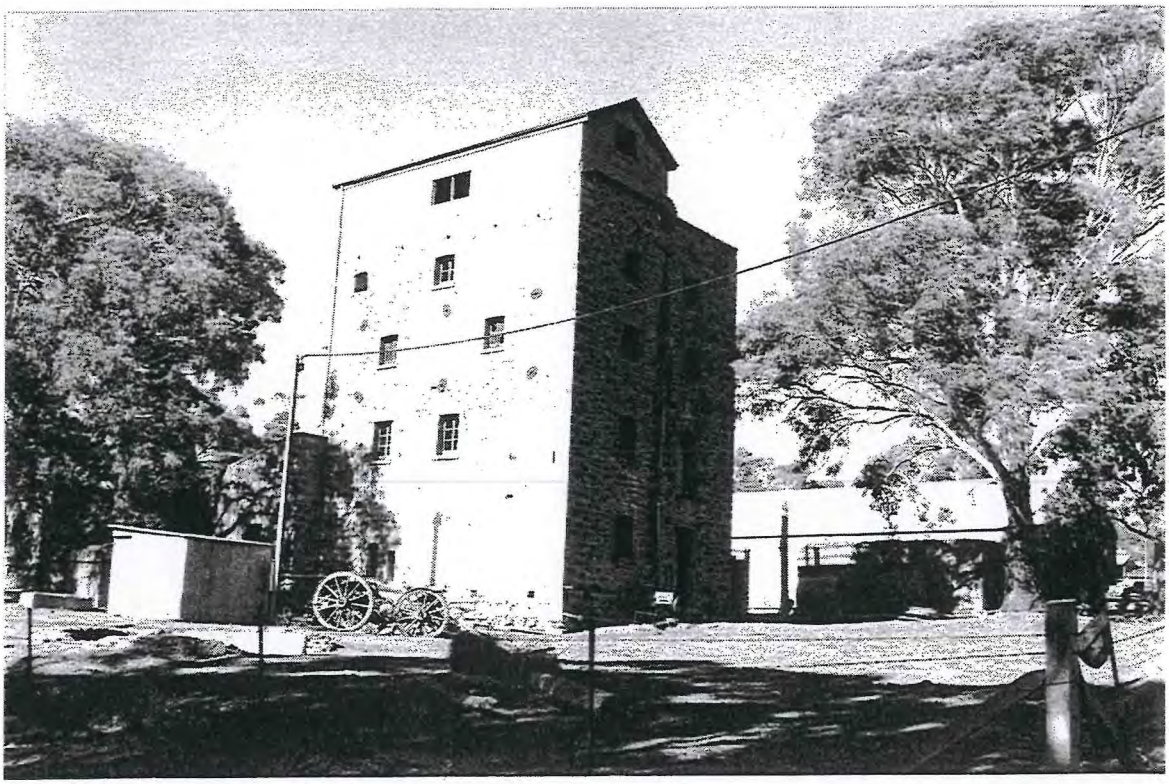
FORMER JACKA'S BREWERY AND YARD WALLS MEL:002

Place Name and Address: *Former Jacka's Brewery and Yard Walls, Mount Street, Melrose

LOCATION:	Mount Street, Melrose South Australia 5421
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	District Council of Mount Remarkable
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Part Lot 20, Hd Wongyarra, CT 1925/47
OWNER:	Mr GF and Mrs DM Slee PO Box 47, Melrose South Australia 5843
REGISTER STATUS:	Registered 23 September 1982
Heritage South Australia File No.:	10178
PHOTOGRAPH:	FP 19 - 29



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DESCRIPTION

Only two main buildings and some yard walls remain of this brewery complex. The largest building is a four storey stone with brick quoins malting tower. Close to it, but separated by yard walls lies another large building, the cellars, a single storeyed stone and brick building with a gabled roof. The tall chimney and lightweight structures that once linked the complex have been removed.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

A fine complex of nineteenth century buildings, Jacka's Brewery was created from a former flour mill in 1893. The brewery is of significance as the site of an important nineteenth century business and reveals the nature and significance of Melrose at the time as well as illustrating a large brewing complex of the nineteenth century.

