

Lake Hamilton Eating House  
Lincoln Highway, Lake Hamilton.

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#### HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, Lake Hamilton Eating House is an important link with the early postal and coaching history of South Australia, as well as playing an important role in the settlement of Eyre Peninsula.

Architecturally the building is typical of country architecture of small scale crude yet solid construction. Its use, a rare example of its kind, is to some extent exemplified by the flagged floor.

Environmentally the item is an important visual and historical landmark set within a rural landscape..

The Integrity of the item is fair. It should be noted, however, that some restoration work has been carried out.

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#### NOMINATION SOURCE/THREAT/OWNER

This report has been prepared in response to the Branch's continuing programme of evaluating National Estate Items. It is presently owned by Mr. W.G. Nosworthy and maintained by them as well as the Port Lincoln Caledonian Society.

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#### HERITAGE CONSERVATION BRANCH RECOMMENDATION:

..... *B. C. Rawling* .....  
Manager

It is recommended that this item be included/~~not be included~~ on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized A3, H3.

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#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

.....  
Chairman

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6028-10216
	Item Lake Hamilton Eating House	Status NTr. ce N.E.R.
Age 1860s?	Subject COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORTATION	Style

## Qualitative Data

## Grading

History		E	VG	AG	FP	NA
1. Context	Associated with the early Mail and passenger run in general and specifically with the Port Lincoln and Streaky Bay run. Also associated with the settlement and pastoralism on Eyre Peninsula.		*			
2. Person/Group	Associated with Price Maurice, a well known pioneer pastoralist on Eyre Peninsula.			*		
3. Event	Not yet established					*
Architecture						
4. Architect/Builder	Not yet established					*
5. Design	Simple plan with roof main rooms under the hipped roof. Two lean-to rooms at rear. Front facade typical of that period with central door flanked by two windows.			*		
6. Construction	Masonry wall construction with roughly hewn roof rafters			*		
7. Interior	Plain and simple interior with flagged floors.			*		
8. Representation	A rare example of this building type in the South Australian context.	*				
Environment						
9. Continuity	Continues the rural character of the area.			*		
10. Local Character	With nearby Lake Hamilton Homestead, forms an important visual farm group in a rural setting.		*			
11. Landmark	An important visual and historical landmark along the Flinders Highway.	*				
Integrity						
12. Alterations	Has recently been sympathetically restored - no recent or obtrusive addition visible. Plastic fireplace apron should be removed.			*		
13. Condition	In good structural condition.		*			
14. Compatibility	Presently used as a Museum.				*	



South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No.
	Item LAKE HAMILTON EATING HOUSE & KITCHEN RUINS LINCOLN HIGHWAY, LAKE HAMILTON	Prepared By: Lothar Brasse

### Supplementary Information

Adaptation: Has little adaptation potential due to its small scale and plan.  
Adjoining ruin should be stabilized.

Interpretation: Presently used as a local museum. Signage and display of artefacts  
is ad hoc and professional advice is desirable.

### History and Sources

During the early pastoral history of Eyre Peninsula, one of the most prominent pastoralists was Price Maurice. For about three decades after taking out his first lease there in 1851, Price Maurice owned numerous land leases which formed one continuous run from Lake Newland, north of Elliston to Lake Wangary, around the Coffin Bay district - a total of around 700 square miles. <sup>1</sup>

Lake Hamilton run was leased to Price Maurice between July 1851 and October 1884 and under the management of G. Wollaston, became Maurice's head station there.

The Eating House was part of a resting station for the weary travellers en route the Port Lincoln to Streaky Bay road. Apart from the kitchen building to the south and a toilet, stables and wells were located across the road, nearer the Lake.

Granny Rowan was the last person to run the Eating House. She was reputed to brew home made ale, "to which she added a generous sprinkling of salt, cultivating, it was claimed, a long and ardent thirst".

When the township of Sheringa was established further north she transferred her business there, leaving the Eating House to the itinerant rabbiters and roadworkers. Of all the buildings which once comprised the stopping station, the toilet and Eating House have been faithfully restored by local historian Perce Baillie, and since June 1973 has become a local museum.

