

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples should be aware that this report may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.

Care and discretion should be used when viewing this report.

# HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

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**NAME:** Harry Smith's House Ruin plus Mulberry and Fig Tree **PLACE:** 26475

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**ADDRESS:** Smith Bay, Kangaroo Island

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## HISTORY

According to the Aboriginal peoples of the Fleurieu Peninsula and Lower Murray, Kangaroo Island is believed to be a 'stepping stone for the soul' on its way to the place where ancestral spirits went.<sup>1</sup> Consequently, Kangaroo Island was uninhabited immediately prior to European settlement in the early 1800s. Captain Matthew Flinders named Kangaroo Island in 1802, after a successful hunting trip on the island, provided the crew with their first fresh provisions in four months.<sup>2</sup> While a number of individuals may have used Kangaroo Island as a sealing base from the late 1700s, Joseph Murrell and his crew are noted as the first sealers to base themselves from the Island. The *Marcia* left Murrell and his party on the Island in 1806, on the understanding that the ship would return in three months. It was 1809 before they returned to Sydney.<sup>3</sup>

Declining seal numbers in Bass Strait resulted in increased numbers of sealers basing their activities from Kangaroo Island from the 1810s. In addition to seal and kangaroo skins, salt was also gathered from the dry lagoons for trade with passing ships. The salt was considered to be of a high quality and was well regarded for its abilities to prevent spoilage.

Many of the sealers based on Kangaroo Island were involved in the forcible abduction of aboriginal women. The women and in some cases girls and boys were primarily taken from Tasmania and the Lower Murray area of South Australia. Historically, the women and girls are referred to as the men's 'Aboriginal wives'. The Aboriginal women, taken to Kangaroo Island, were responsible for tending gardens, hunting small animals and fishing and undertaking a range of household duties. A number of children were born to the Aboriginal women and sealers. Different period accounts variously describe the women as being treated cruelly; while others state that they were treated well.<sup>4</sup>

The pre-settlement population of Kangaroo Island was in a constant state of flux as different individuals came and went. Ruediger claims that the population in 1826 was 200 and was composed of 40 sealers, 60 women and 100 half-caste children. Moore, whose work is largely composed of extracts from period documentation, indicates a smaller population. Although, it is important to note that period encounters between visitors to Kangaroo Island and the pre-settlement population may not record the whole population of the Island at that time. The various period sources state the population was 40 individuals in 1827, 16-18 men in 1831 and 7 men and 5 women in 1834.<sup>5</sup> Captain Hart recorded the population, in 1836, as 8 men and 16 Aboriginal women.<sup>6</sup> Notable and/or notorious pre-settlement sealers included but are not limited to: George (Fireball) Bates, William Thompson, William Walker, Waller, G. Meredith, Jacob Seaman, George Brown, Nathaniel Thomas, James Allen, William Day and the self-proclaimed Governor of Kangaroo Island Robert Wallen also referred to as Whalley, Warland, Walker and Worley.<sup>7</sup>

A description of a pre-settlement sealer's farm was included in the second supplement of the first report of the South Australian Company. The house or hut was constructed from 'trees driven into the ground like piles, pointed with clay and thatched'.<sup>8</sup> Other pre-settlement sealers may have had huts that were constructed from stone. In addition, the two sealers and Aboriginal women who lived at the site were growing wheat and a range of vegetables. No mention of fruit trees was made. No evidence has been found to suggest that the pre-settlement sealers on Kangaroo Island had fruit trees, prior to 1836, when the first colonists arrived.<sup>9</sup>

### Harry Smith

Unlike a number of sealers who settled on Kangaroo Island prior to the colonisation of South Australia in 1836, there is very little information pertaining specifically to Henry Smith. Henry, more commonly known as Harry, was most likely born in the United Kingdom around 1801 and died 31 July 1888 at the age of 87.<sup>10</sup> The year Smith arrived on Kangaroo Island is even more unclear; four different sources each claim a different date including: 1819, 1824, 1832 and 1836 – a fifth source concurs that he arrived on the Island prior to official settlement.<sup>11</sup> Smith was reputedly a runaway sailor and whaler and/or sealer.<sup>12</sup> Equally, like Murrell and members of his crew, he may have arranged to be left on the Island to collect kangaroo and/or wallaby skins and gather salt for trade with passing ships. He was later known as big mouth Harry by some of the Islanders, due to his ability to lift a 200lb bag of salt with his mouth.<sup>13</sup>

