

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: NIGRETTA

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 39 Winter Street COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 071

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1 **SECTION:** 19 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430J , VicRoads 228 , located on the north west corner of Winter and McConochie Streets, approximately three blocks south of the intersection of Whyte & Winter Streets, Coleraine.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Nigretta Homestead, Whyte Street, Coleraine. Homestead.

Image Date: 17/10/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the house and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Nigretta is located at 39 Winter Street, Coleraine, approximately three blocks south of the centre of town. The building is a late Victorian timber home, of 6 original rooms and verandah, with later additions. Although old fashioned, it is a typical example of the ornate decorative style of the late Victorian era, featuring an mock ashlar facade. The original verandah, which was removed in 1958 to modernise the house has been copied very well and reconstructed by Noel Vickery, using a mixture of salvaged and modern timbers, with new corrugated steel roofing and cast aluminium iron lace. The verandah was added to the house in 1996. Small rooms at the rear of the house have been created by filling in a back verandah. The kitchen extension on the north side of the house was constructed when the Vickery family took possession in 1957. There is a large cellar intact under the kitchen, which previously had an external entrance. The cellar is no longer in use.

The interior of the house has been altered by successive owners. The master bedroom remains the most unchanged room, with pressed metal ceilings, cedar mantelpiece, and bay window. A wall has been removed between the second and third bedrooms to create a larger room, and the ceiling lowered. The sitting room has been converted into a bedroom, with lowered ceiling, but retains its original mantelpiece. The present sitting room, which probably functioned as the dining room, has been remodelled in the 1930s, with a brick fireplace and ceiling rose in the Moderne style.

HISTORY:

The land on which Nigretta stands was first purchased from the Crown by Henry Nickoll January 29, 1864. Nickoll owned a number of allotments in the township. He was an early occupant of Coleraine, and may have built a residence on the land, where he and his wife Lillias (nee Sutherland) may have lived with their three children, Mary (born in Casterton), Clare and John (born in Coleraine) (VPI Reg. No's. 230, 3097, 4633, 1414).

The history of the site is not known until 1894, when a Mr. Henry (Harry) W. Bradbury constructed a residence for himself on the land in 1894. There was no architect used in the design (Vickery, 2001). It appears that Bradbury was originally from Horsham, as a piece of letterhead found within the walls of the building by the current owner states 'Harry Bradbury... Contractor, Timber Merchant, Ironmonger and Undertaker', and his address as '(Opposite Post Office), Firebrace Street, Horsham' (Letterhead, n.d).

In 1896, Henry Bradbury was contracted for a sum of 360 pounds to construct the ground level library and reading rooms, but not the upper storey of what was to be the new Mechanic's Institute on allotment 2 of Section 19 (Troeth, 121).

The house was acquired some time later by the Gibson family, local grocers of Whyte Street, who also ran a kiosk at the Mechanics Institute across the road from Nigretta. It is presumed that they acquired property prior to 1914, as a photograph prior to 1914 shows the Gibson family outside the house at this time. The house was also owned for some years by E. R Trangmar, storekeeper. Thomas Moore, a saddler, purchased the house in the 1930s after winning the Tattersalls lottery (Vickery, 2001). Moore's family sold the house in the 1940s to Thomas Constable, then the Vickerys bought it in 1957. It has remained in the Vickery family since then.

The Vickery family previously lived at what was once the Hilgay Station Homestead, between 1922 and 1965 (Vickery, 2003). The Vickerys extended the house to the north by adding a breakfast room to the remodeled kitchen in 1957. The original verandah was removed in 1957 to modernise the facade, as was the fashion at this time (ibid.). Mr. Noel Vickery made a very good recreation of the original verandah in 1996 from surviving remnants of the original fabric, and from a detailed 19th century photograph of the house. Mr. Vickery, a carpenter by trade, has reproduced the decorative timber details of the 19th century fabric, using original timbers recycled from the house where possible.

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A corrugated iron shed in the back yard of 39 Winter Street was formerly used as Mr. Bradbury's joinery business. The formerly two storey structure has been much altered, although it is constructed from salvaged timbers and roofing iron from the house (ibid.). A cast iron pump mounted in the yard as a decorative feature was formerly located at Hilgay Station homestead.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

CONDITION:

Despite many minor additions and alterations over the years, the exterior fabric of the original house remains largely intact and in excellent condition. The interiors have undergone redecoration at various stages in the 20th century, with a number of internal walls removed. Apart from these changes, the original layout and interior fabric remain reasonably intact.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

Nigretta is located on the north west corner of Winter and McConochie Streets, approximately three blocks south of the centre of Coleraine. The house was originally a six room timber dwelling, built by and for a building contractor, timber merchant and undertaker originally from Horsham, Henry (Harry) Bradshaw, who also the ground level library and reading rooms of the new Mechanics Institute. The house is unusual as it is based on a Victorian Italianate style, yet has been designed as asymmetrical. The house has had several external additions since its construction in 1894, and substantial interior alterations in the latter twentieth century. The original verandah was removed in 1957, and an excellent copy has been made by the current owner, constructed from salvaged timbers, iron and aluminium lace. The house once had a tall paling fence which has been removed, and several garden beds have been planted out around the house. The house is associated with many local families, including the Gibson family (local merchants), Thomas Moore (saddler), E. R (Trangmar), and Thomas Constable, who have all occupied the house for periods of time. The most long standing residents have been the Vickery family, who continue to occupy the property.

How is it significant?

Nigretta is of historical significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Nigretta is of historical significance for its links to Henry W. Bradbury, an important local building contractor, who designed and built the house for himself. Bradbury was also the contractor responsible for constructing the ground level library and reading rooms in Coleraine. Of further significance is its association with many local families associated with commerce in Coleraine, including the families of Gibson, Trangmar, Moore and Constable, and for its long association with the Vickery family. Nigretta is of architectural significance as an unusual representative of the Italianate Style as it is asymmetrical, of which there are few examples in the Southern Grampians Shire.

COMPARISON:

143 Koornong Homestead Complex, Henty Highway, Braxholme

ASSESSED BY: MGT

ASSESSMENT DATE:

09-Jul-03

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
	Untitled Photograph - held by Noel Vickery	n.d	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Harry Bradbury	Letterhead - Harry Bradbury, Contractor, Timber Merchant, Iron Monger and Undertaker, Firebrace Street, Horsham.	n.d	
Noel Vickery	Correspondence 14/07/2003	2003	
Noel Vickery	Personal Communication 22/08/2001	2001	