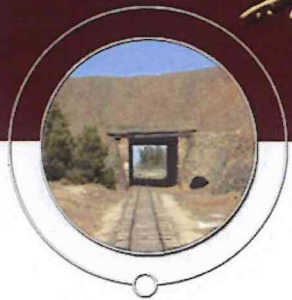


# State Heritage Areas of South Australia



## former Unicorn Brewery Cellars and Wall

Bridge Terrace, Burra

SAHR 10005—confirmed as a State Heritage Place 24 July 1980

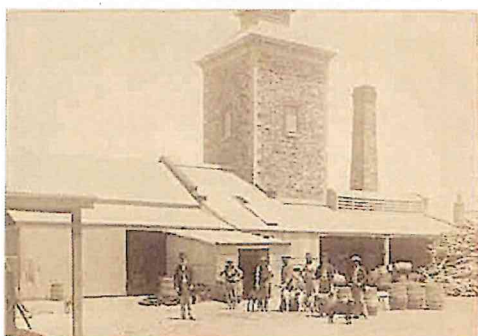
The manager's residence, storeroom, underground cellars and the walls of a brewery block are all that now remain of Burra's Unicorn Brewery that, between 1873 and 1902, supplied beer to Broken Hill and a quarter of South Australia.

It is the cellar and the boundary wall that are specifically entered in the South Australian Heritage Register, but it is all of the Brewery's 30-year history that highlights their significance.

In 1873 the erection of a new brewery in Burra probably seemed a risky venture. Although the Burra Mine was still working, the number of miners employed there had dropped from 1 000 in the early 1860s to less than 300, and the town's population had fallen to 3 000, with more mining families leaving each week. There were still nine hotels open in the townships, but these were supplied by another, long-established brewery in Burra.



Entrance to Unicorn Brewery, 2005



Unicorn Brewery, Paxton Terrace, Burra 1890  
Photo B 10380: State Library of SA

Quite probably though the new brewer, William Banks, and his financial backers were counting on the expansion, beyond Burra, of the Northern Railway. (In 1878 it extended to Hallett, in 1880 to Terowie and in 1887 to Cockburn near Broken Hill.) The arrival of the line to Burra (in 1870) had made the delivery of barley and the brewery's machinery much easier, and enabled cheaper transport of bottled and casked beer.

Another factor that contributed to the new brewery's success was the opening up of the northern areas for agriculture in 1872. Each new township soon had a hotel, and so a market for the brewery's products was assured.

The Unicorn Brewery's machinery, and the extensive cellars that held 500 hogsheads, was far superior to their rivals, and by 1875 Unicorn was the sole brewery in Burra.

When the Burra Mine closed in 1877 the loss of trade in Burra was soon counter-balanced by the unexpected opening of the Silverton and Broken Hill mines. From 1880 until 1902, thirsty Broken Hill miners drank mostly Unicorn Ale.

Following Banks' death in 1878, the Unicorn was taken over by an Adelaide Company, and run by the Lockyer family until its closure in 1902, following legislation to control individual breweries.

A Commonwealth Act that came into force on 1 January 1902, stated that "No person shall make beer unless licensed to do so." The new regulations were so stringent, and the required paperwork so involved, that only the larger breweries could afford to comply.



Brewery wall and entrance, 2005



*Cellar vents and school residence, 2005*

The sale of the brewery buildings and machinery proved difficult, and for many years the complex remained deserted.

In 1911 the South Australian Education Department acquired a portion of the property for a school residence and used some of the brewery stone for its construction.

In 1913 the massive malthouse tower was dismantled and stone used to build the row of three cottages now on the site. The offices were converted to a residence, while the cellars and storeroom remained intact, but largely forgotten.

In the early 1970s the underground cellars were 're-discovered' and opened to the public. In 1987 the cellars were acquired by the local council, restored and re-opened in 1989.

The cellars are a unique design. They are 5 metres wide and approximately 600 metres in total length, and have been tunnelled to form an underground square, the centre of which has been subdivided. The stone vaults are arched, with earth flooring remaining in five main cellar runs.

An interesting item is the cold room, which is a basement at the level of the cellars.

