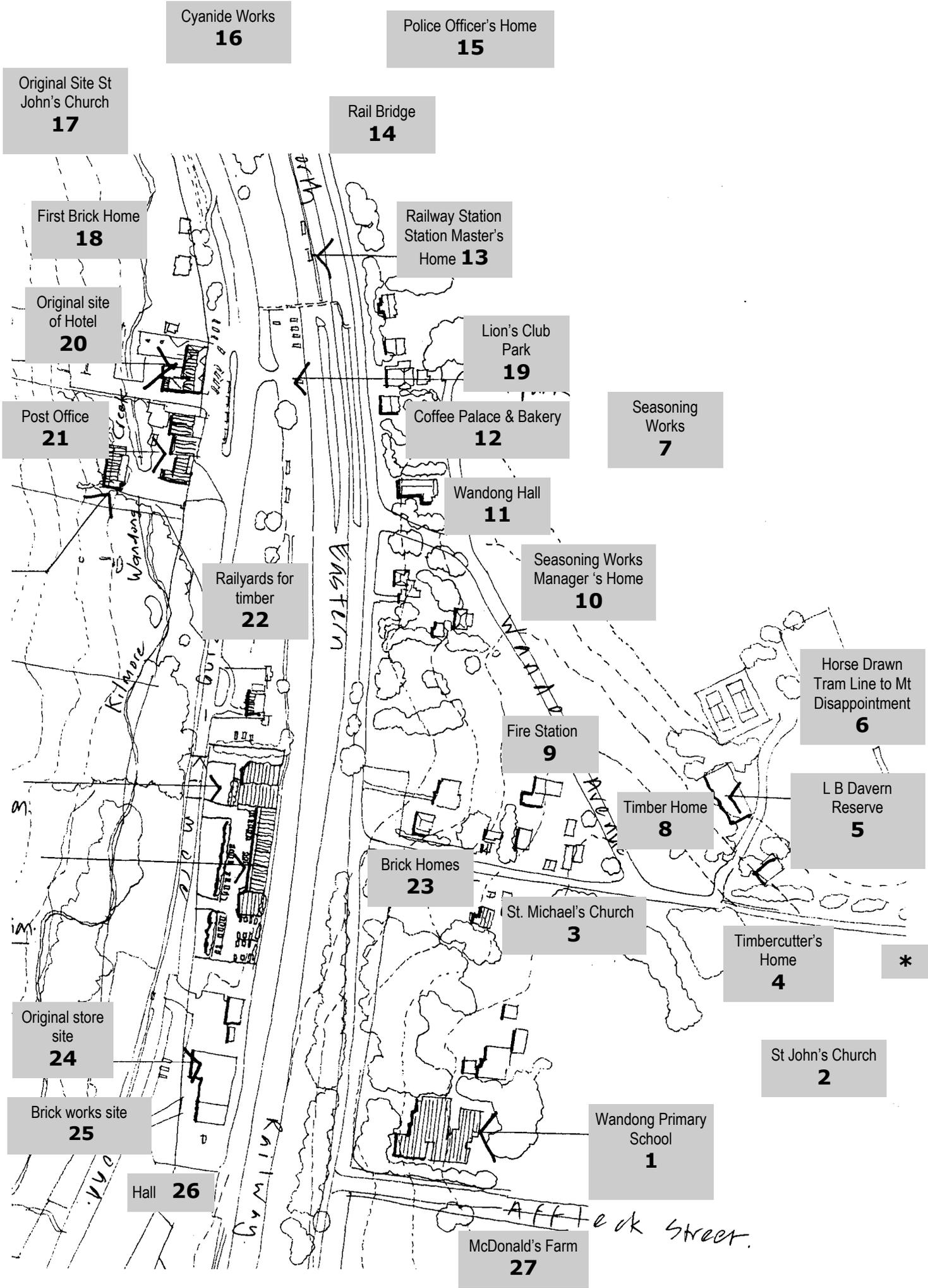


WANDONG TOWN PLAN WALKING TOUR



Cyanide Works
16

Police Officer's Home
15

Original Site St John's Church
17

Rail Bridge
14

First Brick Home
18

Railway Station
Station Master's Home
13

Original site of Hotel
20

Lion's Club Park
19

Post Office
21

Coffee Palace & Bakery
12

Seasoning Works
7

Wandong Hall
11

Railyards for timber
