

NAME: 'Willow Glen', 419 Main Road, COROMANDEL VALLEY

CURRENT USE:	Dwelling
FORMER USE:	Dwelling
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION:	C.1898 with later additions and alterations
LOCATION:	419 Main Road, COROMANDEL VALLEY
LAND DESCRIPTION:	CT 5754/57, Section 539, Hundred of Noarlunga
OWNER:	Private ownership
RECOMMENDATION:	Local Heritage Place



'Willow Glen', 419 Main Road, Coromandel Valley (GGA, 2022)

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DESCRIPTION:

C.1898 symmetrical cottage constructed of masonry with brick quoins, surrounds and dressings. Early timber entrance door and window elements. Early brick chimney with later steel cowl. Original hipped and gabled roof form with later corrugated iron cladding, extending to verandah to all sides of dwelling over later painted timber verandah. Concrete paving to verandah floor to all sides of c.1898 building with brick steps to east elevation. Sympathetic later additions to west elevation of building, dating approximately to the late 20th/early 21st century.

It is recommended that the dwelling at 419 Main Road, Coromandel Valley be included on the South Australian Heritage Register as a Local Heritage place.

A delineation of significant historic fabric is provided in the Extent of Listing.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

'Willow Glen', 419 Main Road, Coromandel Valley is of local significance as a C. late-19th century cottage dwelling dating to an important period of development for the district and providing a strong contribution to the Coromandel Valley historic streetscape. The residence is closely associated with the Colmer family, early Coromandel Valley settlers and residents; particularly with Thomas Colmer (1861-1938) who resided at the residence for approximately 40 years.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (As defined in Section 67(1) of the PDI Act 2016):

- a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area; being attributed as a late 19th century residence dating to an important period of development for the Coromandel Valley township, providing a strong heritage contribution to the local streetscape.
 - b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; being attributed as a late 19th century cottage dating to an important settlement period of the Coromandel Valley district.
 - e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event; being strongly associated with members of the Colmer family, early settlers and residents of the Coromandel Valley township. The residence is particularly associated with Thomas Colmer (1861-1938) who resided at the property for approximately 40 years.
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RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:

Theme 2: Regional Life in the Southern Vales

2.1 Cottages and small dwellings

Theme 4: Local Settlers and Local Entrepreneurship

4.1 Notable early local settlers and families

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

'Willow Glen', 419 Main Road, Coromandel Valley does not appear to have been identified or assessed as part of any previous heritage survey.

The cottage, also identified as 'Colmer's Cottage', was briefly identified in the National Trust of South Australia's 'Coromandel Walking Guide' as one of a number of local landmarks, though no history relating to the property could be identified.

Current research has identified Lands Title records dating to January 1920 when the allotment, in addition to extensive land comprising a portion of Section 429 of the Hundred of Adelaide to the north across Main Road, was acquired by Thomas Colmer of Coromandel Valley, gardener. It is likely that the 1920 title is a result of subdivisions of an earlier Title that may predate the 1858 Torrens Title system. Alternatively, the allotment may have been part of a Crown Lands lease registered by Thomas Colmer in the early 1890s, though the details of this Crown Lands certificate were not available at the time of writing. As the residence gives the appearance of construction in the late 19th/early 20th centuries, construction on a c.1890s Crown Lands lease with subsequent acquisition by Colmer in 1920 seems the most likely possibility.

Thomas Colmer (1861-1938), a member of the Colmer family, prominent early settlers of the Coromandel Valley district, is described as a gardener and labourer during this period. Likely a relative of A. E. Colmer residing at a nearby cottage at 413b Main Road, a 'Colmer, Thos, Coromandel Valley' is first recorded in the 1898 Sands & McDougall directory, suggesting that Colmer was residing in the district by this time and providing a construction date for the residence.

'Willow Glen' was retained by Thomas Colmer until his death in 1938, transferring to Colmer's relative Miriam Grace Colmer who resided at the property until 1951, the end of a significant association with the Colmer family of over 50 years. The property changed hands frequently after the mid-20th century and has most recently sold in October 2020. Extensive sympathetic additions to the rear of the property appears to have been undertaken in the late 20th/early 21st centuries, some internal modifications have occurred to the original c.1898 cottage though external fabric appears to remain highly intact.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials of all surviving masonry fabric to the original four-roomed residence including all external walls, quoins, surrounds and dressings, chimneys and window & door openings. Surviving early timber window and door elements are considered of significance and included in the listing. The form of the hipped and gabled roof is considered of significance, as is the use of corrugated steel as the roof cladding material. Current replacements elements are considered stylistically appropriate but are not historic fabric and are not included in the listing.

All later additions and alterations, including western late 20th/early 21st century sympathetic additions, are not included in the listing. Internal elements, including modified room structure and removed internal walls, are not included in the listing.

REFERENCES:

Deaths, The Advertiser, Fri 9 Sep 1938, p.20.
CTs 1144/18; 1175/76; 1996/72; 3307/45; 3968/57; 4035/213; etc.
'Coromandel Walking Guide', National Trust of South Australia, 2014.
Sands & McDougall Directory, 1898, p. 243.

SITE MAPPING:



Site of 419 Main Road, Coromandel Valley (Planning SA SAPPA)

OTHER IMAGES:



Primary west elevation of 419 Main Road, Coromandel Valley (GGA, 2022)



Primary west elevation of 419 Main Road, Coromandel Valley, showing historic fabric of early timber door and windows (GGA, 2022)



North elevation of 419 Main Road, Coromandel Valley (GGA, 2022)



Later additions joining early fabric of c.1898 residence to the east elevation (GGA, 2022)



Later additions joining early fabric of c.1898 residence to the east elevation (<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/419-main-rd-coromandel-valley-sa-5051>, accessed 7/4/2022)