

## SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

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### REGISTER ENTRY

Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the  
*Heritage Places Act 1993*

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**NAME:** Taringa Park, Former Storch Tannery/ Mill, Residence and Barn **PLACE NO.:** 22795  
**ADDRESS:** Mount Barker Road, near Hahndorf  
CT 5860/669, Lot 103, Part Section 82, D85789, Hundred of Noarlunga

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### STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Storch tannery complex is a rare surviving mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century tannery which represents the early industrial endeavours and family businesses of the pioneering German settlers, the development of the Hahndorf area, the rise and fall of the tanning and bark milling industry in South Australia, and the importance of the wattle stripping and bark milling industry throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### RELEVANT CRITERIA (under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*)

- (a) *it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history*, being associated with the early industrial development of Hahndorf, and with the rise and fall of the tanning and bark-milling industries in this State.
- (b) *It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance*, being a rare surviving intact example of a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century tannery.
- (d) *it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance*, both as a tannery and wattle-bark mill.
- (e) *it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics*, the house in particular demonstrating fine stone construction techniques, and the tannery and barn being important representatives of industrial design and construction in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### EXTENT OF LISTING

The extent of listing is Taringa Park – former Storch Tannery/Mill buildings, Residence and Barn. The extent of listing does not include the interior of the house.

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## COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

### Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

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#### Physical Description

The main tannery building is a substantial two-level building constructed of stone with timber lintels over larger openings, and red-brick surrounds to smaller ventilation holes. The building has a cgi gable roof, and timber-framed openings with timber doors, and an elevated timber structure attached to the north with cgi cladding. There is a smaller detached stone tannery building to the north with attached boiler.

The house is constructed of coursed stone blocks with rendered dressings and a hipped cgi roof. Features include a concave cgi return verandah with timber posts and railings, timber-framed openings with large multi-paned casement windows and timber doors, and painted red-brick chimneys with upper coursing. The barn to the rear of the house is constructed of stone with red-brick dressings, a cgi gable roof, timber-framed openings and timber doors.

The components which are intrinsic to the heritage significance of Taringa Park, former Storch tannery/mill, residence & barn are indicated on the attached site plan and are as follows:

- Main tannery building, a two-level stone building with timber-framed openings and timber lintels, corrugated galvanized iron (cgi) gable roofs, and an attached elevated timber structure with cgi cladding to north.
- Second stone tannery building with attached boiler
- Stone residence with red-brick dressings, chimneys, cgi roofing, timber verandahs, casement windows and timber-framed openings.
- Stone barn with red-brick dressings, cgi roof and timber-framed openings.

The extent of listing *excludes* the interior of the house.

#### History of the Place

Tanning was one of the earliest industries in South Australia. As early as 1839, complaints were made that a tannery on the bank of the Torrens was polluting the drinking water (Jensen 18). Mr Bean established a tanning office on King William Street in the mid 1840s. In 1875, there were 30 people employed by the tanning industry within the Adelaide square mile (Jensen 446). Other early tanneries were established in the Thebarton, Bowden & Hindmarsh areas. There were also tanneries in several of the State's major towns, including Nairne, Hahndorf, Mount Barker, Mount Gambier, Birdwood, Kapunda (1872), Port MacDonnell et al. The significant

Mount Barker tannery on Cameron Street was rebuilt twice after fires and was eventually demolished in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The first tannery to be established south of Adelaide was Henry Timmins' 1851 tannery at Nairne. The next Hills tannery was established by Heinrich Storch at Hahndorf in 1853. Storch and his family arrived in South Australia in 1849 on the *Emmy*. They settled in Hahndorf in 1853, at which time they established their first tannery halfway up windmill hill on the road which locals still refer to as 'Tanner's'. After 5 years, excessive pollution of the Hahndorf Creek caused the Storches to move to the current site near the point where the main road crosses the Onkaparinga River between Hahndorf and Verdun. In 1858, Storch constructed the current tannery building and a stone residence which became known as 'Ivy Home'. The Storches established a significant local property and business which included not only the tannery, but also an apple and pear orchard, and production of garlic and vegetable seeds.

After Heinrich's death, the tannery business was taken over by his sons Hermann (aka Carl) and Albert. The elder, Carl Samuel Hermann Storch (1848–1939) inherited the house and land at Ivy Home, and was also responsible for the 'official' subdivision and establishment of the town of Grünthal (now Verdun) in 1875. He and his brother Albert ran the tannery together. Other Storches who also worked at the tannery included Hermann's son Heinrich (RAH) and Albert's son Arthur. Because of pollution issues, the Storch's converted the tannery to a wattle-bark mill. This was used for processing the wattle to create tannin for use in the tanning industry.

'Wattle bark exports began in 1844 (see various copies of the Register which published regular returns). Stripping and gum gathering was a valuable means of income for local families, particularly during times of economic depression. The leather industry employed many full and part time workers which included the wattle strippers, gum pickers, the people who prepared and boiled the hides, the leather craftsmen producing shoes and other products for sale. This tannery has links with Wittwer's mill in Main St which became a bone and bark crushing mill when the grain industry declined in the region.' (Anni Luur Fox)

The Storch wattle-bark mill was a successful business which exported to South Africa and Germany. It remained a significant local industry until at least 1939, and during the 1930s in particular, was a vital sustaining industry for a much wider area. Many struggling South Australians painstakingly stripped wattles then carted them to the Storch mill to earn enough to help sustain them through the depression. Thus the former Storch tannery complex represents the early industrial endeavours of the pioneering German settlers, the nature of German family businesses, the development of the Hahndorf / Verdun area, the rise and fall of the tanning and bark milling industry in South Australia, and the importance of the wattle-bark milling industry during the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, especially the depressions. It is also associated with the subdivision and first official registration of the township of Verdun.

