

FLINDERS RANGES HERITAGE SURVEY

Beltana Station Homestead

UNP-SR-10

LOCATION

Pastoral Station	Beltana Station,
Owner(s)/Lessee(s)	Beltana .
Pastoral Lease	2304
Local Government Area	Unincorporated 6536-
AMG Reference	II 493867

State Heritage Status

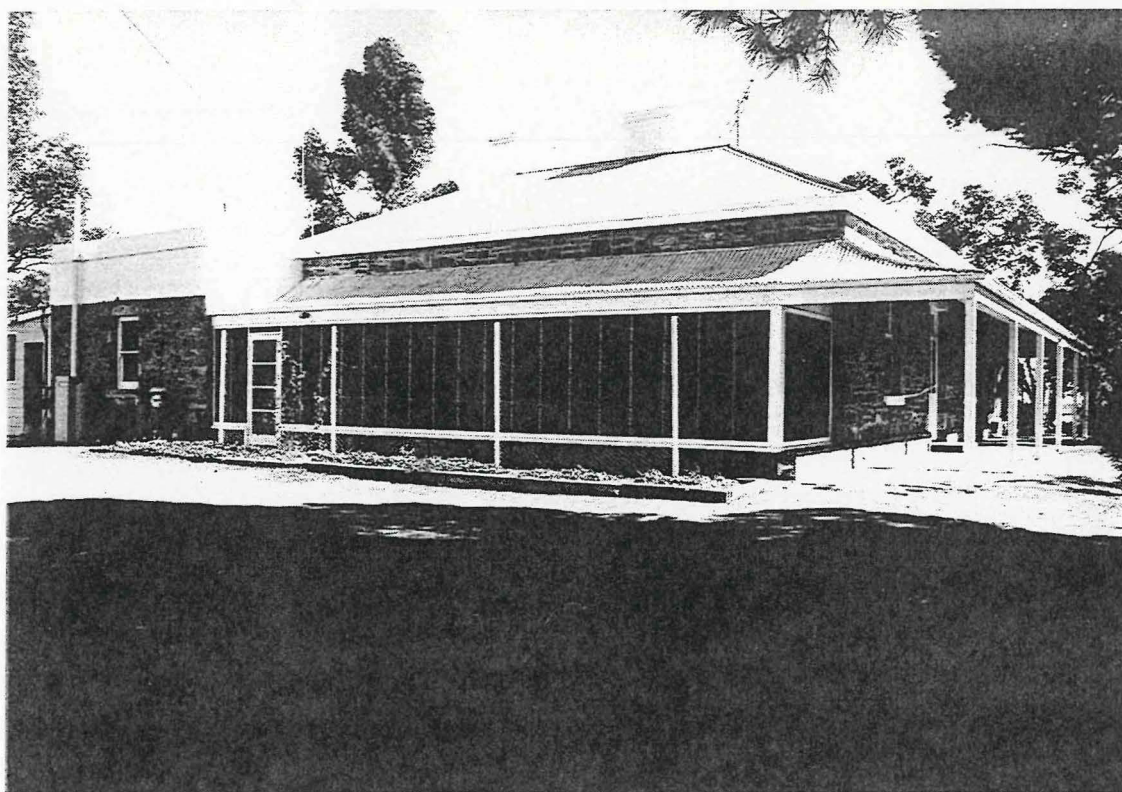
State Heritage Register — 13886 — 17 July 1987

Other Assessments

National Trust Classified List — 1812

Film/Neg Number
Photographer

33/33, 34; 34/6
J. McCarthy



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DESCRIPTION

The main homestead is constructed of stone with a double gabled iron roof, a verandah at the front (north) and on the east side, and a modern addition at the rear. The verandah is slate paved and appears to be original. There are three sets of French (double) glassed doors on the east side. The front wall features two 12-paned sash windows. The gardens surrounding the house within an enclosing fence are extremely well kept and contain historic plantings (including date palms). A large stone water tank and amenities building form part of the perimeter fence of the house and appear to be contemporaneous with it. There is a new stone building to the rear of the house which was built in the 1970s according to the manager.