22

Seasoning Works Manager's Home
10

Horse Drawn Tram Line to Mt Disappointment
6

Fire Station
9

L B Davern Reserve
5

Timber Home
8

Brick Homes
23

St. Michael's Church
3

Timbercutter's Home
4 *

St John's Church
2

Original store site
24

Wandong Primary School
1

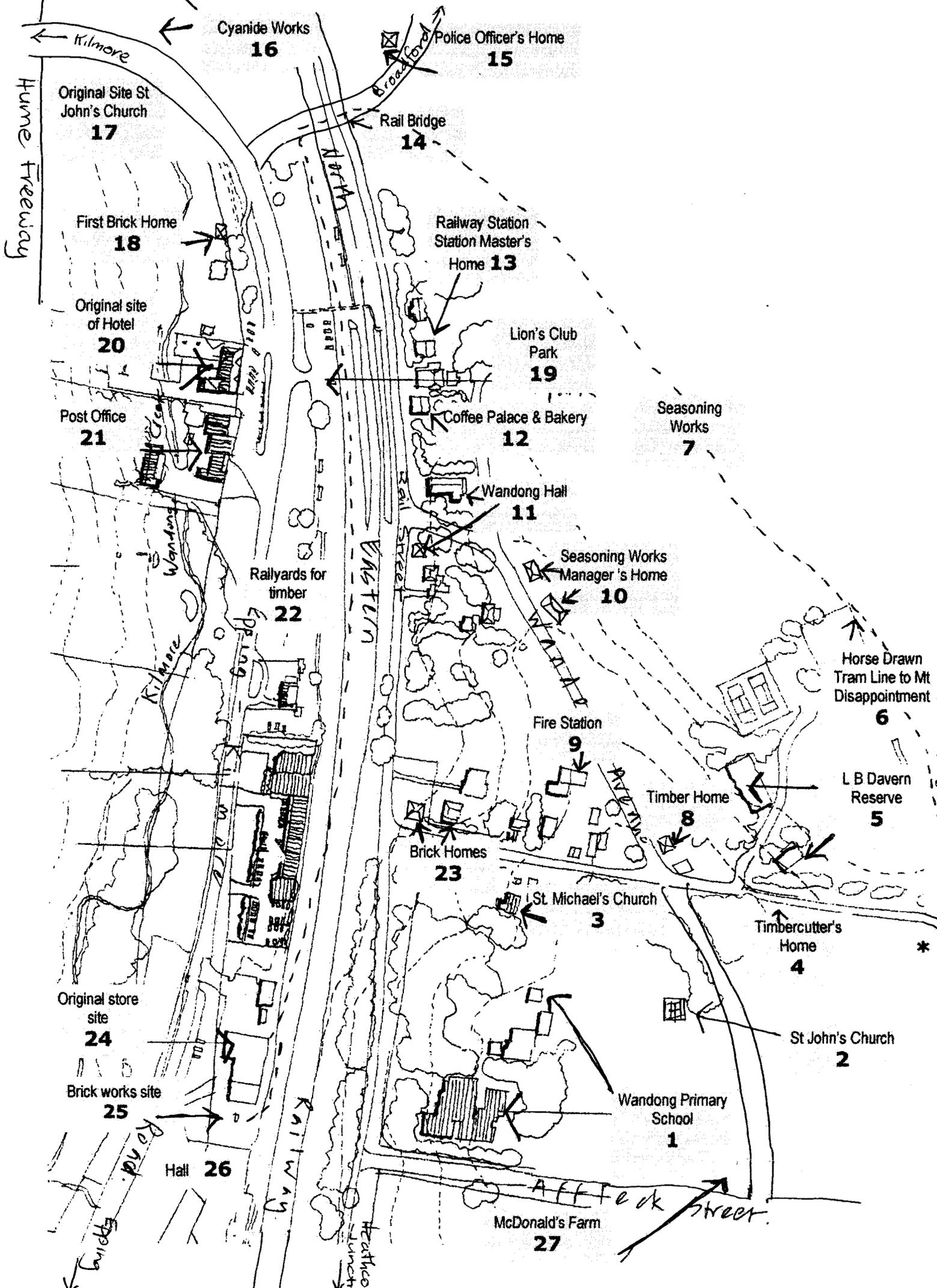
Brick works site
25

Hall
26

McDonald's Farm
27

Aftack Street.

