

To: The South Australian Heritage Committee

From: Senior Historical Architect

Subject: REGISTER NOMINATION -
COURTHOUSE, LAURA

Date: 14 April 1982

Summary

This report has been prepared as part of the Heritage Conservation Branch's programme of evaluating National Estate items for possible inclusion on the Register of State Heritage Items.

Historically, the Courthouse is an important link in the development of northern provincial Courthouses which, in turn, reflected the Victorian attitudes of law and order.

Architecturally, the Courthouse is a good example of a classically influenced provincial courthouse which emerged from the Architect-in-Chief's Department.

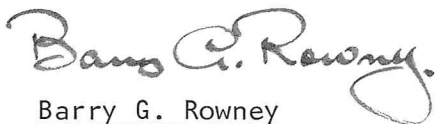
Environmentally, the Courthouse is a well-known historical and visual landmark. It is an important element within Hughes Street, which has long been Laura's cultural and administrative centre.

The Integrity of the Courthouse is reasonable with the exterior intact and the interior somewhat altered.

The Courthouse in Laura is Classified by the National Trust and listed on the National Estate Register.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Laura Courthouse be included on the Register of State Heritage Items and that it be categorized A2, A3, H3.


Barry G. Rowney

LB:JD

HISTORICAL RESEARCH: COURT HOUSE - LAURA

Laura is situated approximately thirty kilometres east of Port Pirie within the Hundred of Booyoolie. It was surveyed in 1871 as part of the northern agricultural expansion with "Laura Blocks" being offered for auction in August 1872.

By the end of March of that year, every section adjacent to the town had been selected and Laura soon emerged as an important service and industrial centre so that within two years, blacksmith shops, implement manufactories, a flour mill and a Brewery had been established there. In 1873 John Scott was granted his license to open the "Laura Hotel".

The same year also saw the arrival of Trooper Michael Hurley as the town's first "visiting police officer", to restore law and order. Laura's "permanent" police cells were soon erected in 1875, followed by the police station/residence around 1877 and a Court House in 1878.

Laura's Court House represents an expansion of the central judicial system and is part of the northern circuit for the Supreme Court, a system which had already been provided to the South East since 1862. It is one of a number of similarly designed free standing (as opposed to physically linked with a police station), courthouses, where diversity was often achieved by varying the classical ornamentation to the front porch and facade.

Sources: S.A. Archives - GRG 38/15/1

Laura Days - Laura Centenary Publication 1972

Lothar Brasse
Consultant Architect

LB:BAH

South Australian Heritage A 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures Item COURTHOUSE - LAURA						
Age 1878	Theme		Office 6531-10151				
Period 1852-1883	Subject Public Administration - Legal and Judicial		Region Upper North				
Building Type Courthouse	Style Mid Victorian		Status N.Tr. (CL) N.E.R.				
<u>Qualitative Data</u>			Grading				
Component		Comment	F	VG	AG	FP	NA
<u>History</u>							
1. Context:		Associated with the early development of Laura and provincial courthouses.		*			
2. Person/Group		Not yet established.					*
3. Event:		Not yet established.					*
<u>Architecture/Engineering</u>							
4. Architect		Architect-in-Chief's Department. E.J. Woods - Chief Architect		*			
5. Design:		Relatively simple and standard Courthouse design with classical facade decorations, main tall building with entry porch, corners and windows picket out in painted render, brackets to roof.			*		
6. Construction:		Good example of squared and pick faced masonry construction, rendered corners and openings, corrugated iron hip roof.			*		
7. Interior:		Relatively plain interior. Original fittings have been removed and track-lighting installed.				*	
8. Representation:		Good example of a provincial Courthouse of which a number survive.			*		
<u>Environment</u>							
9. Continuity:		Of importance in establishing the dominant historical and architectural character of the area.	*				
10. Local Character:		One of the earliest administrative buildings to remain in Laura. It may be taken as a symbol for law and order in the town and region.	*				
11. Landmark:		A well-known building and symbol for law and order in the town and region.	*				

I.E.S./D3/211081

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures																														
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<u>Supplementary Information</u> <p>Adaptation: The Courthouse has potential for adaptation due to its large open space. The front facade should be left intact.</p> <p>Interpretation: The building has excellent interpretation potential for South Australia's legal and/or local history.</p> <p>Current Situation: The building is presently used by the Rocky River Historical Association and operated as an Art Gallery. It is under no known threat.</p>																															
Evaluated By	Lothar Brasse	Date																													
Reviewed By	Ivar Nelsen	Date																													
South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization		Date																													

