

PLATE 454
No. 3

PORT LINCOLN
Flinders Monument - Stamford Hill

Feb '81
LH/WW



Recovery of sandstone block (part of a consignment from Hobart for construction of Flinders Monument) from base of Stamford Hill, DEH Maritime Heritage staff (Terry Arnott, Bill Jenkins)
26Oct 2000 - Images stored at I:\HeritageSA\MaritimeHeritage\Conservation\Flind



Delivered for
conservation at Netlev

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	HERITAGE SURVEY ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET	Region 12 Eyre Peninsula
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ITEM NO.: LIN:050 Type of Item: 0220 Date: 1867

ITEM NAME: Flinders Monument, Stamford Hill

Former or Other Names:

LOCATION PERIOD: 1852 - 1883 CONDITION: Good
L.G.A.: Lincoln Town: Lincoln National Park
No: Street:
Section: 29 C/T No.: Act 50/1972, gazetted various
County: Flinders dates, 9.9.1976 - 30.5.1985
A.M.G. Ref. Z: 53 N: 6151200 E: 585450 Hundred: Flinders

Architect: E.C. Frome Builder: S. Lewis (orig.), S. Shepperd

CURRENT STATUS: State Heritage List: Registered S.H.P. Region: 12
National Estate: Registered
National Trust: Classified

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Recommendation: State

Description:

Polished stone obelisk.

Historical Summary:

Lady Franklin, wife of John Franklin (Governor of Tasmania) was responsible for the erection of the original monument to Captain Flinders. Her husband was a member of Flinders' expedition, when "Investigator" first anchored in Boston Bay, 1802. Lady Franklin in 1841 was so keen to pinpoint the exact spot where "Investigator's" surveying party stood, that she included a surveyor in her own party. Shortly after her visit, in Governor Grey's first year in office, the obelisk was erected of stone from Tasmania.

Significance:

A historical site not only because it is associated with Flinders but with Lady Franklin too, who was responsible for its construction. It is a well known landmark in the district.

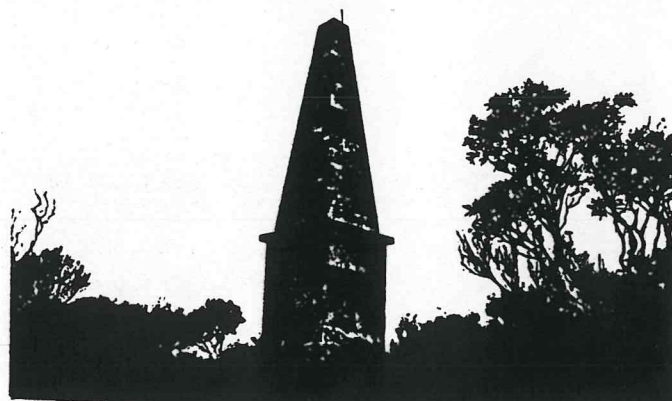
REFERENCES

Written: Files of the Heritage Conservation Branch - File No. 6028-10221
Files of the National Trust of South Australia - File No. 83
P. Baillie, 'Sketchbook of Port Lincoln'

Verbal:

PHOTOGRAPHS

B & W No.: 6/20
Slide No.: 6/18
Archival: B45206 (c. 1910)



HISTORY OF THE STAMFORD HILL MONUMENT TO MATTHEW FLINDERS

Compiled by Brian Samuels, Heritage South Australia, with research assistance by Robyn Hartell 3 May 2001

The monument to Matthew Flinders on Stamford Hill, out of Port Lincoln, is notable for the earliness of its erection. It was the second public memorial erected after colonisation, the first being a monument in Light Square, Adelaide, which marked the tomb of Colonel William Light, the Colony's first Surveyor-General.

