



Burra State Heritage Area

Commercial & Civic Buildings

State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register

Burra has a rich heritage of commercial and civic buildings, constructed mostly of local stone, and dating from the early years of the Burra Mine to the early 1900s. The places described below are particularly significant to Burra's (and South Australia's) story, and are State Heritage places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

Drew and Crewe's Store and Outbuilding

21 Commercial Street, Burra
SAHR 14426 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 23 April 1992

The Drew family erected this building in 1880 as a general store in Burra. The firm was originally established as Samuel Drew and Company in 1848 and it appears that there were four brothers involved in the business – Samuel, John, Charles and Thomas. In 1889 John Drew took over and entered into partnership with Mr E.W. Crewes. Trading as 'Drew and Crewes' they continued to supply a wide range of household goods, as well as chaff, lucerne, seeds, galvanised iron and tars to the region. By 1909 the firm was recognised as a prosperous business – the largest of its kind outside of Adelaide. Drew & Crewes continued trading until 1938.



Drew & Crewe's Store, 2005



National Bank, 2005

National Bank

1 Market Street
SAHR 10007 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

The first bank in Burra was a temporary branch of the National Bank that opened in Kooronga in 1859. Until that time payment at the mine was made by money orders. This building was completed in 1862 and is one of South Australia's earliest offices for the National Bank of Australasia. Its formal style, with Georgian features, reflects Burra's prosperity as a mining town at that time, and was built at a cost of £1,500, possibly to a design by Edmund Wright.

The South Australian Register (15 March 1862) provided a detailed description of the new building:

It stands on rising ground, facing Market Square, at the bend of Commercial Street, leading to the Institute and Telegraph and Post Offices. It is built of neatly pointed stonework, with stuccoed pilasters, window and door dressings, and is surmounted by a bold cornice, also stuccoed, behind which rises the galvanised iron roof. The interior, though plain, is in keeping with the exterior, and is as replete with every convenience both for the public and the Manager, as it could well be. The accommodation is as follows –

Public room 25 x 20 feet, and fitted with handsome cedar counters, etc; Manager's Room 17 feet x 12 feet, furnished in like manner; strong room, dining room, and drawing room, in addition to good bedrooms, kitchen and other domestic conveniences, besides a large underground tank for rain water at the rear. The private entrance is at the side (the building being situated at the corner of a cross street) and that for the public at the corner.

Burra Community School (former Model School)

Smells Road, Burra

SAHR 10025 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 28 May 1981

This building, which today is part of the Burra Community School complex, was built as one of the first group of Model Schools in South Australia. It was completed during 1877, the same year as the mine closed, on a site donated by the South Australian Mining Association.

The school was intended for 800-1000 students, but when it opened in January 1878 only 300 had enrolled. Many rooms remained unoccupied until the high school opened in the western wing in 1913.



Front entrance, 2005



Eastern side

The building's original cost was £7,000. It is a striking structure, characterised by horizontal stucco banding and the slightly Gothic detailing of many of South Australia's educational buildings. The original building has had extensive additions and alterations, including a central library and the partial removal of walls. In 1978 the primary and secondary schools combined as the Burra Community School – South Australia's first community school. Part of the original Model School building now accommodates the community library.

former Telegraph Station and Post Office

5 Market Street, Burra

SAHR 10017 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 28 May 1981

This Telegraph Station and Post Office building was designed by the Colonial Architect and erected in 1861. Previously, the first official mail run to Burra began in 1846, and the town's first post office was the accountant's office at the mine. The first telegraph was sent to Adelaide in 1860 from the Burra Institute.

In 1862 [John McDouall Stuart](#) sent a message from this telegraph station to the Governor of South Australia, informing him of his successful crossing of the continent.



Former Burra Post Office

The building's southern wing was added in 1890 and the northern wing in 1911 to house the telephone exchange. This building was Burra's Post Office for nearly 100 years, until a new Post Office was erected in Market Square in 1960.

Town Hall & Institute

Market Street, Burra

SAHR 10403 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

The Town Hall was first built as a one-roomed institute, known officially as the Burra Burra Miners and Mechanics Institute, on land owned by the South Australian Mining Association. In 1874 SAMA legally transferred the land to a group of gentlemen, who shortly after declared a Trust aiming to promote 'useful knowledge and rational mental recreation amongst its members'.

