

To: The South Australian Heritage Committee

From: Head, European Section, Heritage Conservation Branch

Subject: REGISTER NOMINATION:
"MOORUNDIE" RUINS - PORTEE STATION, BLANCHETOWN

Date: 6 December 1982

SUMMARY

This report has been prepared as a result of a public nomination of the site. While further archaeological work is required, it is believed that Eyre's House may be located on Section 32, and the village of Sturt (1841) may be located on Sections 33 & 34. The land is part of Portree Station, owned by River Murray Holdings Ltd. The village site has not yet been brought under the provisions of the Real Property Act because the survey plan and legal documents related to the sale of the land by Eyre have never been found. The site is in a deteriorating state.

Historically, Moorundie is significant because it represents the site of the first European settlement on the Murray in South Australia and was established as a Government Post to keep the peace between the natives and overlanding parties. Edward John Eyre was appointed Protector of Aborigines and Resident Magistrate, and between 1841-1844. The village of Sturt survived until 1856 when it was abandoned because of flooding.

Physically, the site is a pleasant river bank setting covered with mature River Red gums. Little remains of the original buildings other than low walls, footings, and collapsed ruins.

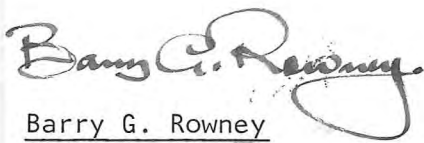
Environmentally, the site is part of the River Murray bank between Blanchetown and Swan Reach. The abundance of trees and lack of holiday shacks make this an important landmark in this broader context.

The Integrity of the site is poor, as natural and man-made elements have suffered due to the numerous floods. No man-made structure remains intact.

The site is identified in the Ngaiawang Folk Province Study.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Moorundie Ruins be placed on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized H1, H2, H3, 3.1.


Barry G. Rowney
LB:JD

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Historic Site						
	Item "MOORUNDIE" RUINS						
Age 1841-1856	Theme		Office 6829-10096				
Period 1837-1851	Subject CONTACT EXPLORATION & SURVEY SETTLEMENT - Early, and Transportation		Region 5 Murray Riverlands				
Site Type Ruin	Boundaries		Status				
<u>Qualitative Data</u>			<u>Grading</u>				
Component		Comment	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
<u>History</u>							
1. Context:		Associated with early transportation routes, Moorundie was established to ensure the safety of overlanding parties from the Eastern States and was the residence of Edward John Eyre, Protector of Aborigines and Resident Magistrate. The village of Sturt was the earliest Government township on the Murray and the predecessor of Blanchetown. Irrigation work at Moorundie was possibly the earliest irrigation work done on the Murray.	*				
2. Person/Group:		Edward John Eyre, Explorer, was appointed Resident Magistrate and Protector of Aborigines in 1841. He succeeded in establishing peaceful relations between the Aborigines and Europeans and based his book on the life and customs of the Aborigine upon his observations at Moorundie.	*				
3. Event:		1844 - Staging point for Sturt's exploring expedition. 1856 - Site abandoned because of continued flooding.		*			
<u>Physical Component</u>							
4. Natural Element:		River Red gums predominate on the relatively flat site, which is drained by two creeks.		*			
5. Man-Made Elements:		Scarred River Red gum used by Aborigines to manufacture a bark canoe, probably before Eyre's settlement. Two masonry ruins, believed to be Eyre's house and Police Station-Court-House complex remain, as well as remnants of contemporary dams from the 1920's irrigation scheme.	*				
6. Representation:		An important site embodying artefacts and items associated with Aborigines, an early European/Aboriginal contact site, and the ruins of one of the first provincial police stations and artificial irrigation sites. The site is also associated with explorers Sturt and J.M. Stuart	*				