Prior to settling at Smith Bay, Smith is believed to have initially camped at American River, but moved on after his camp was burnt out in his first week on the Island. Wells claims Smith then moved to Cygnet River before establishing himself at Smith Bay.<sup>14</sup> Smith chose to establish his home in a small hollow, close to the sea and adjacent to the most substantial creek that runs through the bay. Both the bay and creek bear Smith's name. The choice of site provided protection from the wind and relatively easy access to fresh water, the beach and a site to possibly grow fruit and vegetables. The Jacka family who built their house close by, later in the nineteenth century or early in the twentieth century, established an orchard slightly further up Smith creek.<sup>15</sup> The location of the nominated Mulberry tree and Fig tree is on the site of the Jacka house ruin.<sup>16</sup>

Smith was regarded as a solitary man. However, he is potentially associated with at least three Aboriginal females. The first, were two 10 year old girls noted as being of mixed-race and who were left on the Island to hunt wallabies. It is unclear if the girls were kidnapped from Tasmania or the mainland or if they were the children of one of the sealers. There are two accounts of why the girls were left with Smith. The first suggests that they were left with Smith so that he could care for them. The other states that Smith was ill and the girls were left to care for him. Supposedly, when the girls saw the sealers returning in their whale boat, they ran along the beach. One of the sealers pointed his gun either purposefully at one girl or over her head and fired, killing her. The other girl is said to have become deranged and/or to have thrown herself off a cliff. Her body was not found.<sup>17</sup>

The other Aboriginal women associated with Smith was known as Sal, Little Sal and/or possibly Brown Sal. Her given name was not recorded. Sal was most likely a Nauo woman from the Port Lincoln area. Sal, along with another Aboriginal woman known as Charlotte were kidnapped by sealer Bill Bryan and lived on Saint Peter Island in the Great Australian Bight in the 1820s. After Bryan died, Sal eventually made her way to Kangaroo Island where she lived with Smith for a time before starting a relationship with Bob (Jack) Thompson. Sal died c.1877 and is buried at Springy Water near Stokes Bay. The nominator suggested that the chapter 'Harry and Sally' in *History in Portraits* was Harry Smith and Sal. However, the Harry and Sally who feature in that chapter are a young Aboriginal man and woman who originally came from the mainland. Harry and Sally were most likely from a southern-based tribe of the Kurna people.<sup>18</sup> Many of the Aboriginal women who were kidnapped from Tasmania and the Lower Murray were often called Sal or Sally, amongst other names.<sup>19</sup>

A Harry Smith is recorded as accompanying Inspector Tolmer in his search for five bushrangers on Kangaroo Island in August 1844. He is noted as being a boatman and may or may not be the Smith of Smith's Bay as both Henry (Harry) and Smith were common names at the time. As a reward, he and the other boatmen were given the wallaby skins collected by two of the bushrangers.<sup>20</sup>

Very little else is known about Smith with the exception of three published anecdotes. The first was a recount in 1928 by HF Bates of a trip that had occurred in 1863. Bates recollected his, and his fellow adventurers journey, in a whale boat from Kingscote to Middle

River and back again. During the journey the whale boat stopped at Smith's Bay and the adventurers visited Smith. It was growing dark and Smith advised them that the tide would be in their favour again at 2am. He then invited them to his hut for tea and provided them with a field bed. Upon waking them at 2am, Smith again provided them with a cup of tea before they set off.<sup>21</sup> The other two, considered below, by Bennett and Burnett provide information about Smith's house.

### Smith's House

Ruediger described Smith's house as a 'wattle and daub hut' that he had built himself by the sea. However, Ruediger's work is only fleetingly referenced and it is not possible to determine where he obtained his information from.<sup>22</sup> In the early 1930s, Reverend AD Bennett recounted his meeting with Smith in the previous century and described Smith's house as being a two roomed cottage with 'a front door and back door and two windows, with dirty calico instead of glass'.<sup>23</sup> Bennett also stated that the cottage was built on the corner of 10 acres granted to Smith in the early days of the colony. However, Burnett who visited Smith in 1883, stated that the Government had granted Smith 40 acres for the term of his life.<sup>24</sup> The Colonial Government surveyed Kangaroo Island in 1881-1882. The survey map, dated 28 January 1882, delineates a 76 acre parcel of land and designates it as Smith's Reserve. In addition, an undated annotation on the map notes 'Ruins of House and Garden' at the location of Smith's ruin. The land was sold to John Turner, a local farmer, in 1906.

### *A Note on Sources*

With the exception of Moore and Clarke, it is important to note that many of the published sources are poorly referenced. The earlier texts tend to have little or no references. While the later texts tend to reference the earlier ones. Upon checking, at least one reference was found to be inaccurate as there was no mention of Smith in the original text. Much of what has been published about Smith is based on Island folklore, which was passed down verbally through multiple generations prior to being recorded in print. Further, two of the recounts that describe encounters with Smith, in the popular press, were published decades after the encounters took place.