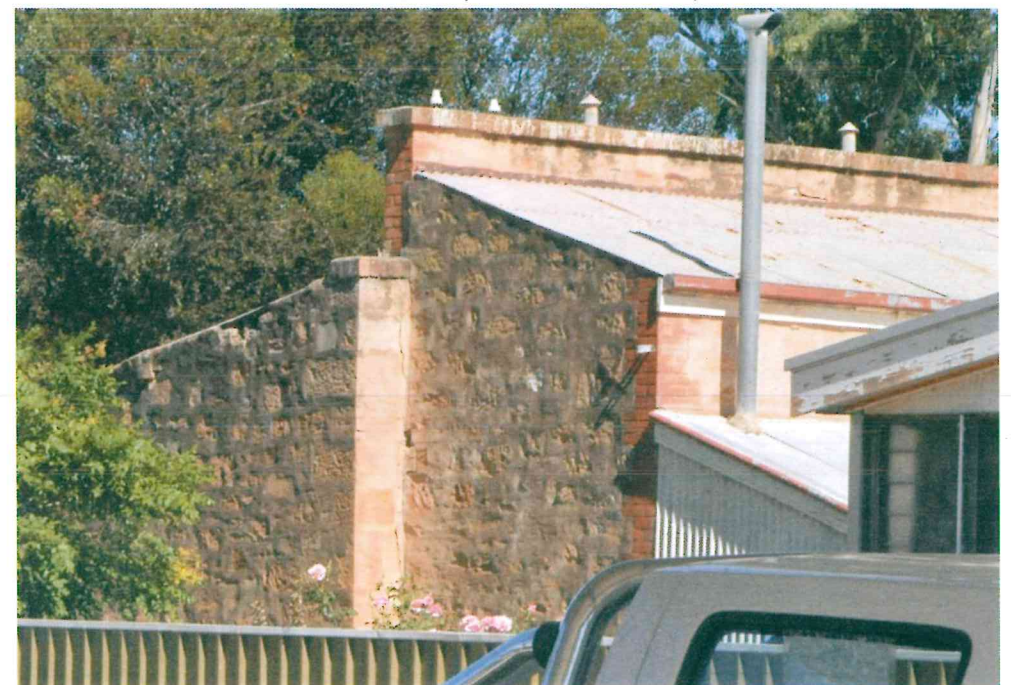
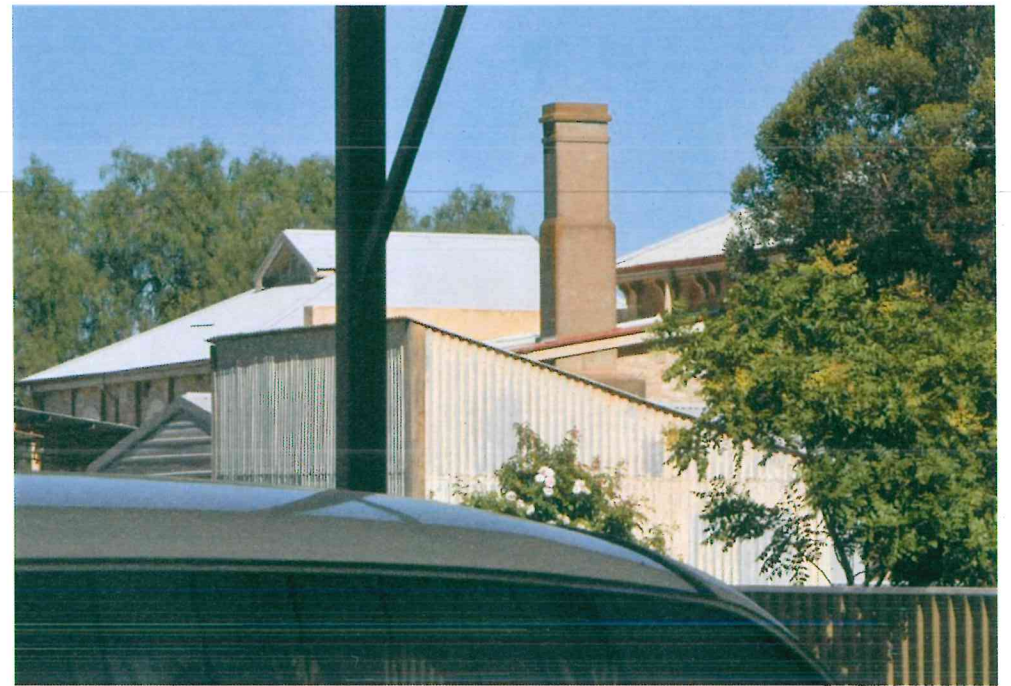
District Council of Laura