Although it has been claimed that the eating house was constructed "some time before 1857", the evidence seems hearsay. A more likely year of construction would be 1862, when the Port Lincoln to Streaky Bay mail run was opened on the first of October. <sup>2</sup>

Two cottages and two wells appear on the first survey plan when the Hundred of Kiana was proclaimed in September 1879.

1. Withdrawn Pastoral Plan 24/27, 1860-1871, S.A. Department of Lands.
2. South Australian Government Gazette, 1863, p.789.

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### History and Sources

Interview with Mr. Perce Baillie, Port Lincoln.

Brochure prepared on Lake Hamilton Eating House for the opening day, June 3, 1973.

Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia, Vols. 1 & 2, R. Cockburn, 197?

Historical Notes 1324/123 Sheringa, Lake Hamilton and Kappawanta Ruins.

Department of Lands



Vol 1,



PRICE MAURICE

FROM the beginning to the end Price Maurice was a pastoralist, and nothing but a pastoralist. "One man one job" had in him a practical exemplar; he always kept the one objective in sight, and nothing could sidetrack him along the journey. Wherever his name appears in the early records of the colony it is invariably in association with livestock and broad acres. This single-minded purpose of his useful life is all the more remarkable in view of the discouragements that he suffered in common with many other occupants of the inside country during the period with which we are dealing. In following up the stream of his pastoral achievements one is struck by the persistence with which he bumped against the "move on" law,

that aimed at the resumption of big estates in the favored latitudes in order to facilitate the expansion of agricultural operations. But whatever happened Price Maurice always found elbow room and plenty of scope for the bucolic dash that was in his blood.

Mr. Maurice was born in Wrexham, England, and was destined for the dominions. He was offered a commission in the East India Company's service, but declined it, and arrived in South Australia when 22 years old in the "Caleb Angas," on August 9, 1840, with the fixed purpose of devoting his energies entirely to pastoral pursuits. No amount of research yields anything with regard to the first years of his life in the land of his adoption, but Loyau records that he began in a small way in 1843 or 1844, and the

story of the Bowman family includes a passing reference to the fact that "Price Maurice took up land at the head of the Gilbert, around what is now Manoora." He evinced a special preference for leaseholds, and eventually acquired the Pekina and Oladdie runs, comprising 671 square miles, on which the greatest number of sheep and lambs shorn in one year was 118,000, yielding 2,003 bales of wool. Perhaps Pekina, in the Booleroo district, was the most famous of all his properties. Its genesis is thus described by J. W. Bull in "Early Experiences of Life in South Australia":—"Mr. John Chambers and his brother William passed northwards to look for runs, and they found Pekina, which they took up. They then engaged Mr. Holland to go to New South Wales to purchase a herd of cattle, which,



## PRICE MAURICE.

on arrival, were placed on Pekina run. No rain having fallen in that locality for 17 months, it was feared the failing waters would not hold out, and the cattle were removed to a run on the River Murray, in Lake Bonney district, while the lease of Pekina was sold to Mr. Price Maurice for a small sum. This run, in Mr. Maurice's possession, afterwards turned out one of the most profitable sheep runs in the province, until it was resumed by the Government." Pekina had an area of 320 square miles, with a grazing capacity of 43,200 sheep. The old rental and assessment were fixed at £520, and Goyder's valuation was £2,000 per annum, deducting improvements valued at £5,968. Mr. Maurice's head station was on the Pekina run, and associated with it were the Appila, Booleroo, Walloway, Mucra, Tulubra, Wepowie, and Tarcowie Stations, held under different leases, on the whole of which, at the time of valuation, were 50,000 sheep, 130 head of cattle, and 70 horses. A description of this country, written before the scrub clearer and the plough pushed in, says that it was "tolerably well grassed, with ferns, bushes, and a little saltbush, and spinifex hills and plains with oak, wattle and mallee." It would be difficult of identity from that picture to-day.

