South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80

HERITAGE SURVEY
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

PROJECT 10095
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION

Item Ref. No. 12

ITEM NAME: Lock No. 1

Former or other W.R. Randell Lock

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The W.R. Randell Lock and Weir were the first works to be built as a result of the historic River Murray agreement of 1915. This agreement was the result of years of negotiations between the Commonwealth and three State Governments who were concerned to husband their scarce water resources. Construction began almost immediately after the ratification of the agreement and after delays caused by the war and floods was finally completed in 1922. It was the first of a number of locks and barrages which were built as part of the grand scheme to harness the Murray. This has had a major impact on the environment of the Murray. This item is particularly significant because it was the first of the mighty river works to be commenced and completed.

LOCATION
Address
Town Blanchetown
Postcode
Section
Hundred
County Skurray
L.G.A. Truro
S.H.P. Region 5
A.M.G. Ref. 6829-III
54 37260 619800

SUBJECT
4.9
4.10

PERIOD
State

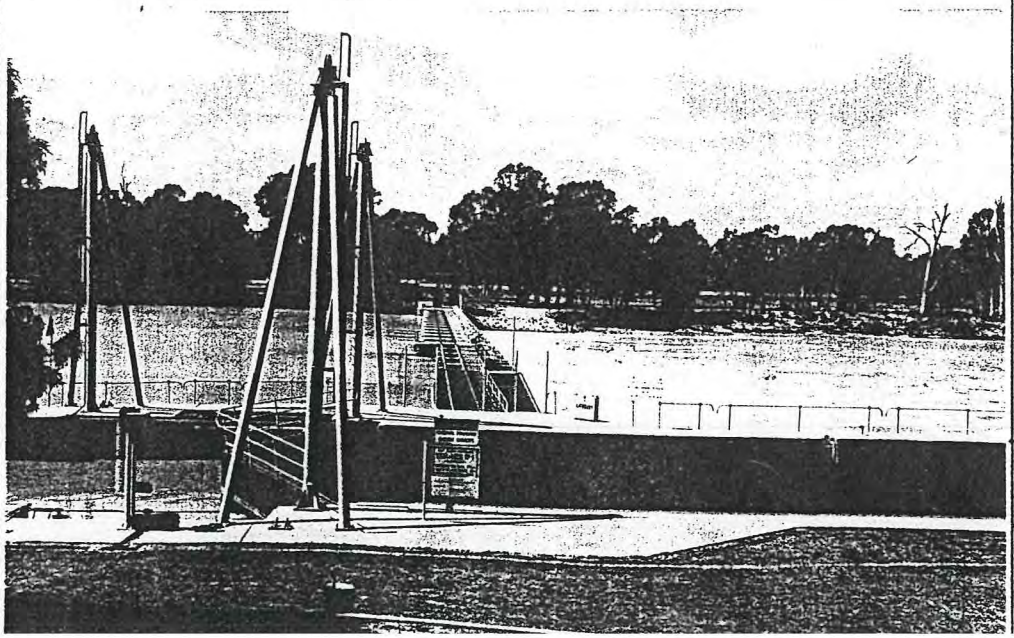
Study Area
1906-40

REFERENCES
Australian Heritage Engineering Record S693
Heritage Conservation Branch no. 6829-10095

Verbal
Archival photographs Film 837 Negs. 11-14 (Dept.Marine & Harbors)

TYPE OF ITEM
LAND Natural feature ☐
Historical site ☐
Historical Gdn. ☐
BUILDING ☐
STRUCTURE ☒
PHYSICAL CONDITION

PHOTOGRAPH Film No. 839 Negative No. 2
Direction of view to E



STATUS
Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. ☒ Interim L. ☐
Nominated ☐
National Estate
Reg. ☐ Proposed L. ☐
National Trust
CL ☐ RL ☐ File ☐
Other

Australian Heritage Eng. Record X

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State ☒ (B) Local ☐

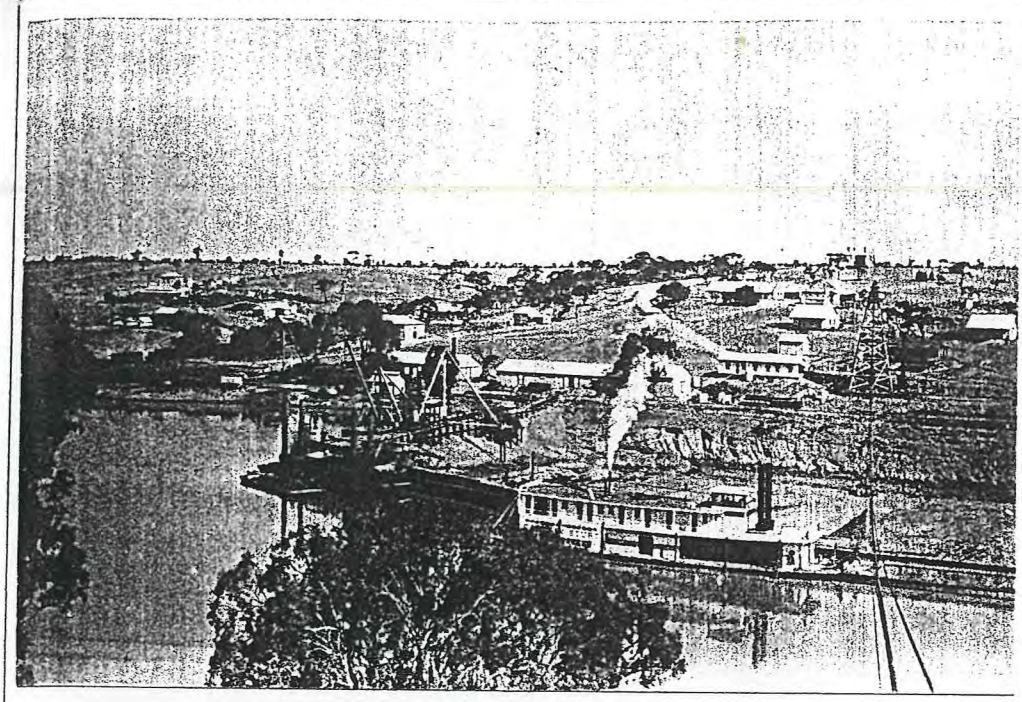
PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date 1984

