

## HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

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**Name** WANDO ESTATE HOMESTEAD COMPLEX  
**Address** 1550 CASTERTON-EDENHOPE ROAD, WANDO BRIDGE  
**Place Type** Homestead Complex  
**Citation Date** 2006



MAP 1 - Extent of Registration Wando Estate

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**Recommended Heritage Protection** VHR - HI - PS -

### History and Historical Context

William Corney (1816-1898), Victorian pioneer, was born in London and came to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) with his parents in 1821, his father taking up land there. When William was in his 24th year, he decided to cross to Port Phillip (Victoria) with his two brothers, John Frederick and Isaac Corney, and his future brother-in-law, John G. Robertson. According to one account, 'They chartered a ship to transport their stock, 100 Merino ewes and six working bullocks, together with stores, four servants, and arrived in Portland Bay in February 1840' (Henderson, p.529).

'The party travelled inland and reached the Wando Creek, where John G. Robertson took up Wando Vale A (Wando Vale Homestead). The Corneys settled on runs close by. William settled on Wando Vale B, or as it is better known, Wando Station in October 1840.' Wando Station comprised 7,065 acres (2826ha) and was 8 miles (12.8kms) north of Casterton (ibid, pp. 529, 530).

On 3 March 1846, William married Stephan Rowan Robertson, sister of John G. Robertson of Wando Vale A, Wando Vale, at the Presbyterian Church in Portland (Dept. of Justice, Reg. No. 34160). The couple had an only son, Robert William Corney (1847-1913). He married Eliza Mary Tulloh in 1882 (Dept. of Justice, Reg. No. 3396). On 4 March 1848, William Corney applied for the lease of Wando Station (Wando Pastoral Run Papers). A rough

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plan of Wando Station, when it was occupied by William Corney in 1848, was prepared by the surveyor, S.P. Hawkins. This plan indicated a homestead on the east bank of the Wando River (ibid.).

In 1852, William Corney paid 320 pounds to the Colonial Treasury to secure 320 acres of his run from the Crown under Pre-Emptive Right (ibid). But it seems that the brothers were still in some sort of partnership. Two years later, in March 1854, the right of the run and stock was sold to John Doughing. William Corney and his family then visited England, and on their return settled in Portland. (William) became a prominent citizen of this historic town, was elected Borough councillor in 1859 and Mayor in 1869 (ibid, p. 530). Isaac Corney went to Warmambool to practise medicine and James Frederick, 'after managing several pastoral runs, [went] to join the civil service as a stock inspector in 1873' (Bride, 1898 and Sayers, ed., 1969, p. 169-70).

Wando Station changed hands a number of times. In July 1855, it was in the hands of S.G. Henty and William Learmonth, well-known Victorian pastoralists, and then the Western District surveyor, S.P. Hawkins (Billis & Kenyon, p. 296).

By June 1859, Wando Station was in the hands of Owen O'Reilly. O'Reilly was town herdsman at Portland Bay in 1845 and was also associated with the Cashmere run held by the Corney brothers from 1840 (Billis & Kenyon, p. 189). In 1857, O'Reilly had taken an interest in Wando Station and had applied for 320 acres (128ha) of Corney's original 7065 acres (2826ha). This land adjoined the Wando Pre-emptive Right property. O'Reilly claimed that these 320 acres (128ha) were the 'remaining half of the station.' Finally, in July 1859, S.P. Hawkins 'disposed of his right and interest in Wando Station for a valuable consideration' and, by June 1860, the extra half portion was transferred to O'Reilly (Wando Pastoral Run Papers). In c1886, Wando Station was purchased from O'Reilly by the Broughton Bros. of Lemon Spring, 20 miles (32kms) north-east of Apsley, reputedly for 'somewhere about a hundred thousand pounds' (Casterton News, 12 December 1901). The property was described in the 1889 Shire of Glenelg rate records as 9831 acres (3932ha) in the Parish of Brimboal and 3895 acres (1558ha) in the Parish of Wando occupied by William Edmond Broughton, grazier (Glenelg rate records). William Broughton (1856-1901) was the first of five children of John Brown Broughton of Lemon Spring. William held Wando Station in partnership with his brother, Edmund James Broughton (ibid).