HISTORY

In 1876, the Jacka Brothers, William J. and Joseph Jacka, arrived in Melrose and established a brewery. It seems likely that they learnt the trade from their father, William Jacka, a stove manufacturer/baker of Auburn. The Brothers first building was in Lambert Street and their first beer was brewed from these premises in January 1877. The partnership dissolved in 1885 and William went to Sydney. Joseph remained in Melrose and his business increased to such an extent that in 1893, he purchased TB Marshall's flour mill and converted it into a brewery.

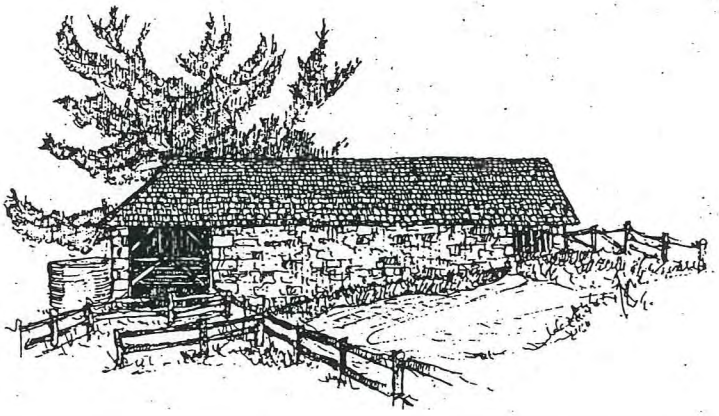
Jacka's Brothers ales and stouts were well known and were drunk as far away as Broken Hill, partly because of their quality (William was known to be skilled brewer) and also because of the delivery network that existed. Jacka's delivered their products to the northern hotels with teams of horses pulling wagons. The business reached its peak from 1900 to 1910, at a time when Joseph's son William was in charge.

William left the business in 1917 and it began to decline. In 1924 the building was damaged by fire and the timber floors replaced with concrete. The brewery finally closed in 1934. Because of the shortage of building materials, the chimney was demolished and the bricks re-used in the town.

REFERENCES:

Heritage South Australia File 10178
Moore, A, Breweries of South Australia, 1836-1936, University of Adelaide, 1981.