The purpose of this chronology is to establish the main sequence of events relating to the construction and subsequent repair work. It is based on the work of other researchers who have directly consulted primary source material. The most common error found in secondary sources is the understandable reliance on the original plaque for ascertaining the obelisk's year of completion, often cited as 1842, whereas it was not finished until 1844. The research file of material on which this chronology is based is held by Heritage South Australia.

25/12/1840	Lady Jane Franklin, wife of Sir John Franklin, Lieutenant Governor of Van Diemen's Land 1836-1843, arrived at Port Adelaide from Van Diemen's Land in the brigantine <i>Abeona</i> , accompanied by her step-daughter, Lieutenant Bagot (Aide-de-Camp to her husband) and John Phillip Gell, Principal of the New College at Hobart. (SR RN 86)
8 or 9/1/1841	The <i>Abeona</i> sailed for Hobart Town via Port Lincoln with Lady Franklin and her party on board (SR RN 86), arriving 10 January and leaving Port Lincoln 14 January. (Sexton p71)
12/1/1841	According to the inscription affixed to the monument in 1844, on this date the site of the monument was set aside 'with the sanction of' Governor Gawler.
17/11/1842	The brig <i>King Henry</i> sailed from Port Adelaide for Port Lincoln, its cargo including 15 tons of stone for the Flinders Monument (Somerville, <i>Port Lincoln Times</i> 30 April 1937, p3 & Sexton p84)
21 or 22/11/1842	The <i>King Henry</i> arrived at Port Lincoln (Somerville, <i>Port Lincoln Times</i> 30 April 1937, p3) [Sexton says 21 st]
April 1844	Monument completed a little before 19 April by contractor Sam Lewis (SR RN 86). A copy of the inscription, as reproduced in the <i>Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (SA Branch)</i> vol 5 is attached. It incorrectly states that the monument was erected in the first year of Governor Grey's office (15.5.41 – 15.5.42).
13/4/1844	The <i>Governor Gawler</i> arrived at Port Adelaide from Port Lincoln with the party that erected the monument. (Sexton p98)
10/6/1844	Report by the Government Resident of a visit to the monument 7 June with a stonemason recorded: 'I much fear that the structure will speedily fall into a state of decay, a result which will no doubt be aided by the long immersion which the stones had undergone in sea water.' (Somerville, <i>Port Lincoln Times</i> 7 May 1937, p3)

1860s?	Henry Holroyd, sometime Inspector of Police, visited the monument. As recorded in his autobiography written in 1910: '... the monument was in a ruinous state. The marble slab on which was carved the inscription had fallen down and considerable mortar had come away from the structure. I later reported the matter to Adelaide and skilled workmen came over and restored the monument.' (<i>Henry Holroyd 1829-1911: South Australian Pioneer: His Autobiography</i> , Adelaide 1960, p 44)
1866	Monument repaired for the government by J Kellet and a new tablet installed, which read in part: 'Restored, with original inscription, by the SA Government. AD 1866.' However, some of the work was defective and was remedied in 1867. (Somerville, <i>Port Lincoln Times</i> 14 May 1937, p2)
1931	Mr D J Gilbert of the <i>News</i> visited the monument and noted that the inscription would soon be obliterated. (Somerville, <i>Port Lincoln Times</i> 21 May 1937, p3)
c1931	Port Lincoln Institute Committee formed the Flinders Commemoration Committee (FCC) comprising three members of the Institute Committee, the Harbour Master (ex officio), a Council representative, a RS & SILA representative and three members interested in historical research. (Somerville, <i>Port Lincoln Times</i> 21 May 1937, p3)
1932	The FCC organised the first of what became annual pilgrimages to the obelisk, with 400-500 attending. (Somerville, <i>Port Lincoln Times</i> 21 May 1937, p3)
1934	New bronze tablet was bolted through the existing marble one, bearing the same inscription as the latter with the addition at the foot of: 'Original marble tablet in SA Museum. This plate, publicly subscribed, was unveiled by Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, VC, KCMG, CB, DSO, Governor of SA, on March 8, 1934.' In reality, unpleasant hot and windy weather saw the ceremony conducted on the MV <i>Moonta</i> and the plaque unveiled by the Harbour Master, Captain A G Spiers, at the sound of the vessel's siren. (Somerville, <i>Port Lincoln Times</i> 21 May 1937, p3)
1992	National Parks and Wildlife Service alerted State Heritage Branch of deterioration of monument. Bronze plaque had come away and signs of movement in marble cladding. (HSA records)
1993	Monument scaffolded and inspected thoroughly. Marble cladding removed and refixed after core reinforced. Bronze plaque of 1934 reinstated and 1866 one presumed to have been removed. (HSA records)
24/2/2001	Members of the Lincoln Orienteering Club found most of the 1866 plaque in pieces stacked within 25m of the monument. They had been revealed by a major bushfire which started 1 February north-west of Tulka. Club members reported the find to NPWSA staff and the pieces were collected 26 February. (NPWSA records and <i>Port Lincoln Times</i> 6 March 2001)

