

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 Kooringa). 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

6630-10042

Redruth Gaol, Burra
by Collwell and
Finch, 1973

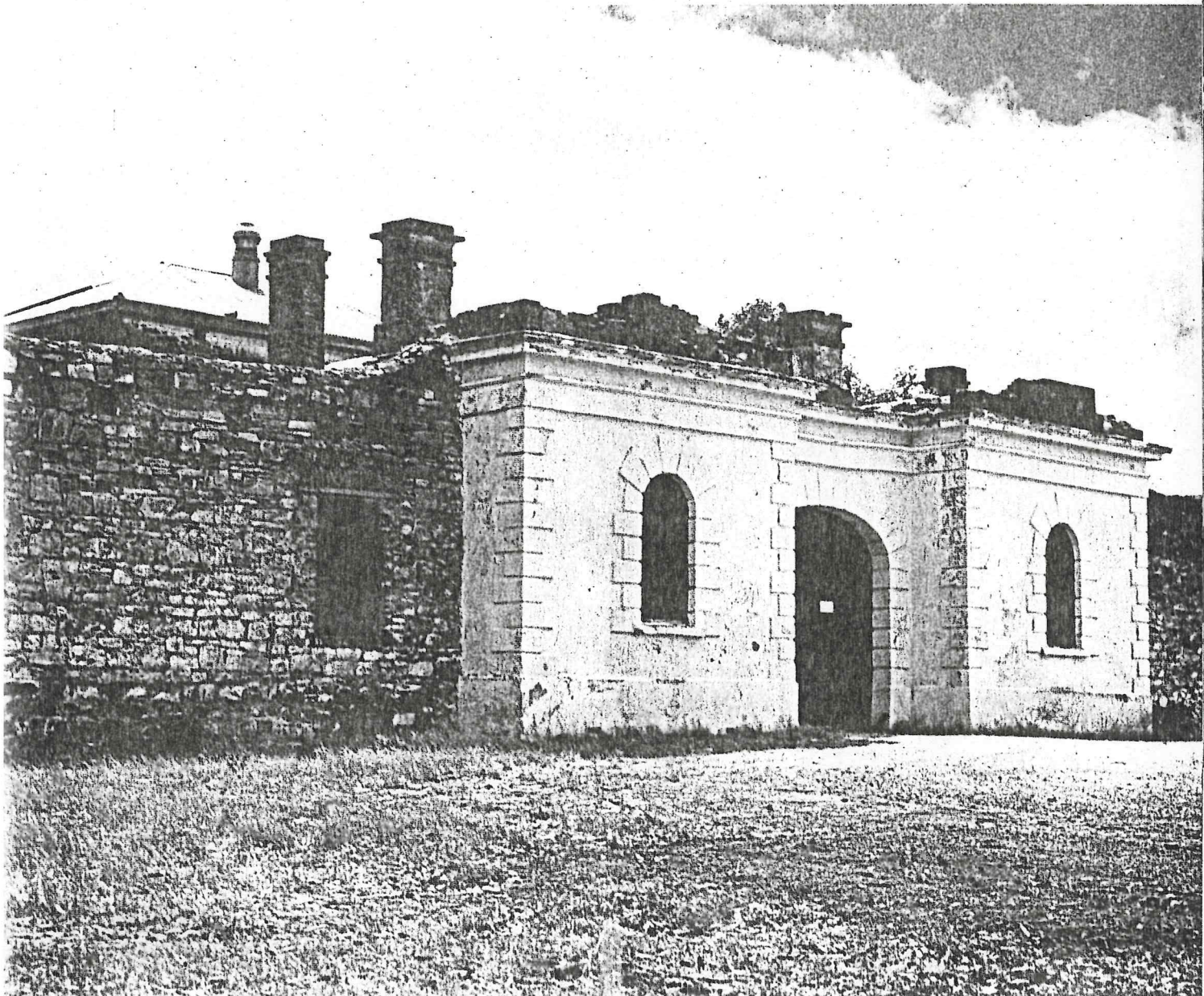
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Collwell & Finch - 1973

REDRUTH GAOL, Burra

The Redruth Gaol near Burra was completed in 1856 and became the first gaol erected outside the Adelaide area.

It became known as Perry's Hotel after its first gaoler, T. Perry, and had cells for thirty male and female prisoners. The gaol was closed in 1894, but in 1897 it was renovated for use as a Government Protestant Girls' Reformatory. Upwards of twenty-five inmates over the age of fifteen were required to carry out such tasks as chopping wood, working in the laundry, and cooking. The building has now been acquired by the Burra Burra Council and the National Trust for restoration and preservation.



FILM 16
No 9

REDRUTH GAOL MAIN ENTRANCE
DOORS INTERIOR.

BURRA
14-12-78





FILM 17 VIEW ALONG NORTH WALL, FORMER
NO 4 REDRUTH GAOL

BURRA
14-12-78



6630 · 10042



FILM 17
NO 1

REDRUTH GAOL GUARDHOUSE AND
CELL ROW FROM WESTERN YARD

BURRA
14-12-78



FILM 16
NO 6

ENTRANCE TO REDRUTH GAOL
FROM SOUTH

BURRA
14-12-78

