

Devonshire Hotel and Footway

Burra Street, Mintaro

SAHR 10066 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 28 May 1981



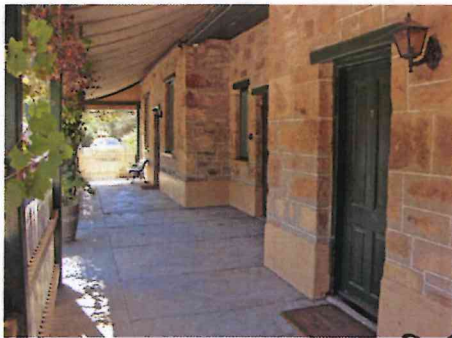
'Devonshire House', 2005



'Devonshire House', 2005

The Devonshire Hotel, built by James Torr in 1856, has many interesting features, but the most unusual is the 60-foot long narrow basement, excavated and set up as a skittles alley (an early version of today's 10-pin bowling alleys). The hotel was one of the first buildings in South Australia to install pitch paving.

The Devonshire offered accommodation as well as bar facilities. It had large stables at the rear and also provided a large assembly hall. This was used for concerts, agricultural shows and a meeting room for miners, pastoralists and townspeople before the Institute was built next door.



Front verandah, 2005

The hotel gave up its licence in 1898 and became a temperance hotel, reflecting the influence of the temperance movement in nineteenth century South Australia.

It later became a cool-drink shop and boarding house, and finally a private dwelling.

In June 1981 the restored building was re-opened as a guesthouse, 'Mintaro House', and has since been renamed 'Devonshire House'.

The front verandah still retains its original slate-paved footway.



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DEVONSHIRE HOTEL, MINTARO

The Devonshire Hotel was built in 1856 and embodied a number of unusual features. It was one of the first buildings in South Australia to install pitch paving. Beneath the ground floor a basement sixty feet long was excavated and this was set up as a skittles alley. Almost a hundred years were to elapse before the boom in ten-pin bowling reached Australia. Despite the elaborate halls and sophisticated equipment of today, the game remains much the same as it was in Mintaro.

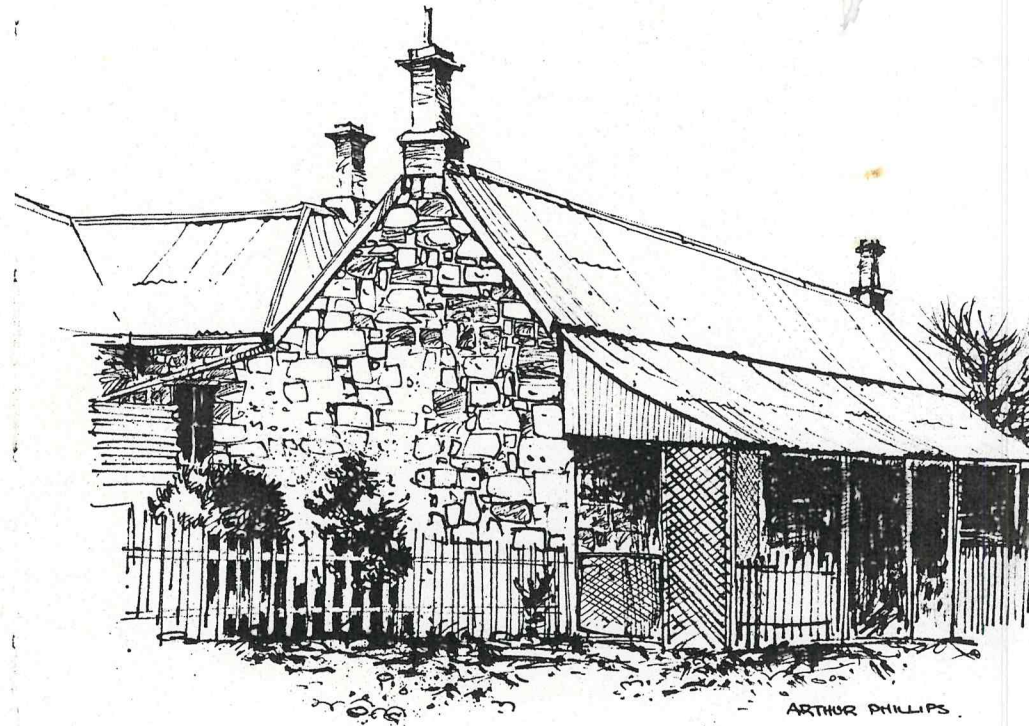
The hotel did not rely only on bar trade, but provided accommodation for weary travellers. In another way the inn was a front runner. A large concert hall was provided where meetings of pastoralists, "cockies", and mining men were held, and great use was made of it during the agricultural shows. It was convenient during a dry discussion to send for refreshments.

Both the Devonshire and the opposition, the Mintaro Hotel, stayed open at night as long as there were customers. The publicans dispensed good cheer, fires roared in the massive fireplaces, kerosene lamps swung from the rafters, and rows of candles illuminated the shelves.

A group of Aborigines lived on the outskirts of Mintaro. Under "blackfellow's" law they were not permitted to drink alcoholic liquor. On most nights, however, messengers would arrive with five pence, say "Gladys wants some cold tea", and a pint of beer would surreptitiously change hands at a side door.

The Devonshire gave up its licence in 1898 and became a temperance hotel, then a cool-drink shop and boarding house, and finally a capacious private dwelling.

The Mintaro Hotel burnt down in 1904. Arson was suspected, but the culprit was not caught and the inn was rebuilt by the end of the same year.



FILM 35
NO 6

SOUTHERN END OF FORMER
DEVONSHIRE HOTEL

MINTARO
8-2-79



FILM 35
NO 7

PAVING IN FRONT OF FORMER
DEVONSHIRE HOTEL

MUNTARO
8-2-79





FILM 35
NO 5

HOUSE (FORMER DEVONSHIRE HOTEL), WITH
COACHING STEPS IN FOREGROUND

MINTARD
8-2-79



FILM 35
NO 5

HOUSE (FORMER DEVONSHIRE HOTEL), WITH
COACHING STEPS IN FOREGROUND

MINTARO
8-2-79



FILM 35 HOUSE (FORMER DEVONSHIRE HOTEL), WITH
No 5 COACHING STEPS IN FOREGROUND
6636-10066

MINTARO
8-2-79



FILM 35
NO 4

VIEW SOUTH ALONG BURRA RD, TOWARDS
FORMER DEVONSHIRE HOTEL

MINTARO
8-2-79

FILM 35
NO 6

SOUTHERN END OF FORMER
DEVONSHIRE HOTEL

MINTARO
8-2-79

