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# UNITING CHURCH MANSE



23116 Uniting Ch Manse  
Coleraine 0451

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## Location

81 Church Street COLERAINE, Southern Grampians Shire

## 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 -

What is significant?

The Uniting Church Manse, formerly known as Maylands, at 81 Church Street, Coleraine is a single storey, symmetrical timber house with an encircling timber verandah. It is sited on a hill, facing northwards and overlooking the town. The house was built for the local chemist and later dentist, Robert S Poynter, whose family originated from Maylands in Essex. Poynter sold the house in 1925 after the premature death of his first wife, Iva, nee Cruthers. The house, opposite the present St Andrews Uniting Church, was purchased by the Presbyterian congregation to serve as a new manse. The house may have been designed by the leading Melbourne architects, Ussher and Kemp because of its architectural qualities, the fact that they were active in the area and the close friendship between Robert Poynter and the Winter-Cookes of Murndal where Ussher and Kemp had designed substantial extensions in 1906. The plan and form of the house are conventional for the time, although

without the diagonal emphasis to be found in much domestic architecture from the Federation period. The stables and coach house are an important element of the complex. The house and outbuildings are in good condition and significantly intact although little remains of the original gardens other than the structure and some major plantings.

How is it significant?

The Uniting Church Manse is of historical and architectural significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Uniting Church Manse is of historical significance for its association with the local chemist and dentist, Robert S Poynter, a leading member of the community and his first family, and subsequently as the manse associated with the adjacent St Andrews Church.

The Uniting Church Manse is of architectural significance as a well planned and finely detailed example of Domestic Queen Anne design and, possibly, as the work of the important architects, Ussher and Kemp.

|                           |                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002; |
| Construction dates        | 1914,                                                                                                    |
| Architect/Designer        | Ussher & Kemp,                                                                                           |
| Heritage Act Categories   | Registered place,                                                                                        |
| Other Names               | MAYLANDS; PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MANSE,                                                                     |
| Hermes Number             | 23116                                                                                                    |
| Property Number           |                                                                                                          |

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## Physical Conditions

Very good condition.

## Physical Description 1

The Uniting Church Manse is a single storey symmetrical timber residence with a timber verandah on three sides. All the roofs are corrugated iron. Two half-timbered and rough-cast gables project from the main hipped roof, the gable on the east side being slightly larger than that on the west. Below these gables are boxed bay windows with casements. Two chimneys, positioned opposite the bay windows reinforce the symmetry. A much smaller gable in the verandah roof marks the central front door. The whole creates a sense of balanced rather than perfect symmetry, a device which was used by the architects, Ussher and Kemp who were active in Hamilton and Coleraine at the time.

The plan of the house is symmetrical, which is less conventional at this time than in earlier periods. The large wide hall, lit by casement windows on either side of the front door as well as the door surround, also represents a change from earlier Victorian models.

Service rooms make up the rear of the house. The house is raised on a terrace with a central flight of steps from the lower garden. Behind the house there is a timber coach house and stable with other service areas.

There are the remains of a formal garden, with the outline of formal garden beds arranged symmetrically on either side of steps approaching the front door. A small number of ornamental shrubs survive.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.26 Providing health services

3.26.1 Providing medical and dental services

Theme 4: Building settlements, towns and cities

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

Theme 8: Developing Australia's Cultural Life

8.6 Worshipping

8.6.3 Founding Australia's religious institutions

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Residential

## **Integrity**

High degree of integrity for the house and outbuildings. Low degree of integrity for the garden.

*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/>*