Massive timber beams support the flooring of the storeroom at ground level.



*Underground tunnel, 2005*





## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE ACT, 1978-1979

*Entry of Items on Register of State Heritage Items*

There has been an increased community awareness of the need to protect those buildings and features of our State which reflect our cultural heritage. The South Australian Government has recognised that awareness by passing the South Australian Heritage Act, 1978-1979, for which the Minister of Environment is responsible. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Register of State Heritage Items is being compiled.

Where the Minister considers that an item (defined as any land, building or structure) that is not on the Register is part of the physical, social or cultural heritage of the State and that the item is of significant aesthetic, architectural, historical or cultural interest, then the Minister may enter that item on the Register.

Pursuant to the provisions of the South Australian Heritage Act, 1978-1979, I, David Wotton, Minister of Environment and Minister for the time being administering the said Act, hereby give notice that I have entered on the Register of State Heritage Items the items described in The Schedule hereunder.

Items listed in The Schedule were placed previously on an Interim List in accordance with the provisions of section 15 of the South Australian Heritage Act, 1978-1979. Excepting items owned by the Crown and those within the area of the Corporation of the City of Adelaide, the remaining items listed in The Schedule are subject to part VAA of the Planning and Development Act, 1966-1978. That Act requires that the items shall not be altered, added to, or demolished or have any act or thing done to them that is likely to change their character or external appearance without the consent in writing of the Planning Authority. Items within the area of the Corporation of the City of Adelaide are subject to the provisions of the City of Adelaide Development Control Act, 1976-1978, and in particular Principle P31, Heritage.

## THE SCHEDULE

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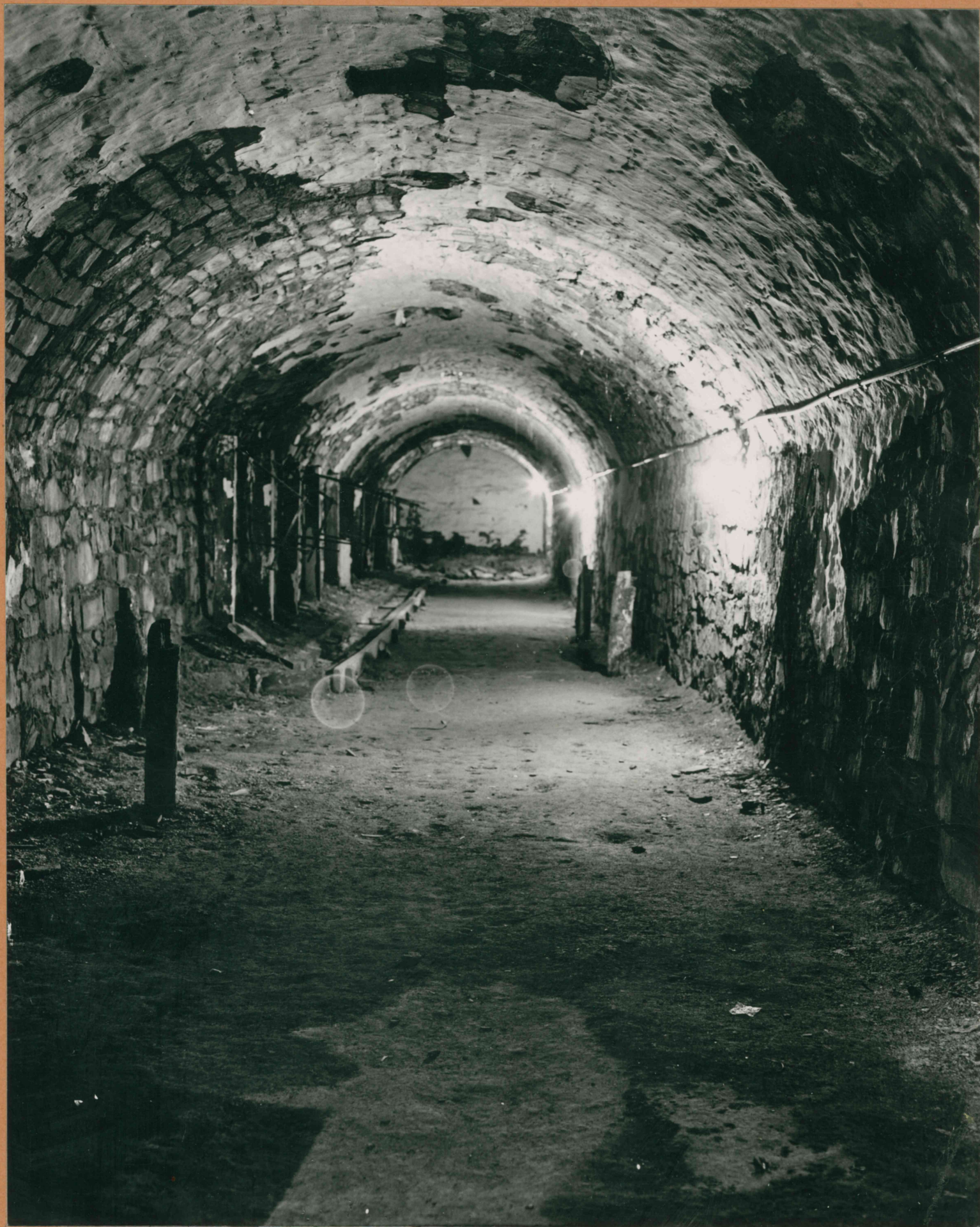
NameAddress

