

**Miner's Cottage and Fence****CC:198****LOCATION**

**Address** Vercoe Street, Moonta Mines SA 5558  
**Land Description** Section 2091, Hundred of Wallaroo  
**Certificate of Title** 21 1100/2091

**Owners** Department for Environment, Heritage and Aboriginal Affairs, GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

**State Heritage Status** Registered, 26 November 1981  
**Other Assessments** National Trust of SA, Classified (File No. 518)

**SHR File No** 10135

**Photograph No** 25/17-20



*Miner's cottage*

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**Miner's Cottage and Fence**

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**CC:198****DESCRIPTION**

Small cottage of limestone rubble and pug, now extensively restored, with an adjacent garden planted in recent decades.

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**STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE**

The Miner's Cottage is significant as a relatively intact representative of the many hundreds of small cottages which once formed the Moonta Mines township.

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**HISTORY**

The early history of the cottage is not known in detail. It certainly dates from early in the development of Moonta Mines, probably the 1860 or 1870s. Local tradition says it was built about 1870 by a Mr Wood, a brickmaker who operated a small brickworks over the road.

In 1967 the cottage was acquired by the Moonta Branch of the National Trust, who carried out conservation work on the house and fence, and planted a garden to typify 19th century cottage gardens. It now operates as a house museum.

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**References**

State Heritage Branch Files, File No. 10135

Drew, G. J. (ed.) 1991, *Discovering Historic Moonta, South Australia*, Department of Mines and Energy, DC of Northern Yorke Peninsula, p. 18



# State Heritage Areas of South Australia



## Miner's Cottage and Fence

Vercoe Street, Moonta Mines

SAHR 10135 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 26 November 1981

This dwelling, built c1870 during the early development of Moonta Mines, is thought to have belonged to John Wood, who operated a small brickworks using clay from a quarry diagonally opposite the cottage.

The house is an excellent example of the early Cornish miner's cottages that were so numerous on the mine site during the 1860s and 1870s. It seems possible that there were originally two attached cottages, or that this dwelling was built in stages.



*Miner's Cottage & Fence, 2005*

The cottage has a typical narrow-pitched roof, with central gutters that were necessary because of a shortage of long timber. It is of mixed construction, combining stone, bricks and dried clay. The garden fence has a timber frame and is clad with old iron sheets.



*General view of Moonta showing miners' homes 1907  
Photo B 48281: State Library of SA*



*Miner's Cottage interior, 1980*

In 1967 the small residence was acquired by the Moonta Branch of the National Trust, who carried out conservation work on the house and fence, and planted an authentic nineteenth century cottage garden. The National Trust now operates the cottage as a house museum, depicting the 'typical' home of a Cornish mining family. The parlour, lounge room, kitchen and a bedroom have been furnished to display the utensils and furniture of the time.



*Rear view, 2005*



*Outhouse, 2005*



*Side fence, 2005*



*Side entry, 2005*



*Miner's Cottage garden, 2005*