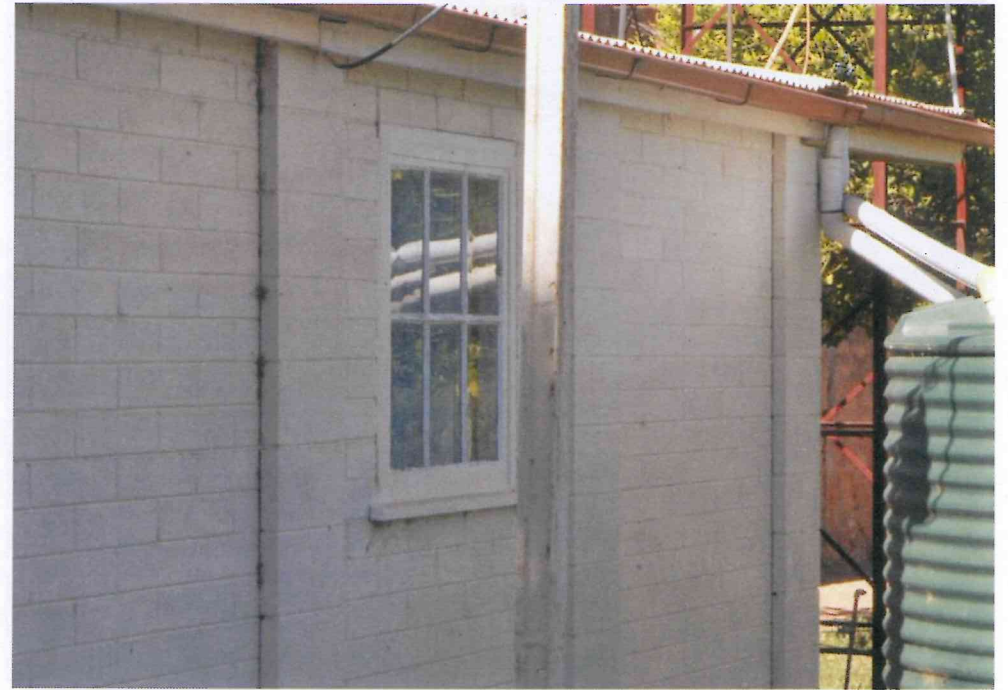
Courthouse

Hughes Street, Laura 5480.
Allotment 112. National Trust
Reserve. Government Gazette
27.11.1969. Hundred of Booyoolie.