T.P.S. 10091
 I.E.S./D4/211081

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80		Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Historic Sites				
Item		'MOORUNDIE' RUINS				
Component	Comment	Grading				
		E	VG	AG	FP	NA
<u>Environment</u>						
7. Local Character:	Part of a continuous River Murray bank between Blanchetown and Swan Reach.	*				
8. Landmark:	Lack of holiday shacks and abundance of trees makes this site an important landmark in the broader context.		*			
<u>Integrity</u>						
9. Alterations:	Site has been changed due to many floods. Man-made structures are all in a ruinous state.				*	
10. Condition:	Poor				*	
11. Compatibility:	Unused at present.				*	
<u>Supplementary Information</u>						
Adaptation:	Because of its importance to South Australia's history, the site should be retained for historical and archaeological research only, in particular the relevant stretch adjacent to the river bank. Shacks should under no circumstances be allowed to intrude on the site.					
Interpretation:	High interpretation potential for Aboriginal, early European transport, agriculture river trade. Its importance as an archaeological site should be recognised.					
Current Owner:	Current ownership of Sections 33 & 34 is uncertain. A Government Road separates Sections 33 & 34. Section 32 is owned by Bruce Laidlaw Thomson and Jajoh Nominees Pty. Ltd. as tenants in common.					
Evaluated By I. Iwanicki Reg. Historian		L. Brasse Reg. Architect		Date		
Reviewed By Mark A. Butcher Register Supervisor		Date				

HISTORICAL RESEARCH REPORT: MOORUNDIE,
MURRAY BRIDGE

Three miles south of Blanchetown, on the western bank of the Murray River, lies the site of Edward John Eyre's settlement, known as Moorundie or the Village of Sturt. Between 1841 and 1856 it served as an aboriginal post and town, before continued flooding caused the establishment of Blanchetown on higher ground upstream on section 45. Edward John Eyre, established himself there in 1841, following his appointment as Protector of Aborigines and Resident Magistrate by the new Governor Grey in an attempt to control the conflict between overlanders and aboriginal tribes along the Murray. Despite stringent economy measures imposed by the new Governor, he saw the necessity of erecting a post after the confrontation between aborigines and overlanders in the Rufus River region which resulted in the death of 4 Europeans.

The area had been discovered earlier, in June 1839, by Eyre, who delighted in the contrast between the arid interior and the land by the river. He wrote:

"In one place there was a perfect natural avenue formed by noble gums trees immediately on the bank parallel with its course, of a mile in length and about 30 yards wide - a lovely site for a house with a splendid view up the river and a little island in the centre covered with lofty trees crowning the view in the distance. The river itself was fully 200 yards wide, still and deep enough for a man-of-war to float. The lower part of the flat was intersected by some large lagoons of permanent water. Altogether, I was quite taken with the place on the River - the land and the trees were all enchanting".¹

Eyre applied for a special survey of 4,000 acres along the Murray with Osmond Gilles in the following month. The post, at a salary of £300, could not have come at a better time for the young explorer. Despite his profits from early overlanding trips, Eyre's fortune had evaporated after his epic journey around the Bight, largely financed from his own pocket. As Protector of Aborigines, he was able to live on the land he had selected, and so establish the first European settlement on the Murray in S.A. A detachment of the Royal Sappers & Miners, comprising a sergeant and 12 soldiers, were ordered to Moorundie in 1841, where they lived under canvas while stone barracks were built.²

In January, 1842, the following advertisement appeared in the press in Adelaide:

"The Government having now formed a permanent establishment upon the River Murray, a small village will be laid out, in allotments varying in size from half an acre to one acre, and immediately around the site upon which the government buildings are now erecting. The village will be named

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1. Cited in Dutton, G. "The Hero as Murderer" - Life of Edward John Eyre, Collins, Cheshire, 1967, p.66.
 2. G.R.G./24/6/E(1841) 367

Sturt, after the enterprising discoverer of the noble river upon which it is situated. Forty-one allotments only will be laid out, of which twenty-one have frontages to the River Murray. Parties wishing to purchase may do so on application to Mr. Neales Bentham, Government Auctioneer, Adelaide, where a plan of the village may be seen. The price of each allotment having water frontage will be £12 (twelve pounds), of the back allotments £8 (eight pounds). The purchaser of any allotment in the village will have the right of buying for every such allotment five acres of land for cultivation (without water frontage) in the alluvial flats of the river, upon the sections immediately contiguous to the village, at the upset price of £2 (two pounds) per acre, provided such right be claimed and exercised at the time of purchasing the village allotments. In the village are quartered a numerous detachment of the 96th Regiment, and a detachment of mounted police, under the direction of a resident magistrate. The Government are now erecting permanent stone barracks, and a commodious building for the police is almost completed. The population at present, including workmen and military, amount to forth-three. The village of Sturt is abundantly supplied with building materials of every description at a distance of only a few hundred yards, and the river abounds with fish and game. The most friendly relations subsist between the natives and the Europeans".