IIS/D4/25.11.81

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5

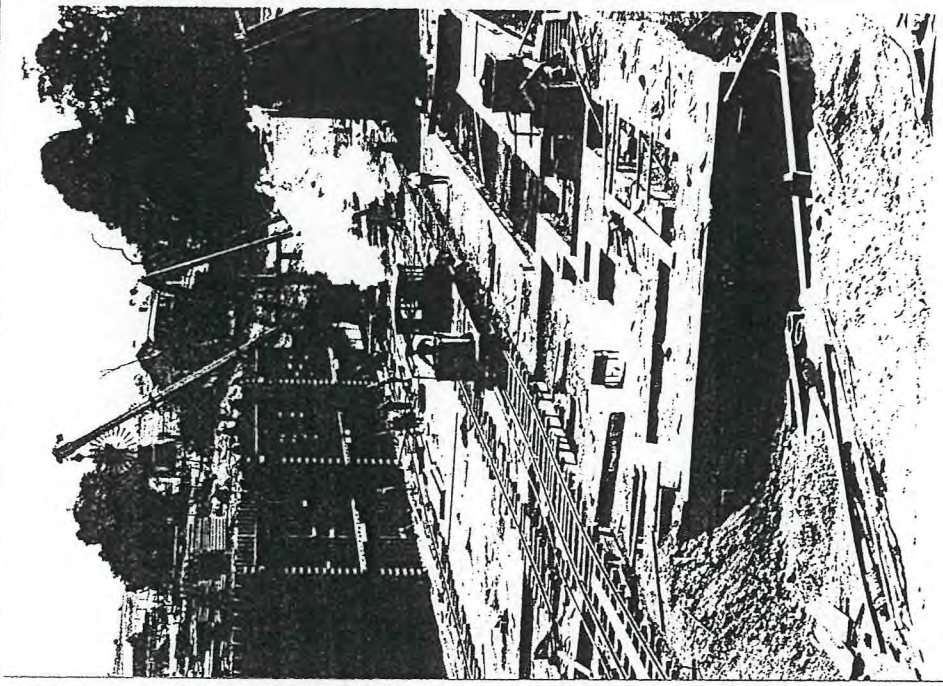
Item Ref. No. 12a

L.G.A.
Truro



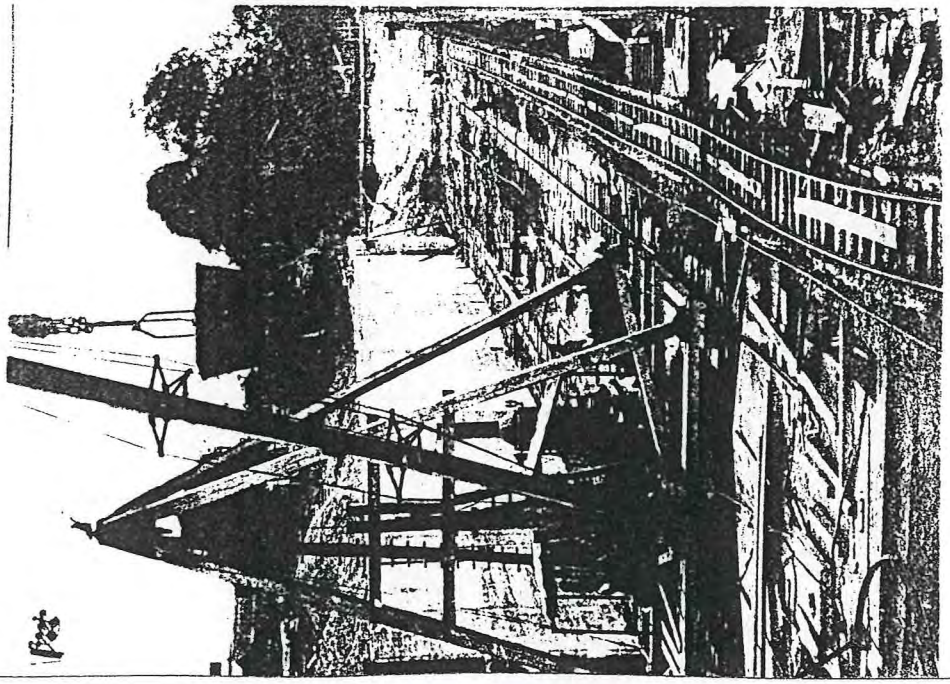
Construction of Lock 1
(Marine and Harbors
Collection)

