

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Bon Accord Mine Buildings

Railway Terrace, Burra

SAHR 10023 – confirmed as a State Heritage Register 24 July 1980

Located on the northern boundary of Burra's 'Monster Mine', the Bon Accord Mine is representative of the speculative nature of early mining. The site contains industrial buildings of two different eras and functions – mining and town water supply – and is now a museum and accommodation venue for visitors.

The property was originally purchased in 1846 by speculators from Aberdeen, Scotland, who surmised that the Burra Mine's rich ore lode would run further north. Despite these high hopes, the Bon Accord Mine was a failure and mining operations were abandoned in 1849, after no ore was discovered.



Bon Accord Mine Complex, 2005



Workshops, 2005

Mining recommenced in 1858 however, and in 1859 mine offices, blacksmith's forge, carpenter's shop, and a manager's residence were constructed. These buildings still stand today, but a 50-inch Cornish pumping engine, erected in the same year, was demolished in 1887. This second venture also failed, and mining ceased in 1862.

JB Austin in *The Mines of South Australia* (Adelaide) 1863 wrote of the Bon Accord Mine:

It is situated so close to Burra, that from a short distance the buildings and workings of the two mines appear to belong to one establishment. The land on which the Bon Accord Mine is found was purchased by a Scottish company, now known as the Scottish Investment Company. A considerable amount of work has been done and a large sum expended on the mine.

The engine-shaft is sunk to a depth of 50 fathoms. Other shafts have also been sunk on the property, and a considerable length of drives has been opened underground, but without any very satisfactory result.

Between 1884 and 1905 the Burra Corporation used a shaft of the Bon Accord Mine as the town's water supply. (This shaft has now been filled in.) From 1905 the SA Government pumped water from the main shaft for Burra's use, erecting a galvanised iron and timber pump house over the mine shaft in 1908. This was the town's water supply until 1966, when Burra was connected with the Murray pipeline from Hansen, on the Morgan-Whyalla line.