WANDONG TOWN PLAN WALKING TOUR



GUIDE TO WALKING TOUR OF WANDONG

Welcome to Wandong. We have a long history in this town and would like to share some of it with you. Some original buildings remain but much of our past has disappeared unfortunately. Some imagination will be necessary during this walk to conjure up images of what the town must have looked like in the early 1900's. Have fun. If you enjoyed yourself and that imagination was working and would like to know more of our colourful history please contact Sue Marstaeller on 5787 1520.

1 WANDONG PRIMARY SCHOOL NO 1277

The first school was originally at Lightwood Flat in the church building. In 1873 a new school building was constructed on the corner of Arkell's Lane. In 1877 the school building was moved to its present site on land given to the Education Department by Mr. Hoffman and renamed Wandong State School No 1277. The one room building had the teacher's residence attached and was sited where the portable buildings are presently situated. This residence was detached from the school building in 1914. The school shelter shed was built in 1924 and a picnic was held to celebrate. In 1930 the residence burnt to the ground and a new one was built and resited further from the school building, near where the single portable is today. In 1941 Wandong won the Best School Garden Award. A new school building (now the canteen building) was opened by the Minister for Education Lindsay Thompson in 1969. The school celebrated its centenary in 1974 with a large celebration. The school residence was removed in 1978. The new brick buildings and administration block was opened in 1991 by Mr. B Pullen, Minister for Education and Training. The portable buildings were removed and the playground asphalt area opened up. Another celebration was held in 1999 celebrating the school's 125 years.

2 ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

The original church site was at Lightwood Flat and served as the original school building also. It opened in 1871 and the school number 1277 opened in 1873. This building was a makeshift wattle and daub affair and in 1890 a new church was built in the township of Wandong see #17. In 1932 the church was burnt to the ground. The new church was opened in 1933 on its present site. A bell that possibly saw service at all three St. John's churches was 'souvenired' during the 1978 Country Music Festival. An extension to house the Opportunity shop was built in the late 1990's.

3 ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The Roman Catholic Church, St. Michael's, was built in Dry Creek Crescent in 1893. The church was constructed of the local Terracotta Lumber Bricks at a cost of 365 pounds. It still stands today in good condition. According to Catholic Church records an original weatherboard building was constructed in 1891 but no mention of its being demolished and replaced with the brick building can be found.

4 TIMBERCUTTER'S HOME

This home was owned by the Spiers family who had been long time timber workers in the forest after the closing of the sawmills and was built early in the 1900's.

5 L B DAVERN RESERVE

Originally a paddock used by locals for some sport, cricket, tennis etc and their annual athletics meet held on New Year's Day and known as Wandong Park it was officially declared a recreation reserve in 1933. The Country Music Festival started in 1972 with 1800 people by 1978 30,000 people attended this festival. It ceased in 1980 and was reinstated in 2001. The community center building was opened in 1990 the kindergarten building was opened in 1980 with a doubling in size in 1985 to the building we have today.

*** TIMBER HOME**

Near the bend in Dry Creek Road opposite the reserve was the Harper home. Jack Harper operated sawmills in the forest after the Australian Seasoned Timber Company had disbanded their mills. He used some of the old tramlines to transport his timber to Wandong. Large stables were situated behind the house for the horses used on the tramline.

6 HORSE DRAWN TRAM LINE

In 1880 Robert Affleck Roberson purchased the Derrill Mill in the Mt. Disappointment forest and opened the Wandong Timber Company. In 1883 he built the Comet Mill and the township to house the forest workers. The Comet School No 2799 opened in 1884. The Horse Drawn Tramline was built to bring timber from the forest to the seasoning works in 1888. The tramway from the Comet and other mills followed Dry Creek into Wandong running 10.5 miles, passing close to the seasoning works, turning in front of Robertson's store to enter the eastern side of the railway reserve, where the standard gauge track runs today, which it then followed to a culvert which ran under the rail line and gave access to the Terra-Cotta Lumber Works. In 1889 the Derrill Mill destroyed by fire. In 1900 the Comet Mill was also destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt but in 1902 both the mill and school were closed down as the company assets were sold and removed. After large fires in the forest in 1938 after having been burnt down in 1929 all sawmills in forest areas were closed down by Parliament.