Film No. 837
Negative No. 11
Direction of view



Construction of Lock 1
(Marine and Harbors
Collection)

Film No. 837
Negative No. 13
Direction of view



Construction of Lock 1
(Marine and Harbors
Collection)

Film No. 837
Negative No. 14
Direction of view

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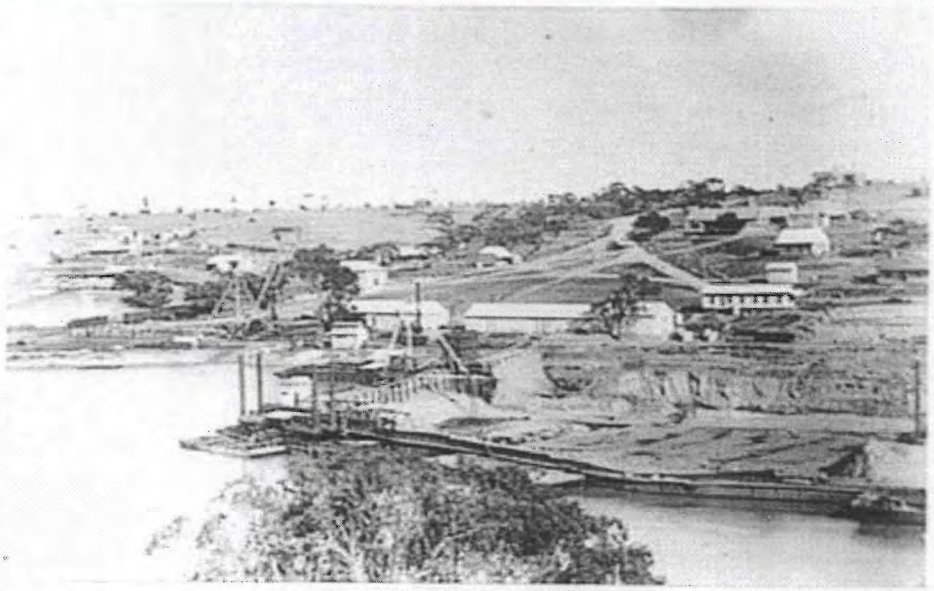

B 36187
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TITLE	Lock, Blanchetown
DESCRIPTION	The lock under construction
DATE	ca.1910

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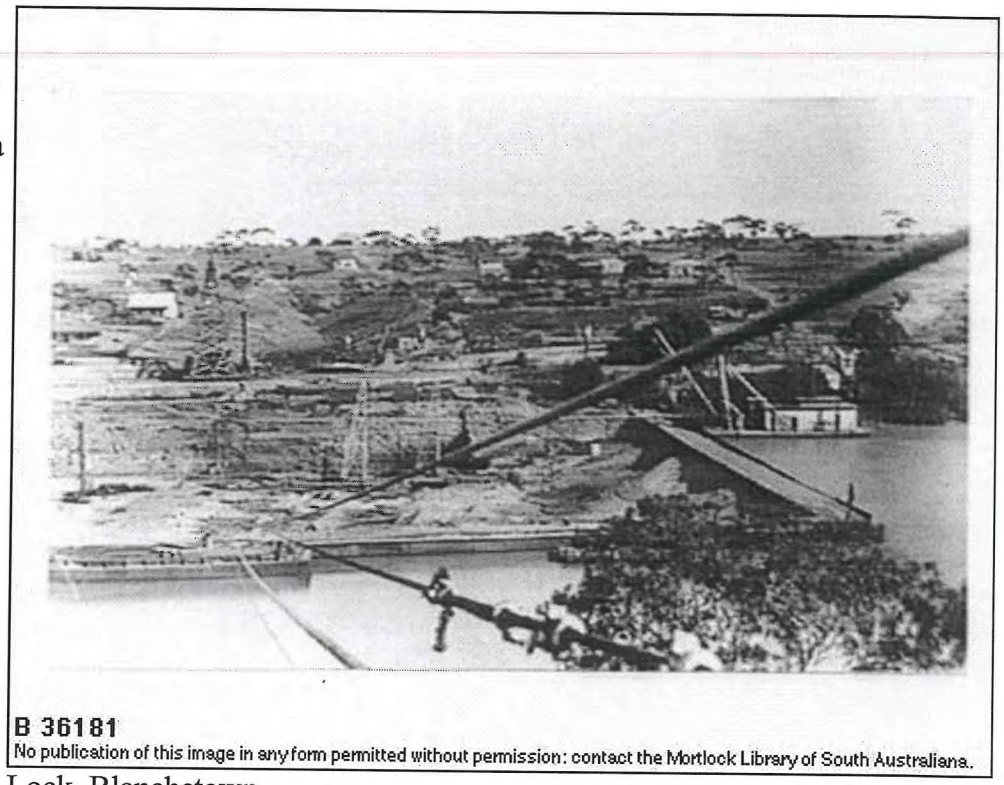

