
VILLAGE SETTLEMENT

Location

Settlement and Portland Road COLERAINE, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The former Village Settlement (also known as the Hilgay settlement) is an area of 540 acres of land which created 28 farmlets on the southern outskirts of Coleraine. The principal access road is Settlement Road, and about ten houses, dated from the last decade of the 19th century, are scattered along its length. The distinctive features of the Village Settlement subdivision are the circular design of Settlement Road, reminiscent of Garden City design principles, and the proximity of the houses, as the land holdings were small. The settlement developed as a result of the 1890s depression forcing many city dwellers into rural areas as part of charitable schemes, particularly dominated by the Presbyterian Church. The first and only settlers arrived in Coleraine in October 1893 with no equipment or provisions. The theory behind the scheme was to put the destitute poor in a position where they could make a home and a livelihood for themselves and their families. Many of the townspeople donated food, goods and equipment to assist the settlers in their new venture. The Utopian values of the settlement did not thrive, and although the settlement was considered a 'success', it ultimately failed due to the refusal of individual farmers to form the intended co-operative. This meant that some (who had obtained the better land) were able to survive, while those who had taken up the 'inferior' land, or who had very little experience failed, and sought work on surrounding stations in order to survive

How is it significant?

The Village Settlement land is of historical significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Village Settlement is of historical significance as it is a physical reminder of the 1890s depression, and the exodus from cities by the unemployed and their families. The land retains several features which indicate the way in which the residents of the settlement lived, subdivisions which break the land up into small farmlets; primitive buildings; water storage and small cottage garden remnants. These are also historically important as they are representative of those who were able to prosper on the settlement. As a wider representation of a charitable movement, the site is also of historical interest.

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|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002; |
| Construction dates | 1893, |
| Hermes Number | 23121 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Conditions

A number of the houses appear to have been abandoned, or are in a neglected state of repair.

Physical Description 1

The Village Settlement is an 1893 subdivision of some 540 acres of land which created 28 farmlets on the southern outskirts of Coleraine. The principal access road is Settlement Road, and about ten houses, dated from the last decade of the 19th century, are scattered along its length. The distinctive features of the Village Settlement subdivision are the circular design of Settlement Road, reminiscent of Garden City design principles, and the proximity of the houses, as the land holdings were small. Many of the farms appear to have been merged in later years to create larger, more economically viable acreages.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 2: Peopling Australia

2.5 Promoting Settlement

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing Stock

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

3.16 Struggling with remoteness, hardship and failure

3.18 Financing Australia

3.18.4 Cooperating to raise capital

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

4.1 Planning urban settlements

4.1.1 Selecting township sites

4.4 Living with slums, outcasts and homelessness

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

4.6 Remembering significant phases in the development of settlements, towns and cities

Theme 5: Working

5.1 Working in harsh conditions

5.1.1 Coping with unemployment

5.8 Working on the land

Usage/Former Usage

Farming and grazing

Integrity

Low.

Physical Description 3

Section B

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>