28/12/09 PM

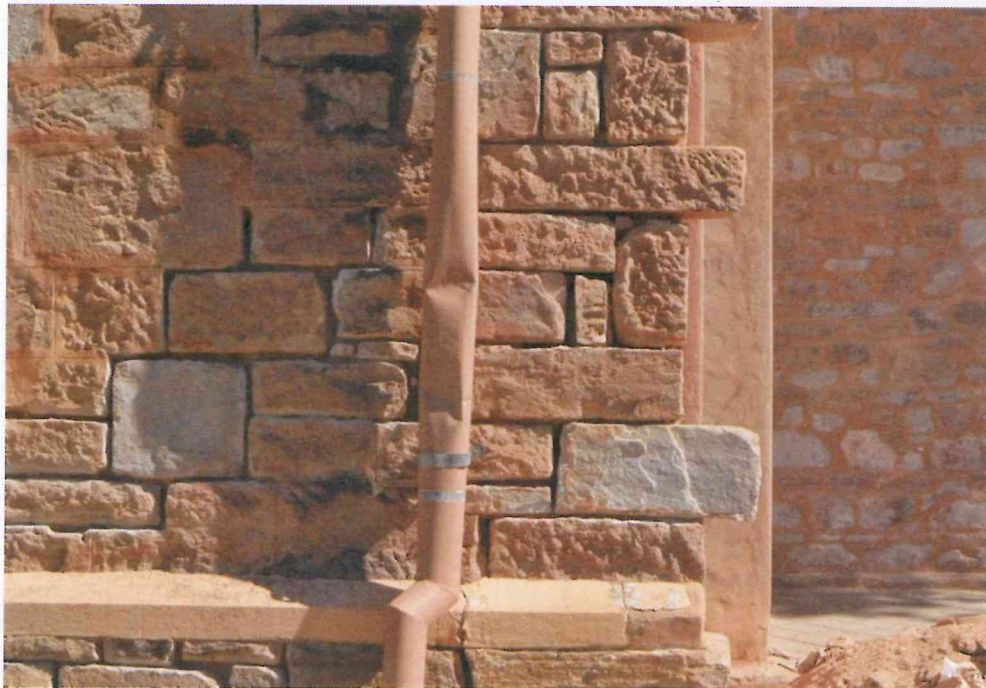
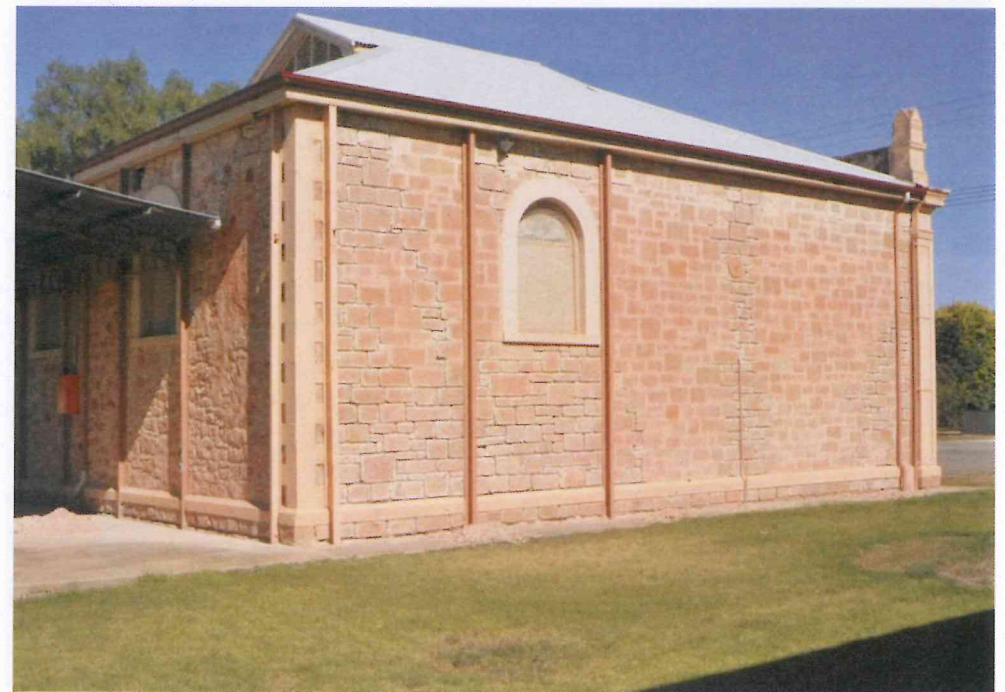


