

ITEM NAME (Former Names) : Horner's Bridge
ADDRESS : Murray's Hill Road, Coromandel Valley; Grid Ref :
Noarlunga 822 189

CT :
ORIGINAL OWNER : Central Road Board
USE (Former Uses) : Bridge
ZONING : R1
CONSTRUCTION DATE : 1866
HISTORICAL PERIOD : 1865-1884
HISTORICAL THEME : Transport and Communications
ARCHITECT :
BUILDER : Saunders and Horner

HERITAGE ENDORSEMENTS : State Heritage Register, No. 10468, Status -
Registered (23/09/82). National Trust of SA Reg No
798, Classified List. Registered Item of National
Estate

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE :

Architecture/Environment :

Horner's Bridge is a classic single span stone arch. It is a rare remaining example of this form of bridge construction from South Australia's colonial past. The random bluestone construction is trimmed with a sawn stone string course and arch edging with keystone. A most unusual feature of the bridge is the catellated balustrade capping of bolstered granite blocks, and reminiscent of castle battlements. A single stone pier, incorporated into the balustrade, holds a marble table commemorating the achievement of the builders, Horner and Sanders, in 1866. The bridge's balustrades have bolstered stone ends. Generally, the bridge appears in excellent condition, showing little adverse sign of its 120 years of constant use. The eastern soffit of the bridge arch is disfigured with a friable crust, which appears to have been formed from water seepage and leached mortar. Furthermore, felt pen and paint graffiti at the base of the southern soffit of the arch is also evident.

History :

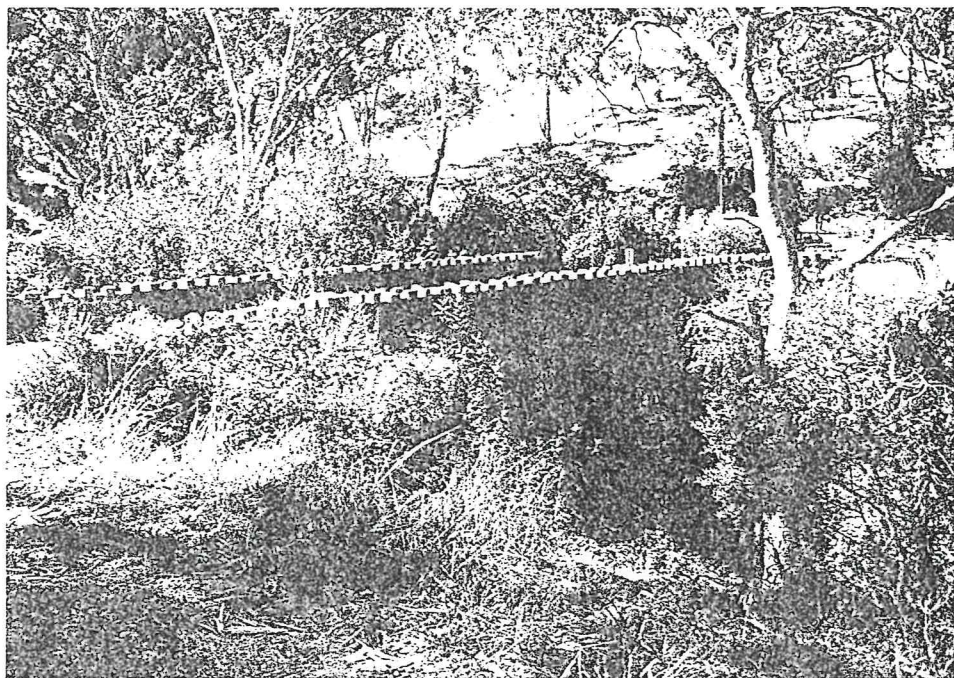
Horner's Bridge was constructed in 1866, the builders being Nathaniel Horner and S Sanders. The original owner of the bridge was the Central Road Board. Ownership is now with the Highways Department of South Australia. The bridge was erected across the Sturt River to facilitate travel to Goolwa via Ashbourne and Bull Creek, this road having been opened in 1860. Prior to the erection of the bridge, the river had to be crossed by way of a ford. The bridge is believed to be the first bridge over the Sturt River in the area. The rock face stone used in the bridge is believed to have been locally quarried. A stone tablet is situated below the battlement parapet. The palque is the 11-mile post on the old Adelaide to Goolwa Road and records the names of the bridge contractors. The tablet was erected in 1923.

