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## THOMSON AND CO. IRON STORE (FORMER)



23212 Iron Store former  
Coleraine 0498



23212 Iron Store former 0434



23212 Iron Store former  
Coleraine 0500



23212 Iron Store former  
Coleraine 0501

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### Location

82a- 82b Whyte Street, COLERAINE VIC 3315 - Property No 1088

### Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

### Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

### Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 18, 2003

What is significant?

The former Thomson & Co. Iron Store at 82a and 82b Whyte Street, Coleraine is a large single storey, double fronted brick shop with a residence at the rear. It was built in 1866 by an important architect, John S. Jenkins for Thomson and Co, and later occupied by Stephen G. Henty & Co., a prominent merchant, landholder and one of the Henty Brothers who are considered to be the first pioneering family in the area. In the nineteenth century, the building was primarily used to service the local agricultural and pastoral community, providing general household an agricultural goods and equipment. In 1906, Robert Poynter, a local chemist moved his premises to the store, the store continued to be run as a chemist until the mid twentieth century. The building has been modified and now appears in a condition which reflects the early twentieth century.

How is it significant?

The former Thompson and Co. Iron Store of historical and architectural significance to the township of Coleraine and to the Shire of Southern Grampians.

Why is it significant?

The former Thomson and Co. Iron store is of historical significance for its long association with the pastoral and agricultural communities surrounding Coleraine. The store's usage in the nineteenth century as a provider of general goods and agricultural supplies and equipment represent the changing social currents and land use patterns in Victoria in the later nineteenth century. Major social changes such as the introduction of closer settlement and an increase in the population as small farmers took up selections increased the need for provision of general and agricultural goods. It is of further historical significance for its associations with a number of important local individuals and businesses, including the company who the store was designed and built for, Thomson and Co. The store's construction as a 'branch' of Thomson and Co. (suppliers of clothing, drapery, footwear, groceries, ironmongery, house furnishings, tents and ploughs) is an example of the early commercial economy, built on pastoralism, where a local business could open branches in the smaller towns. The store was also occupied by Stephen Henty & Co., one of the Henty Brothers, famous for being the first white people to settle Victoria. Henty was also an important Portland merchant, and owner of nearby Merino Downs and many other pastoral holdings. The store is of particular historical significance for its ownership and association with James Ferrier, a local inventor who was internationally renowned for his designs, the Ferrier Harvester and Woolpress. This store was where many of his inventions were sold to local farmers, for whom many of the inventions were designed. Ferrier's occupation of the store is important as he was a local farmer who invented devices to make farming practices easier for those on the land, who then went on to sell these devices along with other agricultural equipment from the former store. Historically, it demonstrates the way of life of many pastoral and agricultural communities, particularly in the mid to late nineteenth century and the way they obtained supplies. It is of further historical interest for its associations with the local chemist, turned dentist, Robert Poynter, whose move to the strategically located site in 1906. His occupation of the store was historically important as it is representative of growing the needs of the people of the township to have services provided, rather than those outside the township. It also represents an increasing focus on local health services within the township. The store is of architectural significance for its associations with the important local architect, John S. Jenkins.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1866,
Architect/Designer	Jenkins, John S,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	IRON STORE, HENTY WOOL STORE,
Hermes Number	23212
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The Thompson and Co. Iron Store (former) is in poor condition as many of the original features have been removed or altered. The interior of the shop has been remodelled into two sections.

## Physical Description 1

The former Thomson and Co. Iron Store is a large corner brick store with corrugated iron hip roof. The building is divided into two shops with a residence at the rear. Shop 82 A has a corner entry and an entry off Whyte Street. A bullnose corrugated iron verandah is attached across the Whyte Street frontage and part of the Winter Street frontage.

The original building consisted of two identical facades on both Whyte and Winter Streets with the exception of door details. It was symmetrically arranged with a central quoined doorway flanked on either side by two semi-circular arched windows with fanlights. The original doorways remain, as do two original windows on the east facade.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.19 Marketing and retailing

3.5 Developing primary production

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## Usage/Former Usage

Vacant

## Integrity

The building has been altered and adapted for other uses during its history. It currently appears fragmented with different verandah treatment and colour schemes for each shop. Reinstatement of the verandah on the western shop and consistent finishes would make the building read as a whole and improve the visual quality of the streetscape

## Physical Description 2

John S. Jenkins, Architect

Messrs. A. Thompson and Co, first owner/occupiers of the shop

Stephen G. Henty and Co., second owner/occupiers of the shop

Jason Fethers, manager for Stephen G. Henty and Co.

Edmund Dacomb, a merchant from Portland who held the shop from 1869 -1872.

William Vale, wholesale and retailer, owner/occupier 1872-1884

John Kirby and Games Gillespie, Stock and Station Agents

Arthur Meek, owner occupier

James Ferrier, farmer, inventor & owner

Robert Poynter, Chemist

*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/>*