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## THE SCHEDULE—continued

Name	Address
"Beaumont House" .....	631 Glynburn Road, Beaumont 5066 CT. Volume 3509 Folio 123 Hundred of Adelaide.
House—"Kurralta" .....	23 Kurralta Drive, Burnside 5066 CT. Volume 4132 Folio 783 Part Section 908 Hundred of Adelaide.
<b>District Council of Burra Burra</b>	
Cottage .....	10 Truro Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2075 Folio 21 Town of Burra Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	12 Truro Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2075 Folio 21 Town of Burra Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	9 Truro Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2739 Folio 60 Part Lot 89 and 90 Town of Burra Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	14 Truro Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2075 Folio 21 Town of Burra Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	16 Truro Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2075 Folio 21 Town of Burra Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	18 Truro Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2075 Folio 21 Town of Burra Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	2 Upper Thames Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2502 Folio 64 Part Lot 432 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	4 Upper Thames Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2502 Folio 64 Part Lot 432 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Redruth Gaol .....	Tregony Street, Burra 5417 Section 3530 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Powder Magazine .....	Burra Burra Mine Area, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3761 Folio 115 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Engine House .....	Burra Burra Mine Area, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3761 Folio 115 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Welsh Chimney .....	Burra Burra Mine Area, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3761 Folio 115 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Cornish Chimney .....	Burra Burra Mine Area, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3761 Folio 115 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Storeman's Residence .....	Burra Burra Mine Area, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3761 Folio 115 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Miners Dugouts .....	Burra Creek, Burra 5417 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Winding House .....	Burra Burra Mine Area, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3761 Folio 115 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former "Morphett's" Pump House .....	Burra Burra Mine Area, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3761 Folio 115 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former "Graves" Pump House .....	Burra Burra Mine Area, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3761 Folio 115 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Ore Sorting Floor .....	Burra Burra Mine Area, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3761 Folio 115 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Manager's Residence and Administrative Offices .....	Burra Burra Mine Area, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3761 Folio 115 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
"Princess Royal" Homestead .....	Princess Royal Station, Burra Road, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2185 Folio 2 Hundred of Koorunga.
Suspension Bridge .....	Princess Royal Station, Burra Road, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2185 Folio 2 Hundred of Koorunga.
Coach House/Stables and attached Main Gate .....	Princess Royal Station, Burra Road, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2185 Folio 2 Hundred of Koorunga.
Wall and Former Brewery Cellars .....	Bridge Terrace, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 1349 Folio 136 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Paxton Square Cottages .....	Corner Kingston Street, Welsh Place, Bridge Terrace and Paxton Terrace, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 985 Folio 115 Hundred of Koorunga.
St. Mary's Church of England .....	Market Street, Burra 5417 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
"Peacock's" Chimney .....	Market Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 4108 Folio 989 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Former "Bon Accord" Mine Building .....	Railway Terrace, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3745 Folio 7 Lot 12 Part Section 4 Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	6 Upper Thames Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 4044 Folio 527 Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	8 Upper Thames Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 4044 Folio 528 Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	10 Upper Thames Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 3788 Folio 96. Lot 5. Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	12 Upper Thames Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 1075 Folio 81. Lot 5. Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	16 Upper Thames Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 1585 Folio 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
Cottage .....	8 Truro Street, Burra 5417 CT. Volume 2075 Folio 21 Town of Burra Hundred of Koorunga.
Former Smelts Site .....	Smelts Road, Burra 5417 Part Section 1 Hundred of Koorunga.
<b>District Council of Clare</b>	
"Bleak House" .....	28 Agnes Street, Clare 5453 CT. Volume 3462 Folio 51 Hundred of Clare.
"Martindale Hall" .....	Burra Street, Mintaro 5415 CT. Volume 3651 Folio 46 Hundred of Upper Wakefield.
Electricity Trust Building .....	189 Main North Road, Clare 5453 CT. Volume 4143 Folio 817 Lot 1 Part Section 39 Hundred of Clare.
Former Court House Building .....	West Terrace, Clare 5453 Section 481 Hundred of Clare.