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Heritage Listing Recommendation : State Heritage Register

REFERENCES : Stark (1983), p66.



In Coromandel Valley...

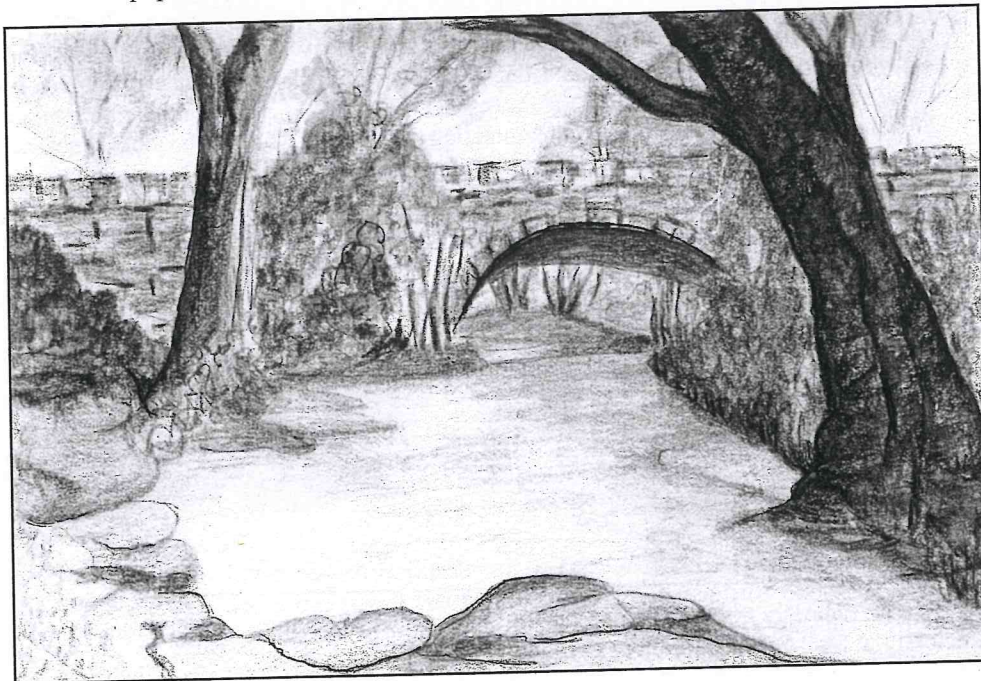
Anne Wyatt

THE first public bridge to be constructed in Coromandel Valley, Horner's Bridge, is named after one of the contractors Nathaniel Horner. Joining Murray's Hill Road with Coromandel Parade the bridge is on the original main road to Goolwa. There had been a ford across the Sturt River here, as there still is further upstream on Winn's Road. At times of heavy rain the river was too deep for safe crossing at the ford, so the need for a bridge was recognised. The arched bridge, with its mock battlements was built in 1866, from hand cut stone, quarried locally

There is a plaque on the bridge giving details:-

ADELAIDE XI MILES
GOOLWA XXXIV MILES
S SAUNDERS AND N HORNER JUN 2
CONTRACTORS 1866
THIS STONE WAS ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF MY LATE FATHER
N. HORNER
AND PRESENTED TO THE MITCHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL BY
C L HORNER, ESQ 6TH APRIL 1923

Horner's Bridge in its pretty setting, which used to be an Aboriginal camping ground and then later a popular picnic spot for white settlers, has a State heritage listing.