Australia's Heritage Sketchbook



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1976

Jacka's Brewery Building

Melrose

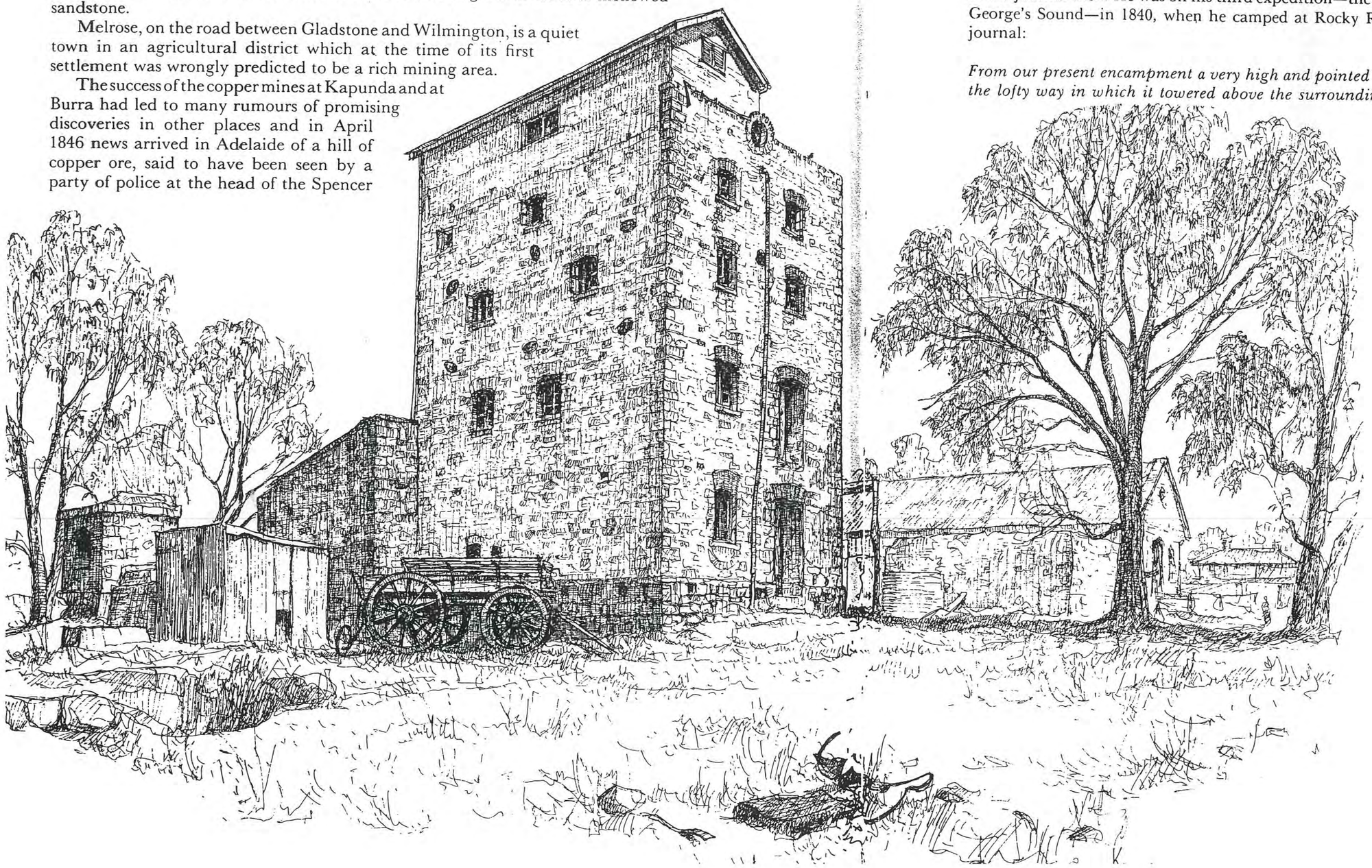
Jacka's Brewery, in the quiet little town of Melrose which nestles at the foot of Mount Remarkable, was established by W.J. Jacka and Joseph Henry Jacka in 1876. This lovely stone building, of impressive proportions, was constructed on a site in Lambert Street. The first beer was brewed on 3 January 1877 and the brewery continued in operation until 1934. Now closed down, the hundred-year-old building makes a colourful picture and a painter's dream, with its tall walls radiating countless shades from yellow to burnt orange in the hot sun. Windows bang open and closed in the faint breeze, while birds swoop to their nests in the base of a once-tall chimney, and a delightful old cart stands outside bleaching in the sun. The limitations of black and white do not do justice to the scene, for it really cries out to be recorded by the paint brush. The small sketch shows the old cellars, which are situated to the right of the brewery and are part and parcel of the scene's enchantment of colour, adding warm tones of mellowed sandstone.

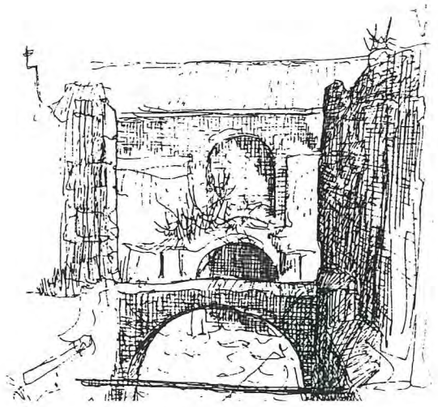
Melrose, on the road between Gladstone and Wilmington, is a quiet town in an agricultural district which at the time of its first settlement was wrongly predicted to be a rich mining area.

The success of the copper mines at Kapunda and at Burra had led to many rumours of promising discoveries in other places and in April 1846 news arrived in Adelaide of a hill of copper ore, said to have been seen by a party of police at the head of the Spencer ore, said to have been seen by a party of police at the head of the Spencer Gulf. Prospectors who were sent to the spot reported a few days later that the supposed mountain of copper had proved to be a 'mountain green, accumulated in masses'. Twenty thousand acres in the vicinity of Mount Remarkable were taken over by the Mount Remarkable Mining Company which was formed in 1846. The company's mining operations were unsuccessful, for although sulphate of copper was plentiful enough on the property, no productive lodes could be found.

Mount Remarkable, oddly enough, was not named until Edward John Eyre passed nearby in 1840 and named it. It is hard to imagine why Matthew Flinders, who noted a chain of rugged mountains at the head of Spencer Gulf in 1802, did not especially note it. Eyre passed by its western flank in 1839 during his first expedition into the interior of South Australia. but did not mention it in his journal then. He was on his third expedition—the most famous one, which took him to King George's Sound—in 1840, when he camped at Rocky River and made the following entry in his journal:

From our present encampment a very high and pointed hill was visable to the N.N.W. This, from the lofty way in which it towered above the surrounding hills, I named Mount Remarkable.