## UNICORN BREWERY CELLARS      Burra

Only intact vestiges of the old Unicorn Brewery which operated between 1873-1902. Total area of cellars measured about half an acre indicating the miners' prodigious thirst for Unicorn Ale! Brewery supplied beer to most hotels on the Northern Line as well as Broken Hill.





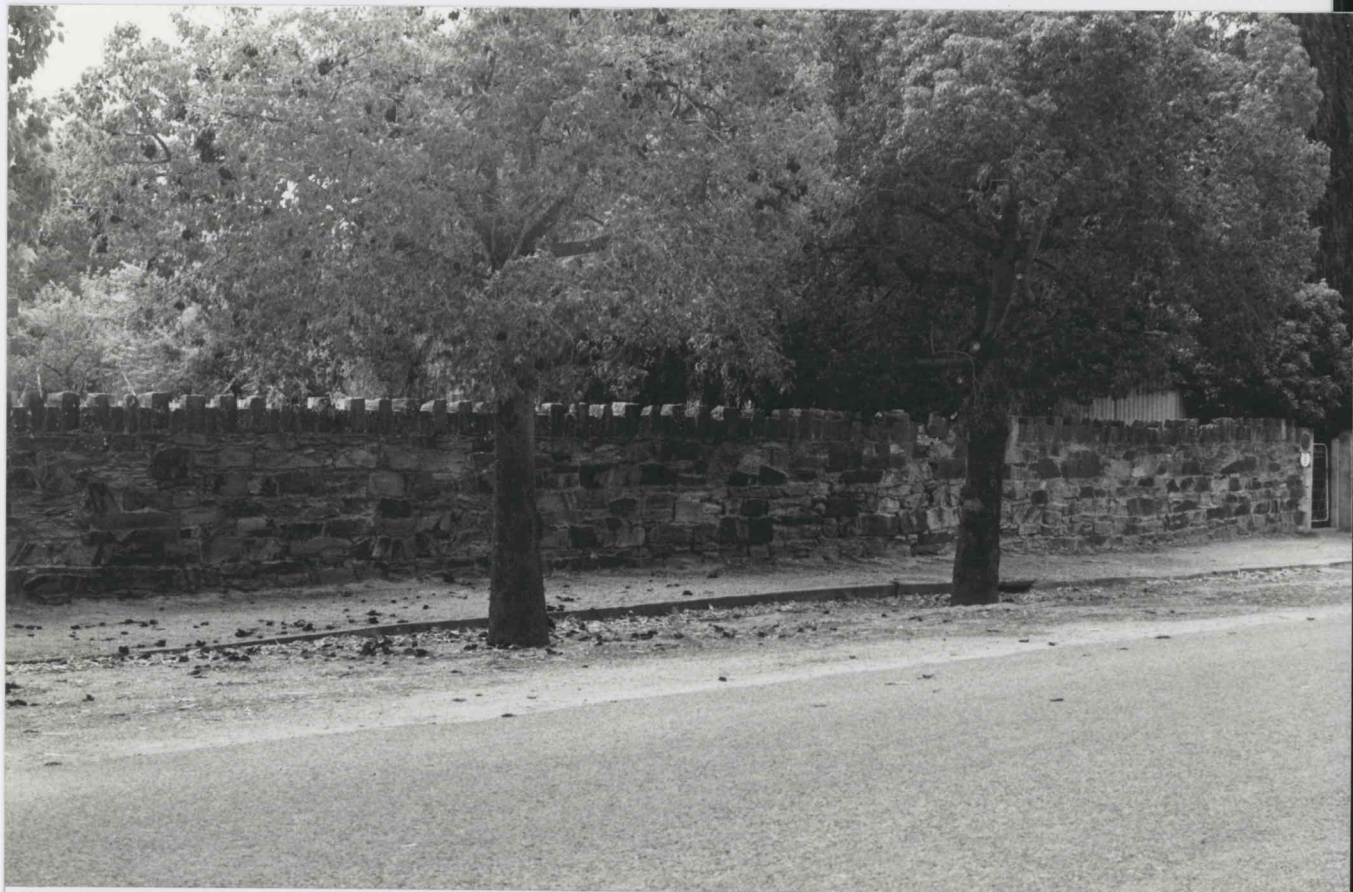


FILM 8  
NO 9

WALL, BRIDGE TCE, VIEW FROM SOUTH  
TO ENTRANCE OF BREWERY CELLARS

BURRA  
13-12-78





Film No.