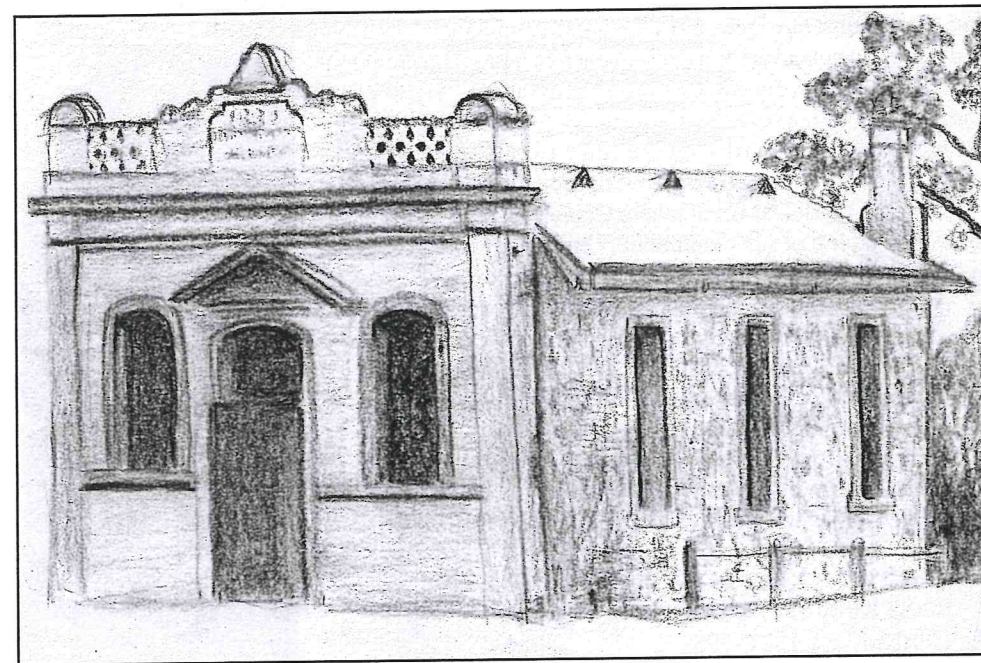
Horner's Bridge – sketch by Anne Wyatt

Institutes in SA were built in answer to the need for community buildings/facilities in which to hold meetings and educational activities, to stage theatrical performances and concerts, to hold dances and family social functions, and to use for debating and musical competitions. The Government, recognising this need, did provide some financial assistance, but it was largely up to the public to fund and maintain the institutes.

The initiative for the Institute on Main Road in Coromandel Valley came from the local cricket club with generous support from Alexander Murray - the owner of the well-known biscuit and jam factory in the valley. In 1873 a group of cricketers formed a Mutual Improvement Society and a public meeting was held in the local schoolroom. Alexander Murray contributed £50 towards the construction.

Made from local stone the Institute was built in 1881 and is now heritage listed. It served the community well for more than a hundred years. There are still many people who have fond memories of the dances regularly held in the Institute. With only 50 books, given by the local school's trustees, a library was started there. In the heyday of the Magic Lantern shows, Mr Charles Dooner brought his Pantecnatheca to Coromandel Valley and 180 people flocked to the Institute to see it.

Now a council-owned property, it is being used by a tenant who is a glassmaker, and attractive glasswear, jewellery and pottery are available for purchase by the public.



Institute – Coromandel Valley – sketch by Anne Wyatt



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TITLE

DESCRIPTION

DATE

Bridge, Coromandel Valley

Horner's Bridge commemorative stone on the bridge.