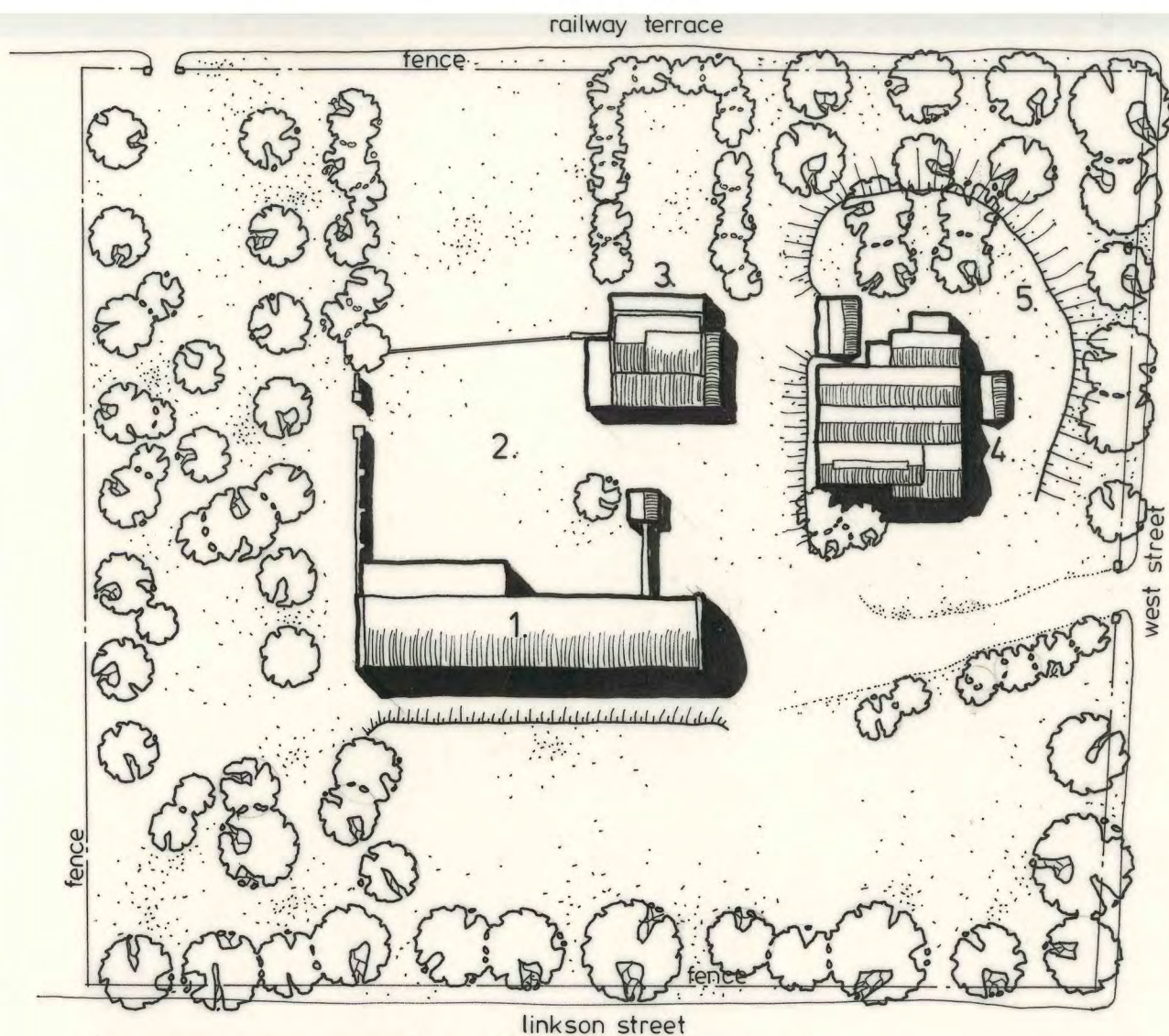


Water supply buildings and spoils heaps, 2005

Since 1977 the Bon Accord Mine Site has been owned by the National Trust, who have repaired and restored the property. It now houses a mining display, and the Manager's Residence is available as visitor accommodation.

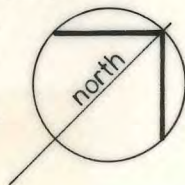


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bon accord mine historic site

boundary of the site follows
the perimeter fence



0 25m

ivar jun 83

1. workshop/offices - registered
2. courtyard
3. manager's residence
4. pump house - over mine shaft
5. mine spoils

BURRA

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Historic Site	Ref. No. 6630-10016
	Item BON ACCORD MINE HISTORIC SITE CNR. OF RAILWAY TERRACE AND WEST STREET, BURRA.	Status N. Tr. (RL)
Age 1846-	Subject PRIMARY INDUSTRY - EXTRACTIVE Utility Services - Water	Site Type Mining

History

Physical

Environment

Integrity

		E	VG	AG	FP	NA
Context	Located on the northern boundary of Burra's "Monster Mine" The Bon Accord illustrates the speculative nature of mineral exploration, and the excitement generated during the 1840's at the prospect of rich copper deposits within the State.		*			
Person/Group	Associated with the Bon Accord Mining Company, and Capt. Ey, superintendent.			X		
Event	1884-1905 D.C. operated water supply from mine shaft. 1905-1966 S.A. Government operated water supply from Main shaft for Burra.			*		
Natural Elements	Site rises gently to the east, very heavily man influenced, mine spoils heap new grassed and planted but still evident. Perimeter planting as well as informal internal tree planting, mostly introduced conifers, formal hedge around residence, a contrast to the open mine sites further east.		X			
Man-Made Elements	Three man made structures, most natural elements have been introduced, beautiful workshop and offices (already on the State Register) interesting manager's residence with unusual lines and evolutionary growth, pump house building is interesting as an example of industrial building from a later era, all the buildings share the 'industrial' quality.		X			
Representation	Much more intact - but not as extensive - as the other Mines sites in Burra, more compact and possibly not as dramatic as the other mines area.		X			
Continuity	Buildings are almost of a domestic scale and support with residential surrounds, heavily screened with vegetation which blends well with the neighbourhood.		X			
Local Character	Supportive of the general atmosphere. An important contributory item to the historic character of Burra.		X			
Landmark	A familiar local landmark, although it is not a visually dominant site.			X		
Alterations	Minor supporting features have been removed, pump house replaces mine head structures, but still valid in a broader context.			X		
Condition	No obvious defects in the structures, maintenance necessary, vegetation very overgrown and in need of major maintenance.			X		
Compatibility	Although functionally conflicting with its residential neighbours, its casual Museum use is not disruptive. Site large enough to absorb activities without disruption.		X			

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6630-10016
	Item BON ACCORD MINE HISTORI SITE, BURRA.	Prepared By: IVAR & IRIS

Supplementary Information

Adaptation: The present casual nature of the site and its museum function should be retained. The workshop should be restored further, including its enclosing walls. Main visitor access should be considered through this courtyard. The pump house should be retained and restored externally. A plan of management should be prepared to outline the site's development.

