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# BACON BROS. COFFEE PALACE (FORMER)



Bacon Bros. Coffee Palace  
(former)



Koonwarra Store



image76

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## Location

2-6 KOALA DRIVE, KOONWARRA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 23, 2022

### What is significant?

The former Bacon Brothers' Coffee Palace, at 2-6 Koala Drive, Koonwarra, built in 1892, is significant. This late Victorian commercial building has a north-facing pair of pediments illustrating the original roof form of the two gables of the building (not replaced by one large gable) and a parapet of three triangles, including the splayed corner. The straight verandah encircles the building (not original but a very close replica) and the windows on the two street-facing elevations and corner entry door are original.

Non-original alterations and additions, other than those listed above, are not of heritage significance.

### How is it significant?

The former Bacon Brothers' Coffee Palace is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to the South Gippsland Shire and is associated with the Bacon Brothers.

### Why is it significant?

Historically, the former Bacon Brothers' Coffee Palace was the first commercial building in Koonwarra and is now one of the oldest commercial buildings in the South Gippsland Shire. The Coffee Palace was operated by Mrs. Francis Bacon until 1905, but the building continued to host a coffee palace and other commercial enterprises. This building illustrates the early settlement of Koonwarra and demonstrates the township's development after the opening of the Great Southern Railway in 1892. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the former Bacon Brothers' Coffee Palace is an intact and authentic example of an early settlement store within the Koonwarra. The original windows and doors, parapets and fenestration on the streetscape significantly contribute to the aesthetic and historic character of Koonwarra and local landmark. (Criterion E)

Socially, as the first commercial building in the township and also the building used as the town's first Post Office, the former Coffee Palace is integral part of the Koonwarra community identity. (Criterion G)

The Bacon Brothers, Robert and Francis, came to Koonwarra in 1891 via the South-eastern railway contractors train, believing that Koonwarra would prosper over time and were pioneers of the Koonwarra district. (Criterion H)

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|---------------------------|---|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004; |
| Construction dates        | 1892, 1892, 1892,   |
| Other Names               | Koonwarra Cafe & Store, thematic, Koonwarra Coffee Palace,                                |
| Hermes Number             | 30654   |
| Property Number           |   |

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## Physical Description 1

The former Koonwarra Coffee Palace at 2-6 Koala Drive, Koonwarra is a weatherboard corner store built up to both boundaries with a parapet to the northeast elevation comprising three raised triangular pediments, including one at the splayed corner. The northeast facing pair of pediments express the original roof form of two parallel gables, which are now replaced with a single higher gable which is exposed between the two pediments. All of the windows in the two principal elevations and the door opening in the corner splay appear to be original. These include the six-pane window to the right of the door, and the window immediately to the left that retains part of an early painted Bushell's Tea sign.

The verandah is new, but is a close copy of the original that was added to the store sometime after it was first built, as early photographs of the store show it without a verandah.

*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/>*