B 36181
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TITLE	Lock, Blanchetown
DESCRIPTION	The lock under construction
DATE	ca.1910

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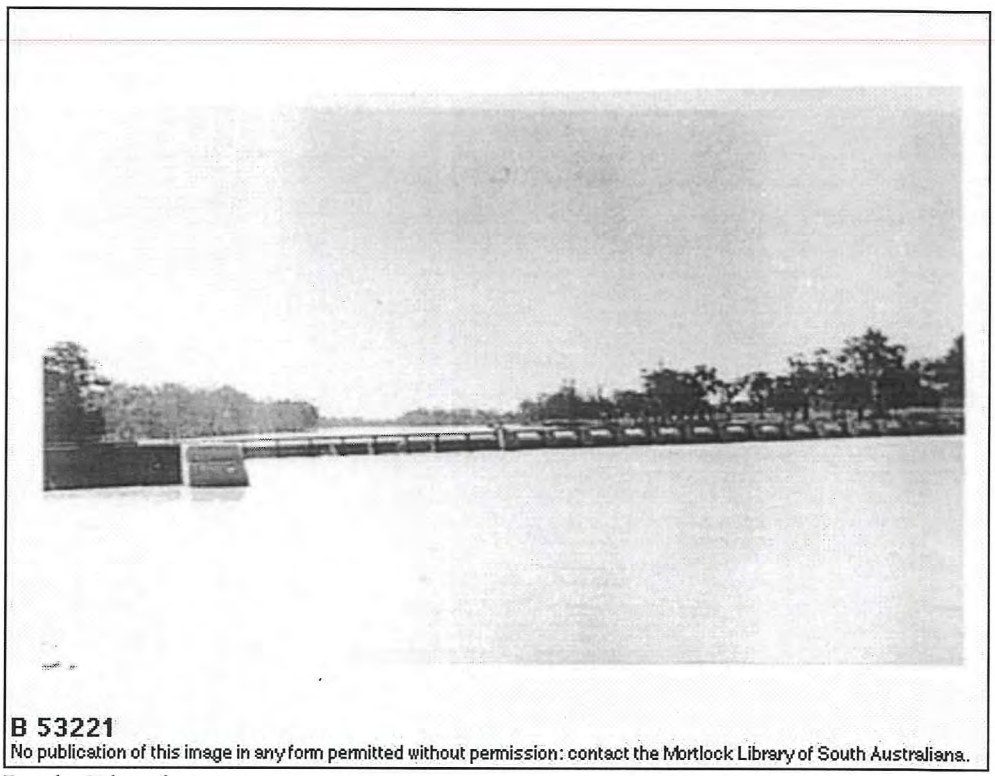

TITLE	Lock, Blanchetown
DESCRIPTION	Distant view of the Lock on the River Murray.
DATE	ca.1912

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B 20571
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TITLE Blanchetown Lock

DATE ca.1920

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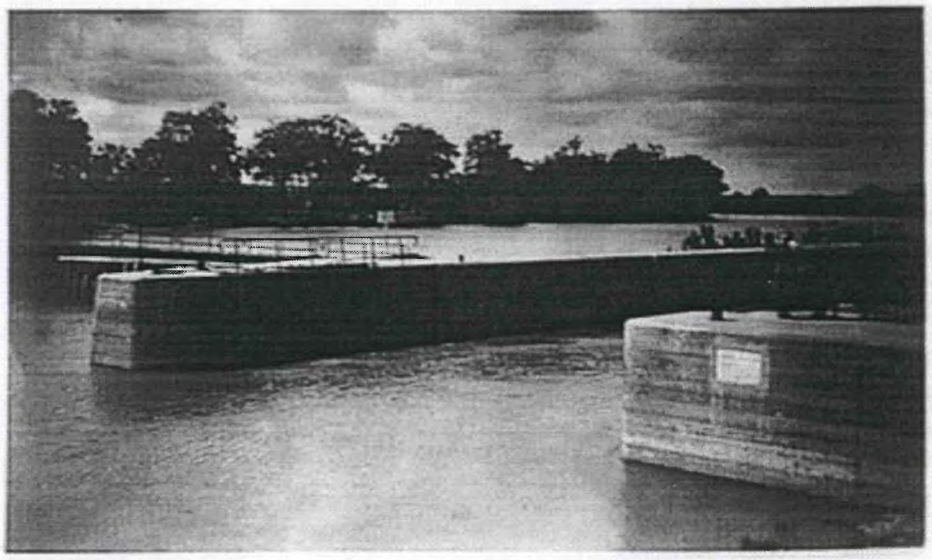

B 20544
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TITLE Blanchetown Lock
DATE ca.1920