Interpretation: The site has a very high potential for an active interpretative role. Its proximity to the main mine site suggests a physical connection via West St., to link these two important sites. The interpretation should revolve around the mining aspect of the site, although the pump house could be used to relate the period after mining and its influences.

History and Sources

The first official report of the Bon Accord Mine appeared in the Royal South Australian Almanack for 1848, and read as follows :-

THE BON ACCORD MINING COMPANY - The Bon Accord Mining Company commenced in April, 1846, with the purchase of a block of 347 acres, immediately adjoining the Burra Burra property on the north. The operations of this company were not immediately productive, like those of the neighbouring proprietary, although by no means such as to afford serious grounds of discouragement. Nevertheless, the working has been temporarily suspended, awaiting the determination of the proprietors, who reside in New South Wales or parts more distant.

The proprietors have been successively represented by Mr. Moorehead and Mr. Belcher. Latterly Captain Ey (a German), who first superintended the successful operation at the Burra Burra, has been engaged at the Bon Accord Mine; and good fortune having again attended his work of exploration, a productive and highly promising lode of copper ore is being operated upon.

(Brown, 1908, 10)

Despite high hopes, the chance that the company might be able to tap into the neighbouring Monster Mine's rich ore lode did not pay off. In 1863, J.B. Austin wrote of the mine:

"It is situated so close to the Burra, that from a short distance the buildings and workings of the two mines appear to belong to one establishment. The land on which the Bon Accord Mine is found was purchased by a Scottish Company, now known as the Scottish Investment Company. A considerable amount of work has been done and a large sum expended on the mine.

The engine-shaft is sunk to a depth of 50 fathoms. Other shafts have also been sunk on the property, and a considerable length of drives has been opened underground, but without any very satisfactory result.

The proprietors of the Monster Mine, The South Australian Mining Company, were wary of their near neighbours and avoided new workings on their northern boundary. "Any find in the big mine would soon be known, Ayers lamented, 'for we cannot expect to keep our miners quiet' (Blainey, 1969, 112). A captain of the Bon Accord

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6630-10016 0016
	Item Bon Accord Mine Site	Prepared By: Ivar Nielsen Iris Iwanicki

History and Sources

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was refused a visit to the underground workings of the Burra mine when revisiting the town, for the South Australian Mining Company had no intention of encouraging their potential rival in any way whatsoever.

Buildings associated with the mine include a manager's residence built of bluestone walls, a blacksmith's shop, office and storerooms. The manager's residence of three rooms, hall, verandah and cellar is separated from the other buildings by a courtyard enclosed at one time by a wall. Portions of the wall remain, although large sections of the north west and north east corner have been removed.

When the Burra Mines closed in 1877, the Burra Corporation used a shaft of the Bon Accord Mine as the town's water supply between 1884 until 1905. (This shaft is now filled in). The Government then erected a pump house over the main shaft of the Bon Accord Mine to pump water from its depths for the town's use. Constructed of galvanised iron and timber, it is characteristic of a Federation industrial building. This operated until 1966 when Burra was connected with the Murray pipe line from Hansen (Morgan-Whyalla).

In the early 1970's the property was handed over to the National Trust, who have carried out repairs on the Blacksmith's shop, office and manager's residence. This is now used as a museum.

At a State and regional level, the mine is historically significant because it illustrates both the importance of Burra as a major copper mine and the speculation involved in the mining activities before sophisticated geological surveys and exploration techniques were formulated.

Sources:

J.B. Austin: The Mines of South Australia, Adel., 1863
G. Blainey: The Rush that never ended, M.UMP. 1969 (2nd ed.)
H.Y.L. Brown: A record of the Mines of S.A., Adel. 1908
National Trust, Burra

Iris Iwanicki
Register Historian



Map data is compiled from a variety of sources and hence its accuracy is variable.