"N.B. - This advertisement will not be repeated, and as the number of allotments are very limited, early application is necessary. Purchasers to pay their own conveyances. Immediate possession of the lots can be given upon application to Mr. Eyre, at Moorundee, adjoining the village site". 3

Eyre sold several allotments in the village to various landholders, namely:

Her Majesty (lots 4, 5 & 6)	on 11.4.1843	
James Collins (lot 9)	on 14.6.1843	
Thos. Gilbert (lot 21)	on 1.10.1842	
C.L. Hawker (lots 17 & 49)	on 24.5.1843	
George Gax (lot 10)	on 17.12.1852	4.

The plan referred to in the advertisement no longer appears to exist. However, sketches by Frome dated 1842 of the village depict about 13 buildings, mostly timber lath and tents. J.G. Hawker's diary describes his life in the village, the construction of two houses by him, and walking from Eyre's house into the village, where the most substantial building was the stone barracks. 5 Eyre's house appears to be located on section 32, close to the patch of willow trees which have grown from the first willow planted by him. He also cultivated the land, constructing irrigation channels believed to be the first along the Murray. His ability to communicate with the aborigines and win their respect paid off. Clashes between the overlanders and aborigines ceased, and according to some people, there was little need to continue the post. 6 This view was not shared

3. R.G.S.S.A., Vol. 18, 1916-17, p.16.

4. R.G.S.S.A. Proceedings, Vol. 18, pp.16 & 17.

5. SAA, PRG. 208

6. F.S. Dutton: South Australia & Its Mines, Lond., 1846, pp.350-52

by Eyre, as his letter to the Governor and private correspondence to his friend, E.B. Scott, reveals. After taking leave of absence in 1844, Eyre sailed for England and W. Nation was appointed his successor. Two years later, the detachment was withdrawn as it appeared that apart from fishing and hunting, the members of the 96th Regiment had not a lot to do. The barracks building was appropriated as a police station. This comprised three rooms and lockup, and was located close to a stone jetty. 7

It was at or near the jetty that the cutter, the "Waterwitch" sank at her moorings on the 5th December, 1842. She had been purchased in 1839 by Gov. Gawler for the purposes of marine survey but following the arrival of Gov. Grey, the Commander of Colonial Marine & Marine Surveyors was sacked, and the Waterwitch left to rest at Moorunde, her survey of Murray Waters incomplete. The ship's role in the early history of the State is significant. She supplied Eyre's expeditions with provisions, and was the first ship to sail into the harbour where Port Pirie was later established.

In 1853, the then Protector of Aborigines, E.B. Scott, suggested the village be relocated to higher ground because of continued flooding. As a result, section 45 was set aside 'with a view to its forming the site of a new township' and Blanchetown came into existence. Moorundie was finally abandoned in 1856.

Because of its significance as the first settlement on the Murray, and its importance in the themes of early exploration, overlanding, aborigine/european relations, and irrigation, the site comprising Sections 32, 33 and 34 has high heritage status. Further archaeological investigation may yield more information on the layout of the village.

7. G.R.G.24/6/A1846/462

Sources

- F.S. Dutton: South Australia & Its Mines, Lond., 1846, pp.350-352
 G. Dutton: The Hero As Murderer - The Life of Edward John Eyre, Collins, 1967.
 E.J. Eyre: Manners & Customs of the Aborigines in Australia, Lond., 1853.
 E. Hodder: The History of S.A., Lond., 1893
 A. Kinloch: The Murray River Adel., 1853
 Government Gazette, June 24, 1844, p.145
 SAA C.S.O. Letters related to Moorundie, GRG 24/4 & GRG 24/6.
 C.T.O. & GR0. Searches
 Ngaiwang Folk Province Study
 S.A. Directories 1841-1856
 Soc. for Underwater Historical Research Inc: Report on the Waterwitch, 1981.
 R.G.S.S.A. Inc., Proceedings, 1917, Vol. 18.
 SAA: Letters from E.J. Eyre to E.B. Scott
 R.N. 257
 1362/24
 PRG. 177/1
 S.A. History Trust - Historical Pictures Subject Indec: Murray Riverlands.

MOORUNDIE

CHRONOLOGY

1839 Special Survey - E.J. Eyre.

Ten kilometres north of Moorundie is McBean Pound
- which was used for watering stock brought overland
from the eastern states.

By 1840 F. Dutton and Charles Bagot had taken up Koonunga Station
in the west, and Anlaby was started. Overlander Lachlan
McBean founded Roonka Station in the early 1840's.

1839-1841 Eyre went on several trips of exploration into the
interior of South Australia.

