

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: UNITING CHURCH MANSE

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 81 Church Street COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 044

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: MAYLANDS; PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MANSE

PRECINCT: Coleraine

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 & 2 **SECTION:** 29 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA ; VicRoads 228 C10; south-west corner of Church and Winter Streets, four blocks south of the main street of Coleraine,

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Uniting Church Manse, Church Street, Coleraine. Front Elevation

Image Date: 30/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All main house, the stables and coach house and all of the land in allotments 1 & 2, Section 29, Township of Coleraine.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Uniting Church Manse is a single storey symmetrical timber residence with a timber verandah on three sides. All the roofs are corrugated iron. Two half-timbered and rough-cast gables project from the main hipped roof, the gable on the east side being slightly larger than that on the west. Below these gables are boxed bay windows with casements. Two chimneys, positioned opposite the bay windows reinforce the symmetry. A much smaller gable in the verandah roof marks the central front door. The whole creates a sense of balanced rather than perfect symmetry, a device which was used by the architects, Ussher and Kemp who were active in Hamilton and Coleraine at the time.

The plan of the house is symmetrical, which is less conventional at this time than in earlier periods. The large wide hall, lit by casement windows on either side of the front door as well as the door surround, also represents a change from earlier Victorian models.

Service rooms make up the rear of the house. The house is raised on a terrace with a central flight of steps from the lower garden. Behind the house there is a timber coach house and stable with other service areas.

There are the remains of a formal garden, with the outline of formal garden beds arranged symmetrically on either side of steps approaching the front door. A small number of ornamental shrubs survive.

HISTORY:

The Township Plan shows the land, being Allotments 1 and 2 of Section 29, was first purchased from the Crown by M. Shannon and D. O'Connell respectively on 10th March 1865. The land appears to have remained undeveloped until the very early twentieth century. Mr Robert Poynter, chemist and later dentist purchased the land by between 1909 and 1910. (SD RB, 1909-10, entry 56) He moved to Coleraine in 1899 from Avoca where he had trained as a chemist (Dr John Poynter, pers. comm. June 2001). Mr Poynter built the house in 1914 (SD RB, 1914-15, entry 212). He was very friendly with the Winter-Cooke family of Murndal and it is suggested that he used their architects, Ussher and Kemp who also designed the Anglican Vicarage (Poynter, pers. comm. June 2001). Beverley Ussher formed a partnership with Robert Kemp about 1900 and together, for about five years, they were responsible for some of the more innovative domestic architecture of the Federation period. The firm Butler and Ussher had designed the Dunkeld Presbyterian Manse in 1890 and Walter Butler had designed the new homestead at Blackwood in 1890 (Tonkin, 1971).

The Poynter family arrived in Australia from a farm in Essex called Maylands. Mr Poynter later built a second home at 81 McKebery Street for his second family, and also called it Maylands.

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. 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.

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, Miss Iva 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

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Valetta Ross, nee Riddoch, he had a son and a daughter.

The Presbyterian Church congregation purchased the property in 1925, having sold its earlier manse. The first incumbent was Mr Huey Steele (Punshon, 1962).

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

Theme 8: Developing Australia's Cultural Life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.3 Founding Australia's religious institutions

CONDITION:

Very good condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity for the house and outbuildings. Low degree of integrity for the garden.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Uniting Church Manse, formerly known as Maylands, at 81 Church Street, Coleraine is a single storey, symmetrical timber house with an encircling timber verandah. It is sited on a hill, facing northwards and overlooking the town. The house was built for the local chemist and later dentist, Robert S Poynter, whose family originated from Maylands in Essex. Poynter sold the house in 1925 after the premature death of his first wife, Iva, nee Cruthers. The house, opposite the present St Andrews Uniting Church, was purchased by the Presbyterian congregation to serve as a new manse. The house may have been designed by the leading Melbourne architects, Ussher and Kemp because of its architectural qualities, the fact that they were active in the area and the close friendship between Robert Poynter and the Winter-Cookes of Murndal where Ussher and Kemp had designed substantial extensions in 1906. The plan and form of the house are conventional for the time, although without the diagonal emphasis to be found in much domestic architecture from the Federation period. The stables and coach house are an important element of the complex. The house and outbuildings are in good condition and significantly intact although little remains of the original gardens other than the structure and some major plantings.

How is it significant?

The Uniting Church Manse is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Uniting Church Manse is of historical significance for its association with the local chemist and dentist, Robert S Poynter, a leading member of the community and his first family, and subsequently as the manse associated with the adjacent St Andrews Church.

The Uniting Church Manse is of architectural significance as a well planned and finely detailed example of Domestic Queen Anne design and, possibly, as the work of the important architects, Ussher and Kemp.

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COMPARISON:

0043 Maylands, 81 McKebery Street, Coleraine

0023 Murndal. Murndal Road, Coleraine

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

30/01/2002

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
A. W. Punshon	A Historical Sketch, St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1862-1962	1962	?
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
Dr John Poynter	Personal Communication, June 2001	2001	
G. McGaffin	The Wannon Shire Centenary, 1872-1972: a brief history of the Shire of Wannon	1972	
Malcolm Troeth	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988	105-6
Ms Mardi Stiglich	Personal Communication July 2001	2001	
Ray Tonkin	Tender and Other Notices from the Warrnambool Standard	1971	