

## 6. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

### 6.1 RELEVANT CRITERIA

The following attributes are relevant criteria for the assessment of places under the Heritage Act.

- (a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history; or
- (b) it has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance; or
- (c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history; or
- (d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance; or
- (e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics; or
- (f) it has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it; or
- (g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

### 6.2 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Burra Mines Storeroom, Yard and walls are of the highest order of cultural significance. It has significance under criteria a, c, d, e and g above.

The South Australian Mining Association's unsuccessful smelter of 1846-7 may lie within the site. This was the first smelting building constructed in Burra and one of the earliest in Australia but its location is unconfirmed. The erection of this smelter indicates a desire by the directors of SAMA for independence from the industrial monopolies of Great Britain with the benefit of direct trade with markets around the world and in particular in Asia. The place remains of potentially exceptional significance until the site of the SAMA Smelter is confirmed.

The Storeroom building is the earliest surviving building of the Burra Mines. The substantial investment and solid construction of this building physically demonstrates the optimism of the Directors of the South Australian Mining Association in the future of the Burra Mines.

The sheer size of the Yard remains as clear evidence of the scale of the mining operation, and the need to store and secure massive quantities of firewood as well as general goods. The need to protect against pilfering is highlighted by the height and substantial nature of the wall. It demonstrates the value of firewood as a fuel both to SAMA and to the miners and their families.

The Storeroom building, with its exceptional integrity together with the spatial integrity of the Yard and its associated structures, demonstrates important aspects of the workings and the life of the Burra Mines; as such they are valuable as a tangible reminder of Burra's mining heritage and of the reason for the founding of the Burra townships.

The strategic location of the site immediately adjoining Market Road, midway between the Kooringa and Burra North, adjacent to the buddle pits, directly across the Burra Creek from the E&ACC Smelter and at the entrance to the mines reinforces its significance. The Storeroom building, together with (relocated) Peacock's chimney form a gateway to the Burra Mines State Heritage Area.

The Storeroom building, Yard and associated structures, are of architectural significance. The high quality of masonry throughout the site demonstrates the level of craftsmanship achieved in the early years of the colony of South Australia in what was then a remote and isolated site. The prefabricated timber roof trusses to the Storeroom bear testimony to Burra's remote location. The survival of the timber roofing shingles demonstrate roofing technology prior to the availability and subsequent monopoly of corrugated iron as a roofing material.

The remarkable preservation of this site when compared with much of Burra's mining heritage stems in part from its location off the mine site. But it is also largely a result of the Carpenters family's ownership of the site since 1937, the continuing residential use of the Storeroom building and the usefulness of the Storeroom and Yard itself. The twentieth century uses of the site have enhanced the historical significance of the site, providing links with Burra's subsequent pastoral history.

### **6.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The archaeological cultural significance of the Mine Storeroom, Yard and ruins is extremely high. In archaeological terms the site has relevance under all of the relevant criteria of the Heritage Act.

The store building is one of the earliest of the Burra Mine structures and the other identified elements within the Yard are also likely to be of similar age and importance. The location of the first SAMA Smelter building if on this site would be of the highest possible significance.

Although many of the elements within the Yard survive only as low level archaeological features, the archaeological integrity of the Yard and its contents is high as there appears to have been little re-development which would have affected ground level or below ground remains. The archaeological potential of the Yard and its features is therefore high.