

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BRUNG BRUNGLE HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Brung Brungle Road WANNON

STUDY NUMBER: 110

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

**OTHER NAME/S
OF PLACE:** BUNG BUNGLE

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

SECTION: 13 **PARISH:** PARISH OF REDRUTH

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 431 C-21; VicRoads ; located on the Brung Brungle Road approximately 2.0km to the north-east of the township of Wannon and overlooking the Wannon River.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Brung Brungle Homestead Complex, Brung Brungle Road, Wannon. Garden Elevation

Image Date: 15/11/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the main house and outbuildings but excluding their interiors, and the immediate garden around the house including an area of 10,000sq m measured from the edge of the escarpment.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The homestead is located 2.5km north-east of the township of Wannon (formerly Redruth) on a rise and overlooking the valley of the Wannon River. The garden elevation of the house faces east. There are extensive river meadows immediately below the edge of the escarpment and beyond the vista includes distant diagonal views to north-east towards the southern Grampians and south-east towards Mount Napier. Perpendicular to this elevation facing north there is an entrance elevation approached by a drive. Both elevations are symmetrical about large panelled doors surrounded by side and fan lights.

The main house is a single storey rendered brick building with a timber verandah surrounding almost all four sides. The main roof is hipped and is corrugated iron as is the verandah roof. The verandah is simply detailed with a pierced frieze and fine brackets terminated with finials. The windows are all single paned, double hung sashes. The interiors of the house are also simply detailed and are intact for their joinery, plaster work and other fixtures and fittings but no early decoration survives. Post World War Two renovations have modernised the house and linked the outbuildings to it.

At the rear and side of the house there are several outbuildings including what may be the former kitchen and which may be much earlier in date, a meat house and another large wing, apparently a later addition. There are standard gardens around the house including a kitchen garden at the rear but none of these are particularly distinguished. Nor are there any notable mature trees.

The plan of the house is of interest because it has both a front and a garden entrance. This is relatively rare and may have been adopted to maximise the setting and view. The principal rooms face east across the valley.

HISTORY:

The Brung Brungle squatting run, Portland Bay No. 255, was first taken up by Messrs. Stewart and Kemshead in August 1845 (Billis & Kenyon, 144 & 183). It consisted of 7,000 acres and 5,000 sheep and was situated on the Wannon. By October 1848, Robert and Henry De Little of Launceston had taken over the lease, probably also with their brother Joseph (ibid., 57 & 183, Ham, No. 161). David Edmund Stodart held the run from July 1850 (Billis & Kenyon, 145), and, from January 1856, Major William Messer of the 6th Lancers (ibid., 114) and Charles Arnot in partnership. Alexander Thomson held the run from January 1858 (ibid., 149). Finally in 1863, Thomas Must took over the lease, which was cancelled in 1866 (ibid., 119 & 149). Most of these owners had other property interests nearby.

The Pre-emptive Right of 640 acres was taken out in the name of Alexander Thomson in May 1862. According to Bailliere's 1865 Gazetteer, the run consisted of 5,500 acres and carried 5,500 sheep but, by the late 1870s when it was still owned by Thomas Must, the Government Gazette listed it as being only 2654 acres.

The property was put up for sale in the 1880s and an elaborate plan of subdivision survives at Brung Brungle. It shows the homestead in a garden and park, various other structures and paddocks with names such as 'killing', 'horse' and 'cow' around the homestead.

In the turbulent year of 1888, shearers wanting employment at Brung Brungle under the Shearing Agreement of the Western District Sheep farmers Association were advised to contact the proprietor, Richard Ramsden. The number of sheep to be shorn was not stated but shearers received 13 to 15 shillings per hundred sheep (Garden, 223). At 15 shillings, this was one of the highest rates matched only by Samuel Winter-Cooke at nearby Murndal. By 1912, Richard Ramsden of Brung Brungle is described as holding 11,974 acres (Fawcett, 2003). It is not certain, but this Richard Ramsden may have been born in Melbourne in 1849, the son of Samuel and Richard Ramsden (VPI, Reg. No. 26425). He married Louisa Agnes Marshall in Melbourne in 1876 (VPI, Reg. No. 4649). They had at least four children between 1877 and 1884, all daughters, Kathleen, Jessie, Marie and Grangie, three of whose births were registered at Hamilton and one in Melbourne. Kathleen died at the age

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of five at Hamilton (VPI, Reg. No.12032).

It is not known when the present homestead was built but it almost certainly dates from after the issue of the Pre-emptive Right in 1862 and probably soon after when the surrounding land was opened up for selection. Nor has an architect or builder's name been linked to the design although a professional's hand seems most likely. It may have been an architect from the Hamilton area such as James Henry Fox. The homestead seems to have been in this position from the earliest times and the outbuildings, such as the former kitchen now used as an office, probably predate the present homestead. The complex and it still stands is typical of those developed in the immediate post-Selection period.

The setting of the house is important. Like many nearby homesteads, the house is placed close to the edge of the escarpment with the valley of the Wannon River below. The broader vista includes the southern Grampians and Mount Napier. The whole represents a pastoral ideal, which can be traced back to British landscape gardening in the 18th century and the emergence of the Picturesque aesthetic.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

CONDITION:

The house is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

Good degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is Significant?

The property Brung Brungle, located 2.5kms north-east of Wannon, dates from the earliest period of settlement and some of the outbuildings, such as the former kitchen probably predate the present homestead. The squatting lease was held by a succession of owners, including Major William Messer of the 6th Lancers and Charles Arnot in partnership; Alexander Thomson who took out the Pre-emptive right in 1862; and Thomas Must. He may have built the present single-storey rendered brick house with a timber verandah on almost all four sides. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Richard and Louisa Ramsden were the owners. The present house is picturesquely sited to take advantage of the view. No architect or builder has been linked to the design but the quality of the house strongly suggests a professional's hand. The house is substantially intact with only post-WW2 renovations being the major changes. The whole homestead is in excellent condition.

How is it Significant?

Brung Brungle Homestead is of historical and architectural significance to the community of Wannon and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is It Significant?

Brung Brungle Homestead is of historical significance as an example of an early squatting run in continuous occupation with important associations through its various owners including William Messer, Alexander Thomson, Thomas Must and Richard Ramsden.

Brung Brungle Homestead is of architectural significance as a fine and relatively intact example of a homestead complex from the middle of the pastoral period. Its garden setting and its position in the landscape enhance this

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significance.

COMPARISON:

126 Springwood Homestead Complex, Brung Brungle Road, Wannon.

113 Audley Homestead Complex, Branxholme-Byaduk Road, Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

18-Jun-03

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR **Include in RNE** **Include in Local Planning Scheme**

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Don Garden	Hamilton A Western District History	1984	
Macheth Genealogical Services	Pioneer Index Victoria 1836 - 1888	1998	
Peter and Ellen Balderstone	Personal Communication 15/11/01	2001	
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	
Robert P. Whitworth (compiled by)	Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer and Road Guide, Containing the most recent and accurate information as to every place in the Colony	1865	
Thomas Ham	Map of Australia Felix	1847	