7 TIMBER COMPANY & SEASONING WORKS

The Seasoning Works were opened in 1889 the same year as the Victorian Terra Cotta Lumber Company. In 1892 Australian Seasoned Timber Company purchased the Wandong Timber Company, the Seasoning Works and the Terra Cotta Lumber Co. Situated directly ahead from the rail overpass was Robert Robertson's empire, the Timber Company and further east along Dry Creek where today the nursery is situated was the Seasoning Works. There were offices, stores and stables for the tramway horses. When the works were closed all evidence of their existence was removed and today you may be lucky to dig up a small artefact. In 1888 the Wandong Timber Company was liquidated and sold to the Australian Seasoned timber Company.

8 TIMBER HOME

A section of the original Coffee Palace Boarding House was separated and moved to this spot as a separate residence see #12 this residence is now a private home. It is a mirror image of the Coffee Palace building still remaining.

9 WANDONG FIRE STATION

The brigade was formed in 1963. In 1970 the first official fire station was opened in Wandong Avenue. This station was condemned in 1990 due to cracking in the floor from the weight of the trucks and a new station built in Rail Street which was opened in 1993. In 1982 large fires surrounded the town on four sides with many homes burnt. From 1990 it was used as a group Headquarters for major incidents. In 2000 the building was leased to the Wandong District Church to be used as their home with the proviso that in an emergency it would revert to the CFA.

10 SEASONING WORKS MANAGER'S HOME

These two homes were built of the Terra Cotta Lumber bricks for the Seasoning Works Manager and the Timber Company Manager by the company. They are perfect examples of middle managers homes of the time. Again they have stood the test of time and are still private residences. The Butcher's yard was situated next to the southern home for many years.

11 WANDONG HALL

Originally built in 1902 the hall was first known as the Wandong Mechanics Institute and Free Library. A donation of timber from the Australian Seasoned Timber Company helped build the hall. It was the social hub of Wandong for many years with dances and gatherings on a regular basis. The hall celebrates its centenary in 2002.

On the opposite corner of Wandong Avenue across from the hall, Mrs. Burligh and Mrs. Greening who were sisters operated a sweet shop selling homemade pies and pastries. They sold cigarettes, soft drinks and ice creams also. They lived at the rear of the shop and Mrs. Greening was well known for her beautiful crochet dollies. The house was constructed of fibrous cement and is today still used as a residence. When dances were held at the Hall many crossed the road to make purchase of a pie and drink.

12 COFFEE PALACE & BAKERY

The building served as a boarding house and had 14 rooms behind an elaborate facade. The Terra-cotta Lumber Works owned this building for accommodation for its workers. In 1908 baker, Alexander Simpson purchased the house for 100 pounds and divided it into three. Two sections were removed and re-established as residences elsewhere see #8. He used the oven in the Coffee Palace. The house was bought by David Campbell who delivered bread for Simpson. His granddaughter and her family still live in the house today. The original oven was dismantled in 1971 by a school working bee and the bricks were used in the retaining wall near the canteen at the school.

13 RAILWAY STATIONMASTER'S HOME

Built in the late 1800s - early 1900s for the local stationmaster and his family. He was in charge of the many rail yards and the level crossing.

14 RAILWAY BRIDGE

The bridge was originally just a level crossing at a dangerous point of the track with gates and a gatekeeper who opened the gates manually. The tramline from the forest used to cross to the rail yards at this point also. . In 1896 the crossing gatehouse was converted to a station building-cum-signal-box. Three years later a rickety bridge replaced the level crossing. This over-bridge was replaced in 1961 with the present more substantial structure.

15 POLICE OFFICER'S HOME

The Police Station was situated at the junction of Magpie & Stump Road and the Kilmore Road. Constable Wilcox was the last police officer to serve in Wandong, when the station was closed in late 1902, due to the closure of the Australian Seasoned Timber Company. It had fallen into some disrepair prior to the present owners buying the property. The house was demolished in 2004 and a new home constructed on the site. Unfortunately there is little or nothing left of the original home.

