

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WANNON INN (FORMER)

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Brung Brungle Road WANNON

STUDY NUMBER: 130

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE: QUIGLEY'S INN; REDRUTH INN

PRECINCT: Wannon

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: 1,2, 4

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 431 J; VicRoads 72 F4; located on the south side of Brung Brungle Road, at the junction with the Glenelg Highway and at the crossing of the Wannon River in the centre of the township of Wannon (formerly called Redruth).

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Heritage Inventory



Third Bridge Across The Wannon viewed from site of the former inn

Image Date: 15/11/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. The whole of the land, all of the surviving fabric and the four (or more) graves.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

No above ground fabric remains in place, however the stone foundations survive, such as a stone threshold, as do brick scatters and timbers. There is a fence and gate along the Brung Brungle Road frontage. The exact location of the graves is not known.

HISTORY:

The Wannon Inn was opened by William Stuckey at Rocky Ford on the Wannon River on the road from The Grange (now Hamilton) to Coleraine and Casterton and it became an important coaching stop. Stuckey put a boat and later a punt on the river to help travellers cross. (Argus, 20/11/1850) By the time James Bonwick passed by in 1857 he wrote "A township called Redruth is said to be here, but I saw but a couple of huts near the hotel. Lots of two to ten acres sold at from 2 pounds to 5 pounds an acre" (Bonwick, 161). He also notes that the hotel is owned by Quigley and that there was "a sort of Cemetery, containing four graves of persons drowned in attempting to cross the Wannon in time of flood."

The Wannon Inn was taken over in 1854 by John Quigley (1819-98), an Irishman who had migrated to Port Phillip in 1841 (Garden, 55). A descendent states that he was a Colonel in the English Ordnance Survey Army and came to Australia in 1840 rather than going to India. At one stage he owned the general store as well as the inn. He employed one saddler, seven shoe makers, one carpenter, one tailor and one stonemason (ibid.). During the 1850s Quigley was already gaining benefit from the tourist trade as the Wannon Falls grew in popularity as it had become renowned as one of the prime tourist destinations in the Western District. He had arrived in the District in 1846 with the charge of 600 cattle to be grazed at Old Grange Burn station. While he was there the run was taken over by the Craig Brothers and Quigley married the daughter of D B Craig (Garden, 55). But according to official records, he appears to have married Winifred Tracey in Port Fairy or Portland in 1848, with the marriage being repeated at St Francis Church in Melbourne in 1849 (VPI, Reg. No. 45746 & 675). There is no record of a John Quigley marrying a woman with the surname Craig. John and Winifred Quigley had at least four children, Cecilia and Bridget being registered at Hamilton and Catherine and Thomas being registered at Wannon (or Redruth). John Quigley appears to have had three other sons.

Quigley was one of the early purchasers of land in Hamilton. He is said to have built the first house in Grey Street but only lived there briefly before moving to the Wannon (Garden, 40). Quigley became an important figure in the district, being a councillor from 1858 until 1870. He was Shire President from 1863 to 1866.

According to Don Garden, the township of Wannon or Redruth was an official township reserve created around the Wannon Inn in 1856. Land sales began in December 1856 with allotments 1 and 2, the site of the Inn, being bought by a P Bergin in July 1857. John Quigley purchased allotments 3 and 6 on the opposite side of the road as well as allotment 17 across the river and some eleven other allotments in the township including more than nine acres close to the Wannon Falls. An unidentified 'M Quigley' purchased another three but no connection has been made with John Quigley. He established the Falls View Estate. However, this and other speculation in land led to his financial downfall which precipitated his resignation from the Council.

By 1862, Angus Cameron was running the Wannon Inn and added a post office and a store (Garden, 110). A new bridge was constructed over the river in the 1870s. In the late 1880s, a railway station was established at Wannon on the Hamilton to Coleraine line which would have helped with the tourist trade. But by 1890, the Wannon Inn was the only small rural hotel in the district operating outside Hamilton (ibid., 149). The nearby bridge was rebuilt in 1917. In 1922, the Licence Reduction Board sat in Hamilton to consider the future of a number of small hotels outside Hamilton including the Wannon Inn, which it

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determined to close (Ibid., 221).

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.19 Marketing and retail

3.22 Lodging people

3.23 Catering for tourists

Theme 8: Developing Australia's Cultural Life

8.1.4 Enjoying the natural environment

8.3 Going on holiday

8.4 Eating and drinking

CONDITION:

Substantial archaeological potential.

INTEGRITY:

No fabric remains above ground.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Wannon Inn was one of the earliest hotels outside Hamilton and, typically, was located at a river crossing. The township of Wannon, formerly known as Redruth was created around the site. The first publican was William Stuckey who established the inn in 1849. Before a bridge was built at least four people drowned in the flooded river and were buried nearby. Stuckey was superseded by John Quigley in 1854. Quigley was an important figure in the district, being a councillor from 1858 until 1870 and Shire President from 1863 to 1866 only to resign due to his financial downfall. The inn took advantage of its proximity to the famous Wannon Falls. The third licensee was Angus Cameron. The Wannon Inn was delicensed in the early twentieth century as a result of the Licence Reduction Board's review of small hotels in the district. The whole complex has been demolished. The site remains undeveloped and of high archaeological potential including the graves.

How is it significant?

The site of the Wannon Inn is of archaeological and historical significance as a Heritage Inventory Site.

Why is it significant?

The site of the Wannon Inn is of archaeological significance for its potential to demonstrate the situation and condition of a typical mid-nineteenth century coaching inn and the occupants' lifestyles.

The site of the Wannon Inn is of historical significance for its associations with the various publicans, especially the community leader and entrepreneur, John Quigley.

COMPARISON:

445 Karabeal Inn (former), Cavendish-Dunkeld Road, Karabeal.

ASSESSED BY: TFH

ASSESSMENT DATE:

17/06/2003

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

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No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Donald Garden	Hamilton, a Western District History	1984	
H D Quigley	Letter	1964	
James Bonwick	Western Victoria, Its Geography Geology and Social Condition	1858,	161-2
Land Conservation Council	Historic Places, Special Investigation South-Western Victoria, Final Recommendations	1970	
Thomas Dolphin Quigley	Letter to Miss Rippon	1997	119
		1965	