In 1894, William Broughton, who resided at Wando Station, decided to replace the earlier homestead rather than to 'improve or enlarge it with a completely new residence on a more elevated site, some distance from the old homestead. In early 1894, tenders were called by the well-known Melbourne architect, H.B. Gibbs, for 'erection of a residence and outbuildings for the Broughton Bros at 'Wando', Casterton (ABCN 24 Feb. 1894; BEMJ 3 March 1894). By June it was reported in a long and elaborate article in the local press that the 'New Mansion' was 'so far advanced that the walls are up and the roofs on.' The building contractor was Mr. Henningsen of Hawthorn and the 'architect', or more probably the clerk of works, was Mr. Henry Kohn of Merino. The contract was for 2,243 pounds. There were extremely detailed descriptions of the new building in the Casterton News in June and July 1894. The building contained 17 rooms, including a drawing room that could be used as a ballroom, dining room, breakfast room, bedrooms, a school room, and a nursery. The bathroom had a 'shower bath with all modern appliances.' The servants' rooms and other out-buildings comprised 10 large rooms with laundry, wash house and kitchen. In the 20 July article, it was reported that stabling with 16 stalls, harness room, coach and buggy houses had been added. With the stables, it was estimated that the building would cost 3,000 pounds. Thirty local men had been employed on the construction of the homestead, a boon to the district during the 1890s depression years (Casterton News, 1 June, 20 July 1894).

After William Broughton's death in 1901, his brother E.J. Broughton took over the management of Wando Station. There was a change in ownership in c1925 when Clive N. Armytage, grazier, became the owner of the old property. After his death at Casterton on 10 April 1942, the property passed to Norman Charles Armytage. A new woolshed was built closer to the present homestead, and various 'cottages' were built including two at the entrance to the property. Following his death in 1994, the present owners became the proprietors as trustees of Wando Estate (Sands & McDougall Directories, Wills & Probate papers etc).

### References

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Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip, R V Billis and A S Kenyon, Stockland Press, Melbourne, 1974.

William Moodie: A pioneer of Western Victoria, Palmer, Joan Austin ed., Hedges & Bell Pty Ltd, Maryborough, 1973.

Letters from Victorian Pioneers, Bride, Thomas Francis, Sayers, C. E., ed., William Heinemann Ltd, 1969.

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

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

## Description

### Physical Description

The second Wando Estate homestead, built in 1894, is a large, single-storey asymmetrical dwelling in the Italianate style. A contemporary report describes it incorrectly as 'of Queen Anne design' (Casterton News, 20/7/1894). The facade is mock ashlar and the side walls are weatherboard. The chimneys are cement rendered brick with elaborate but conventional cornices. The house faces east and the plan is transverse with an overall frontage of 400 feet (123m). There is a timber veranda across the front and on both side elevations although the original cast iron trimmings have been removed. The original timber floor was replaced with concrete and the posts now stand on low piers. Twentieth century enclosures at both ends of the veranda have been removed. The four-panelled front door, with symmetrical side and fan lights, is slightly south of the centre of the facade. A projecting polygonal bay window to the south, associated with the drawing room, interrupts the veranda. The bay has a central double hung sash window and narrow windows on either side. The fenestration of the three northern rooms, presumably bedrooms, includes a double hung sash window, a tripartite double hung sash window and a pair of French doors. The southernmost room, possibly a morning room has double hung sash windows. The eaves have paired timber brackets and the hipped roofs were clad with Decramastic® sheeting sometime after 1970.

The front hall is 2.6m x 5.7m and is divided from the transverse hall by a large arch supported by panelled Tuscan pilasters decorated by a simple floral molding and surmounted by a keystone decorated with a woman's face. The elaborate ceiling rose is elliptical and the cornices are substantial. The drawing room is large with an inlaid timber and mirrored mantelpiece, typical of the late nineteenth century, on the opposite wall from the hall. The contemporary description states that 'The floors are of the whitest of pine, and the doors, and skirting boards, are finished off in substantial oak graining' (ibid.). At some time in the earlier twentieth century the walls have been lined to 2m with Blackwood panelling, once painted but now polished. The cornices which include a plaster frieze and the ceiling rose are very elaborate. The dining room, which faces south, is almost equally rich in its decoration although the mantelpiece is mottled grey marble and there is no plaster frieze. A side passage leads to the service wing. A butler's pantry and a storeroom open off the side passage. The transverse hall is divided into three by archways. The 'best' bedroom was described as 'in keeping with the sumptuousness of the drawing room. Its general size and loftiness being [is] at once striking. The wardrobe is finished off in bird's eye maple with walnut moldings, walnut mantelpiece, beautifully carved with gold enrichments' (ibid.). It is not clear if the wood was actually bird's eye maple and walnut or merely grained in the fashion of the time. Other bedrooms open off to the west and there is a large bathroom which retains its central cast iron bath and chrome plated fittings and shower screen. The transverse hall returns to give access to rooms on the north elevation, including one room which appears to have been the homestead's office. All the main rooms retain rare timber curtain valences, presumably polished originally or possibly grained but now painted. The valence in the drawing room is the most elaborate.