### **Chronology**

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1802                           | Captain Matthew Flinder's successful hunting trip results in the island being named Kangaroo Island.                          |
| 1806                           | Joseph Murrell and crew reside on Kangaroo Island for approximately three years.  |
| 1810s                          | Increasing numbers of sealers base their activities from Kangaroo Island, some take up permanent residence.                   |
| 1819,<br>1824, 1832<br>or 1836 | Harry Smith arrives on Kangaroo Island and camps briefly at American River then Cygnet River, prior to settling at Smith Bay. |
| 1844                           | A Harry Smith assists Inspector Tolmer in his search for runaway bushrangers.   |
| 1863                           | A whale boat party stays overnight with Smith.  |
| 1883                           | Burnett visits Smith.   |
| 1888                           | Smith dies.   |

## **DESCRIPTION**

The ruin, which is weed infested, has a rectilinear form that is almost square. An internal wall, with a gap that suggests an opening for a door, divides the space to create two rectangular rooms. The ruin is constructed from unworked calcrete, fieldstone and lime mortar. Calcrete is a type of porous limestone; while, fieldstone lays either on the surface of the ground or just below it. With the exception of the western wall, each wall has deteriorated to the point where it is now either at ground level or a single stone above. The western wall stands approximately 400mm above ground level. There are also numerous loose stones scattered around the site that were, most likely, once a part of the walls. Due to the deteriorated condition of the walls, it was not possible to identify openings for the front and back door mentioned in Rev. Bennett's description of the house. Further, a close inspection of each of the walls failed to reveal any timber or housings for the supporting timbers of a wattle and daub building.

The Mulberry tree and Fig tree are located a short distance to the west of the Smith ruin. Both trees are old and in decline. In particular, the Mulberry tree is in very poor condition. While the trees are old it is highly unlikely that they pre-date 1836.

## **ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

### **Statement of Heritage Significance:**

As Smith's ruin and the Mulberry tree and Fig tree do not meet any of the criteria for State Heritage listing, there is no statement of Heritage Significance.

### **Comparability / Rarity / Representation:**

Two relevant Heritage Surveys have been conducted on Kangaroo Island. The first was by Heritage Investigations (Marsden et al) and Historical Consultants Pty Ltd (Linn, et al) in 1986 but published in 1991. The other was by Weidenhofer Architects in 2006. Only the earlier survey identified and recommended built pre-settlement sites for both State and Local Heritage Listing. Of the pre-settlement sites identified in the earlier survey, only eight were huts or hut ruins. Of the eight, six were recommended as State Heritage places and two as Local Heritage Places. Subsequently, three of the recommend places were listed as State Heritage Places and none as a Local Heritage Place.

The pre-settlement sites with a hut or hut ruin listed as State Heritage Places include:

- Jacob Seaman's Hut SHP14752
- Freshfields House and Graves SHP10394
- Grassdale Homestead SHP14645

The three pre-settlement sealers associated with each of the above State Heritage Places were respectively Jacob Seaman, Nathaniel Thomas and an unnamed sealer/s.

The sites recommended as State Heritage Places that were not subsequently listed include:

- Wilkinson Hut Ruin (the site has not been considered by the South Australian Heritage Council)
- Stokes House Ruin (the site has not been considered by the South Australian Heritage Council)
- Wallen's Farm and SA Company Office (nominated 1993, rejected by the South Australian Heritage Council 31 August 1995)

The three unlisted but recommend sites were associated with Wilkinson, John Stokes and 'Governor' Robert Wallen. The last two were well known pre-settlement figures.

The sites recommended as Local Heritage Places include:

- House and Site (George Fireball Bates)
- Hut Ruin

Like Wallen and Stokes, Bates was a notable and/or notorious pre-settlement figure on Kangaroo Island.

In addition, a further 14 pre-settlement sites were recommended as either State Heritage Places (9) or Local Heritage Places (5) and represented other aspects of 'European' contact or pre-settlement history on Kangaroo Island. For example salt lakes (early industry), landing sites for the explorers Flinders and Baudin, wells, sealers campsites and the Penneshaw Cemetery. Of the 14, three were nominated and rejected as State Heritage Places, three have not been considered by the South Australian Heritage Council and three are State Heritage Places and one a Local Heritage Place and include:

- Penneshaw Cemetery (burial site for pre-settlement sealers) SHP14747
- Frenchman's Rock Monument, Well and Trees (Baudin) SHP14651
- Christmas Cove (Flinders) SHP14751
- Prospect Hill (Flinders) Local Heritage Place (identified as a potential State Heritage Place and has not been considered by the South Australian Heritage Council)

Two Mulberry Trees are currently listed as State Heritage Places on Kangaroo Island. The first is located at the Reeves Point Settlement Site SHP10980. Reeves Point is the site of the first official settlement in South Australia and the Mulberry tree located there was planted in 1836. The other is a Mulberry tree planted at the Cassini Station Complex SHP14750. The Cassini Station Mulberry tree was planted c.1870s and is considered to be significant due to its age, size and association with an early station complex on the northern coast of Kangaroo Island. There are currently no edible fig trees listed as a State Heritage Place.