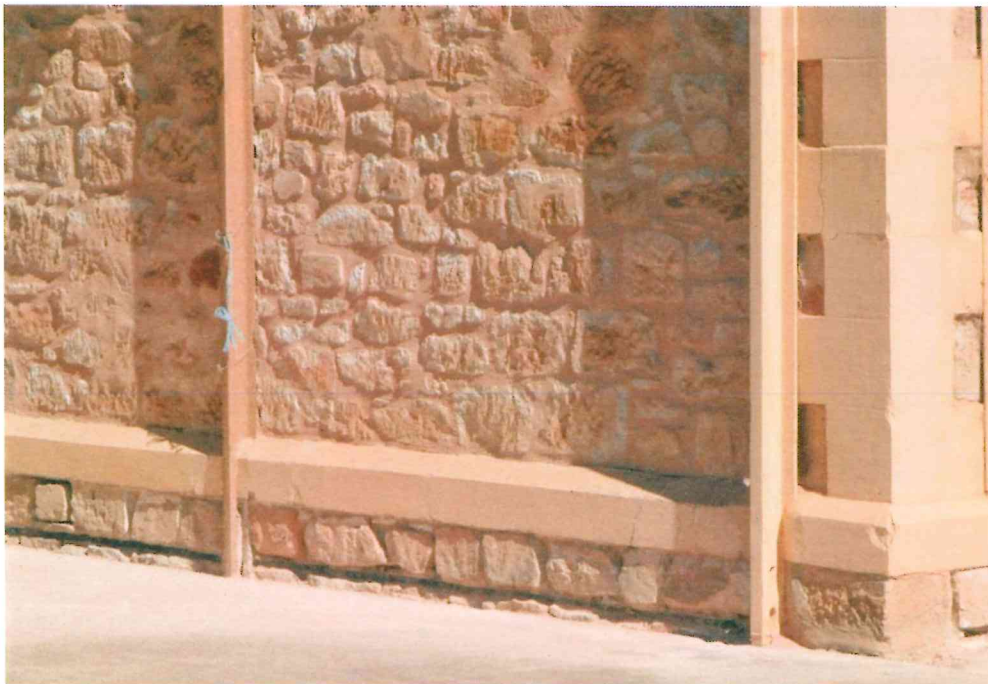
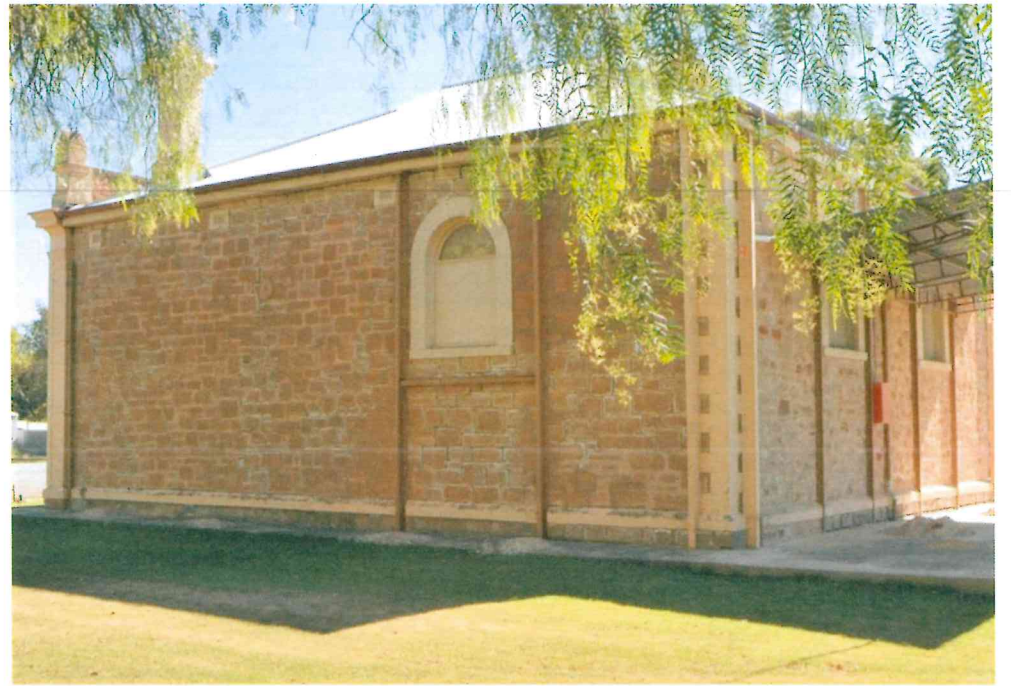