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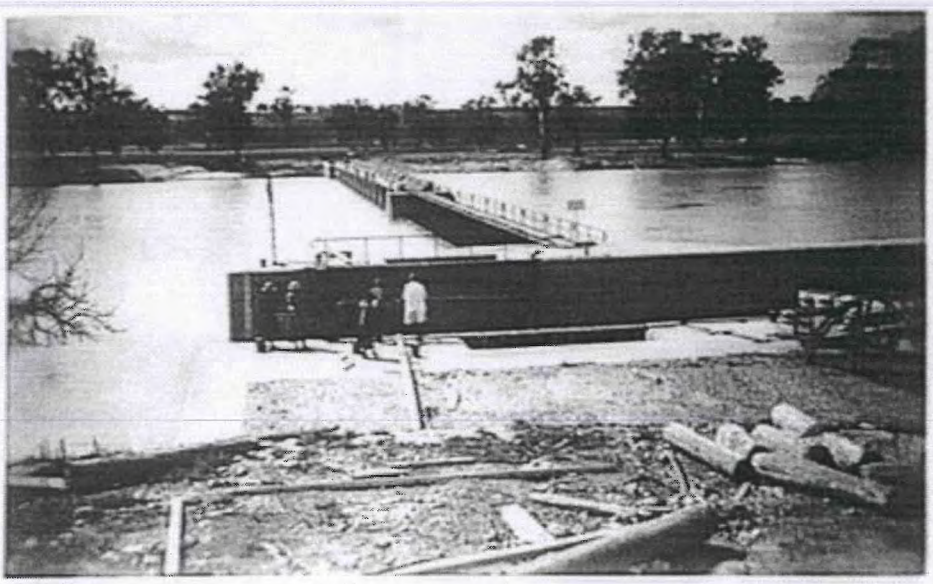

B 20542
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TITLE Blanchetown Lock

DATE ca.1920

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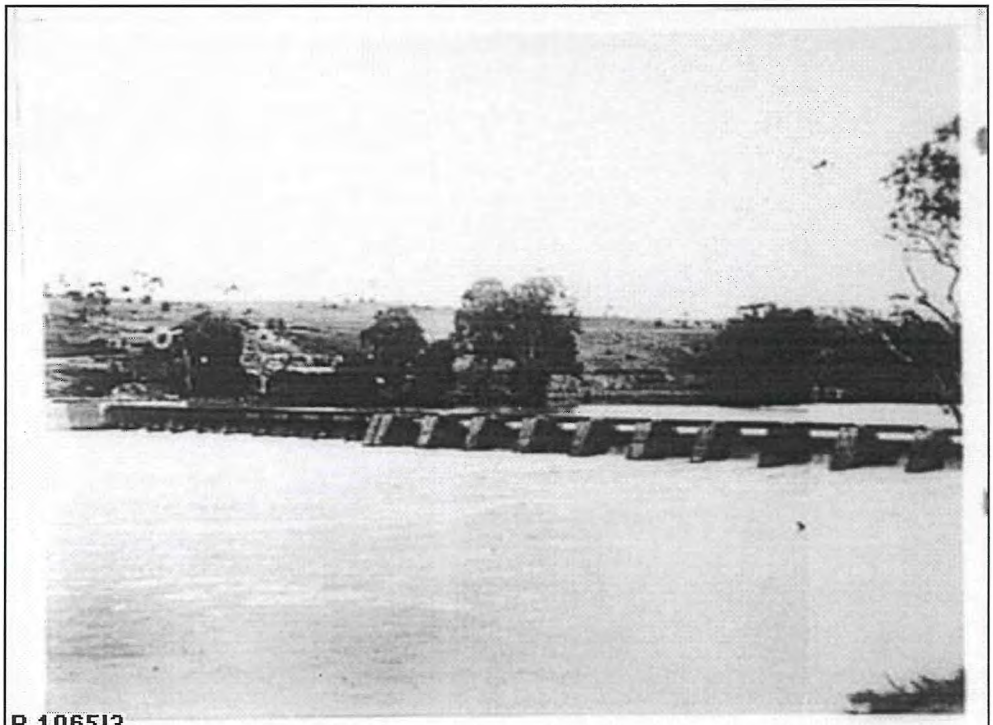

B 1065/3

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TITLE Blanchetown Lock

DATE 1922

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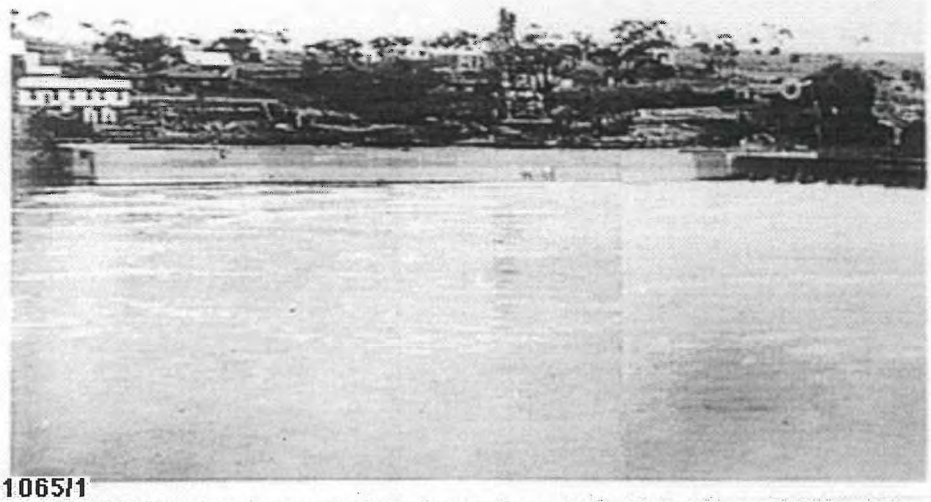