**Assessment against 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.**

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*, that note:

*The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases which have played a significant part in South Australian history. Ideally it should demonstrate those associations in its fabric.*

*Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if they are of a class of things that are commonplace, or frequently replicated across the State, places associated with events of interest only to a small number of people, places associated with developments of little significance, or places only reputed to have been the scene of an event which has left no trace or which lacks substantial evidence.*

Harry Smith's house ruin has both a minor and unclear association with the pre-settlement history of Kangaroo Island and more broadly South Australia. While Smith definitely lived at the site, there is no evidence to indicate when the ruin was first built. It is possible, given the physical evidence of the stone ruin and the documentary description of a wattle and daub structure that Smith constructed more than one dwelling. If that is the case then the ruin is a later structure. Rev. Bennett's description of Smith's house is typical of the small stone buildings built on Kangaroo Island in the nineteenth century. Further, given the paucity of the evidence and the reliance on Island folklore in many of the published sources, the facts pertaining to Smith and the ruin are also questionable.

A number of presettlement sealers huts were identified in the 1980s as a part of a Heritage Survey of Kangaroo Island. While those huts were also mostly ruins, they are more extant than that of Smith's ruin and/or were associated with well-known pre-settlement sealers. The huts/hut ruins include:

- Jacob Seaman's Hut SHP14752
- Freshfields House and Graves (Nathaniel Thomas) SHP 10394
- Grassdale Homestead SHP14645
- Wilkinson Hut Ruin
- Stokes House Ruin
- 'Governor' Wallen's Farm and SA Company Office
- House and Site (George Fireball Bates)
- Hut Ruin

Like Smith's Hut, the places listed above are associated with pre-settlement sealers. Consequently, Smith's hut does not provide a better example of the evolution of pre-settlement sealing on Kangaroo Island.

There is no evidence to suggest when the Mulberry and Fig trees were planted. Given that the site, where they are located, was also the home of the Jacka family and that the Jacka's planted an orchard, it is just as likely that they and not Smith planted the Mulberry and Fig trees.

The nominated place **does not** fulfil criteria (a).

**(b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.**

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*, that note:

*The place should demonstrate a way of life, social custom, industrial process or land use which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest. This encompasses both places which were always rare, and places which have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.*

*Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if their rarity is merely local, or if they appear rare only because research has not been done elsewhere, or if their distinguishing characteristics have been degraded or compromised, or if they are at present common and simply believed to be in danger of becoming rare in future.*

Harry Smith's house ruin is associated with Harry Smith who was one of a small group of sealers, who settled on Kangaroo Island prior to the foundation of the Colony of South Australia. Pre-settlement structures are, by their very nature, rare as there was only a tiny number of individuals who lived on Kangaroo Island prior to 1836. There are a number of known pre-settlement structures on Kangaroo Island; of the known structures three are listed on the State Heritage Register. Consequently, Smith's ruin can not be considered to be rare within the context of pre-settlement dwellings located on Kangaroo Island. The identified and listed pre-settlement dwellings and/or ruins include:

- Jacob Seaman's Hut SHP14752
- Freshfields House and Graves (Nathaniel Thomas) SHP 10394
- Grassdale Homestead SHP14645
- Wilkinson Hut Ruin
- Stokes House Ruin
- House and Site (George Fireball Bates)

Further, differences between the historical description of the building and the ruin make it impossible to determine if Smith constructed the ruined dwelling prior to 1836. Therefore, while the ruin is associated with Smith who was a pre-settler, there is no clear evidence to suggest that the ruin's construction also dates from that time. Similarly, there is no clear evidence to suggest the Mulberry and Fig trees are associated with Smith let alone that they were planted prior to 1836.

The nomination place **does not** fulfil criteria (b).

**(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the state's history, including its natural history.**

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*, that note:

*The place should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The information should be inherent in the fabric of the place. The place may be a standing structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological site.*

*Places will not normally be considered under this criterion simply because they are believed to contain archaeological or palaeontological deposits. There must be good reasons to suppose the site is of value for research,*



*and that useful information will emerge. A place that will yield the same information as many other places, or information that could be obtained as readily from documentary sources, may not be eligible.*

It is possible that there is evidence not currently visible at Harry Smith's House ruin that would provide a small amount of additional information about the life of Harry Smith. However, the information yielded would be specific to Smith and would not yield physical evidence that would meaningfully contribute to an understanding of the State's history.

The nominated place **does not** fulfil criteria (c).