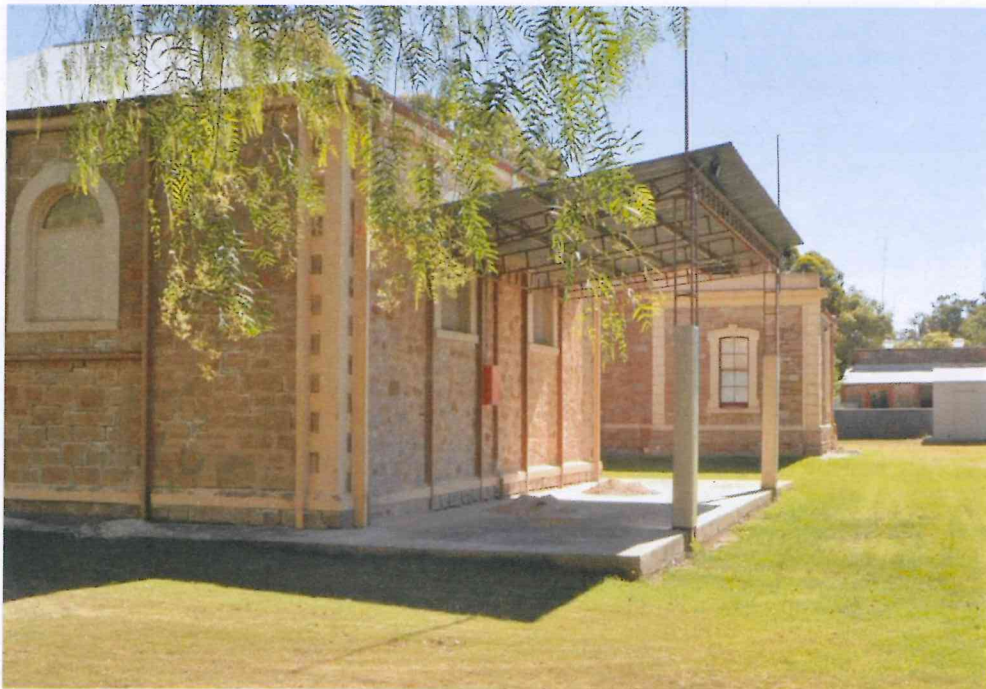














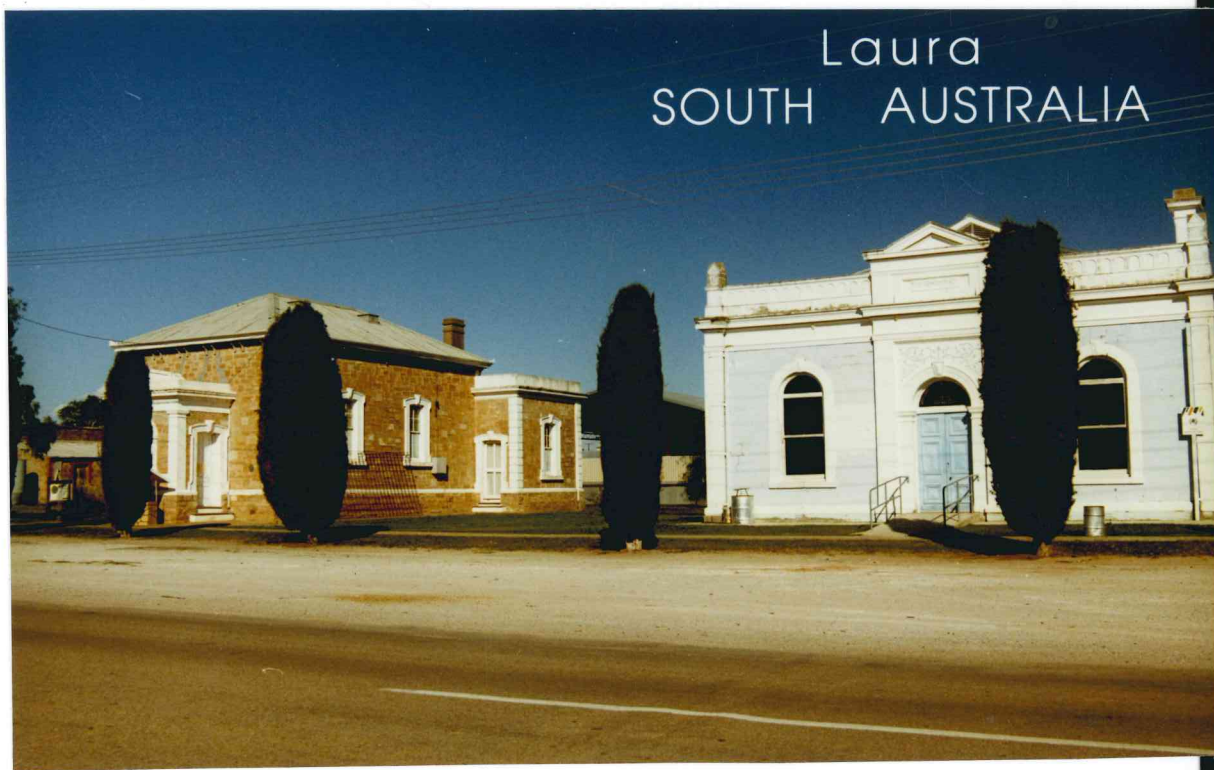




FILM 37
NO 1

FORMER COURT HOUSE

LAURA
8-2-79



Laura
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



4/7/91



4/7/91



4/7/91



4/7/91



4/7/91



4/7/91

PHOTO-RAPK
GLADE IN
AUSTRALIA

ALBOX
AUSTRALIA



PHOTOGRAPHY
BY BRIAN
ALBERTS



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4/7/91



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