6630-10005  
BREWERY CELLAR & WALL - PREVIOUSLY REGISTERED

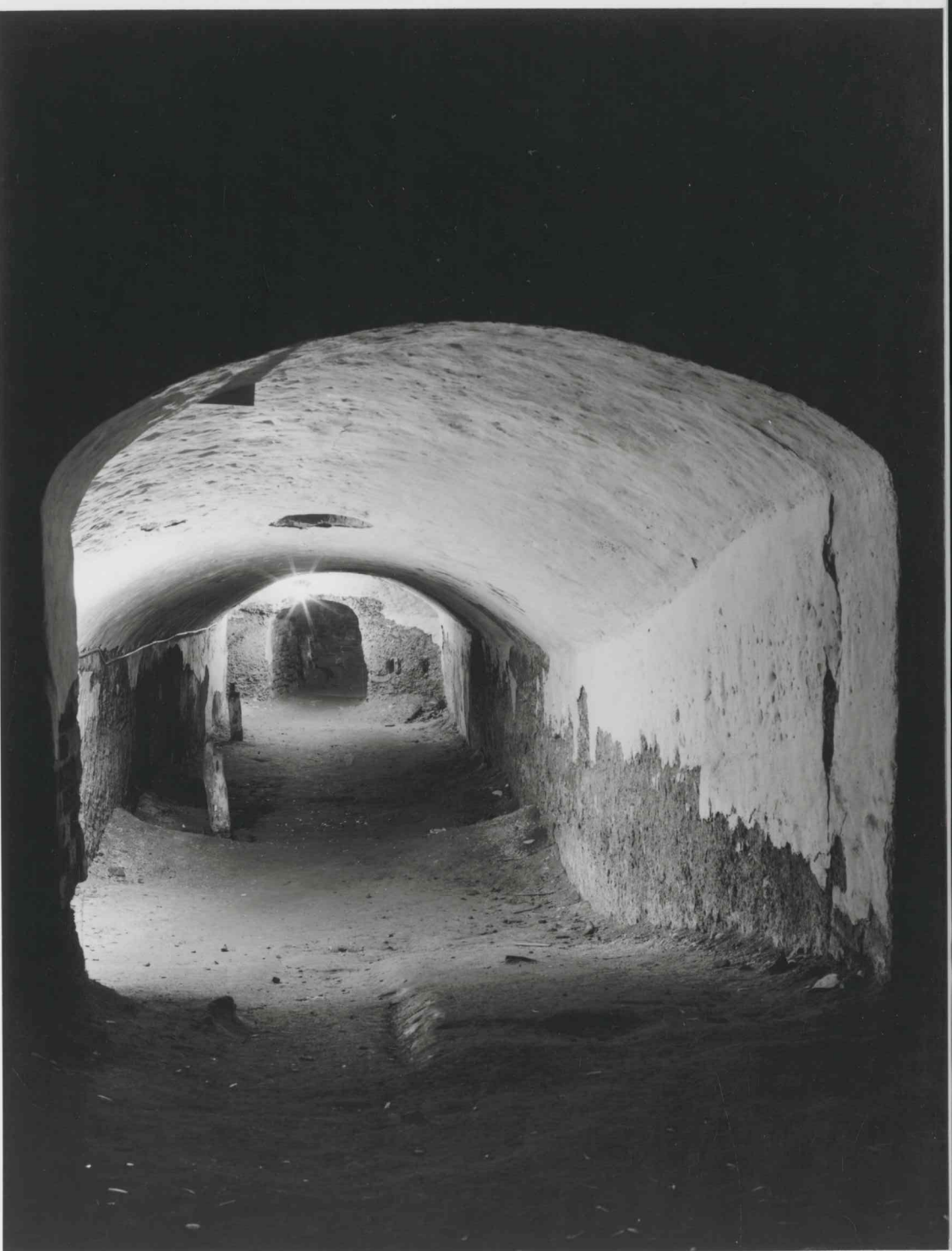