1971

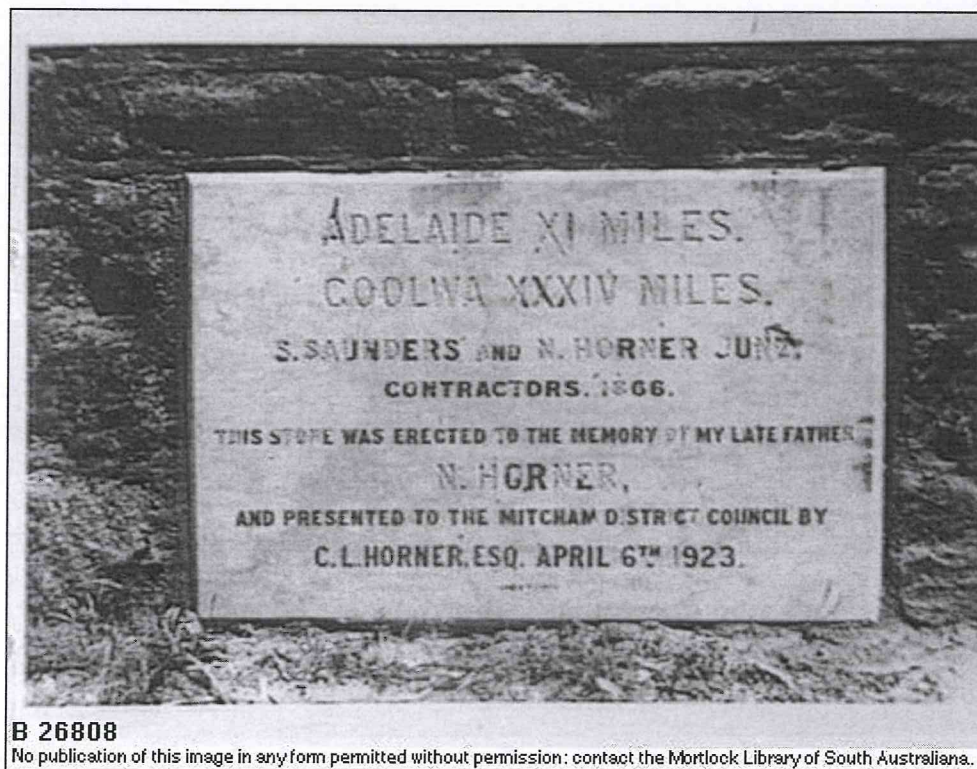




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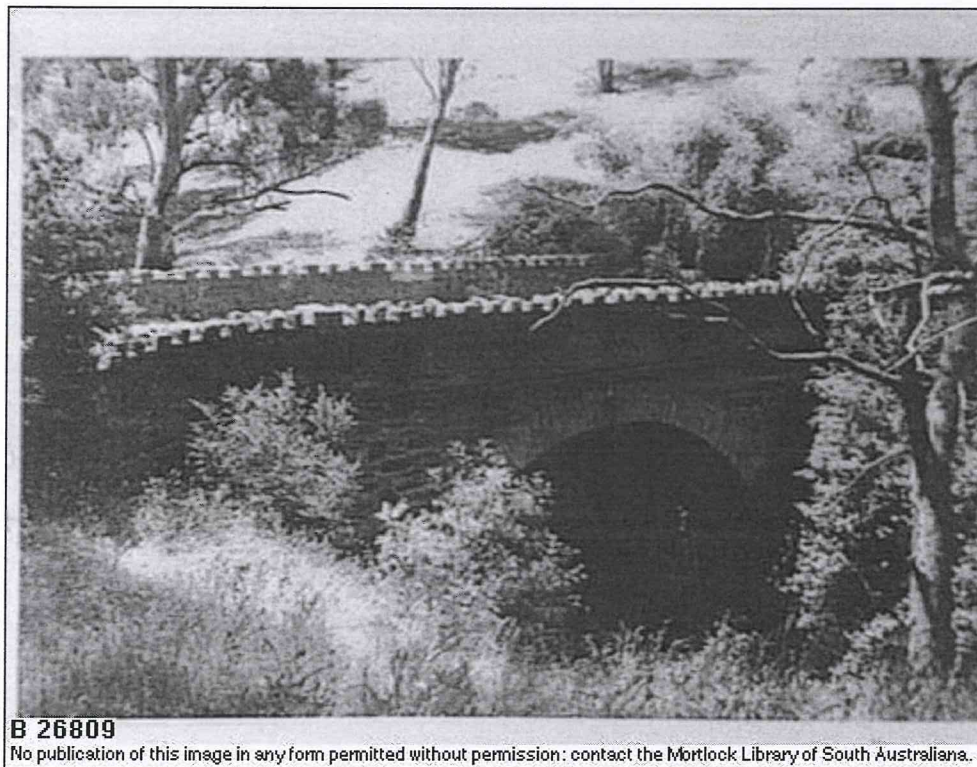
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10468

S65/

An old Photograph of Horner's Bridge.

