

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: COLERAINE FIRE STATION

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Henty Street COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 359

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 2 **SECTION:** 18 **PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430J H4-5; VicRoads 228 D10; located on the west side of Henty Street between McConochie and Pilleau Streets in the geographical centre of Coleraine.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Fire Station, Coleraine. Looking west from Henty Street.

Image Date: 31/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the building including the interiors and all of the land.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The fire station is a small brick building in the Stripped Classical style typical of conservative municipal buildings of the Interwar period. It takes the usual form with a large doorway across the front, now with a roller door substituting for the original door which was probably comprised vertical timber leaves with highlight glazing. The façade is rendered and defined with represented structure using a temple form. Either side of the doorway are pairs of pilasters set on plinths which support a heavy frieze into which there is a pediment used as a parapet. There are simple square motifs in the frieze above each of the pilasters. Within the pediment there is a panel with the words "Fire Station 1930". The treatment of the facade returns for about one metre along the side walls. All of the detailing is fine and shallow. The whole trabeated system provides a simple but sombre and sturdy appearance. The side and end walls are plain face brick with high level windows and eaves. The roof is corrugated iron. A second garage has been built on the southern side. There is a tall metal bell tower at the rear of the building.

HISTORY:

The land on which the Fire Station now stands (Allotment 2, Section 18) was first purchased from the Crown on October 31, 1861. This was the first piece of land purchased from the Crown by Henry Nickoll, who later purchased land in Section 19 (Allotments 1 & 2) (Department of Lands and Survey, 1955). Nickoll was an early occupant of Coleraine, who probably 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).

It is not known if the Nickoll family owned the land into the early nineteenth century, but it is certain that at some time prior to 1930, the Bush Fire Brigade obtained the land on which the fire station now stands. There is little historical information available regarding the construction of the fire station and its history, although the pediment of the building clearly states that it was constructed in 1930. The Coleraine Centenary Celebrations, held in 1939 list Captain D. D. Gray as the President of the Bush Fire Brigade, and Mr. Charles McKebery as the Secretary.

There is very little historical information regarding Captain D. D. Gray. However, Charles McKebery was from the important early local McKebery family. Dawson McKebery was a very early local merchant who purchased many allotments of land in Coleraine's early land sales. McKebery was also a founding member of the Shire of Wannan, serving as a councillor between 1872 and 1915, and holding the office of Shire President 1896-97 and 1902-03 (McGaffin, 14). Charles McKebery was the son of Dawson McKebery and Catherine Kaine, born in Coleraine in 1877 (VPI Reg. No.1621). Charles also served on the Wannan Shire, taking over from his father as a councillor in 1915, and continuing service until 1946 (McGaffin, 15). Charles McKebery was also Shire President for a total of eight years between 1919 - 1941 (ibid.).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 4 Building settlements, towns and cities

4.2 Supplying urban services (power, transport, fire prevention, roads, water, light and sewerage)

CONDITION:

The building is in very good condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Fire Station is located two blocks south of the geographical centre of the town, in Henty Street, close to the corner of Henty and Pilleau Street. The Fire Station was constructed in 1930, and is a small rendered brick

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building in the Stripped Classical style typical of conservative municipal buildings in the Interwar period. The building stands addressing the footpath and has a later rolling door for entrance and exit for the Fire Truck.

How is it significant?

The Fire Station in Henty Street, Coleraine is of architectural and historical significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Fire Station is of architectural significance as a typical example of conservative municipal buildings of the Interwar period, using the stripped classical form. It is of historical significance as an early Bush Fire Brigade building (later to become the CFA). It is also of historical significance as it represents the long standing relationship and importance which small country towns place on local fire authority.

COMPARISON:

No comparative examples in study area.

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

08-Jul-03

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 |
|----------------------------------|---|------|-------|
| Centenary Celebrations Committee | Coleraine Centenary Celebrations, October 7 to 14 1939 | 1939 | 15 |
| 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 | |
| G. McGaffin | The Wannon Shire Centenary 1872-1972 : A brief History of the Shire of Wannon | 1972 | 14-15 |