Generated at <http://maps.deh.sa.gov.au>

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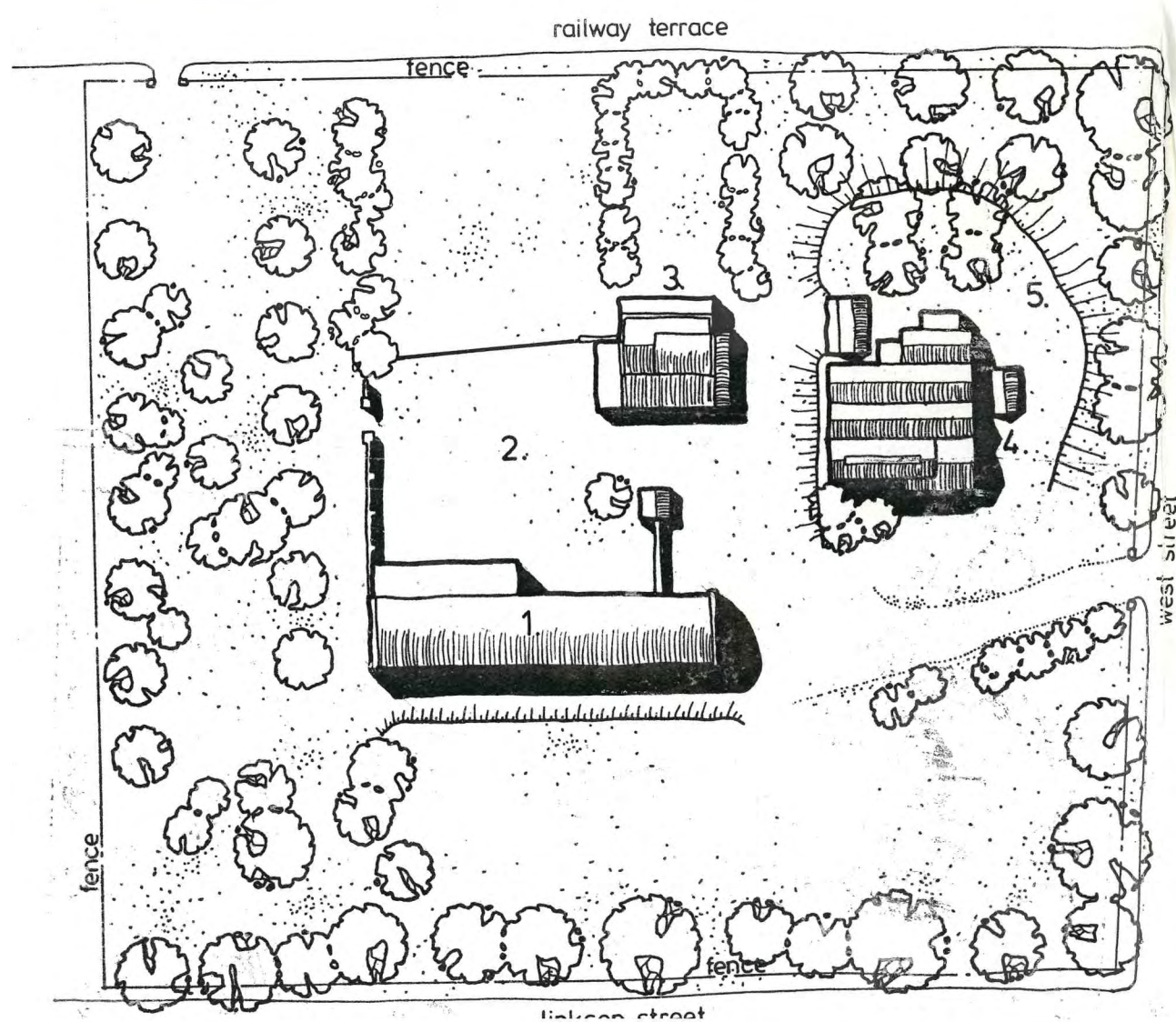
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Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia, 1994



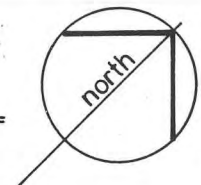
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FILM 19
NO 10