The Port Lincoln or Western pastoral district had also claimed Mr. Maurice's attention, but with shrewd limitations. In 1858 Mr. W. R. Swan, who was general manager of the Pekina and Port Lincoln runs, made up his mind, according to the history of the pastoral industry published by the "Garden and Field," to have a look at the country due north of Fowler's Bay, described by Edward John Eyre in the report of his famous 1840 journey as consisting in part of "open, pretty looking, grassy plains of great extent, divided by belts of shrubs and bush." Mr. Swan started out from Port Lincoln. He did not get into Eyre's Fowler's Bay country, but he sighted a stretch of grassy plains somewhat short of it, and reached what, no doubt, was the eastern limit of Eyre's territory. Mr. Swan reported to Mr. Maurice, and suggested taking up some of the country, but the latter refused to have anything to do with the risky venture, and a little later a speculative claim for exploration purposes was made by Mr. Swan, in conjunction with Mr. Barr Smith. The novelty of the proposal to occupy country so wholly unknown, when disclosed by the delineation of the claim of Barr Smith and Swan on the Government maps, at once attracted the attention of others seeking fresh runs, and extensive claims were made surrounding the original one by Smith and Swan. There seemed a promise of early and wide-

spread settlement in the shape of sheep farms by well known colonists, including Drs. W. J. and J. H. Browne and Messrs. John Baker, P. B. Coglein, Jefferson Stow, Mather, Hirst, R. Love, and William De Graves, of Melbourne. Although Mr. Maurice could not be tempted to go so far ahead as indicated above, he acquired very extensive interests on Eyre Peninsula, including the Bramheid, Lake Hamilton, and Warrow runs. Bramheid, on the west coast of the Port Lincoln peninsula, had an area of 91 square miles, with a grazing capacity of 9,000 sheep, and Goyder's valuation was £189 10/, deducting improvements. There were other leases in association with it, covering 83 square miles. The Lake Hamilton run comprised three leases with a total area of 115 square miles, valued at £93 8/ per annum, apart from improvements, put down at £1,283. On the entire block 29,000 sheep and 250 horses were grazed. The Warrow property covered 149 square miles, and supported 12,000 sheep, with another block of 30 miles. The valuation in this case was £195 10/ per annum, deducting improvements worth £1,271. The greatest number of sheep and lambs shorn by Mr. Maurice on Eyre Peninsula in any year was 97,000, yielding 1,553 bales of wool.

All appears to have gone well up to this point, but, as at Pekina, Mr. Maurice was gradually pushed out by resumptions. However, a squatter he was and a squatter he determined to remain. His next venture was to take up, in 1874, a huge block of country 270 miles north-west of Port Augusta, and known as Mount Eba. Through the courtesy of the present Adelaide Police Magistrate (Mr. E. Maurice Sabine), the writer has been able to peruse the diary of his late father, Mr. Clement Sabine, who for many years was general manager for Mr. Price Maurice. Mr. Sabine, Sen., made no fewer than 19 trips to Mt. Eba between 1875 and 1899, and details of every one of them are faithfully recorded. Ernest Giles, the explorer, accompanied the little party on the second journey. A big sum of money was spent in the effort to make the run a profitable proposition. The improvements were estimated to be worth nearly £14,000, but the rainfall records during the 18 years covered by Mr. Sabine's diary show an average of under 5 in. a year, while the wool was sold down to as low as 4d. a pound. At one period the station carried 56,560 sheep, but its normal capacity was 33,000. Natural conditions were against permanent success, and eventually the country was abandoned. However, Mt. Eba in its day was a lively place, and the race meetings there were quite famous. In Mr. Sabine's

diary is a newspaper extract, describing "The Birthday Cup," a trophy presented by Mr. Price Maurice to be run for on the anniversary of his natal day, which was displayed in an Adelaide jeweller's window. Mr. N. A. Richardson and Mr. A. Bevis shared in an interesting newspaper correspondence, only in April last, on their experiences in that locality, following upon the death in that month of Mr. T. P. Gourlay, the pioneer manager at Mt. Eba. On that property no fewer than 83 wells were sunk, of which 36 yielded water. Mr. Maurice departed from his general policy of acquiring leasehold by purchasing in the early seventies two estates near Adelaide—Castambul (5,369 acres), for which he gave £9,913, and Fourth Creek (1,010½ acres), which cost him £3,677. On the former he ran pure Angora goats, of which he introduced fifty from Castambul in Asia Minor. The flock increased greatly, and was afterwards sold to the late Mr. Kempe, of The Peake. The picturesque Morialta reserve, controlled by the Tourist Bureau, is part of Mr. Maurice's former Fourth Creek estate. The trials and vicissitudes that came the way of all the pioneer pastoralists resulted in a breakdown in Mr. Maurice's health, and he was compelled to go to England for a much needed change. He was never able to return, but continued to take a lively interest in his own affairs and those of South Australia, with Mr. Clement Sabine still at the helm. He died in England in May, 1894, in his 76th year. He had one son, the late Mr. R. T. Maurice, who made a name for himself as an explorer, and whose grave is on Yalata Station, in the Fowler's Bay district.