HISTORY

Beltana Homestead was built in 1874 for its manager Nathaniel Edmund Phillipson who went on to become a partner with Thomas Elder, Robert Barr Smith and Peter Waite. Beltana Station is most associated with this group of people. Before Barr Smith and Elder took on the lease in 1866, J. Haines took up the 195 square mile area on 31 August 1854 as Pastoral Lease 379 and was responsible for naming it Beltana.

Although Barr Smith and Elder operated many large pastoral stations together, it was not until 1898 that the Beltana Pastoral Company was formed after Elder's death in 1897. The partners also operated Elder Stirling & Company, now known as Elders IXL. Named after Beltana Station, the company also operated such large properties in the northern areas such as Umberatana, Blanchewater, Murnpeowie, Cordillo Downs and Mount Lyndhurst. Indeed, in 1899 an article in the *Chronicle* noted that:

... the properties of the Beltana Pastoral Company stretch from the southern boundary of Beltana for 310 miles, to the northern limit of Cordillo, which adjoins the Haddon Downs estate on the Queensland border, while they have an average width of about 40 miles. In the length there are but two breaks, the first being for 20 miles, contained in Mr. Norman Wilson's Coongy Station from Cordillo. On these five stations there are tens of thousands of sheep, thousands of cattle, and hundreds of horses, beside 200 camels, 2,000 donkeys, and 200 mules. Of the donkeys there are known to be 1,000 running wild on the hills.

Much of Elder's success in the outback can be attributed to his recognition of the usefulness of the camel in remote areas. He and Samuel J. Stuckey discovered this when they rode with McKinlay's party in 1860 in search of the fated Burke and Wills. Elder and Stuckey began introducing camels into South Australia in large numbers for use in the outback. Their first consignment of camels arrived in 1866 and were first taken to Umberatana before being brought to Beltana where camel-breeding began with Afghans as cameleers. Beltana Station became the first camel stud in Australia. From here Australian bred camels were widely distributed for use in the outback areas. Beltana also became 'the stepping-off place for many exploring parties which obtained camels and supplies there before leaving for the interior'.

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Beltana Station, and the town of the same name, played a vital role as a depot. Rosalie Sluggett wrote '... the station was an important depot, with blacksmiths, saddlers and wheelwrights employed, as well as men working the station, engaged in husbandry and breeding of camels, sheep and cattle, in servicing the station and its employees'.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

Beltana Station was the centre of a pastoral region. It was a depot for camels, supplies and labor. As well, it was associated with a group of prominent South Australians. The station homestead was entered in the State Heritage Register on 24 July 1980.

RELEVANT CRITERIA

- (a) the homestead demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history, namely that of pastoralism, transportation and exploration;
 - (g) the homestead has special associations with the life of notable South Australians — Robert Barr Smith, Thomas Elder and Peter Waite — and the rise of the famous Beltana Pastoral Company.
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REFERENCES

- Australian Council of National Trusts, *Historic Homesteads*, Australian Council of National Trusts, Canberra, 1982, pp. 472.
- Chronicle*, 2 September 1899 (quote).
- Cockburn, R., *Pastoral Pioneers of South Australia*, Facsimile Edition, Lynton Publications, Blackwood, undated, vol.1, [1925], pp. 74-75.
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources, State Heritage Branch — 10319.
- Mortlock Library of South Australiana — Research Note 561.
- Mortlock Library of South Australiana — I.J.C. Hantke, Beltana Station Diary 1867-1876.
- Price, A.G. and Hammond, J.G., *Elder Smith and Co. Ltd: the first hundred years*, *Advertiser*, Adelaide, 1940, pp. 31-35.
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Site Surveyor	J. McCarthy	Date(s) of Survey	13.5.1995
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FILM 78
NO 9
SHEARERS QUARTERS, BELTANA
HOMESTEAD

BELTANA
9-3-79



FILM 78
No 4

HOMESTEAD AND OUTBUILDINGS
FROM NORTH

BELTANA
9-3-79



FILM 78
NO 8

QUARTERS AND GARAGE
FROM WEST

BELTANA
9-3-79



FILM 78
NO 10

NORTH ELEVATION, BELTANA HOMESTEAD

BELTANA
9-3-79