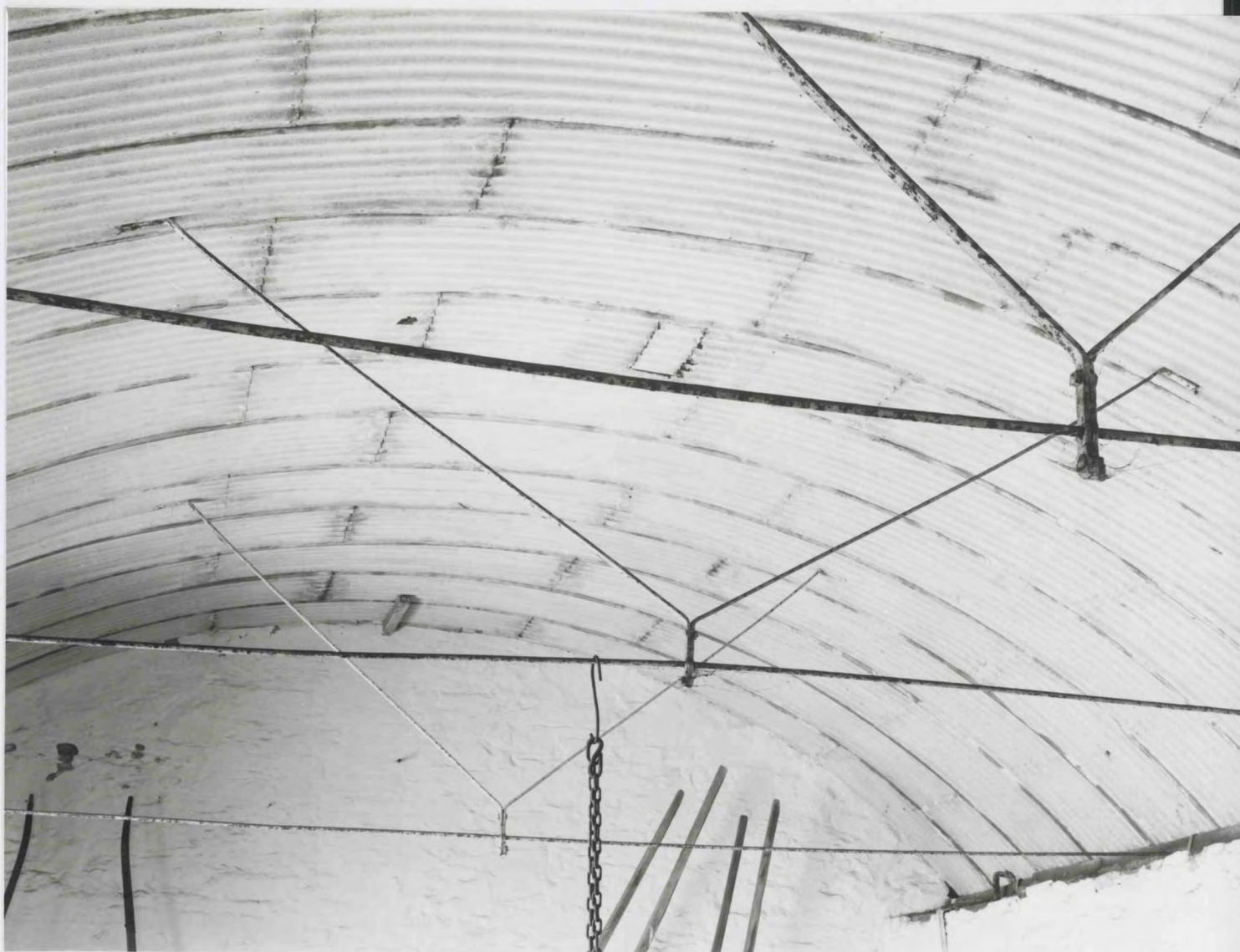
BON ACCORD WORKSHOP
FROM WEST

BURRA
14-12-78

FILM 20
No 1
FERRE, BON ACCORD WORKSHOP

BURRA
14-12-78





FILM 20
NO 2

INTERIOR BON ACCORD ENGINEERS
WORKSHOP

BURRA
14-12-78



FILM 19 BON ACCORD WORKSHOP FROM
NO 3 SOUTH EAST

BURRA
14-12-78



FILM NO.

6630-
BON ACCORD MINE
PUMP HOUSE

JUN 83



FILM NO.

6630-
BON ACCORD MINE
WORKSHOP & COURTYARD

JUN 83



FILM NO.