Mr. Maurice's estate was the subject of a memorable law suit in the Supreme Court, Adelaide, a few months after his death. For probate purposes the executors valued the estate at £14,843, and the Registrar of Probates made an assessment at £33,638, against which the executors appealed before the late Judge Bunde. A distinguished bar was engaged, and the action was really intended to be a test case in relation to the basis of Government valuations over a wide area. Only three properties were involved—Castambul, Fourth Creek, and Port Lincoln. The Government were ordered to pay two-thirds of the costs and the appellants one-third. This apportionment corresponded fairly with the rest of the judgment, which set out roughly that the Crown was twice as wrong in its valuation as Mr. Maurice's trustees were in theirs. The court assessed the value of the estate at £21,000 against £33,638, as claimed by the Registrar of Probates, and £14,843 as represented by the trustees.



## REFERENCE

Field Book N<sup>o</sup> 1140 Pages

Date Offered	No <sup>s</sup> of Secs	Areas of Sections	Description	Locality
C.B. 492/176	165	7284 ha		<i>New corner of Hundred</i>
	1	258.5 ha 639	Dried grassed section rather rough. Contains a few scattered shrubs.	
	2	423	Well grassed, light sandy soil very nutty - few scattered shrubs.	
	3	125.8 ha 311	Rough section - useless for agriculture.	
	4	472	Wet portion rough stone- stone hills - useless, eastern.	
	5	193.3 ha 478	Well grassed and clay flats. Soil shallow. Limestone bottom.	
D.L. 4335/16	204	861		
	4	85.38 ha		
D.L. 1622/1936	58	211		
	4	831	V.P. 23	
Block 2 =		82	V.P. 20	
Block 9 =		82		
Area of Sections		12		
.. .. Roads				
.. .. Reserves				
Total				

## IMPROVEMENTS

Section	Description	Dimensions	$L$	$s$	$d$
1					
3	WOOD YALNISON PAPER				
4					

*I certify that I have personally examined the above sections and have found the same to be properly pegged and trenched and correctly numbered.*

*C. V. Peterson*  
Surveyor  
1912

# HUNDRED OF KIANA

NO PERMANENT TENURE  
OR IMPTS TO BE ~~PERMITTED~~

LD D.L. 939/76.