16 CYANIDE WORKS AND MARKET GARDENS

On the west side of the Epping Kilmore road just before the southbound exit ramp of the Hume Freeway stood the cyanide works that serviced the many goldmines at Clonbinane especially the Golden Dyke Mine. The rubble was transported to the cyanide works and the process leached any remaining unseen gold particles from the ore.

Along the valley that the Hume Freeway now runs was a Chinese market garden. The Chinese had originally followed the gold strike but on seeing this fertile valley transferred their endeavours to growing vegetables.

17 ORIGINAL SITE ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

After a few years at Lightwood Flat a new church was built in the township of Wandong on the hill to the north of the town between the now Hume Freeway and the Epping Kilmore Road intersection. On a site gifted by George Clayton, St. John's Church was opened by Bishop Goe on 7th February 1890. The original timber church later had additions of a vestry and chancel built in 1924 with funds raised by a Queen competition and a donation from Jack Harper. The Ladies Guild raised funds to supply robes for altar services and matting for the floor. The church was burnt to the ground on midday, 21st November 1932, cause unknown.

18 FIRST BRICK HOME

"Windamingle" was built by David Beath, a large landowner who held 221 allotments at one time and was partner in the Seasoning Works with Robert Robertson. The home was built in 1891 from Terra Cotta Lumber bricks and was one of the largest homes in the district. Mr. Laurie Davern was born in this house before the family moved up the road. This house is still privately owned.

19 LION'S CLUB PARK

The Lion's Club of Wandong Wallan took over ownership and maintenance of this park in the late 1960 for the use of travellers and the community. Mitchell Shire has now taken over maintenance of the park and built a gazebo and called this park the Travellers Rest. Large carved wombats and olden day bushman and his wife are to be erected here also to depict the history of Wandong. Since building the gazebo many travellers have stopped to make use of the facilities. This area will continue to be improved.

20 TRAVELLERS REST HOTEL SITE

The Travellers Rest Hotel was built just north of approximate site where the Magpie & Stump hotel now is situated in 1888 by David Pickup. It was the only two storied hotel in the district with fancy ironwork verandas. In 1933 the pub burnt to the ground in suspicious circumstances!!!! The new Magpie and Stump Hotel was constructed on the approximate site in 1994

21 STORE SITE

Originally opened in 1873 and known as Ryan's store and served as the post office for the new township. Frederick Arkell was the first postmaster and store keeper. It was situated on the land where the Magpie & Stump Hotel now sits with a residence attached. A brick store was built just south in 1960 where the Wandong Store is now located. The original timber store next door, now a residence burnt down on New Year's Eve in 1987. A new Shell 24 hour Service station and the general store was extended and opened in 1990

22 RAILWAY YARDS

There were extensive sidings for the loading of timber and firewood from the tramway for rail transport to Melbourne. On the West Side of the broad gauge track were two sidings one of which ran to the Terra Cotta Lumber Works and back for the trains to turn after loading bricks. Firewood was normally cut into two-foot lengths and stacked to dry in these rail yards. Each year the Victorian Railways had purchased 15,000 tons of green wood and after drying at the siding it was shipped to North Melbourne to be used for firing the coal engines of the trains - building up the heat in the furnace before adding the coal. During the summer months when the firewood side of the business slowed down, pulpwood was cleared and was stacked just past where the Caltex Service Station stands today. Up to 10,000 tons was stored which would fill a full trainload. This was taken to the pulp mills of Australian Paper Manufacturers at Maryvale. A short timber passenger platform was built alongside the road crossing in 1876 and was known as Wandong Station. Passenger facilities consisted of makeshift timber sheds or shelters

23 BRICK HOMES

"Viewpoint" stands on the corner of Dry Creek Crescent and Rail Street and is another fine example of the Terra Cotta Lumber bricks construction. The smaller brick home first belonged to the Forbes family who were railway workers. Across the road is a Fibro cement home built by Peter Fox who was in internee who worked in the forest. He was also a well-known photographer in Melbourne. After his release he gave the house to the Forestry Commission.

