

FILED 424
NO 5

TRAP CHIMNEY

NOV '81
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To: The South Australian Heritage Committee

From: Senior Historic Architect

Subject: REGISTER NOMINATION -
CHIMNEY AND WATER TANK, PYAP

Date: 8 February, 1982

SUMMARY

This report is prepared as part of the South Australian Heritage Committee's programme of evaluating National Estate items. This item was deferred at a previous meeting of the former Register Sub Committee, pending further research into the original use of these items, a more comprehensive identification of associated items and a more accurate definition of the site.

Historically, the Pyap chimney and associated water tank are important because they are rare tangible remains of late nineteenth century pumping techniques related to River Murray irrigation settlements.

Architecturally, the items are of less importance as they are simple in construction, detail and ornamentation. They are, however, scarce stone structures associated with irrigation settlements.

Environmentally, the chimney is important because it stands as a prominent historical and visual landmark.

The Integrity of the items is good. The water tank is still being used for irrigation purposes and both the tank and chimney are in good condition.

The chimney is included on the Register of the National Estate and on the Classified List of the National Trust of South Australia.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the chimney and associated water tank be included on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that the items be categorised A3, H1, H2, H3, 3.1



(Barry G. Rowney)
SENIOR HISTORIC ARCHITECT

LB:KO

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures Item CHIMNEY AND WATER TANK, PYAP						
Age 1894	Theme		Office				
Period 1884-1914	Subject SETTLEMENT - COMMERCIAL AND IRRIGATION PRIMARY INDUSTRY - PRIMARY PRODUCTION, AGRICULT.		Region 5 Murray Riverlands				
Building Type Chimney & Water Tank	Style Rural Industrial		Status N.E.R. N.Tr. (C.L.)				
<u>Qualitative Data</u>			<u>Grading</u>				
Component		Comment	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
<u>HISTORY</u>							
1. Context	Associated with late 19th century irrigation settlements along the River Murray.		*				
2. Person/Group	Not as yet established					*	
3. Event	Associated with the opening of the pumping station, and hence Pyap as an irrigation settlement.		*				
<u>ARCHITECTURE/ENGINEERING</u>							
4. Architect/Engineer/Builder	Not as yet established					*	
5. Design	Low, squat, phallic with minor ornamentation			*			
6. Construction	Circular limestone stack with bricked openings (one for flue, other for cleaning), string courses and cornice.			*			
7. Interior						*	
8. Representation	Relatively scarce tangible evidence associated with late nineteenth century Murray irrigation schemes. It appears to be the only remaining stone chimney of its type.		*				
<u>ENVIRONMENT</u>							
9. Continuity						*	
10. Local Character	Isolated structure, Unity achieved by using local stone.			*			
11. Landmark	Prominent historical and visual landmark		*				

South
Australian
Heritage
Act
1978-80

Register of State Heritage Items

ITEM EVALUATION SHEET

Buildings and Structures

Item CHIMNEY AND WATER TANK, PYAP

Component

Comment

Grading
E VG AG FP NA

INTEGRITY

- | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| 12. Alterations | No alterations evident | * | | | | |
| 13. Condition | In reasonable condition although top of stack fretting. | | | * | | |
| 14. Compatability | Not used at present | | | | | * |

Supplementary Information

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 15. Adaptation | Very limited potential |
| 16. Interpretation | Excellent potential for major interpretative programmes of regional irrigation settlements. |
| 17. Current Situation | No threat. |

Evaluated By Lothar Brasse
Register Architect

Date

Reviewed By Mark A. Butcher
Acting Register Supervisor

Date

South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization

Date

I.E.S./D3/211081

HISTORICAL RESEARCH : PYAP CHIMNEY AND WATER TANK

As a result of the severe 1880's drought along the River Murray Basin, a Committee was set up by the Victorian Parliament to enquire into the value of irrigation to the State. Alfred Deacon was appointed Chairman in 1884, and on his fact finding visit to the United States persuaded the Chaffey brothers to emigrate to Australia.

While Victorian Parliamentarians bickered over the legitimacy of an agreement which would have enabled the Chaffeys to secure capital for irrigation work near Mildura, the South Australian Attorney Sir John Downer clinched a deal with the brothers, the outcome of which was Australia's first irrigation settlement at Renmark in February 1887. In May of that year, the Victorian Parliament finally ratified Chaffeys' agreement and the town area of Mildura and nearby irrigation blocks were laid out.

The Bank crash of 1893 saw an exodus of workers from these settlements, and in an attempt to create a currency, paper "orders" were issued. Parallel to these developments, the Kingston Government attempted to set up a number of communal irrigation settlements. In all ten sites were chosen at Lyrup, Pyap, New Residence, Moorook, Kingston-on-Murray, Holder, Waikerie, Ramco, Gillen and New Era.

Under the constitution of the socialist village settlements, any twenty families could form an association to set up a settlement, money did not exist, nobody owned property and everything had to be shared. The Government's role was merely to provide pumping equipment and instructors.

On 31 March 1894, 93 villagers took possession of 10,485 acres around Pyap and it is claimed that the outstanding success of its first wheat crops led to the establishment of Loxton as a major farming area.

The population of Pyap declined from 274 in 1895 to only 83 in 1900. In 1913 the visionary C.J. De Garis (of Sunraysia fame) acquired 10,000 acres of the old Pyap Estate in an attempt to rejuvenate the land where the S.A. Government had failed, but despite his building a school, library and even a billiard room there, the settlement failed after eight years.

The chimney was part of Pyap's water pumping complex which included a horizontal boiler and pump at the base of the hill, with an above ground flue leading to the vertical stone chimney. Water was pumped from the river to an in-ground pressure tank, about 42m west of chimney. (See attached sketch plan and archival photographs.)

Lothar Brasse
HISTORICAL ARCHITECT

18.11.81

LB:SK

Sources:

The Book of the Murray Eds. G.V. Lawrence & G. Kinross Smith, 1975
Notes Prepared by Peter Donovan

CAMEO:

Not used
as a cameo

Pyap, River Murray

The earliest schemes to irrigate the riverlands of the Murray Basin in South Australia met with mixed success. In 1887, the Chaffey brothers set up Australia's first irrigation programme at Renmark, and while this met with initial success, the bank crash of the 1890s depression forced the closure of the Company sponsoring the venture, and hundreds of settlers walked off their holdings.

At the turn of the century, under the Premier of South Australia, C.C. Kingston, the South Australian Government backed the establishment of irrigation settlements along the river. Ten sites were chosen, Lyrup, Pyap, New Residence, Moorook, Kingston, Waikerie, Ramco, Gillen and New Era, and land was made available for co-operative agricultural activities. The government provided pumping equipment and instructors for the project, while socialist principles determined the work methods and allocation of food and resources.

However, internal problems saw a gradual decline in enthusiasm for the project, and numbers at each settlement dwindled. Eventually the government withdrew its support, and today only Lyrup operates as a village settlement. Pyap is now a private irrigation area, and Waikerie, Ramco, Moorook and Kingston are government irrigation areas.

Margaret Sanders