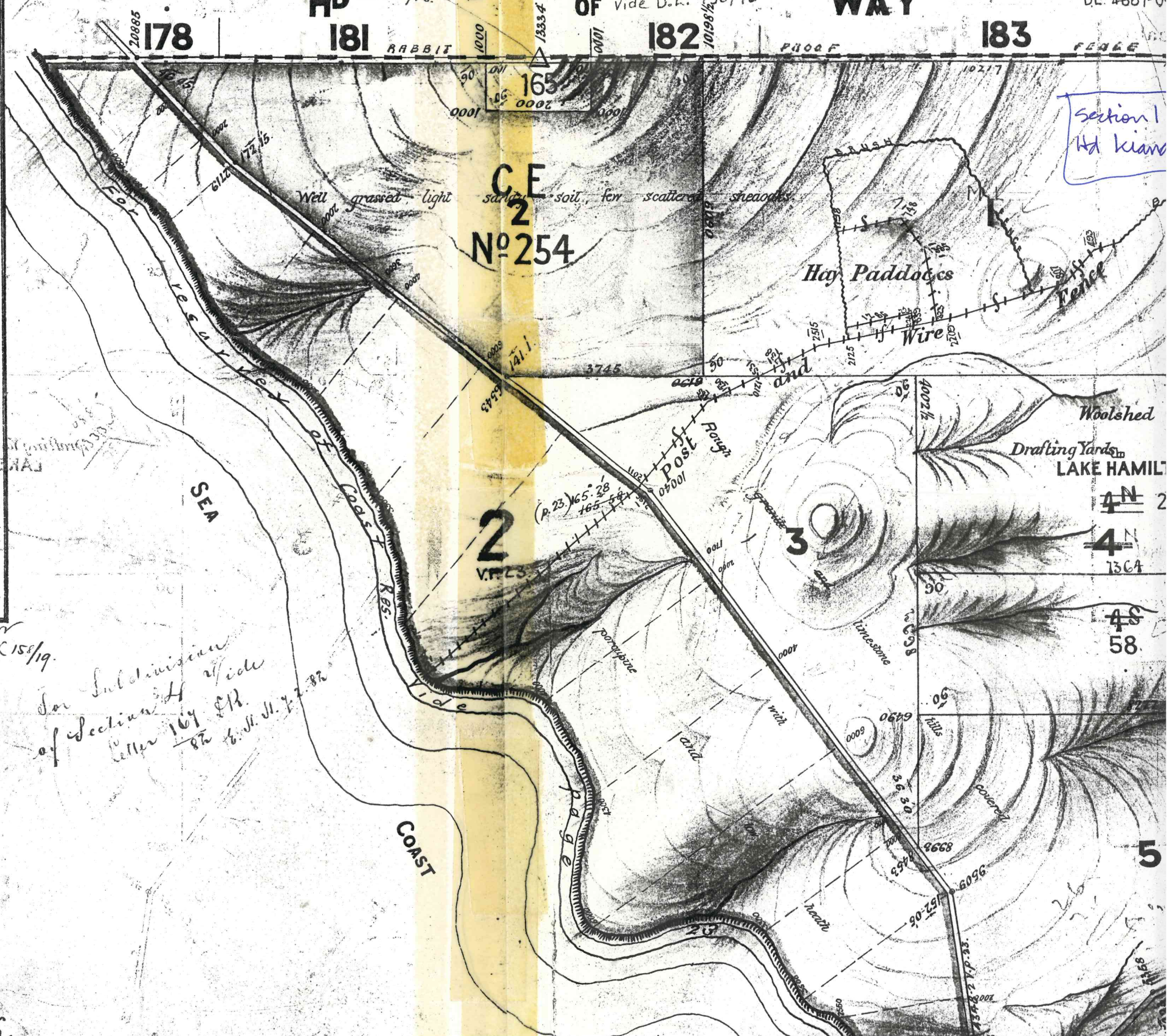
polp. to lease ptg. Crown Land.  
 Iso vide D.B. 40 WAY P. 35.  
 vide D.B. 936/76

DE Vide D.L. 936/76

# WAY

\* For opening and closing

Highways Dept. support District  
Inspectors report concerning  
traffic hazard on Flinders Rix  
DL 4887-61





Immediately following, rode the hard-fisted Trooper Geharty of the 1840 period, resplendent in old-style white dragoon helmet, spurs and side arms.

Lastly, the Big Boss arrived, the renowned pastoralist, Price Maurice. Immaculate in the dress of a gentleman of that age, he sported a black frock coat, white trousers, a tall bell-topper, and wearing across his portly frame, that hallmark of distinction, a heavy gold watch and chain. What a day to remember!

But beneath this day of happy pageantry, there lay a deep and challenging sentiment to recall the splendid works and deeds of our pioneers. We, all of us, have a duty to preserve the past, in a manner befitting, as custodians of the present, ultimately handing on the records, we sincerely hope to a grateful and enduring posterity.

## Milestones

Old chimney pile, the saltings of your tears  
Enhance the spice of this warm moments birth,  
Through laughters jest and trial of lonely years  
You rose to view the greatness of your worth.  
There's warmth within the drollness of your smile  
That harkens back, the road of post and mile.

Old ageless stone, your memories live anon,  
Like monuments of time preserve and keep,  
Long after trivial things have perished, dead and gone  
Will bloom the flowers, wherein your children reap.  
The wilting years glean glints of past review,  
Who dare despise, what passing years renew?

Old memory post, alone you stand and gaze,  
Of olden times perchance you idly dream?  
The Cutter's laugh breaks through those yesterdays  
And slowly past, the driver goads his team.  
Their shadows slant across yon homeward path  
That cluster round, the inklings of your hearth.

Old timeless mound, your greatness feasts an age,  
Unfettered by the weight of mounting years,  
Who stoops to read the lesson of your page  
Must surely hear, the ring of distant cheers?  
And fair upon your scroll of worthy fame  
Shall stand embossed, their ever lasting name.