**(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.**

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*, that note:

*The place should be capable of providing understanding of the category of places which it represents. It should be typical of a wider range of such places, and in a good state of integrity, that is, still faithfully presenting its historical message.*

*Places will not be considered simply because they are members of a class, they must be both notable examples and well-preserved. Places will be excluded if their characteristics do not clearly typify the class, or if they were very like many other places, or if their representative qualities had been degraded or lost. However, places will not be excluded from the Register merely because other similar places are included.*

Harry Smith's house ruin is associated with Harry Smith who was one of a small number of pre-settlement sealers who lived on Kangaroo Island. The pre-settlement sealers constructed both wattle and daub or similar structures as well as stone huts during their time on Kangaroo Island. Similar small stone structures were also constructed well into the nineteenth century by settlers and the family members of the pre-settlement sealers. Due to the small number of pre-settlement sealers, the number of dwellings constructed by them is also small. However, a number of sites have been identified and include:

- Jacob Seaman's Hut SHP14752
- Freshfields House and Graves (Nathaniel Thomas) SHP 10394
- Grassdale Homestead SHP14645
- Wilkinson Hut Ruin
- Stokes House Ruin
- House and Site (George Fireball Bates)
- Hut Ruin

In comparison to Smith's ruin, the State Heritage Places included in the above list are more extensive ruins and better represent the small stone huts constructed by the pre-settlement sealers.

Further the description of Smith's hut that stated it was wattle and daub in addition to the lack of any evidence of wattle and daub at the ruin site, raises doubt about when the structure was built.

Consequently, Smith's house ruin can not be considered to be an outstanding representative of a pre-settlement sealers hut. Further, it is not a notable example nor is it well preserved.

There is no evidence to suggest that the Mulberry tree and Fig tree are associated with Harry Smith. Given that the trees are located in close proximity to the Jacka family ruin and that the Jacka's were known to have planted an orchard on Smith Creek, it is highly likely that both trees were planted by them and not Smith. Further, both trees are in a state of decline.

Consequently, neither the Mulberry or Fig tree can be considered to be outstanding examples of planting undertaken by the pre-settlement sealers. Further, both trees are not notable or well-preserved examples of a Mulberry or Fig tree.

The nominated place **does not** fulfill criteria (d).

**(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.**

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*, that note:

*The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its time. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly shows them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.*

*Places would not normally be considered under this criterion if their degree of achievement could not be demonstrated, or where their integrity was diminished so that the achievement, while documented, was no longer apparent in the place, or simply because they were the work of a designer who demonstrated innovation elsewhere.*

Smith's house ruin was constructed from calcrete, fieldstone and lime mortar. Calcrete is a type of limestone that is readily available as it lays on the surface of the ground or just below it. Lime mortar was typically made and used during the nineteenth century to bond the stones together. Lime mortar is made from hydrated lime, sand and water. Hydrated lime is made by heating limestone and then grinding it into a fine powder. Therefore, like many other settlers during the nineteenth century, Smith could have collected and made the required materials on-site to build his simple hut.

The simple, small, two roomed stone huts made by the pre-settlement sealers were also constructed after 1836 by settlers, sealers and by some of the pre-settlement sealers children. Consequently, there are a number of small nineteenth century huts or ruins on Kangaroo Island including:

- Jacob Seaman's Hut SHP14752
- Freshfields House and Graves (Nathaniel Thomas) SHP 10394
- Grassdale Homestead SHP14645
- Wilkinson Hut Ruin
- Stokes House Ruin
- House and Site (George Fireball Bates)
- Hut Ruin
- Whittakers Cottage (Smith Bay)

Further, the use of calcrete or other fieldstone and lime mortar by settlers, located on mainland South Australia, to build themselves dwellings was common.

The simple structures, like Smith's hut, made in the nineteenth century did not require or display a high degree of aesthetic, creative or technical accomplishment. Therefore, they do not exhibit those qualities. Smith's hut is an example of a nineteenth century, vernacular, self-built, fieldstone, calcrete and lime mortar dwelling. However, due to the degraded nature of the ruin, it can not be considered to be an outstanding representative of the building technique.

The nominated place **does not** fulfil criteria (e).

**(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.**

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*, that note:

*The place should be one which the community or a significant cultural group have held in high regard for an extended period. This must be much stronger than people's normal attachment to their surroundings. The association may in some instances be in folklore rather than in reality.*

*Places will not be considered if their associations are commonplace by nature, or of recent origin, or recognised only by a small number of people, or not held very strongly, or held by a group not widely recognised, or cannot be demonstrated satisfactorily to others.*

Harry Smith's ruin is associated with the pre-settlement history of Kangaroo Island and South Australia. Collectively, the story of the pre-settlement sealers is an important part of South Australia's history. In particular, it is of great significance to the descendants of the sealers and to some others on Kangaroo Island. However, Smith has no known descendants and the ruin is not generally known by the wider community. Smith's ruin was not identified amongst the pre-settlement sealers huts and sites considered in either of the Kangaroo Island heritage surveys. In particular, the earlier survey, undertaken in the mid-1980s, asked for assistance from locals to identify possible heritage sites. Further, the previous owner of the property was only made aware of the existence of Smith's ruin when he purchased the property. The current owners were also unaware of the ruin prior to its nomination. Smith's ruin does not have a strong and direct cultural or spiritual association with any particular group or community on Kangaroo Island; rather the association is with only a few interested individuals. In addition, that connection is not strong or special and there is no evidence of any long term association with the site.