October, 1841 Eyre appointed Protector of the Aborigines.
The government took steps to establish Sturt Village,
and almost immediately a track was blazed across the
Murray Flats from what is now Truro to the River at
Moorundie. McBean Pound was superceded as a watering
point for the overlanders.

November, 1844 Eyre resigned as Special Magistrate and Protector of
Aborigines when he left the colony and returned to England.
His place was taken by W. Nation. A timber house erected
for Eyre was dismantled when he departed.

Subsequently E.B. Scott was appointed Inspector of Police
and Sub-Inspector of Aborigines. The garrison was withdrawn
some time before the town was abandoned in 1856.

1856 Buildings left standing were the soldiers' barracks,
a police station and two and three small houses.

REPORT ON MOORUNDIE (INTERIM)

INTRODUCTION

Moorundie, situated a few miles south of Blanchetown on Section 33 & 34 in the Hundred of Skurray, was the first settlement founded on the River Murray. It is unique in South Australia in its establishment in 1841 as a post to help keep the peace between the Aborigines and Europeans in the region.

Known also as Sturt at the time, the settlement was used by Edward John Eyre, the Protector of Aborigines and resident magistrate, as a base for contact and observation of the Aborigines. By the end of 1856, following the resignation of E.B. Scott who was Inspector of Police, Moorundie was abandoned. Little evidence remains today of the fifteen year old settlement.

Background

The explorer Edward John Eyre first saw the area in June 1839, when returning from a northern expedition to Mt. Arden, 30 miles N.E. of Pt. Augusta. Struck by the beauty of the River at this point he wrote:

"In one place there was a perfect natural avenue formed by noble gum trees immediately on the bank parallel with its course, of a mile in length and about 30 yards wide - a lovely site for a house with a splendid view up the river and a little island in the centre covered with lofty trees crowning the view in the distance. The river itself was fully 200 yards wide, still and deep enough for a man-of-war to float. The lower part of the flat was intersected by some large lagoons of permanent water. Altogether, I was quite taken with the place on the River - the land and the trees were all enchanting".¹

The young explorer and overlander joined with Osmond Gilles in applying for a special survey of 4,000 acres of Murray River land later in the same year.² Of this, 1,411 acres were assigned to Eyre. Following several further explorations and his epic journey to Fowler's Bay in 1840-41, Eyre found himself financially ruined, with no resources left from his successful overlanding expeditions to develop the Murray land.³

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1. Cited in Dutton, G: The Hero as Murderer - Life of Edward John Eyre, Collins, Cheshire, 1967, p.66.
 2. Proceedings, R.G.S.S.A., Vol. 17, p.27.
 3. Eyre also had an 80 acre section No. 118 south of the Sturt River, and at other times he had 27 acres in the Hundred of Younghusband, 2 sections of 80 acres in the Hundred of Finniss, 317 acres of Special Survey No. 39 on the River Murray, allotment 26 in the town of Gawler, 4 part-allotments in Glenelg and land at Pt. Lincoln.

The South Australian colony at the time was struggling, and Governor Grey who relieved his predecessor, Lieutenant Colonel George Gawler with strict instructions to cut expenditure, had assumed office in Adelaide on the 10th May 1841. Fears over the safety of overlanding parties from the Eastern States were current at the time, following skirmishes between Aborigines and Europeans in the Rufus River region. Despite economic stringencies, Governor Grey appointed Eyre as Protector of the Aborigines and Resident Magistrate at Moorundie in October 1841, at a salary of £300 per annum.⁴

A detachment of the Royal Sappers and Miners, comprising a sergeant and 12 soldiers were also ordered to Moorundie, where they lived under canvas while stone barracks were built.⁵

THE VILLAGE OF STURT (near Moorundee)

The following advertisement appeared in the South Australian Magazine's issue for Jan/Feb, 1842:

"The Government having now formed a permanent establishment upon the River Murray, a small village will be laid out, in allotments varying in size from half an acre to one acre, and immediately around the site upon which the government buildings are now erecting. The village will be named Sturt, after the enterprising discoverer of the noble river upon which it is situated. Forty-one allotments only will be laid out, of which twenty-one have frontages to the River Murray. Parties wishing to purchase may do so on application to Mr. Neales Bentham, Government Auctioneer, Adelaide, where a plan of the village may be seen. The price of each allotment having water frontage will be 12 (twelve pounds), of the back allotments £8 (eight pounds). The purchaser of any allotment in the village will have the right of buying for every such allotment five acres of land for cultivation (without water frontage) in the alluvial flats of the river, upon the sections immediately contiguous to the village, at the upset price of £2 (two pounds) per acre, provided such right be claimed and exercised at the time of purchasing the village allotments. In the village are quartered a numerous detachment of the 96th Regiment, and a detachment of mounted police, under the direction of a resident magistrate. The Government are now erecting permanent stone barracks, and a commodious building for the police is almost completed. The population at present, including workmen and military, amount to forty-three. The village of Sturt is abundantly supplied with building materials of every description at a distance of only a few hundred yards, and the river abounds with fish and game. The most friendly relations subsist between the natives and the Europeans".