B 1065/1

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TITLE	Blanchetown Lock
DESCRIPTION	Distant view of Blanchetown Lock.
DATE	1922

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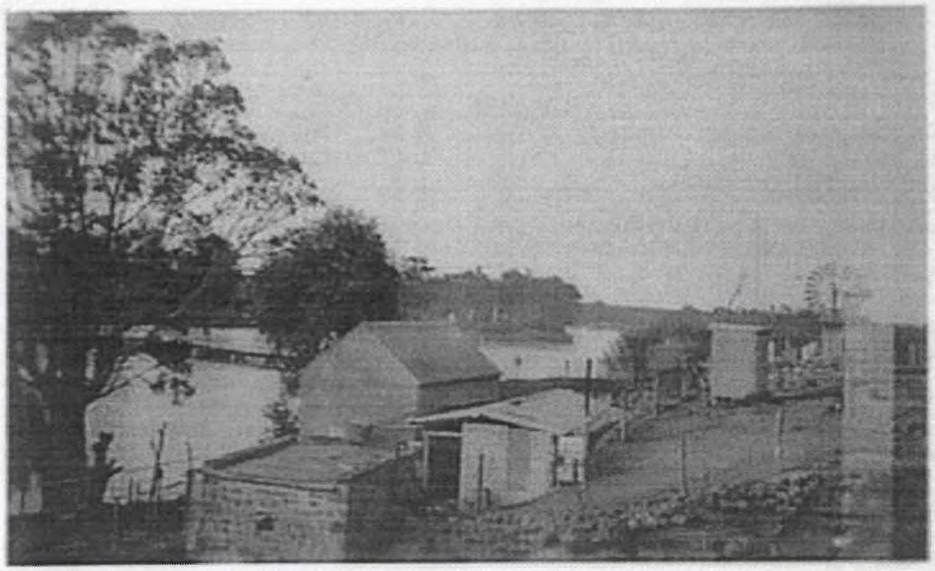

B 8105
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TITLE	Lock, Blanchetown
DESCRIPTION	River and lock at Blanchetown .
DATE	1932

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TITLE No. 1 Lock, Blanchetown

DATE 1932

Navigable pass

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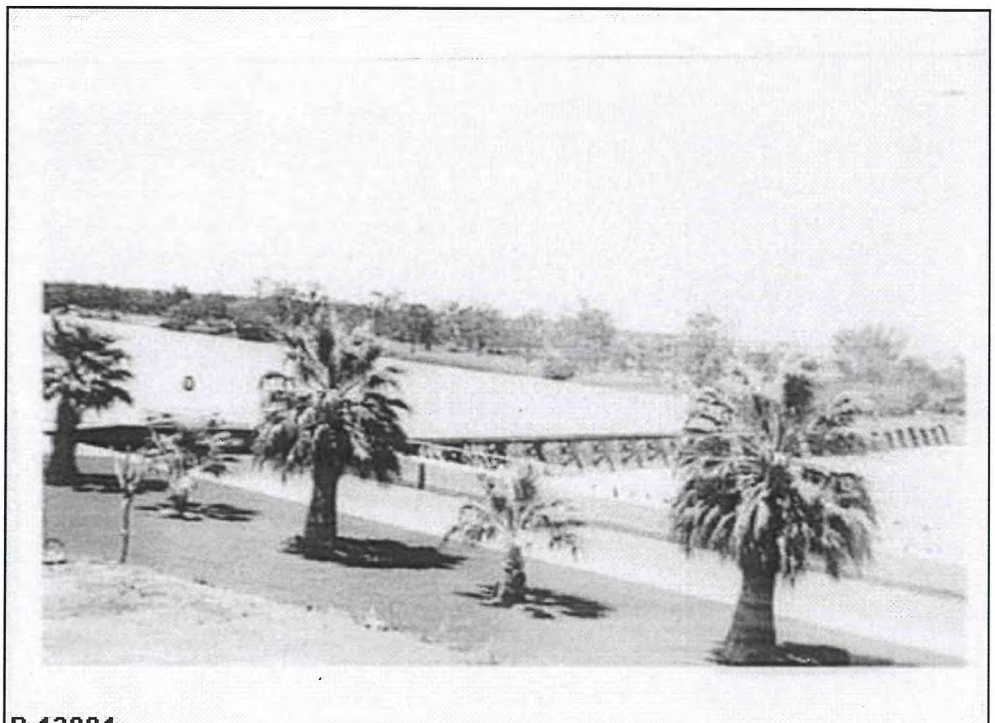

B 42004
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TITLE Weir and Lock, Blanchetown

DESCRIPTION Weir and lock at Blanchetown.