COPY OF THE INSCRIPTION ON THE ORIGINAL PLAQUE

THIS PLACE
from which the Gulf and its
Shores were first surveyed
on 26 Feb. 1802 by
MATTHEW FLINDERS R.N.
Commander of H.M.S. Investigator
the Discoverer of the Country
now called South Australia
was set apart
on 12 Jan. 1841
with the sanction of
LT. COL. GAWLER K.H.
then Governor of the Colony
and in the first year of the
government of CAPT. G. GREY
adorned with this Monument
to the perpetual Memory
of the illustrious Navigator
his honored Commander
by
JOHN FRANKLIN CAPT. R.N.
K.C.H. K.R.
LT. GOVERNOR OF
VAN DIEMEN'S LAND

SOURCES

Sexton, RT *Shipping Arrivals and Departures South Australia 1627-1850* (Gould Books 1990)

Somerville, JD 'Early Days of Eyre Peninsula' (A series of articles in *The Port Lincoln Times* in 1937)

State Heritage Register File 10221 'Flinders Monument, Stamford Hill'

State Records Research Note 86 'Notes on the Visit of Lady Franklin (1840/1841) and the Flinders Monument at Stamford Hill'

6028-10221
Flinders Monument
Port Lincoln

S.A. Art Gallery
3.2.1981

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE INSCRIPTION ON THE MONUMENT ON STAMFORD HILL
NEAR PORT LINCOLN

See also
S.A. Register
14th April 1898
and.

S.A. Institute
Journal 30th April
1934 P. 21

This place
from which the gulf and its
shores were first surveyed
on 26. February. 1802 by
Matthew Flinders R.N.
Commander of H.M.A.S. Investigator
the discoverer of the country
now called South Australia
was set apart
on 12. January. 1841
with the sanction of
Lt. Col. Gawler. K.H.
then Governor of the colony
and in the first year of the
Capt. G. Grey
adorned with this monument
to the perpetual memory
of the illustrious navigator
his honoured commander
by
John Franklin. Capt. R.N.
K.C.H. K.R.
Lt. Governor of
Van Dieman's Land.

not according
to Peter ...

Original marble tablet in S.A. Museum.
This plate, publicly subscribed, was unveiled by
Sir Alexr Hoar Ruthven.
V.C. K.C.M.G. G.B. D.F.O.
Governor of S.A. 9. March. 1934.