6630-
BON ACCORD MINE
WORKSHOP

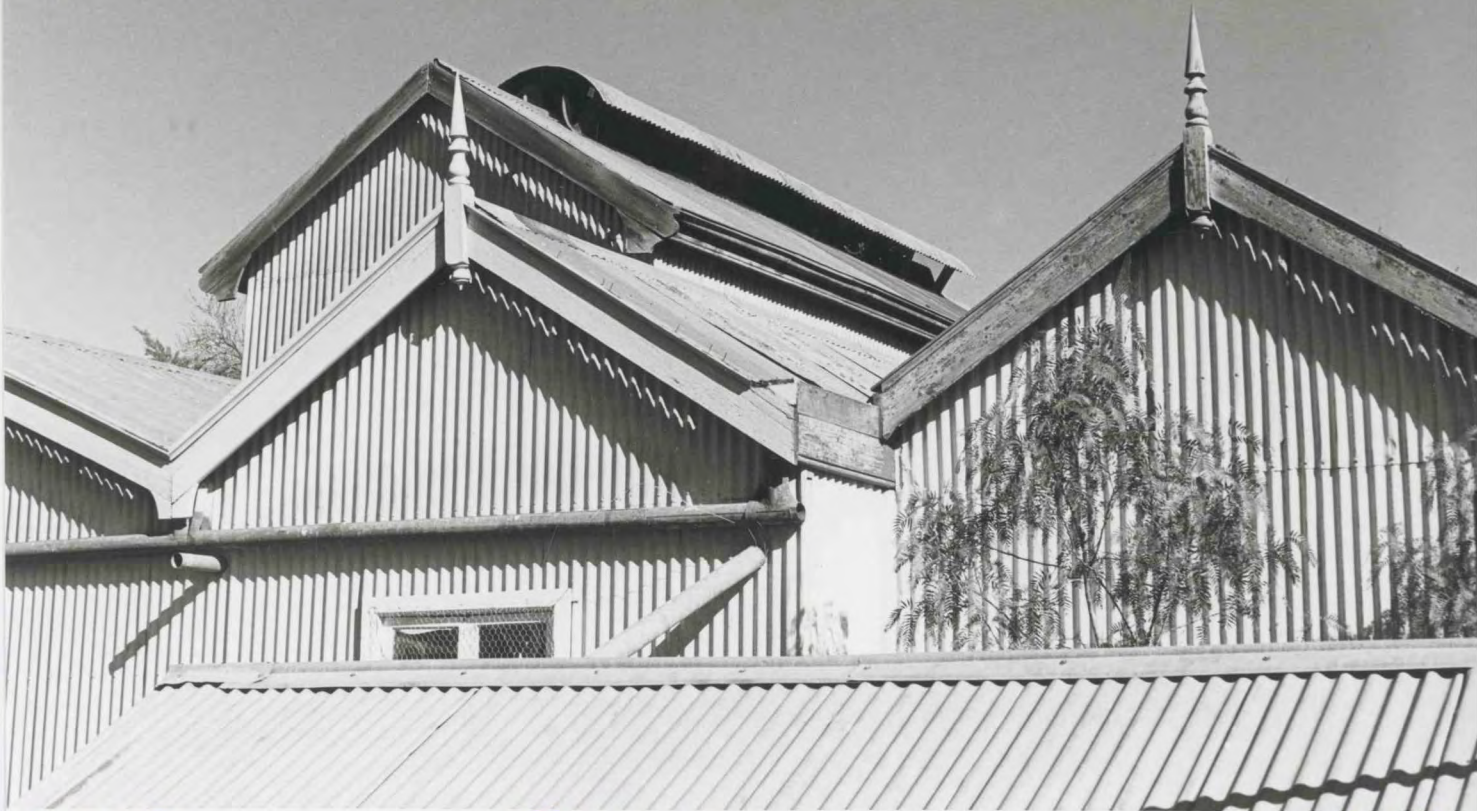
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BON ACCORD MINE
MINE SPOILS

JUN 83



FILM NO.

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BON ACCORD MINE
PUMP HOUSE

JUN 83



FILM NO.

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BON ACCORD MINE

JUN 83



FILM NO.