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4. GRG 24/4/4/E120

5. GRG/24/6/E(1841) 367

6. Also RGSSA Vol. 18, 1916-17, p.16

Eyre sold several allotments in the village to various landholders, namely:

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George Gax (lot 10)	on 17.12.1852	7

Just how the village was laid out remains a mystery. The conveyances to the Crown were registered in the General Registry Office Books Nod. 129 and 130, but have never been located.⁸ No plan of the village of Sturt appears to have been deposited in the General Registry. Reference is made to a plan of the village drawn in the margin of an Indenture of Release between Eyre and Charles Lloyd Hawker, dated 25/5/1843, but the document in question has proved difficult to locate.⁹ To further confound the issue, letters between the Surveyor General, Lieut. Edward Charles Frome and the Governor in August 1844 mention the proposed survey of Murray land for Mr. Eyre, with Frome indicating that his northern expedition had prevented him carrying out the survey required by Eyre.¹⁰ Frome had visited Moorundie earlier and sketched the avenue of trees in 1840 and the settlement in 1842, the latter being the earliest record of the buildings that existed at the time. After Eyre left Moorundie in 1844 for England¹¹, he was succeeded by W. Nation as Resident Magistrate, although officially Eyre had leave-of-absence from the position until December, 1846.¹² So it appears that even on the eve of Eyre's departure, the necessary survey had not been carried out. As late as 1853, when Eyre's friend and companion, Edward Bates Scott, who had succeeded Nation in the position at Moorundie it appears that the village of Sturt had not officially come into reality. Bates, as a result of continued flooding of the area, suggested that the village be located on higher ground. The reply from the Chief Secretary's office is as follows:-

"I have the pleasure to inform you that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor approves of the suggestion made in your letter of the 2nd instant, and the Surveyor-General will accordingly be instructed to reserve Section No. 45, on the Murray from public sale, with a view to its forming the site for a new township.

S. O.K. Richardson ".¹³

What then, did exist at Moorundie? Frome's sketches show approximately 13 huts and cottages, along the banks of the River at Moorundie in 1842. The population according to the advertisement cited earlier amounted to 43 people including workmen and military personnel. The S.A. Directory of the same year however, lists one person other than Eyre in the area: namely Thomas Allen of Murray River, Sturt, located there.

7. Proceedings: Royal Geographical Society of S.A., Vol. 18, pp.16 & 17.
 8. G.R.O. Records
 9. G.R.O. Records
 10. S.A.A.: GRG/24/6/A (1844) 837 & GRG/24/6/H (1844) 143.
 11. Register Dec. 7, 1844 3B
 12. GRG/24/6 L (1846) 210 & GRG/24/6/N (1847) 97
 13. GRG/24/6/U/1853/3

In 1844, the Directory lists Eyre, Hawker, Scott and J.C. Williams at Moorundie.

Eyre built a house at the head of the avenue of trees he had earlier admired. He also cultivated the land, constructing irrigation channels believed to be the first along the Murray. His annual reports detail his activities over the period. In 1842 he travelled up the Murray to the Rufus River and around Lake Victoria, inviting natives back to Moorundie for handouts of flour and blankets. Eyre's reports show an appreciation of the aborigines' position, for example:-

"Kindness and conciliation, when backed with the presence of a force sufficient either to protect or punish will rarely, I think, if judiciously administered, fail of producing the desired results; the former the natives are at least entitled to expect from the hands of those who have so uncereemoniously taken possession of their country, the latter experience has proved to be necessary alike for the security of the settler and the protection of the natives".

In the same report he pointed out the injustice of the aborigines' inability to give evidence in a court of law.

"In declaring the natives British subjects and making them amenable to British laws, they have been placed in the anomalous position of being made amenable to laws of which they are quite ignorant and which at the same time do not afford to them the slightest redress from any injuries they may sustain at the hands of Europeans".¹⁴

His ability to communicate with the aborigines and win their respect paid off. The clashes between overlanders and aborigines ceased, and (according to some people) there was little need in the colony, to continue the post.