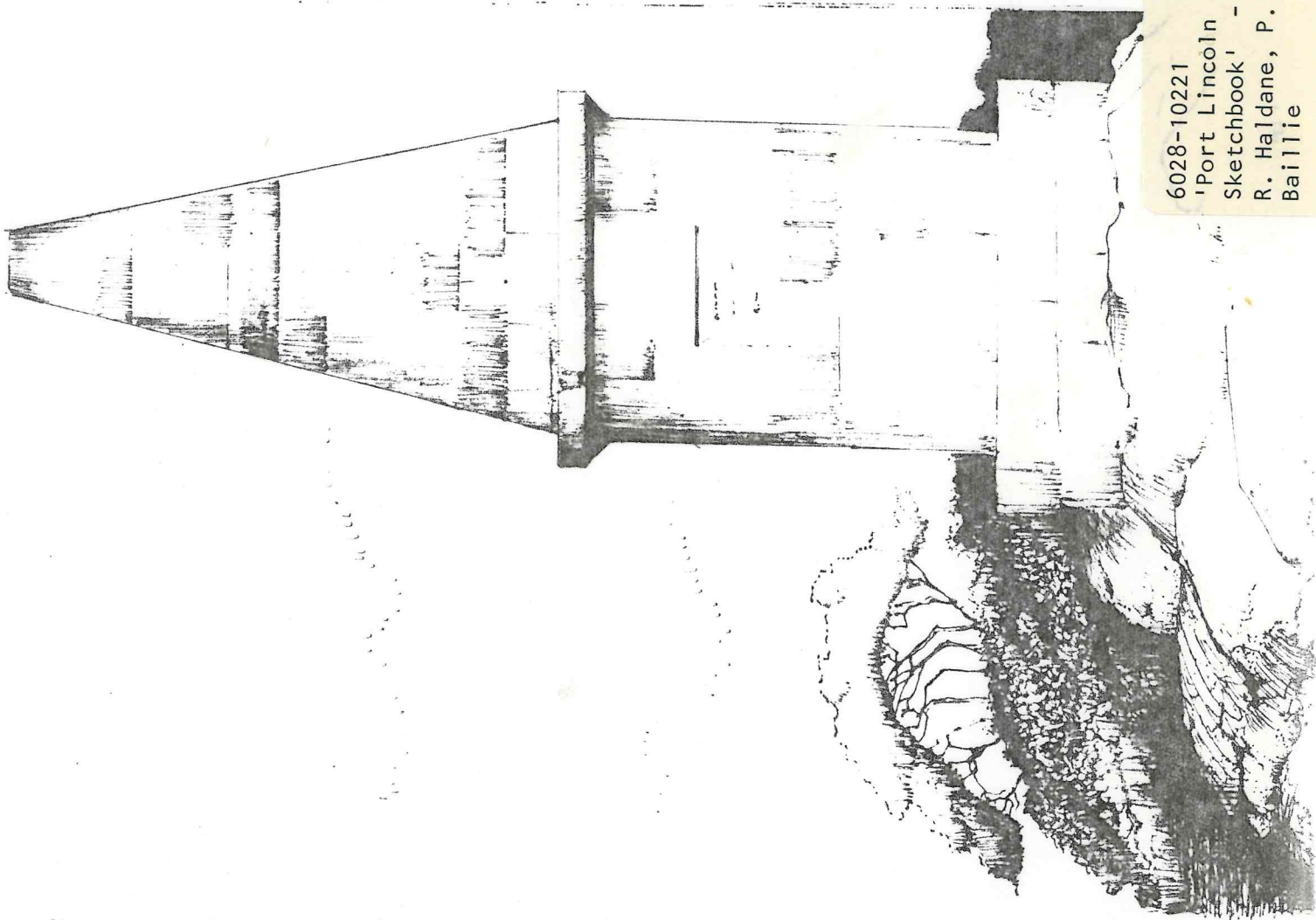
FLINDERS MONUMENT—STAMFORD HILL

On board the *Investigator* in 1802 was a young midshipman, John Franklin. Later, as Sir John Franklin, he became Governor of Tasmania, and finally lost his life seeking a north-west passage along the Arctic coast of North America. While in Tasmania, Lady Franklin became interested in the deeds of her husband's late commander, Captain Matthew Flinders. In 1841 she obtained permission from Governor Gawler to erect a monument to Flinders on the summit of Stamford Hill, overlooking Boston Bay and Port Lincoln. Captain Flinders and party, possibly including young Franklin, had climbed this vantage point and viewed the bay and surrounding country.