Colonial institutes had been established in many country areas of South Australia by the late 1850s, ably assisted by Government grants and grants-in-aid, based upon membership. These institutes ideally sought to provide opportunities for further education, beyond that taught to a fortunate minority. Like most of these institutes, the Burra Institute's main function was the provision of library services. Mr W.H. Birbeck was appointed the first librarian in 1858.



Burra Town Hall, 2005

old Commercial Bank building.

The Town Hall, as it is now known, has also been used as a picture and stage theatre.

Also closely associated with the Institute Building were the various lodges of Burra. These included the Freemasons who established themselves shortly after the mine opened (1845), the Oddfellows (est. 1849), the Foresters (est. 1859) and the Rechabites (est. 1865). These groups used the Institute for regular meetings until the early 1900s, and no doubt subscribed to its extensions in 1874. This work included the major addition of the front section, and incorporated a Council Chamber, lecture room and library.

In 1945 the Trusteeship was transferred to the Corporation of the Town of Burra, and the building provided the council meeting room for many years, until 1969 when it amalgamated with the District Council and transferred to the

former Redruth Police Station, Cells and Stables

Helston Street, North Burra

SAHR 10014 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 1 September 1983

Burra's first police station, cells and stables were erected on this site in 1847. This was two years before the survey of this section (the Government town of Redruth) and so the station would have been among the first public buildings constructed in Burra. Like the courthouse and the gaol (both constructed a few years later), it was necessary that the town's police station be built on public land, rather than sited in the more heavily populated Koorunga area (owned by the SA Mining Association).

In 1851 the police force consisted of three constables and three mounted officers for a community of 5 000 people. The cells were used as a temporary gaol until the Redruth Gaol was built in 1856.



Former Redruth Police Station, 2005



Stables & cell block, 2005

In 1872-73 new cells, stables and a stable-yard were added to the existing police station. These still stand on the site. The original stable was converted into a forage store, and this is also still onsite.

In 1878 the first police station was demolished and a new one completed by 1879. This building then served until the 1960s, when a new police station was erected near Market Square.

The original 1847 stables (later a forage store), the 1873 cells, stables and stable-yard, and the 1878 police station are now maintained by the National Trust and opened to the public.

former Redruth Courthouse

Sancreed Street, North Burra

SAHR 10027 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 1 September 1983

This courthouse building was erected in 1857 on the Police Reserve in the Government town of Redruth. (Burra's first courthouse had been a rented cottage in Koorunga in 1847.)

The building was designed by the Colonial Architect, E.A. Hamilton, and was completed at a cost of £800. In 1864 the original, single-storey courthouse was enlarged, the roof raised in the process and a new clerk's room added. In 1878 a porch was added to the courthouse, and the clerk's room was extended.

The courthouse was closed in 1986 when the court transferred to Clare. The building is now maintained by the National Trust.



Former Redruth Courthouse, 2005

former Redruth Gaol

Tregony Street, North Burra

SAHR 10042 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 24 July 1980



Former Redruth Gaol, 2005

The Redruth Gaol, erected in 1856 at a cost of £3,200, was South Australia's first country gaol.

The previous year Thomas Perry, the gaoler at the police cells, had complained to the Presiding Magistrate that he had more prisoners and lunatics than he could accommodate in the lock-up. Tenders were called for the new gaol, which had to be erected on Government land at Redruth (outside the privately-owned SA Mining Association holdings at Koorlinga). By September 1856 the new gaol was ready for occupants.

Perry was the gaoler there for 23 years, and it became known as 'Perry's Hotel'. It housed thirty prisoners, as well as the gaoler and his family, a turnkey and a warder.

There were three cells for men and three for women,

with separate exercise yards. A second storey was used as a work room. The walls were topped with broken glass. The gaol was closed in 1894 and the prisoners transferred to Gladstone.

The building was renovated and resurrected in 1897 as a Government Protestant detention centre – Redruth Girls' Reformatory. It housed an average of 30 'incorrigible' girls over the age of 15, who were sent to Redruth from other institutions in Adelaide, which could not meet demand. The Reformatory continued until 1922 when a series of events, including a wild riot by the 'Girls of Hampton Court', led to its closure and the transfer of the girls back to Adelaide.