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BON ACCORD MINE

JUN 83

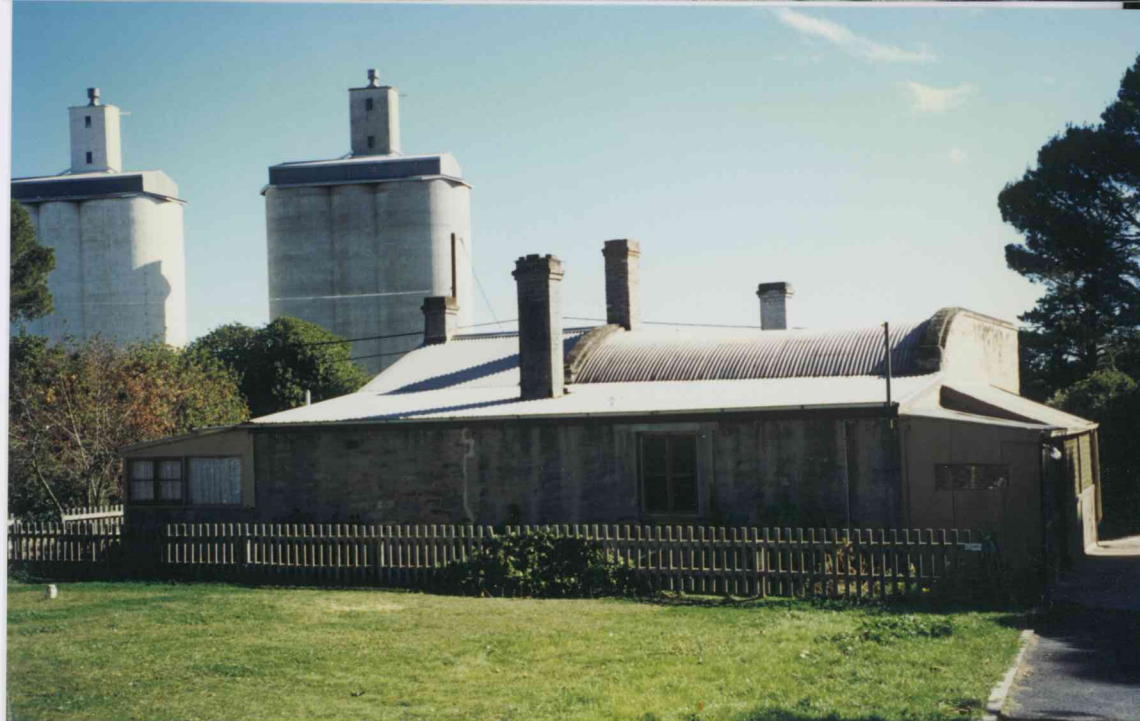


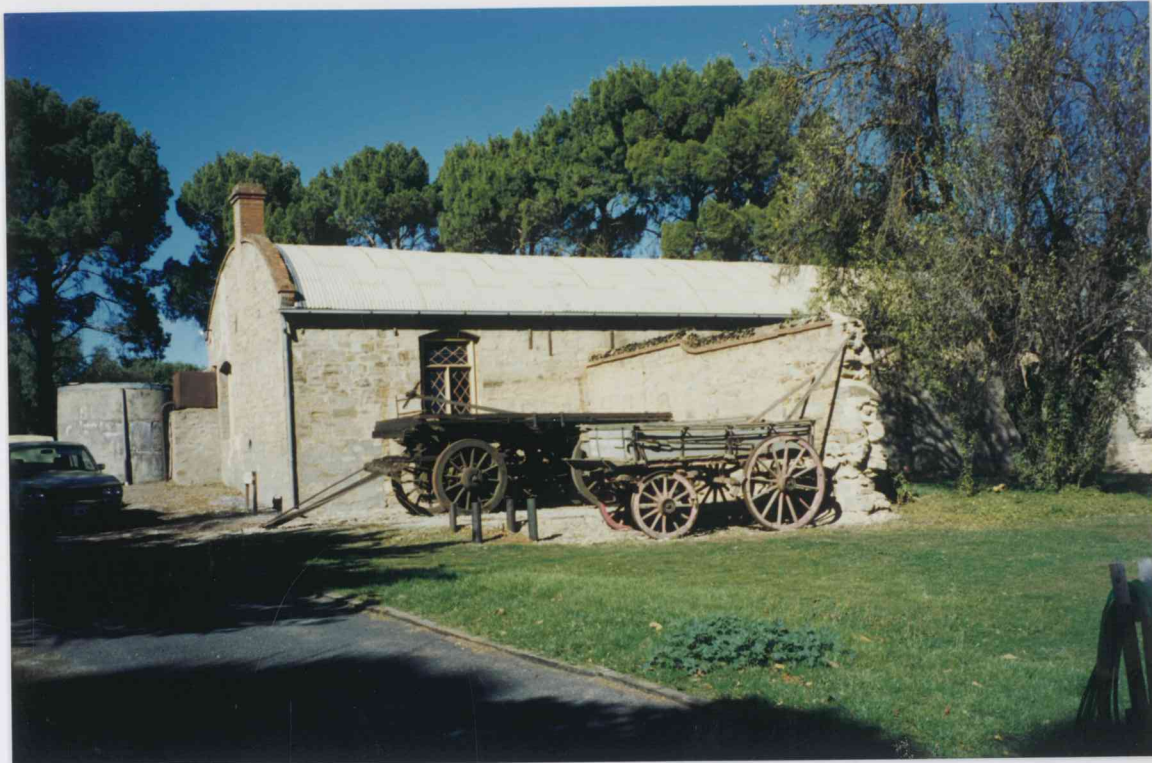
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6630 -
BON ACCORD MINE - PUMP HOUSE

JUN 83









FILM NO.

6630 -
BON ACCORD MINE
MANAGER'S RESIDENCE

JUN 83



FILM NO.

6630 -
BON ACCORD MINE
DINING HOUSE

JUN 83



FILM NO.

6630-

BON ACCORD MINE - PUMP HOUSE

JUN 83



FILM NO.

6630-

BON ACCORD MINE

JUN 83



FILM NO.

6630 -
BON ACCORD MINE
WORKSHOP & COURTYARD

JUN 83



FILM NO.