DATE 1960

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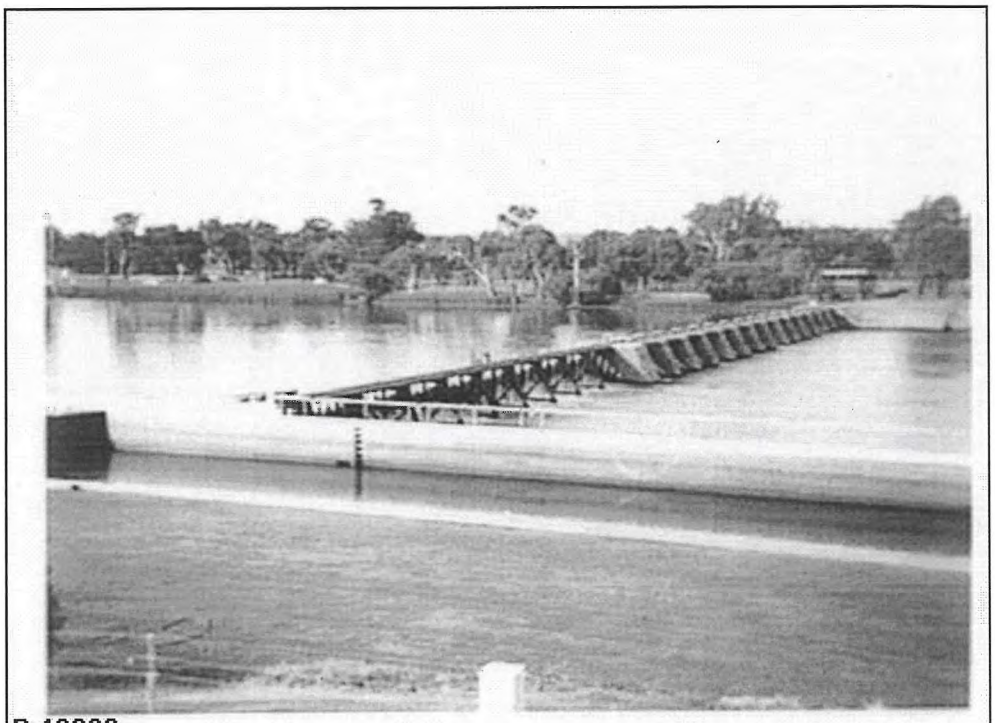

B 42228
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TITLE Blanchetown Lock

DESCRIPTION Blanchetown Lock looking upstream . Note: copies to be accredited to the donor.

DATE 1961

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B 42227

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TITLE Blanchetown Lock

DESCRIPTION Blanchetown Lock looking downstream . Note: Copies to be accredited to the donor.

DATE 1961

Bill Jeffery
State Heritage Branch

HISTORIC SHIPPING on the River Murray

Sarah Kenderdine

State Heritage Branch
Department of Environment and Land Management

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
MURRAY · DARLING BASIN

Cover illustration:
P.S. *William R. Randell* partially sunk just below Lock 2, c.1940s
(Port of Morgan Historic Museum and Heritage Society Inc.)

ISBN No. 0 7308 2690 2

TSB February 1993 Index no. 14354
Revised and Reprinted 1995

Printed on 100 percent recycled paper

Ref Number: 7 **Site Number:** 6829 A066 **Site Type:** 4.1

Site Name: LOCK 1; W.R. RANDELL LOCK

Location: Just downstream from Blanchetown.

Map Series No. 6829-III BLANCHETOWN

Zone: 54H

AMG Coordinates: UG Easting: 726 Northing: 979

Council: TRURO

Tenure: E&WS

DESCRIPTION: Concrete and iron lock and weir construction spanning the width of the Murray. Hydraulic gates to open lock which fills and empties through gravity. Normal lift varies from 9ft to 12ft. Width of Lock chamber, 56ft. Length of lock chamber between centre of gates 307ft. Minimum depth on lock sills 6.6ft. At the 170 mile mark.

Assoc Features: Lock and weir system.

Integrity: Working, original hand winch replaced by hydraulics.

Public Access: PARTIALLY RESTRICTED

Threats: No immediate threats.

REFERENCES:

Documentary: Australian Heritage Engineering Record S693; SHB File 6829-10095; Dallwitz, J. & Marsden, S. 1984. Item ref no.12; Official Opening of the Simpson Newland Lock (No.6); Eaton, J.H.O. 1945.

Oral:

Pictorial: M&H Dept. Film 837, negs 11-14; E&WS, SRL.

Maps and Plans: M&H Dept. Drawing no's 17392/87 (1963), 5282/87 (1913), 3571/PH 27 (1910); Eaton, J.H.O. 1945, Fig 10.

Existing Survey: Dallwitz, J. & Marsden, S. 1984. Item ref no. 12.