Ironically, Eyre's success in keeping the peace between the Europeans and Aborigines ensured that the initial population at Moorundie didn't increase. Military personnel were withdrawn when it became apparent that apart from fishing and general duties, the soldiers had little to do.

14. GRG/24/6/H (1844) 308 &

Dutton wrote in 1846:-

"Mr. Eyre has certainly succeeded in an eminent degree in effecting the object contemplated, as the whole length of the River Murray, from the great northern bend to the coast, is occupied at the present moment with sheep and cattle stations; and no single outrage of a fatal nature, has, since the establishment of that post, been committed by the natives; whilst at the same time a great moral control and influence has been obtained over the more distant and warlike tribes, who were either periodically visited in their own districts by Mr. Eyre, or used to come down to Moorunde to receive the meagre distribution of flour and blankets now and then allowed them by the government

If any additional proof were wanting that beneficial results have been effected, by the influence exercised by Mr. Eyre on the still powerful tribes on the upper part of the Murray, the Rufus, the Darling etc; it is shown by the friendly feeling evinced to Captain Sturt's party in passing safely through those same tribes, who only a few years ago were arrayed in deadly warfare against the white man whenever he ventured within the limits of their tribes". 15

By 1846, two years after Eyre had left for England, the detachment of the 96th Regiment had been withdrawn. The building occupied by them, one of the most substantial in Moorundie, was appropriated as a police station. A report on its condition made in 1846 describes it as comprising three rooms and lockup. 16. The northern room contained 3 windows of 20 panes, door, no ceiling and hearth. The centre room, with part of it partitioned off to form a lock-up, had a chimney place, two windows of twenty panes of glass each, a doorway and damaged plaster walls. The southern room, also without a ceiling and damaged plaster, had 3 windows of 20 panes of glass, fireplace and probably two doors. There was also a stone shingle roofed cook house with oven and fireplace. The stable, out of repair also, had broad paling roof shingles and lacked stalls, racks and mangers. John Eastwood, who made the report, points out co-incidentally that "The Stone Work of the Jetty in front of the building (is) much damaged with the High Flood".

It was at or near the jetty that the cutter "Waterwitch" sank at her moorings on the 5th December 1842. 17. She had been purchased in 1839 by the Governor of South Australia to be used as a survey ship. Governor Gawler had appointed W.J. Pullen as Commander of the Colonial Marine and Marine Surveyors in 1839. Assuming command of the "Waterwitch" Captain Pullen was instructed to carry out surveys for port development in the Encounter Bay area and River Murray mouth region to ascertain its navigability. The "Waterwitch" had also supplied Eyre's

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15. F.S. Dutton: South Australia and Its Mines, Lond. 1846, pp.350-52.
 16. GRG/24/6/A(1846) 462. 6/A. Also cookhouse and stables are described.
 17. CSO Docket 999/1842

