

PLACE	HOUSE			Other name/s	Kaleno; Brunt Residence		
Address	19 Broome Crescent WONTHAGGI						
Study No	WN005	HO No	-	HPD No	-	Allotment No	4 (Section 23)
LGA	Bass Coast	Ward	Hovell	Parish	Wonthaggi	County	Mornington



Image Date	17 July 2009	Extent of listing	Whole allotment				
Designer/architect	Unknown	Architectural style	Federation/Edwardian Period (1901-1918)				
Builder/maker	Unknown	Commenced	1911	Completed	1911		
Her Act Category	Heritage place	Historic Theme/s	13.2 Building Towns (Larger Centres)				
Her Item Group	Residential buildings (private)	Assessed by	S Reeves	Date	14/08/09		
Her Item Category	House	Reviewed by	-	Date	-		
Usage (2009)	Residence	Condition	Good	Intactness	Good		
Significance	Local	Recommendation	Include in VHR <input type="checkbox"/>	Include in RNE <input type="checkbox"/>	Include in HO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The house at 19 Broome Crescent, Wonthaggi, is a single-storey Edwardian house expressed as a homestead, with dominant hipped roof and an incorporated return verandah to three sides. It was erected in 1911 for William E Brunt, barrister and solicitor, whose family remained living there into the 1950s.

How is it Significant?

The house is of historic and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Bass Coast.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the house is significant for associations with an important figures in the town's early development: William E Brunt, Wonthaggi's first resident barrister and solicitor, whose family remained living there for four decades (AHC Criterion H.1). More broadly, the house is one of several fine Edwardian residences that were built in this part of Wonthaggi by prominent citizens, which collectively demonstrate the early emergence of a prestige residential address in the vicinity of the Mine Manager's house at 10 Broome Crescent (AHC Criterion C.2).

Aesthetically, the house is significant as one of the most distinctive Edwardian houses in Wonthaggi (AHC Criterion F.1). Its highly unusual homestead-like form, with a dominant steeply-hipped roof and an integrated return verandah to three sides, is unique in the township and unusual even beyond it (AHC Criterion B.2). The house remains as one of the most striking residences in this block of Broome Crescent – a streetscape made up primarily of comparable and contemporaneous prestige dwellings (AHC Criterion E.1).

Physical Description

The house at 19 Broome Crescent, Wonthaggi, is a large single-storey Edwardian weatherboard house. Expressed in a somewhat atypical homestead-like form, the house has a prominent gambrel roof of corrugated galvanised steel, penetrated by red brick chimneys with corbelled caps. At the eaves line, the roof pitch changes slightly to form a wide verandah that extends around three sides of the building, supported on timber posts with shaped corner brackets. A series of tall windows, with timber-framed double-hung sashes, open onto the verandah. To the right side of the facade is a small embossed metal plaque bearing the name *KALENO*, which is known to have been the original name of the house as far back as 1921. The street boundary is marked by a low picket fence which, if not original, is still sympathetic to the style and era of the house.

Historical Notes

This house stands on part of Section 23 of the Township of Wonthaggi, a block of eighteen residential allotments bounded by Broome Crescent, Merrin Crescent, Edgar Street and Queens Street. The present site, designated as Lot 4, is recorded in the first Borough of Wonthaggi Rate Book, dated June 1911, as the property of William E Brunt, solicitor, with a Net Annual Value of only £4, which is indicative of undeveloped vacant land. In the next rate book, compiled four months later, the same property is rated as a "house" with the much increased NAV of £40. William Brunt, solicitor of McBride Avenue, was again identified as owner; a second entry under his name revealed his professional address as Lot 6 of Section 2, or what would now be 54 McBride Avenue.

William Egbert Brunt, MA, LLB (1867-1937), barrister and solicitor, was a significant figure in Wonthaggi's early history. According to a professional advert that appeared in the 1910 book, *The Powlett Coal Field and Coal History in Victoria*, "Mr Brunt was represented as the camp as early as March 1910, and can claim to be the first resident solicitor on the Coal Field. Subsequently, he made personal visits periodically, and since 25 June 1910, has been permanently located at Wonthaggi". Formerly Borough Solicitor at Daylesford, Brunt first advertised his professional services in the *Powlett Express* in April 1910, citing his address as Collins Street, Powlett – that is, part of the pre-township tent camp. Early adverts reveal that he specialised in "debt collection and court work". There was, in fact, no court house in Wonthaggi until November 1910, when a temporary one opened in Government Cottage No 100 (now 4 Court Street). The service later transferred to the new Town Hall, and thence, in 1927, to the present purpose-built courthouse in Watt Street. On 31 May 1911, the *Victorian Government Gazette* reported Brunt's appointment as a Commissioner to the Supreme Court of Victoria. Later adverts reveal that he also served as a local agent for Melbourne architect J A B Koch and that, by 1921, was visiting Dalyston, Bass and Grantville on sale days. At that time, his professional address was still listed as McBride Avenue, and his private residence as *Kaleno*, Broome Crescent. He and his wife Rhoda (1868-1953) remained living there until their respective deaths. Brunt's obituary stated that he had "built up a reputation as an honest practitioner which will never be forgotten" and was "acknowledged by all as a very fine gentleman and upholding to the last the finest traditions of his profession".

Comparisons

This distinctive homestead-like house, with its dominant gambrel roof and return verandah to three sides, appears to be unique in the Township of Wonthaggi. Although broadly comparable to the grand and contemporaneous Edwardian villas in this part of Broome Crescent (eg Nos 13 and 21) as well as in nearby Dunn Street (eg No 3) and Campbell Street (eg No 13, 20), those houses have asymmetrical frontages with verandahs that return only to one side. While there are certainly some comparable Edwardian houses with symmetrical frontages and return verandahs, such as the former Baptist Manse at 4 Hunter Street (qv), the former blacksmith's house at 117 Broome Crescent (qv) and another similar at 3 Dunn Street (qv), these, too, only have return verandahs to one side. For an Edwardian house with return verandahs to three sides, one must travel further beyond the township to Inverloch, with such examples as 8-12 Venus Street and 130 Cape Paterson Road (both c.1903). Even these are not truly comparable, as the verandahs roofs are articulated from the main roof in the Victorian tradition, rather than being integrated into a single sloping roof surface, which distinguishes the example at 19 Broome Crescent.

Recommended Management

Encourage the retention of the original or early copper nameplate, identifying the house as *Kaleno*

Encourage the retention of the return verandah as a semi-open space, with no solid or glazed infill to be constructed.

References

Author	Title	Year
Borough of Wonthaggi	Rate Books (held by Public Record Office)	Various
-	<i>The Powlett Coal Field and Coal History of Victoria</i>	1911
<i>Powlett Express</i>	1 Apr 1910 and 4 Mar 1921 (adverts); 10 Dec 1937 (obituary)	