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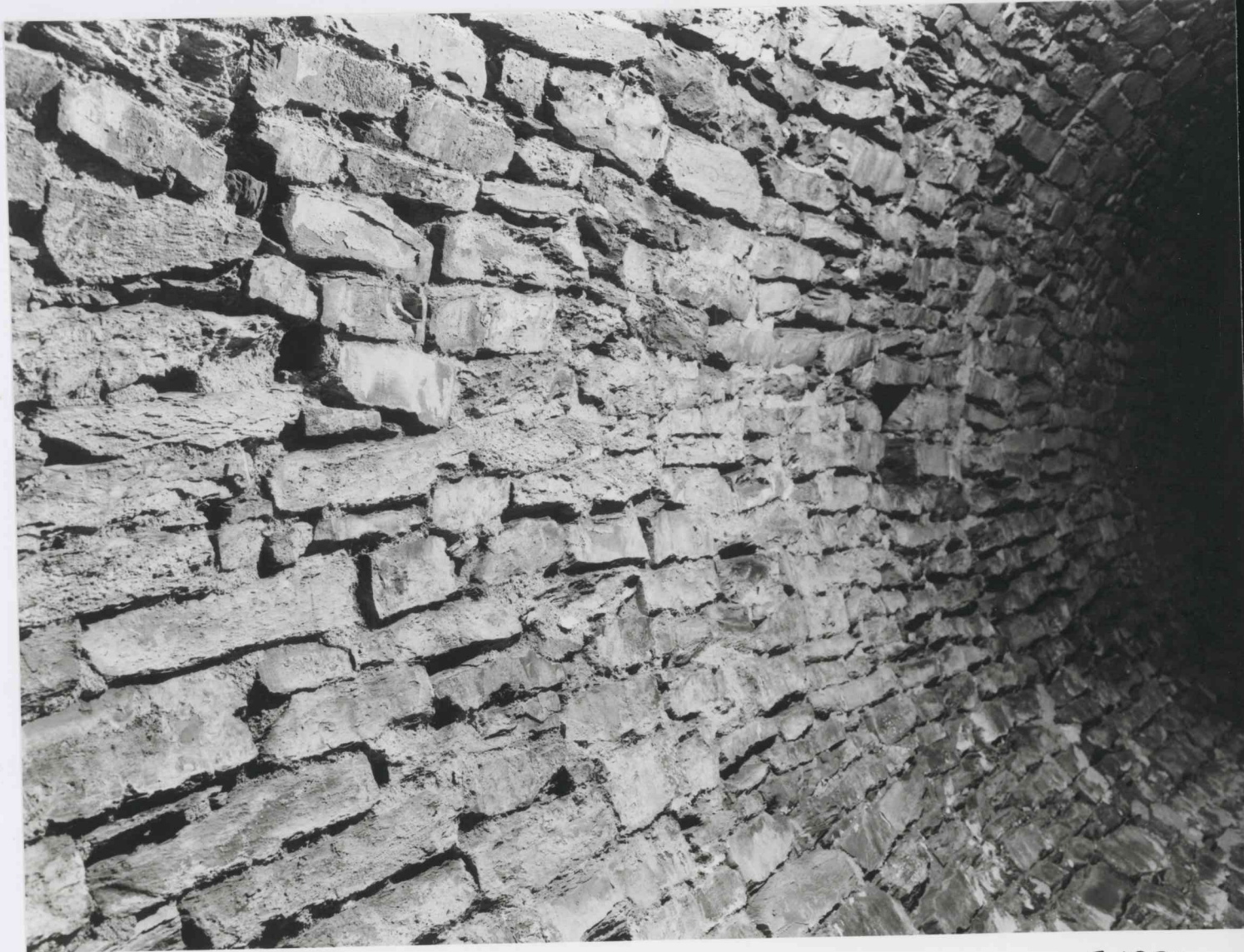