6630 -
BON ACCORD MINE

JUN 83



FILM NO.

6630-
BON ACCORD MINE
WORKSHOP

JUN 83



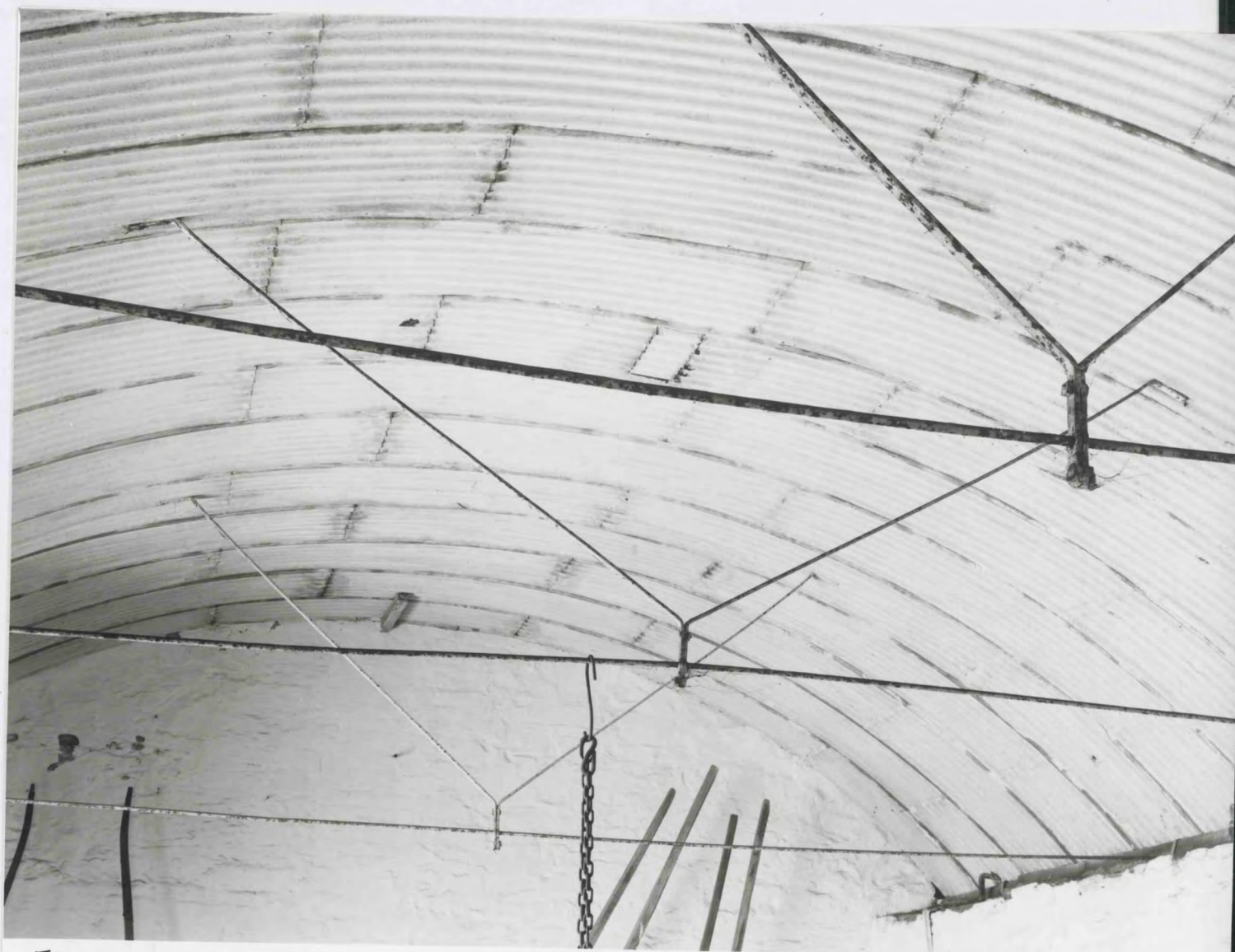
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BON ACCORD MINE
MINE SPOILS

JUN 83



FILM 19 BON ACCORD WORKSHOP FROM
NO 3 SOUTH EAST BURRA
14-12-78



FILM 20
NO 2

INTERIOR BONACORD ENGINEERS
WORKSHOP

BURRA
14-12-78



FILM N°.

6630-
BON ACCORD HWE
MANAGER'S RESIDENCE

JUN 83





FILM N°.

6630-
BON ACCORD HINE
MANAGER'S RESIDENCE

JUN 83