— P. J. B.

## Lake Hamilton Eating House



Note the famous long distance lavatory in the background —  
152 yards from the back door. The unrestored detached  
kitchen can be seen on the left.

Restored 1972-73

by

Port Lincoln Caledonian Society

Opened for public inspection June 3, 1973,  
as a tourist attraction.



## Lake Hamilton



This photograph depicts the early buildings of Lake Hamilton when this property was held by Mr. Price Maurice, who acquired the lease in 1851. Note the thatched roofs.

Originally Mr. B. Vaux held a lease of 71 square miles about 1847.

Mr. John Haigh and Mr. W. Mortlock took up the "Sheringa Run" in 1849 (92 square miles — 8500 sheep). Sheep were sent overland to market. Aborigines were troublesome.

Mr. Price Maurice bought the run for 2/6d. a sheep — 29 000 sheep, 250 horses, in 1851-52.

"Kappawanta" was bought as an outstation (91 square miles — 9000 sheep); "Warrow" as outstation (149 square miles — 12 000 sheep).

The most shorn in any year was 97 000 sheep — 1580 bales of wool.

The manager was Mr. G. Wollaston at "Lake Hamilton" headquarters, where 60 people lived, with blacksmith's shop, store, and many outstations making up the buildings.

The station extended from Lake Newland in the north to Dutton Bay in the south, where still stands the old woolshed from where the bales of wool were shipped to England.

## The Eating House

This was built by Mr. Price Maurice some time before 1857. Until the 1880's the Eating House was used as a stopping place for coaches and travellers passing through to more distant areas of the West Coast.

Stables were situated nearer the lake and coaches changed horses at this point.

The last person to occupy this old roadside eating house, was a lovable district character, known to all far and wide as "Granny Rowan." She was reputed to be the brewer of a home made ale, to which she added a generous sprinkling of salt, cultivating, it was claimed, a long and ardent thirst.

With the coming of nearby Sheringa, the business at Lake Hamilton was closed, and a new eating house erected in the township. Granny transferred her interests to this new enterprise and occupied the premises for many years.

These old premises, long since unoccupied, still stand, their broken windows stare vacantly across the main bitumen road, busy with the scurry of modern motor transport and all the attendant bustle of 1974.

But the memories of the early Lake Hamilton Eating House, live on.

Years rolled by, the old premises became the camp of roadworkers and rabbiters, until it reached such a stage of ruin as to be uninhabitable. Literally, it was left to its fate.

But thanks to the undaunted efforts of local historian and Chief of the Caledonian Society, Mr. P. J. Baillie, the premises have been completely restored. They stand today as a mute reminder of a forgotten age, never to return.

After restoration there arose a public demand for an official opening day. This was arranged by Mr. Baillie, who invited a prominent Adelaide gentleman, Dr. R. L. Heathcote, M.A., Ph.D., President of the Royal Geographical Society, S.A. Division, to perform the ceremony; an act he carried out in a most gracious and satisfactory manner. Hundreds of people assembled, far outnumbering all anticipation.

After a short introductory address by the Chief, followed by a loud knock on the front ledge door, Granny Rowan personally appeared as a living character, garbed in the picturesque attire of 1850. In ordered sequence, she was followed by an old time fashion parade.

Next in line came the station governess, riding side-saddle and wearing an old-time riding habit. She was on an errand of mercy.

Who should call next, but a real old-time bearded road swaggie, of course requesting a hand-out just to help him along the road.





FILM 172  
No. 14

LAKE HAMILTON EATING HOUSE FROM NORTH

LAKE HAMILTON  
D.C. LINCOLN  
20-7-80





FILM 172 LAKE HAMILTON EATING HOUSE FROM NORTH  
No. 14

LAKE HAMILTON  
DC. LINCOLN  
20-7-80





Film 902  
No 5

LAKE HAMILTON EATING HOUSE  
Kitchen - Detail

Sept. '83  
Ld. Wav



Film 896  
No 11

Lake Hamilton - Copied from Photograph  
held at Lake Hamilton Homestead - See reverse





Film 902  
No 3

LAKE HAMILTON EATING HOUSE

Sept 183  
lot haw