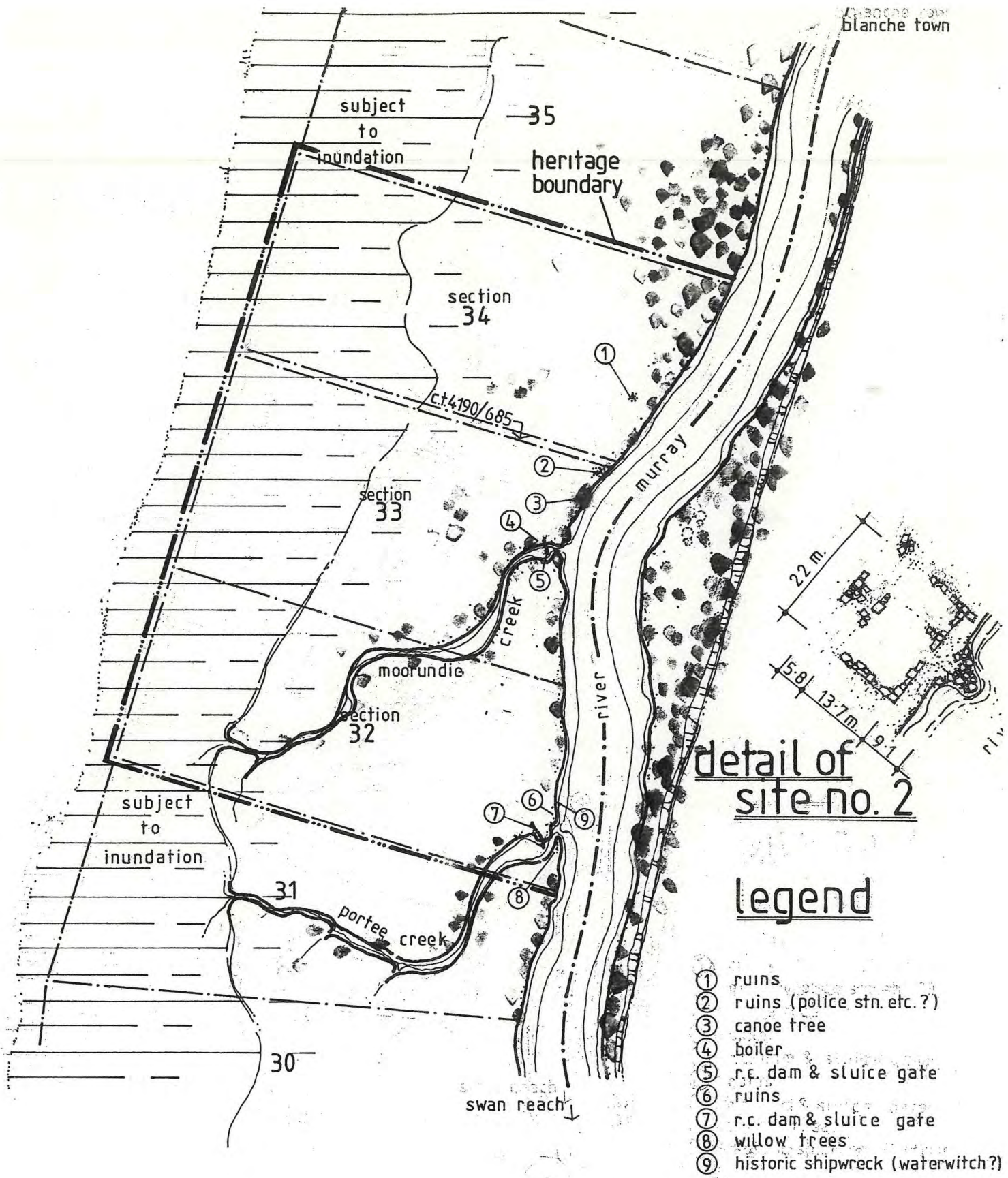
expedition of 1840 at various stages. A year before Eyre's appointment to Moorundie, Captain Pullen had entered the Murray with the intention of surveying and sounding the channels of the Murray as far as the North West bend. However, when Governor Grey arrived in the colony on the 10th May 1841 one of his first economy measures was to abolish the post of Marine Surveyor, resulting in Pullen's departure from South Australia and the mooring of the "Waterwitch" at Moorundie. So by a quirk of fate, the sinking of the "Waterwitch" was reported by Eyre, who had formerly received supplies from the ship during his explorations.

Despite the transience of the settlement, its significance in a number of themes, particularly early overlanding, european/aboriginal relations and exploration, is notable. It was the place of Eyre's first government position, and by most accounts, his happiest one. As the first settlement on the River Murray, it must rank highly as a site of significance. Only further site inspection can determine what evidence of the settlement remains, bearing in mind the temporary type of structures depicted in Frome's sketches and the fact that the main barracks/court house was located in front of the wharf, where the "Waterwitch" sank at her moorings in 1842.

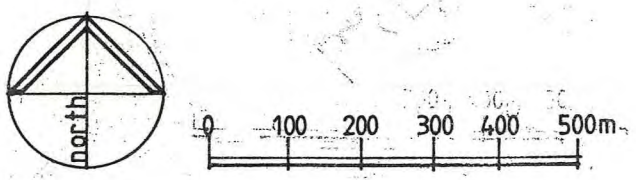
Iris Iwanicki
Register Historian
II:JD
27/10/82

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Register, October, 1841
Society for Underwater Historical Research Inc. - Report on the Waterwitch, 1981.



moorundie historical & archaeological site







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SAA
GRG 50/36

EYRE'S DEPARTURE FROM ADELAIDE,

BY GEORGE HAMILTON



SAA
GRG 50/36

EYRE'S DEPARTURE FROM ADELAIDE

BY GEORGE HAMILTON



Film
No

MOORUNDIE RUINS

6829-10096

Nov.
1982



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No.

MOORUNDIE RUINS.

6829-10096

NOV '82



Film No.