The nominated place **does not** fulfil criteria (f).

**(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.**

In considering this criterion, I have had regard to the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*, that note:

*The place must have a close association with a person or group which played a significant part in past events, and that association should be demonstrated in the fabric of the place. The product of a creative person, or the workplace of a person whose contribution was in industry, would be*

*more closely associated with the person's work than would his or her home. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why one place is more significant than others.*

*Places will not generally be considered under this criterion if they have only a brief, incidental or distant association, or if they are associated with persons or groups of little significance, or if they are associated with an event which has left no trace, or if a similar association could be claimed for many places, or if the association cannot be demonstrated. Generally the home or the grave of a notable person will not be entered in the Register unless it has some distinctive attribute, or there is no other physical evidence of the person's life or career in existence.*

Harry Smith was one of a small group of men, mostly sealers, who resided on Kangaroo Island prior to official settlement in 1836. Collectively, the pre-settlement sealers are an interesting facet of South Australia's early history. Unlike some of the pre-settlement sealers, Smith is identified. Both the bay where he resided and the adjacent creek bear his name. The ruin was Smith's home and therefore does have an enduring association with his life. However, in comparison to other members of the pre-settlement group, for example Jacob Seaman, Fireball Bates and 'Governor' Wallen, relatively little is known about Smith. Indeed, it appears that Smith largely lived as a recluse and had only limited interaction with others. Consequently, other than being a part of the pre-settlement group, Smith did not make a notable or influential contribution to the course of South Australian history.

The nominated place **does not** fulfil criteria (g).

### **Extent of Listing / Significant Fabric / Curtilage:**

Harry Smith's house ruins does not meet any of the criteria for a State Heritage Place. Consequently there is no extent of listing.

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HF Bates, 'Early Days on Kangaroo Island', *Kangaroo Island Courier* 31 March 1928, p.2

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**NAME:** Harry Smith's House Ruin plus Mulberry and Fig Tree **PLACE NO.:** 26475

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**SITE RECORD:**

**FORMER NAME:** Harry Smith's House Ruins plus Mulberry and Fig Tree

**DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:** Calcrete, fieldstone and lime mortar house ruin and a Mulberry and Fig tree.

**DATE OF COMPLETION:** Unknown

**REGISTER STATUS:** **Description:** Nominated  
**Date:** 10 March 2017

**CURRENT USE:** **Description:** Overgrown ruin  
**Dates:** Late 1800s-present

**PREVIOUS USE(S):** **Description:** House  
**Dates:** Unknown-1888

**BUILDER:** **Name:** Harry Smith  
**Dates:** Unknown

**SUBJECT INDEXING:** **Group:** Miscellaneous/Residential  
**Category:** Ruin/Hut

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** **Description:** Kangaroo Island Council

**LOCATION:** **Town/Suburb:** Smith Bay

**Post Code:** NA

**LAND DESCRIPTION:** **Title Type:** CT

**Volume:** 6127

**Folio:** 273

**Lot No.:** Allotments comprising pieces 51 and 52, D92343 Q51

**Hundred:** Menzies




## SITE PLAN

**NAME:** Harry Smith's House Ruin plus Mulberry and Fig Tree **PLACE:** 26475  
Tree



Harry Smith's House Ruin plus Mulberry and Fig Tree, Smith Bay, Kangaroo Island.

### Legend

-  Smith's House Ruin
-  Location of the Mulberry and Fig tree
-  Land Parcel Boundaries