24 ORIGINAL STORE SITE

The first store was situated on this site in the front of a residence and known as Jackson's. It opened in 1876 the first year the town was formally recognised and the Victorian Terra Cotta Lumber Company paid rent to Jackson for his store. It closed for business in the early 1900 and became a home to the Davern family. The home burnt down in the

late 1980's and a large part of Wandong's history was lost. The front room that was used as a store and still had the old storage bins for flour, tea etc. and old serving counters. It had a cool room constructed of terra cotta bricks in the back yard. Brick airways ran underneath the building keeping it quite cold. A milk separator was also installed in the cool room.

25 BRICK WORKS SITE

The Victoria Terra Cotta Lumber Company was formed in 1889 by and produced bricks composed of sawdust and clay. The bricks were extremely sound and fireproof. Many examples of buildings that used these bricks still stand in Wandong and Melbourne. See # 3, 10, 16, and 23. The site comprised 4 acres and consisted of two kilns, factory sheds and drying sheds. The business was sold to Australian Seasoned Timber Company in 1892. Unfortunately this factory was closed down in 1898. This is now the site of the Caltex Service Station which opened in 1996. Further new shops began construction in 2000 and were opened in 2004 with a supermarket, bakery, hairdresser, video shop, vet, Dundee's takeaway.

26 HALL

South of where the Caltex Service Station stands today was a hall constructed of terra cotta bricks, which was originally part of the Terra Cotta Lumber Works. It consisted of two rooms at the front and a large area at the rear. The front rooms had a family residing in them and the Tug-A-War team used the hall for practice and fitness training. Many others also used this facility including the Wandong Football Club for indoor training in the winter months. Currently being constructed is a car wash and further development will be a light industrial estate.

27 MCDONALD'S FARM

All the land from Affleck Street to Range Avenue was the McDonald farm and there was no access between Wandong and Heathcote Junction except along the Epping Kilmore Road. The farmhouse stood where Mr. & Mrs. Davern's home stands today on the corner of Wandong Avenue and Affleck Street. The land was subdivided after the death of Angus McDonald in 1972.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hume & Hovell discovered Mt Disappointment on 13th December 1825

The timber industry began in the forest in 1860 and gold was discovered near Clonbinane in 1870.

In the early 1800's the area around Wandong was made up of large pastoral runs. Andrew Beveridge was the first tenant of "The Dene" which encompassed 14,720 acres of land between the Bylands Township and the North-Eastern railway, which included Lightwood Flats. The Glenburnie Run Pastoral lease, north of Wandong stretched from Kilmore to Reedy Creek, was first tenanted by John Aitken. It joined the 'Dene' on the southern fringe. In 1855 the land was purchased by W J Price who sold off the land near Kilmore and consolidated the rest.

Construction on the North Eastern Rail Line began in 1869 - a single broad gauge track. It was officially opened in 1872. The line was doubled in 1882 with another broad gauge track. The Standard gauge line was completed in 1962 and trains can now travel through to Sydney. The branch line from Heathcote Junction to Bendigo was closed in 1968.

Original Magpie & Stump Inn was located 7 miles from Broadford on the stock route now the Wandong Broadford Road. It closed its doors in 1861 when the Sydney Road became a more popular route. The original Magpie & Stump Road was the principle stock route between Melbourne and Sydney prior to the Sydney Road upgrade as there were no tolls.

The original town formed in 1876 was known as Morphett's Siding and was renamed Wandong which means "Ghosts" in the local aboriginal dialect. In 1884 the town consisted of 2 stores, 1 blacksmith a stationmaster, and the school. By 1893 this had increased by 1 pub and 2 churches and a number of new homes after an auction of house lots in 1892

Water was piped to the town in 1889 by Robert Robertson as a private scheme. It was taken over by Kilmore Water Trust in 1894 and further mains were laid to provide water to the whole town and the school. Electricity came to Wandong in 1956

Sydney Road was first surveyed and blazed in 1838. In 1914 it was declared a main road and taken under the care of the Country Roads Board. In 1928 it was renamed the Hume Highway but was still a narrow two lane road. The Hume Freeway Bypass from Wallan to Broadford was started in 1969. The modern four-lane freeway was opened by the Premier Rupert Hamer in 1976.