MOORUNDIE RUINS

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Nov
1982

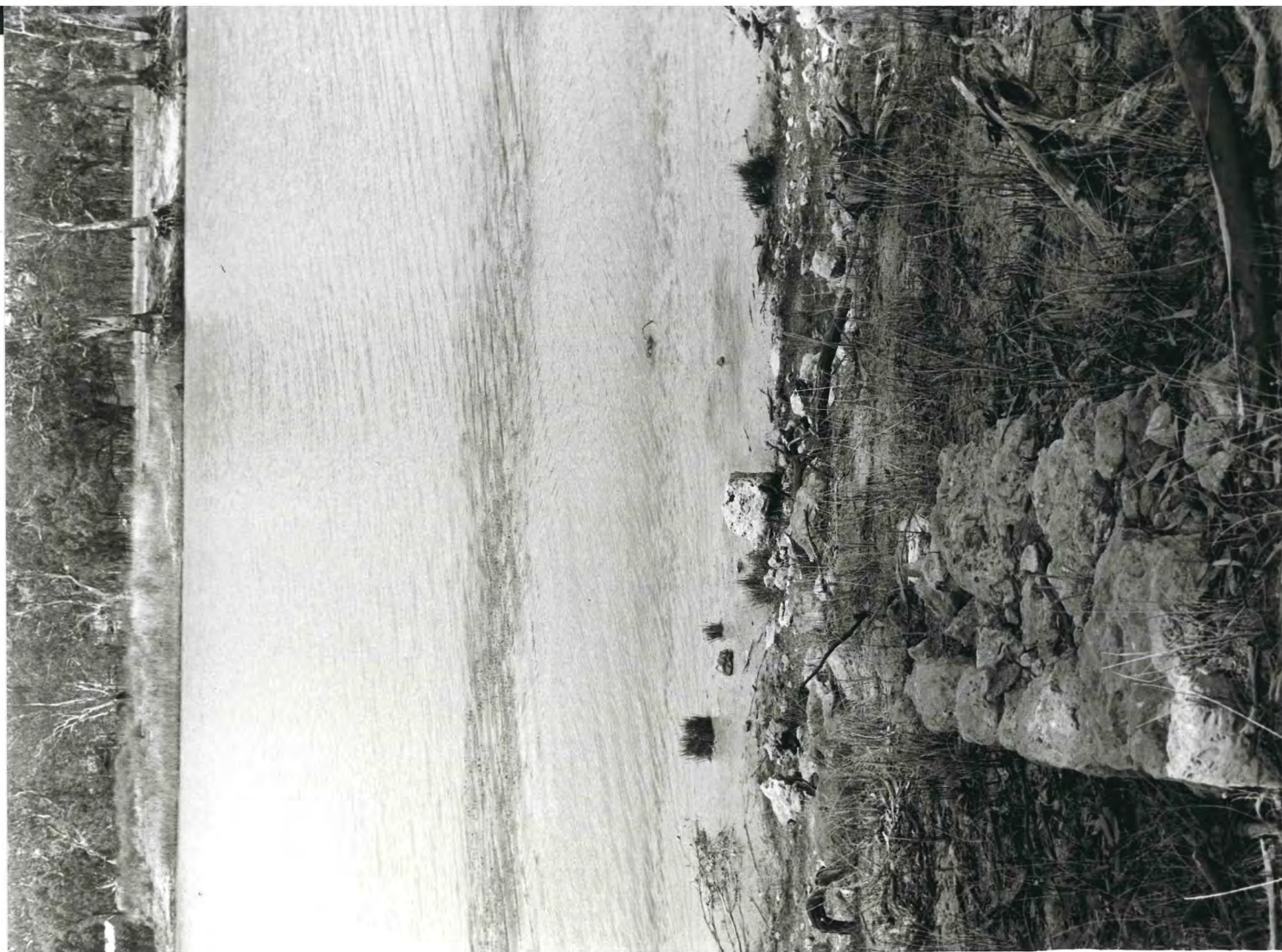


Film
No.

MOORUNDIE RUINS

6829-10096

Nov
1982



Film
No.

MOORUNDIE RUINS

6829-10096

Nov
1982



Film
No.

MOORUNDIE RUINS

6829-10096

Nov
1982



FILM 356
NO 5

HOUSE AND COURT ROOM (N.D.)
(IS IN MUCH BETTER STATE THAN A
1915-16 PHOTO OF THE SAME RUINS-
S.A.A. B11559)
S.A. ARCHIVES B 6017

MOORUNDIE
D.C. TRURO
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