N ↑



## INDICATIVE IMAGES



Jacob Seaman's Hut Ruin

Source: *Heritage of Kangaroo Island*



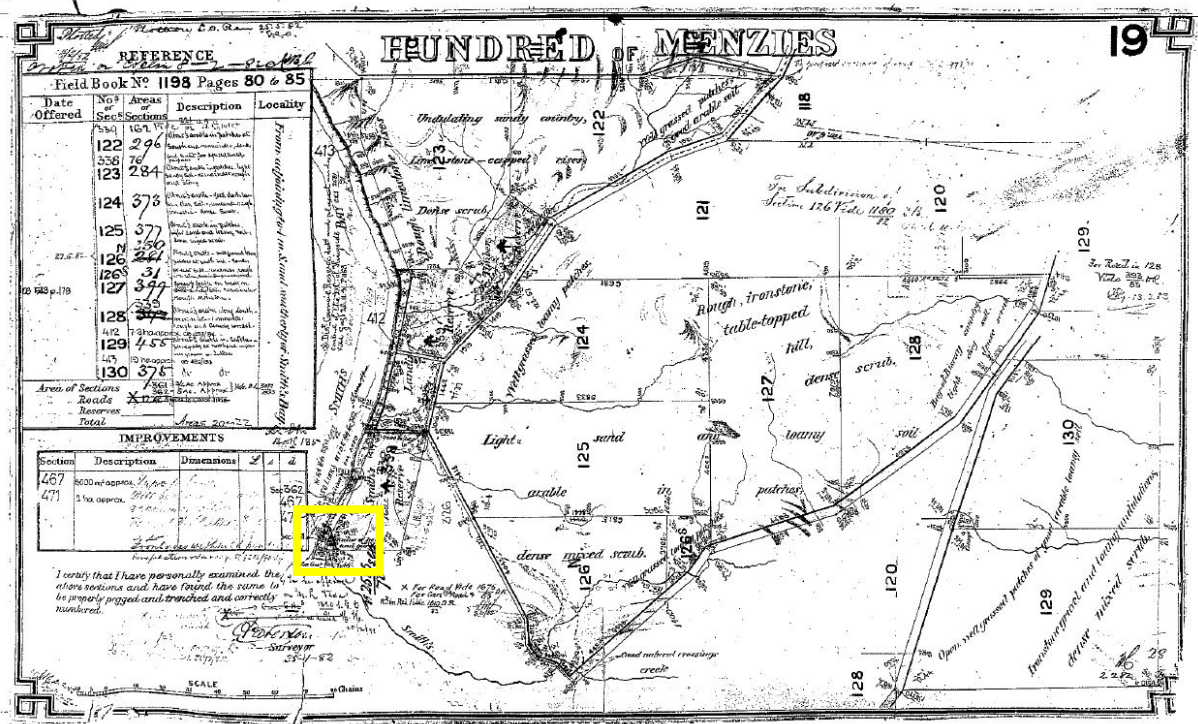
George (Fireball) Bates Hut, Hog Bay Kangaroo Island c.1880

Source: State Library of South Australia B17488



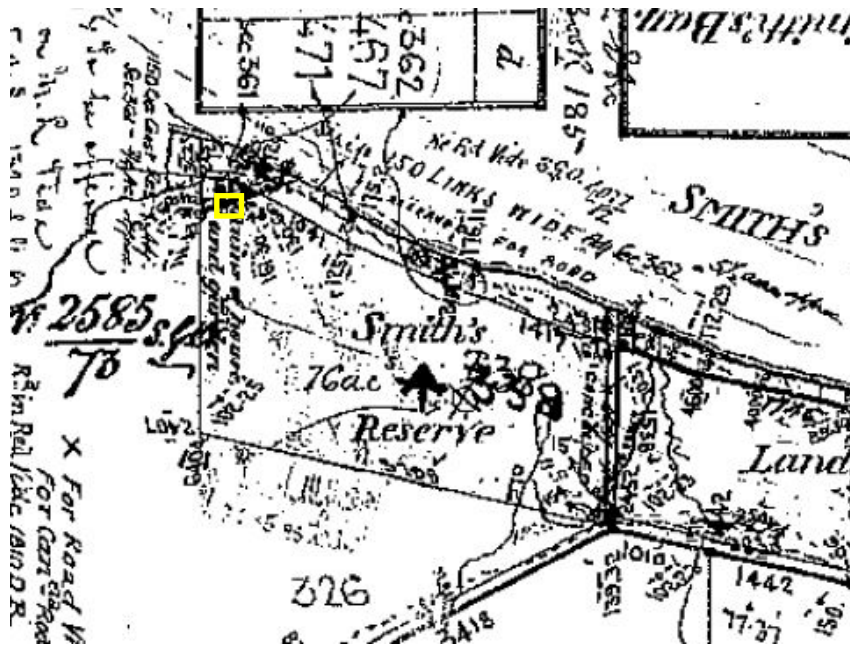
PHOTOS

NAME: Harry Smith's House Ruins plus Mulberry and Fig Tree PLACE: 26475 Fig Tree



Survey sheet of Smith's Bay and surrounds 1882 indicating the location of Smith's reserve and the house ruin (yellow), see detail below.

Source: Survey Hundred of Menzies, p.19.



Smith's reserve indicating the location of the house and garden ruins (yellow).

Source: Survey Hundred of Menzies, p.19.