The service wing which is perpendicular to the front wing is also weatherboard. It includes the kitchen, storerooms and staff accommodation. It is said to be built over extensive cellars and there is an underground tank, 7.7m deep

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and 5.5m in diameter. The contemporary description mentions that 'Large stabling is also being provided with 16 stalls, harness room, chaff cutting room, coach, buggy house, etc.' (ibid.).

The extensive garden is divided into traditional compartments. In front of the house there is an extensive main garden with a large carriage circle with lawn in the centre and surround by lawn, trees and large shrubs. The main trees are a Radiata Pine and an Ash. Further to the east and beyond a low hedge there is an orchard. To the south near the main entrance there is further lawn which may have been a tennis court. High Cypress hedges divide the drive from further sections. At the rear of the house there is a courtyard and service yards.

## Physical Condition

The front wing of the house is in excellent condition having been renovated in the last ten years but its integrity suffers from the loss of the cast iron decoration of the veranda and the replacement of the corrugated iron roof. The service wing is in good to fair condition. The garden remains substantially intact to its post-WW2 state and is in good condition.

## Usage / Former Usage

residential and pastoral

## Recommended Management

Retain generally as existing but replace the present roofing with corrugated galvanised iron and reinstate the missing cast iron detailing of the veranda.

## Comparative Analysis

Gazette  
Kongbool  
Mount Koroite

## Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The first homestead and woolshed of Wando Estate, or Wando Station or Wando B as it was known in earlier days, were located on the east bank of the Wando River, approximately 1.5km south-east of the present homestead. The squatting run had been taken up by William Corney in 1840 and he purchased the Pre-emptive Right in 1852. The property passed through various hands and in c1886, Wando Station was purchased by the Broughton Bros. reputedly for 'somewhere about a hundred thousand pounds'. William Broughton, who lived on the station, commissioned well-known Melbourne architect H.B. Gibbs to design a new homestead and tenders were called in 1894. The successful contractor was Mr. Henningsen, who was responsible for many important buildings in Melbourne, and the clerk of works was Mr. Henry Kohn of Merino. It was described fulsomely in the local press as a mansion of 17 rooms. The large timber residence is a late and conservative example of the Italianate style, although it does include very rich decoration and finishes typical of Melbourne's 'boom' mansions. The plan is unusual for its transverse disposition and semi-detached kitchen wing. The homestead is set in an extensive and now mature compartmentalized garden. In the early twentieth century the property passed to the Armytage family. The integrity of the building has been compromised by the loss of some detailing after WW2 and other alterations. It is mostly in very good condition. A new woolshed was built after WW2 and other cottages were built about the same time.

How is it Significant?

Wando Estate Homestead is of historical, social and architectural significance to the Glenelg Shire.

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## Why is it Significant?

Wando Estate Homestead is of historical significance for its direct associations with the Broughton and Armytage families and, indirectly, with several other prominent early pastoral families. It is of social significance for its construction by local workmen, using materials provided by local firms, during a period of state-wide economic depression in what appears to have been a conscious effort at philanthropy. It is of architectural significance as a rural work of the prominent architect, Harry B. Gibbs, which although grand, richly detailed and unusual in its planning, is still conservative in its late use of the Italianate style. It is of further interest for its association with the Melbourne contractor, Henningsen and for its construction under the supervision of a clerk of works, Henry Kohn of Merino.

## Recommendations 2006

**External Paint Controls**

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**Internal Alteration Controls**

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**Tree Controls**

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**Fences & Outbuildings**

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**Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted**

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**Incorporated Plan**

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**Aboriginal Heritage Place**

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This information is provided for guidance only and does not supersede official documents, particularly the planning scheme. Planning controls should be verified by checking the relevant municipal planning scheme.