the floors of Jarrah. Reception rooms are on either side with the large drawing room extending forward on the west side and a smaller room on the east. The fibrous plaster walls in these rooms and the hall are subdivided by dark stained timber detailing including a shelf at two-thirds the height of the room. The fireplace and its handsome mantel are the focus for the drawing room. The ceilings are also fibrous plaster and are, in the drawing room, in the Adamesque style typical of the Interwar period and, in the other front room, in a more unusual Elizabethan style. There is extensive leadlighting throughout the house which includes coloured glass in the more important rooms and which is geometric in other instances. The most elaborate coloured leadlighting is in the bathroom. There is a servery hatch between the kitchen and the drawing room. However there is another room on the other side of the kitchen which appears to have been used as a dining room or, perhaps, as a breakfast room.

The main pedestrian access is from an original double picket gate in the north-east corner. The original picket fence also survives. The garden is terraced with low stone walls and steps. The stones are said to have been salvaged from the ruins of Konongwootong Creek Homestead, also known as Stanley's Gardens. On the east side of the garden there is a small arbour with masonry piers and an open timber superstructure. There are several mature eucalypt trees, other native shrubs and conventional exotic species. The garden appears to retain a substantial degree of its original design with some more recent plantings.

At the rear of the house there is an extensive weatherboard stable and coach house, subsequently modified to accommodate a car. Other service areas are included in this building. Access is gained by a concrete drive from the side street.

HISTORY:

The land on which Maylands is built was first sold to D. Smith on 27 July 1866 (Department of Lands and Survey, 1955). The double allotment appears to have remained undeveloped until after the First World War. Maylands, 81 McKebery Street, Coleraine was the home of Mr Robert Poynter, his second wife Valetta, nee Riddch, and their family (Pers. Comm., 2001, Dr. John Poynter, son of the first owner and from whom much of the following family history is sourced) Their son, John Poynter subsequently became a Rhodes Scholar, one of two from Coleraine. The Poynter family came originally from a farm in Essex called Maylands. The present Uniting Church Manse, also built by Mr Poynter, as a home for his first family, was the first house called Maylands. He subsequently built the second Maylands on the block behind the first, at a cost of £1200 pounds c. 1926 (Pers. Comm., 2001, Ms. Mardi Stiglich)

Mr Poynter originally trained as a chemist in Avoca. He came to Coleraine in 1899 and at one stage had his pharmacy in the building known as Henty's Iron Store, 82A & B Whyte Street. Then he decided to train as a dentist at the Dental College in Melbourne. The family tradition is that he treated so many people with dental problems and animals that he had to decide between dentistry and veterinary science. He established a dental surgery in Whyte Street, next to the Coleraine Hotel c. 1925-26. Mrs Mardi Stiglich was his dental nurse for many years. Mr Poynter travelled around the district performing dental procedures. There were three day circuits which took in Harrow, Condah, Cavendish, Balmoral and Edenhope. He practiced one day per week at Casterton, and a half day per week at Merino.

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Mr Poynter owned one of the first motor cars to come to Coleraine, c. 1905. He shared it with Dr Samuel Connor, the local doctor.

Mr Poynter's first wife, Iva nee Cruthers, with whom he had two sons and a daughter, died of acute blood poisoning in the early 1920s. He remarried in 1926 and, with his second wife, a widow from Nareen called Valetta Ross, nee Riddoch, he had a son and a daughter.

The second Maylands passed through several ownerships subsequently, including the Ryan family in the 1980s and, from 1986, the O'Neill family who are the present owners.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.26 Providing health services

3.26.1 Providing medical and dental services

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

CONDITION:

The house suffers seriously from differential settlement away from the brick chimneys. The kitchen has been modified with the removal of the original Aga fuel stove and the introduction of new cupboards. Additions have been made across the rear of the house. In other ways the house is in good condition and retains a very high degree of integrity both internally and externally.

INTEGRITY:

Substantially Intact

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Maylands, 81 McKebery Street, Coleraine is a single storey timber house with a substantial attic storey in the picturesque Arts and Crafts style. It is located on a hill facing north and overlooking the town. The house was built for Robert S Poynton, the local chemist and later dentist, who was a leading figure in the local community. His family originated from Maylands in Essex. A widower, he built the house in 1926 after his marriage to his second wife, a widow herself, Valetta Ross nee Riddoch. The house is probably the result of professional design but no architect has been connected with it. The plan of the house is typical for its period and style and centres on a grand staircase. Other details such as the joinery, leadlighting and plasterwork are notable. It has been extended at the rear. A detached stable and coachhouse wing survives at the rear. The garden, which includes many native species, landscape works and an orchard, is also notable. The house, outbuildings and garden are substantially intact and in good condition.

How is it significant?

Maylands is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Coleraine.

Why is it significant?

Maylands is of historical significance as the second home of Robert Poynter and of architectural significance as one of best examples of Interwar housing in Coleraine.

COMPARISON:

044 Uniting Church Manse, 81 Whyte Street, Coleraine

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

03-Sep-01

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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
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Departments of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
Dr John Poynter, son of first owner	University of Melbourne		
Mardi Stiglich, former dental nurse for first owner	Coleraine Historical Society		