## PHOTOS

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**NAME:** Harry Smith's House Ruins plus Mulberry and Fig Tree    **PLACE:** 26475

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Smith's House Ruin view to the east

Source: State Heritage Unit 13 April 2017



**Footprint of Smith's House ruin**

Source: State Heritage Unit 13 April 2017



## PHOTOS

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**NAME:** Harry Smith's House Ruins plus Mulberry and Fig Tree **PLACE:** 26475

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Remains of the western wall showing the fieldstone, calcrete and lime mortar

Source: State Heritage Unit 13 April 2017



Fig Tree Smith Bay

Source: State Heritage Unit 13 April 2017



## PHOTOS

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**NAME:** Harry Smith's House Ruins plus Mulberry and Fig Tree **PLACE:** 26475

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**Mulberry Tree Smith Bay**

Source: State Heritage Unit 13 April 2017



**Mulberry Tree Smith Bay**

Source: State Heritage Unit 13 April 2017

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- <sup>1</sup> Philip Clarke (1998), 'The Aboriginal Presence on Kangaroo Island, South Australia', in Simpson, Jane and Hercus, Luise eds., *History in Portraits: Biographies of nineteenth century South Australian Aboriginal People*, (Sydney: Southwood Press), p.24.
- <sup>2</sup> Flinders quoted in John Wrathall Bull, (1884), *Extracts from Early Experiences of Life in South Australia*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. [https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/b/bull/john\\_wrathall/early-experiences-of-life-in-south-australia/complete.html](https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/b/bull/john_wrathall/early-experiences-of-life-in-south-australia/complete.html)Bull
- <sup>3</sup> Jean M. Nunn (1989), *This Southern Land: A Social History of Kangaroo Island 1800-1890*, (Hawthorndene: Investigator Press), p.22.
- <sup>4</sup> HP Moore (1925), 'Notes on Early Settlers in South Australia Prior to 1836', Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society (SA Branch), vol. 25, pp.81-135.
- <sup>5</sup> Wynniss J Ruediger, *Border's Land Kangaroo Island 1802-1836*, p.83. Moore, pp.81-135.
- <sup>6</sup> JS Cumpston (1970), *Kangaroo Island 1800-1836*, (Canberra: Roebuck), p.140.
- <sup>7</sup> Moore, pp.81-135. Bull, *Extracts from Early Experiences of Life in South Australia* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.
- <sup>8</sup> Moore, p.97.
- <sup>9</sup> Moore, pp.81-135.
- <sup>10</sup> South Australian Deaths Index of Registrations 1842-1915 Vol 4 N-S, (Adelaide, Genealogy and Heraldry Society Inc), p.1337.
- <sup>11</sup> 'Mr Matthew Burnett's Visit to Kangaroo Island' *South Australian Register* 3 January 1883, p.6. Rev AD Bennett, 'Kangaroo Island Mission', *Australian Christian Commonwealth* 24 June 1932, p.6. 'Ships that Came before '36', *Chronicle* 13 April 1933, p.19. Sky Piolet, 'More Memories of KI Nearly 40 Years Ago', *Kangaroo Island Courier* 15 July 1922, p.3. Manning, 'Geoff Manning's Insight into South Australian History Essay 11', <http://www.geoffmanning.net.au/html/single-essays/essay11-first-fleet.html>
- <sup>12</sup> Bennett, p.6. 'Burnett', p.6.
- <sup>13</sup> Ruediger, p.48.
- <sup>14</sup> Ruediger, p.48. Wells, p.45. Manning, <http://www.geoffmanning.net.au/html/single-essays/essay11-first-fleet.html>
- <sup>15</sup> Pers. Comm., Quentin Anderson April 2017. Quentin Anderson was the previous owner of the land where Smith's ruins are located. Max Hurst related the site's history to him after he purchased the land. Hurst's grandfather or wife's grandfather apparently knew Smith.
- <sup>16</sup> Pers. Comm., Quentin Anderson April 2017.
- <sup>17</sup> Ruediger, p.48. Pers., Comm. Quentine Anderson, April 2017. Lynette Ryan (2012), *Roving Mariners: Australian Aboriginal Whalers and Sealers in the Southern Oceans 1790-1870*, (Sunny Press), p.106.
- <sup>18</sup> Rob Amery, 'Sally and Harry: insights into early Kaurna contact history, in Jane Simpson and Luise Hercus eds., *History in Portraits*, (Sydney), p.49, 87.
- <sup>19</sup> Clarke, pp.37-43.
- <sup>20</sup> Cumpston, p.175.
- <sup>21</sup> HF Bates, 'Early Days on Kangaroo Island', *Kangaroo Island Courier* 31 March 1928, p.2.
- <sup>22</sup> Ruediger, p.48.
- <sup>23</sup> Bennett, p.6.
- <sup>24</sup> Burnett, .6.