Lady Franklin was so keen to pinpoint the exact spot where they had stood that she included a surveyor in her party. The heavily equipped party, including her Ladyship, laboriously climbed the steep and wooded incline, finally reaching the summit. Here a site was surveyed for the monument. The necessary stone was shipped from Tasmania, and the old Port Lincoln Court Book records it being landed at Boston Bay from the *King Henry*.

During her visit in 1841 she stayed at the primitive Government House in Adelaide. A small room had been cleaned out for her accommodation, but during the night a fire destroyed valuable records of the Colony and other goods.

The first monument rapidly deteriorated. In 1867 the South Australian Government, after much petty bickering concerning cost, decided to encase the old monument with a full covering of slab stone, incorporating a new inscription stone. So well was the work performed, that no further repairs have been necessary since that date.



PORT LINCOLN - OBELISK, STAMFORD HILL.

Research Note 86

According to J. W. Bull's "Early Experiences of Colonial Life in South Australia" the monument was erected by an Adelaide contractor named Kellet (C.S.O. docket 648 of 1844 makes Samuel Lewis the contractor). (Kellet was contractor for repairs effected in 1865/6. See Archives 878/1865p.413).

The monument is 25 ft. high and is 3 ft. square at the base. It is built of Tasmanian stone, which is described as a "kind of a freestone, very sandstony in character". Lady Franklin is said to have brought the stone with her in the "Abeona". (Extract from the Record of Criminal Cases tried by the Resident Magistrates Court Port Lincoln (Archives 938):- Nov. 22 1842; arrived, the King Henry, brig, with Mr. Henderson and the stones etc. for the monument to be erected on Stamford Hill in Memory of Capt. Flinders. (See Harvey's returns in C.S.O. 41 of 1843). For reference to the erection of the monument see C.S.O. 1844/647,648).

In 1865 the obelisk had fallen into disrepair owing to the weathering of the stone, but in the following year it was completely refaced with marble by the S.A. Government at a cost of £700. The original tablet had become broken and was removed to Adelaide, where it is in the custody of the Public Library Board. In its place was installed anew tablet with a facsimile of the original inscription.

H. D. Traill's Sir John Franklin p.281, 282
C.S.O. Letter Book 4 Nov. 1842 No. 1434 and 1435
C.S.O. Engineer & Architect docket 120 of 1865 (A883)(draw.)

PORT LINCOLN - OBELISK, STAMFORD HILL.

6028-10221
Flinders Monument
Port Lincoln

1863 Estimates P.436

Flinders Monument.

726/65 26/10/1865 to Mr. Murray, Kensington

Tender to restore and surface Flinders Monument, Pt. Lincoln
£525 accepted.

840/65 14/12/1865 Mr. John Killett

Your tender to case the Flinders Monument near Pt. Lincoln
for £525 accepted.

488/65

£300 for repairs to Flinders Monument, Pt. Lincoln (difficult to read further) ... "Looking at the whole circumstances of the case and considering especially that the Monument is a landmark for every one approaching Pt. Lincoln (for which a white surface is indispensable I am ... to recommend that Mr. Murray's offer to repair and case the monument with marble at £525 should be accepted.

965/66 26/11/1866 to Mr. Murray, overseer of Works, Pt. Lincoln

Quite at a loss to know what to do about the Monument. It must be repaired at I fear over £500.

Research Note 86

Inscription on obelisk:

This place from which the gulf and its shores were first surveyed on 26 Feb. 1802 by Matthew Flinders RN Commander of HMS Investigator the discoverer of the Country now called South Australia was set apart on 12 Jan. 1841 with the sanction of Lt. Col. Gawler KH then Governor of the colony and in the first year of the government of Capt. G. Grey adorned with this monument to the perpetual memory of the illustrious navigator his honoured commander by John Franklin Capt. RN KCH, KR. Lt. Governor of Van Diemen's Land.