FILM 9  
No 3

BREWERY CELLARS

BURRA  
13-12-78





FILM  
NO

9  
5

EASTERMOST VAULT  
BREWERY CELLARS

BURRA  
13-12-78



FILM 8  
NO 10  
WALL AND BREWERY STORE  
BRIDGE ST

BURRA  
13-12-78



FILM 8  
NO 10  
WALL AND BREWERY STORE  
BRIDGE ST

BURRA  
13-12-78






## Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

### Lockyers Unicorn Brewery Cellars, Bridge Tce, Burra, SA, Australia

<b>Photographs</b>	
<b>List</b>	Register of the National Estate (Non-statutory archive)
<b>Class</b>	Historic
<b>Legal Status</b>	<a href="#">Registered</a> (21/03/1978)
<b>Place ID</b>	7389
<b>Place File No</b>	3/08/240/0010
<b>Statement of Significance</b>	
<p>Significant due to their extent, their construction and their association with the importance of this area of South Australia in the mid nineteenth century, when these brewery cellars supplied Broken Hill and a quarter of the State of South Australia.</p> <p>(The Commission is in the process of developing and/or upgrading official statements for places listed prior to 1991. The above data was mainly provided by the nominator and has not yet been revised by the Commission.)</p>	
<b>Official Values Not Available</b>	
<b>Description</b>	
<p>The old Unicorn Brewery operated between 1873 and 1902. All that remains are the cellars, the storeroom, the manager's residence and the walls of the Brewery block. The local brew sold at fourpence an imperial (twenty ounce) pint in all local hotels. The cellars, approximately 0.6km in extent and 5m wide, have been tunnelled to form an underground square, the centre of which has been subdivided. Vaults are segmentally arched of random stone and earth flooring remains in five main cellar runs. The most interesting single item is the cold room, which is a basement at the level of the cellars. Massive timbers support flooring at ground level, where, sheltered by a store with random rubble walls, items connected with early Burra are stored. Insulation to the cold room is provided under the floor by sawdust contained in a zinc envelope, supported by floor joists. Existing random rubble walling with "spiked" copings of stones on edge encircles the boundary of the former brewery site and paddocks.</p>	
<b>History Not Available</b>	
<b>Condition and Integrity</b>	
<p>Brewery closed 1902. Vaults in reasonable order with little stone repair and replacement necessary. Some cellar runs and original entrance blocked off. Cellars were tunnelled as required, as constructional technique of some does not match others. Some original fittings such as keg racks, beer drains and sumps remain, though cellar mainly empty.</p>	
<b>Location</b>	
<p>Bridge Terrace, Burra.</p>	
<b>Bibliography</b>	
<p>'BURRA IN COLOUR' BY PETER FINCH &amp; IAN AUHL - RIGBY.</p>	

**Report Produced Wed Mar 14 12:39:10 2018**