The National Trust now maintains the building. In 1979 *Breaker Morant* was filmed in and around Burra, with the Redruth Gaol one of the major locations.



Cell Block, 2005



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Heritage

18:

South Australian Heritage Committee

From: Senior Historic Architect

Subject: REGISTER NOMINATION REPORT:
REDRUTH COURTHOUSE, POLICE STATION, LOCKUP AND STABLES,
BURRA NORTH

Date: 10 February, 1982

SUMMARY

This report is prepared as a result of a funding application from the National Trust of South Australia for urgent restoration work on the lockup and stable buildings. The buildings have been nominated for both State and National Estate Registers.

Historically, the Redruth Courthouse and Police Station complex is significant for its long association with the presence of "Law and Order" in Burra from 1847 right up to fifteen years ago. This association is reinforced by the continuing original function of the Court House. The overall group is associated primarily with the late Victorian period of Burra's development onwards, although it does incorporate elements of the original 1847 police station.

Architecturally, the Police Station is a good example of a late Victorian public building/residence. The lock up and stables are probably the earliest to be built in a country town and are an outstanding example of their building type.

Environmentally, these buildings form a significant townscape group within Burra and are of significance in establishing and maintaining the dominant older character of the area. The court house in particular is a major landmark.

The Integrity of the buildings is high, being comparatively little altered and in good condition for their age.

The court house is currently listed on the Register of the National Estate and of the National Trust of South Australia. The other buildings are not listed. All of the buildings have been identified in the Burra Conservation Study.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the courthouse, police station, lock-up and stables be included in the Register of State Heritage Items, and that they be categorised ~~A1~~, A2, A3, H3.

Mark A. Borscher
per.

(Barry G. Rowney)
SENIOR HISTORIC ARCHITECT

MAB:SK
10/2/82

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures Item COURTHOUSE AND FUEL SHED, NORTH BURRA			
Age 1857	Theme		Office	
Period 1851-1884	Subject PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION - Legal/Judicial		Region 8 Lower North	
Building Type Court House	Style Victorian		Status N.Tr.	
<u>Qualitative Data</u>			Grading	
Component			Comment	
<u>History</u>			E VG AG FP NA	
1. Context: Generally refer to Police Station Complex. The establishment of a Court House was a necessary extension of the Police presence in Burra, and Redruth in particular. As Burra developed in the 1850's, the need for a Court House and a new gaol became apparent.			*	
2. Person/Group: Refer to Police Station Complex.				
3. Specific Event: Refer to Police Station Complex.				
<u>Architecture</u>				
4. Architect/ Builder: 1857 Colonial Architect W.B. Hays 1864 Engineers & Architects Dept., William Hanson 1878 Architect in Chief E.J. Woods possibly designed G.T. Light Contractor G.W. Saint Dunstan			*	
5. Design: Mid Victorian high rectangular main section symmetrical front facade, projecting entrance porch. Four segmental arched 12 pane double sash windows on lower level, high level windows on either side. Narrower single storey section at rear. Fuel Shed - stone walls on three sides formerly timber picket wall on one side with hinged gates (refer drawings in archives GRG38/64 Plan 256.			*	
6. Construction: Coursed random local stone walls, brick quoins and window surrounds, brick chimneys. Rendered front facade and porch. Corrugated iron roof and porch to rear section. Fuel Shet - stone with corrugated iron extension. Corrugated iron roof, formerly shingle over stone section.			*	
7. Interior: Not inspected.				
8. Representation: A well preserved example of a mid Victorian Courthouse. The facade is unusual.			*	

South Australian
Heritage
Act
1978-80

Register of State Heritage Items
ITEM EVALUATION SHEET
Buildings and Structures
Item COURTHOUSE AND FUEL SHED, NORTH BURRA

Component

Comment

Grading
E VG AG FP NA

Environment

9. Continuity: The building is of particular importance in contributing to the character and significance of the associated group of buildings on the Courthouse Reserve.

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10. Local Character: Of major importance in establishing and maintaining the dominant mid-Victorian character of the neighbourhood.