## *References*

This Record is based on the assessment in:

- Heritage Online 2004, *Mount Barker Heritage Survey*.

Additional references include:

- Butler, Reg 1989, *A College in the Wattles: Hahndorf & its Academy*.
- Faull, Jim & Gordon Young, 1986, *People Places & Buildings*, pp 89-98.
- Fox, AL 2002, *Hahndorf: a journey through the village and its history*.
- Griffin, T and M McCaskill [eds] 1986, *Atlas of South Australia*, pp 37 & 80.
- Historical Research: Anni Luur Fox & Reg Butler.
- Jensen, Elfrida & Rolf 1980, *Colonial Architecture in South Australia*, pp 18, 20 59, 67, 69, 348, 352, 402, 409, 446, 477 & 550.
- Local History Centre, heritage files & photographs.
- Schubert, David 1985, *Kavel's People, from Prussia to South Australia*.
- Schubert, J C 1964, *Lutheran Pioneers in Australia, the emigration, landing and establishment*.
- [www.slsa.sa.gov.au](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au), [www.southaustralianhistory.com.au](http://www.southaustralianhistory.com.au)
- Young, G et al 1981, *Hahndorf Volumes 1 & 2*.

## SITE RECORD

Taringa Park, former Storch Tannery/Mill, Residence & Barn PLACE NO: 22795  
Mount Barker Road, Hahndorf 5245

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<b>FORMER NAME:</b>	Storch Tannery, Wattle Bark Mill	
<b>DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:</b>	Historic tanning complex, including two tannery buildings, a residence and barn.	
<b>DATE OF COMPLETION:</b>	1858	
<b>SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	Provisionally entered
	<b>Date:</b>	22 February 2012
<b>LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS</b>	Nil	N/A
<b>CURRENT USE:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	House and outbuildings
	<b>Dates:</b>	to present
<b>PREVIOUS USE(S):</b>	<b>Description:</b>	Tannery, residence and outbuildings
	<b>Dates:</b>	1858
<b>ARCHITECT:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	N/A
	<b>Dates:</b>	
<b>BUILDER:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	Heinrich Storch
	<b>Dates:</b>	1858
<b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	District Council of Mount Barker
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>Unit No.:</b>	N/A
	<b>Street No.:</b>	N/A
	<b>Street Name:</b>	Mount Barker Road
	<b>Town/Suburb:</b>	Hahndorf
	<b>Post Code:</b>	5245
<b>LAND DESCRIPTION:</b>	<b>Title Type:</b>	CT
	<b>Volume:</b>	5860
	<b>Folio:</b>	669
	<b>Lot No.:</b>	Allotment 103, D857891
	<b>Section:</b>	Part Section 82
	<b>Hundred:</b>	Noarlunga

## PHOTOS

Taringa Park, former Storch Tannery/Mill, Residence & Barn PLACE NO: 22795  
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*Main tannery building – eastern wall*



*Tannery – elevated timber structure*



*Small tannery building & boiler*



*Main tannery viewed from northern side*



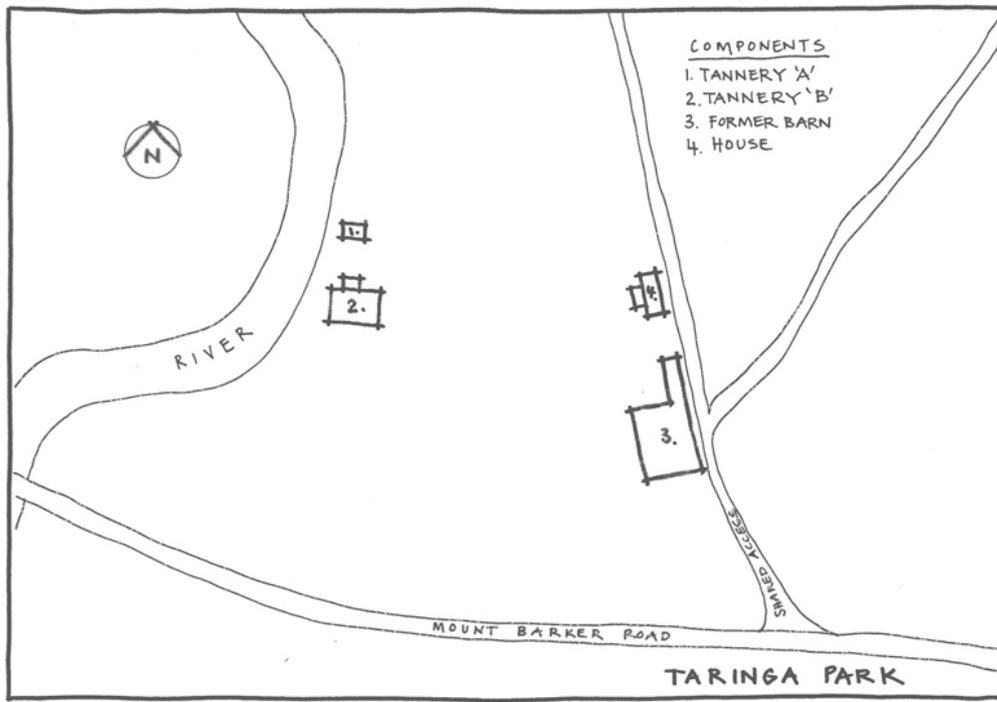
*Residence – south elevation*



*Barn – west elevation*

# SITE PLAN

Taringa Park, former Storch Tannery/Mill, Residence & Barn PLACE NO: 22795  
Mount Barker Road, Hahndorf 5245



Drawing showing significant components at former Storch tannery complex



Site plan showing significant components at former Storch tannery complex