SIGNIFICANCE: A resolution passed in 1863 at an intercolonial conference stating that "the commerce, population & wealth of Australia can be largely increased by rendering navigable and otherwise utilizing the great rivers of the interior, such as the Murray..." (Eaton, J.H.O., 1945: 8). After years of negotiation between Commonwealth and the three State Governments over the allocation of scarce water resources a 1915 River Murray Waters Act provided for the construction of a number of locks and barrages to harness the Murray. The Randell Lock completed in 1922 was the first of ten such locks along the river system. It was initially hoped to facilitate a flourishing river trade, but its main contribution was to irrigation and the prevention of flooding. This site is of historical significance as a major impact on the environment of the River Murray permanently changing the flow. The involvement of paddle steamers, dipper dredges, derricks and barges used to help its construction created a temporary boom period for these vessels.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Legislative: NOT REQUIRED

Conservation: NO INTERVENTION

Public Use: CONTROLLED

Interpretation: THIS SITE SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN AN INTERPRETIVE BOOKLET.

Other:

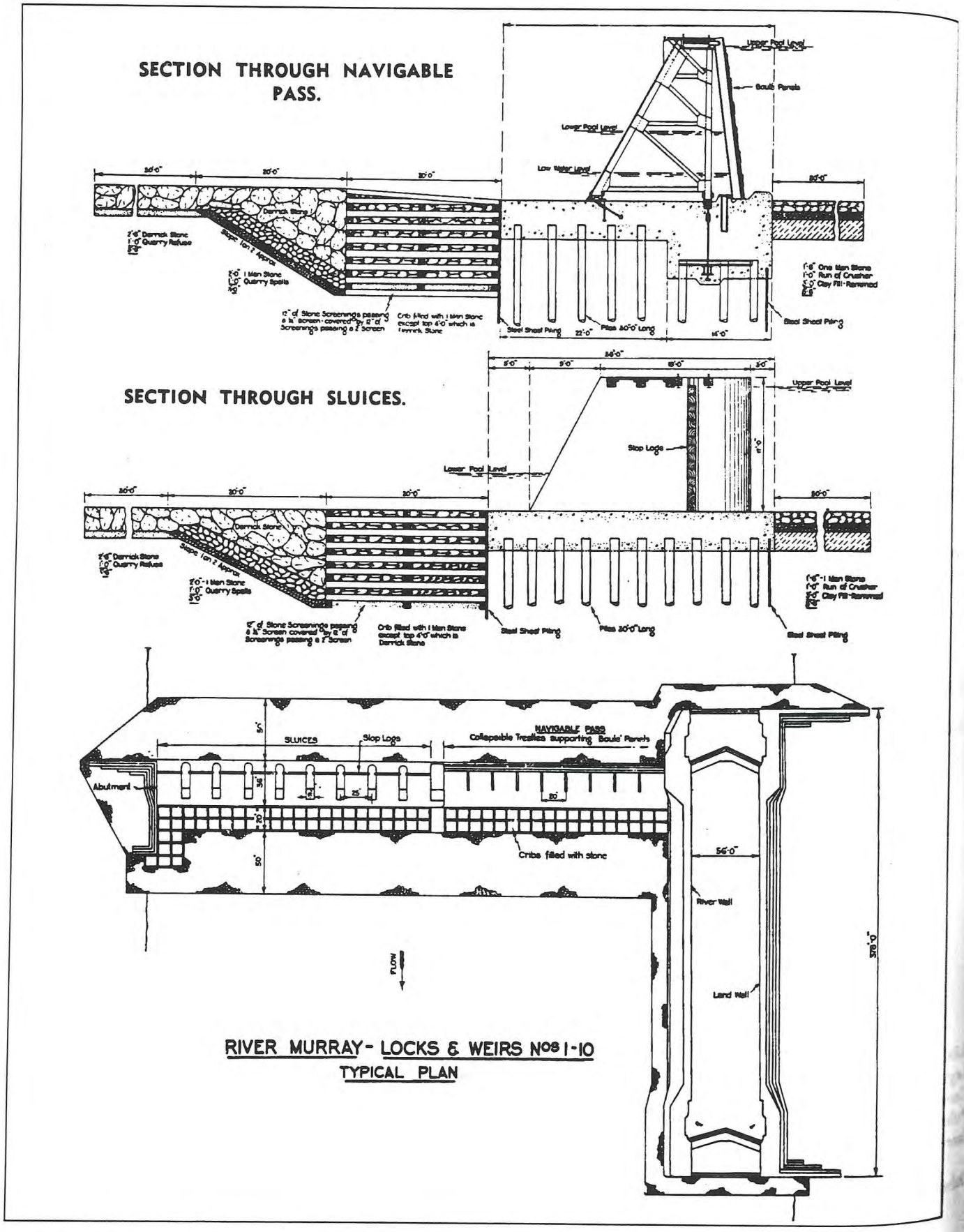

Figure 39 Plan of locks 1 - 10 (Eaton 1945, figure 10)

6829 - 10095

Acknowledge S.A.A.
S.A.A. B36187 Blandetown
"Blandetown lock under construction 1910s
Copied from view supplied by Mr. B Hocking, Prospect.

DONOVAN
(B&W) 546
S/S 18½ x 39½