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11. Landmark: An important social and historical landmark in Burra as a whole.

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Integrity

12. Alterations: In 1864 the roof was raised and the rear section built. In 1878 the rear porch was added and the rear section extended. Another unsympathetic rear porch has since been added.

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13. Condition: Generally good.

*

14. Compatibility: Still used for its original purpose.

*

Supplementary Information

15. Adaption: Considerable potential.

16. Interpretation: Considerable capability.

17. Current Situation: No Threat.

Evaluated By C. Wiggs
Register Architect

A. Aeuckens *Aeuckens*
Register Historian

Date

Reviewed By M.A. Butcher
Acting Register Supervisor *MAB*

Date

South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization

Date

I.E.S./D3/211081

HISTORICAL RESEARCH: REDRUTH COURT HOUSE, POLICE STATION, LOCK-UP AND STABLES, BURRA NORTH

The famous Burra Mine was opened in September, 1845 and in February, 1846 the first of the towns that were to collectively make up Burra was surveyed. It was called Koorunga and was a private town, the land belonging to the South Australian Mining Association. The population grew rapidly¹ and, as in all mining towns, the need for a police presence soon became apparent. Hence in November, 1846 the tender of R.S. Breeze for the construction of a Police Station at a cost of 385 pounds was accepted. The Register of 9 June, 1847, notes the completion of the Police Station, Cells and Stables. This had taken place nearly two years before the Government town of Redruth was surveyed and sold in July, 1849, and undoubtedly, therefore, the station would have been amongst the first 'public buildings' constructed in the whole of Burra Burra.

"In November of 1855, one, Thomas Perry, Gaoler of Redruth, complained to the Presiding Magistrate that he had more prisoners and lunatics than he could find room for in the temporary lock-up. Perry did not have long to wait for more accommodation. Already tenders had been called for a new gaol at Redruth, the first county gaol to be built outside of Adelaide. Like the court-house and the Police Station, the gaol had to be erected on Government land at Redruth outside of the Mining Association section."²

Thus the 1847 Police Station and Lock-Up were of vital importance to the early history of Burra being the focus of the need to maintain "law-and-order" until necessity finally forced the building of a proper Gaol (1856) and Court House (1857). The Court House had been designed by the Colonial Architect, E.A. Hamilton, was commissioned in December, 1856 and completed in mid-1857 at a cost of 799 pounds 11 shillings.

After the completion of the Police Station and the Court House, no more major work was undertaken until 1864 when the original single-storey Court House was enlarged, the roof being raised in the process and a new clerk's room also being added. The cost of these additions and alterations was 319 pounds. In 1872, new cells, stables and a stable-yard were added to the existing Police Station at the sum of some 503 pounds 15 shillings, while in 1878 the Police Station itself was rebuilt for 788 pounds 16 shillings and three pence. Also in 1878, a porch was added to the Court House and the clerk's room extended, the additions amounting to 402 pounds 17 shillings.

It is therefore possible to see the major stages of development of the Redruth Police Station and Court House complex over the period 1847-1878. The first stage was the building of the Police Station and Lock-Up in 1847 to meet the needs of the growing population of Koorunga, this was followed by the construction of the Court House and Redruth Gaol in the mid-1850's as the further development of Burra required these facilities. The Court House itself was considerably extended in 1864, again presumably because of the pressure for additional space, and following this extensive new additions were made to the Police Station in 1872. The final stage came in 1878 with the rebuilding of the Police Station itself and the making of a few minor additions, or "finishing touches", to the Court House. This period, 1847-1878, coincides closely with Burra's period of history as a mining and industrial town during the years 1845-1877,³ and to a certain extent parallels the development of the town during this time. As such, the Redruth Police Station and Court House complex is of major historical significance within both the old township of Redruth and also Burra as a whole.

Footnotes

1. Burra Sketchbook, Ian Auhl, 1969, Pg. 56
2. ibid, Pg. 56
3. ibid, Pg. 52

Sources:

Information obtained from Ian Auhl, January-February, 1982.

Burra Sketchbook, Ian Auhl, 1969

Burra Conservation Study, Part I, Ian Auhl, March, 1978

A. Aeuckens

Register Historian

AA/SK

10/2/82