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JACKA'S BREWERY FROM THE SOUTH WEST

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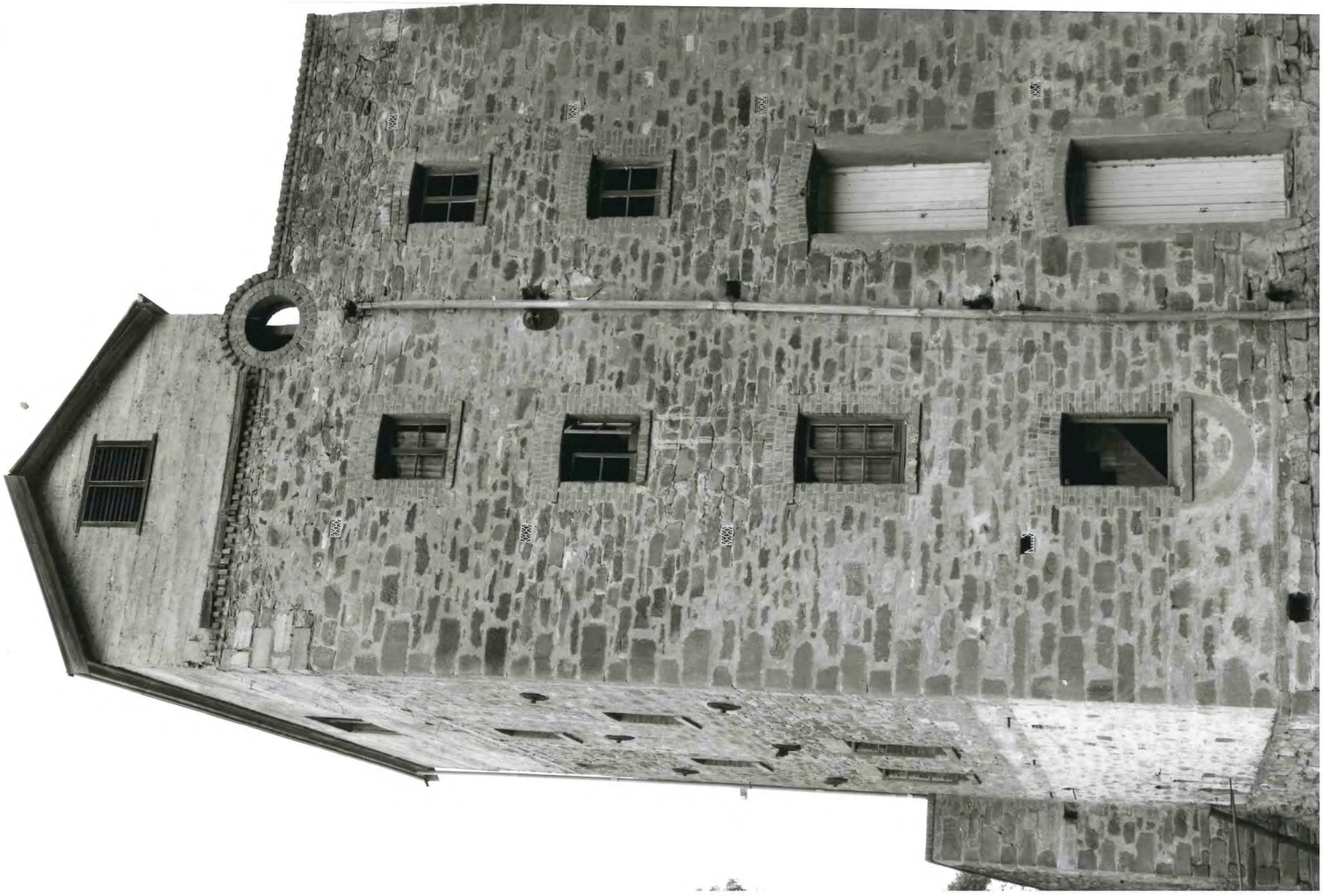
FILM 88
NO 1

JACKA'S BREWERY FROM NORTH WEST

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