

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures						
	Item GAWLER MILL, GAWLER						
Age 1855 - Stage I Pre 1880 - Stage 2	Theme		Office 6628-10378				
Period 1852-1883	Subject SECONDARY INDUSTRY - Processing of Primary Productive Products, Agriculture		Region Lower North				
Building Type Flour Mill	Style Mid Victorian Industrial		Status N.E.R. N.Tr. (Cl.)				
<u>Qualitative Data</u>			Grading E VG AG FP NA				
Component			Comment				
<u>History</u>							
1. Context: Erected in 1855, and extended before 1880, the Union Mill was one of three flourishing flour milling concerns in Gawler operating during the boom period of agricultural expansion in South Australia.			*				
2. Person/Group: Associated with the Hon. Walter Duffield who established Messrs. Duffield & Co. one of several important flour milling companies.			*				
3. Specific Event: Not yet established.			*				
<u>Architecture/Engineering</u>							
4. Architect: Not yet established. Engineer: " " " Builder: George, William and Henry Harrison.			* *				
5. Design: Large industrial building built on four levels. Front facade of main building divided by four bays of windows. Ornamentation is limited to window surrounds and circular wall plates.			* *				
6. Construction: Random stone walling. Timber floors supported by sturdy posts and beams, similar to other mills.			*				
7. Interior: Ground floor converted into a restaurant. Upper levels were not inspected.			*				
8. Representation: Good example of a steam powered flour mill of which many survive.			*				
<u>Environment</u>							
9. Continuity: A dominant element and vista along the main road entering Gawler.			*				
10. Local Character: Of particular significance in establishing the dominant commercial and industrial character of Gawler East.			*				
11. Landmark: Visually and Historically a conspicuous and well known landmark.			*				

I.E.S./D3/211081

Component

Comment

Grading
E VG AG FP NA

Integrity

12. Alterations: The mill complex has evolved since the 1850's and a number of sympathetic industrial and residential additions have been made. The recent conversion of the ground floor into a restaurant has incurred a number of superficial and unsympathetic additions.

13. Condition: The building is in good condition.

14. Compatibility: Presently the complex is underutilised and the present use is incompatible.

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Supplementary Information

15. Adaptation: Depending on the structural stability of upper levels, the mill has the capacity to be used for a variety of functions. Here, the external form and facades are the important elements.

16. Interpretation Potential: The building has excellent potential as an interpretation centre for Gawler's history in general.

17. Current Situation: The mill is under no immediate threat. The mill is presently owned by Mill Holdings Pty. Ltd.

Evaluated By Kate McDougall
Consultant Historian

Lothar Brasse
Consultant Architect

Date

Reviewed By Ivar Nelsen

Date

South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization

Date

HISTORICAL RESEARCH: GAWLER MILL, FORMERLY UNION MILL, JULIAN TERRACE, GAWLER

The building now known as the Gawler Mill Restaurant was originally one of three large flour milling concerns flourishing in Gawler during the boom period of wheat growing in the 1860's and 1870's. Severe drought in the early 1880's halted expansion into areas beyond Goyder's rainfall line and wheat acreage declined.

The Union Mill was constructed in 1855 by the brothers George, Henry and William Harrison. In 1856 the mill was three storeys high. Walter Duffield, who had settled in Gawler in 1847, and was already involved in flour milling, purchased the Union Mill in 1863 to work in tandem with his Victoria Mill. A detailed description of the workings of the Union Mill is given in The Gawler Handbook of 1880, by which time the mill was four storeys high and had associated offices, timber yard, weighbridge, blacksmith's shop and forge.

The flour milling firm of Messrs. Duffield & Co. also owned mills in Wallaroo, Snowtown and Port Pirie.

Walter Duffield was an important figure in the history of Gawler. He built his mansion 'Para Para' on the Gawler River in 1862, made wine and entertained visiting royalty there. Duffield was a member of Parliament for a total of eighteen years between 1857 and 1880, during which time he twice served as Treasurer of the State under Premiers Hart and Boucaut. He was a Director of the Bank of South Australia from 1859 to 1873. As well as his milling concerns he also held extensive pastoral interests in the mid-North and west of the State including Koonoona Station merino stud.

Walter Duffield died in 1882 and the Union Mill was sold to the Adelaide Milling Co., a company originally based in Port Adelaide. Fire, a continual hazard in flour mills, gutted the mill in 1914 and when it was rebuilt in 1915 only the central section was finished to four storeys. The front section was left at two storeys. The mill continued to function until about 1917 but increased ease of rail transport, and consolidation of mill ownership meant the centralisation of flour milling and many milling centres like Gawler declined in importance.

The mill buildings underwent some changes when converted to a Restaurant in 1974 but the three upper levels of four storey section have not been altered structurally.

Sources

E.H. Coombe, History of Gawler (Adelaide 1880)

Lindsey Harrison, Flour Mills in S.A., Architecture Department,
University of Adelaide (1979)

Peter Hignett & Susan Woodburn, Gawler Heritage Study (Dec. 1981)

G.E. Loyau, The Gawler Handbook (Adelaide 1880)

Katrina McDougall
REGISTER HISTORIAN

5 March, 1982
KM:SK

GAWLER HERITAGE STUDY: STAGE 1
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

- 60 -

Hignett & Company

ITEM NAME

Current: GAWLER MILL (RESTAURANT)

Historical: UNION MILLS

ITEM NUMBER

29

DATE

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

Original mill constructed c.1853 by George, William and Henry Harrison (Harrison Bros.) and taken over in 1863 by Walter Duffield (Duffield and Co.). At peak of activity in the 1870s but declined with the agricultural expansion from the early 1880s. Taken over, together with the other Gawler mills, by the Adelaide Milling Co. in 1882 or 1883. Continued in operation until largely destroyed by fire in 1914, but operated again from 1915 to 1970s (from 1933 under Jeffs Bros. Ltd. of Kapunda).

Originally constructed on a large scale and extended to three stories in 1856 and to four floors by 1880, the mill was largely unchanged (except for strengthening in the late 1870s and internal remodelling in 1913) until gutted by fire in 1914. When rebuilt in 1915 only part was constructed as four stories.

The adjacent offices (facing Murray Street) were built in 1868 as a single storey with basement and have been little altered.

Random coursed slate with blocked brickwork segmental and semi-circular arches, picturesque timber tracery. Office has panelled and moulded chimney, stone quoins, semi-circular arches with and without keystone, stuccoed finish.

LOCATION

Street No:

Allotment: 3,4

Section:

Hundred:

Street: Julian Terrace

Town:

LGA:

Postcode:

State Hist.Pres.

Region:

HISTORICAL THEME

Theme: Industry and Commerce

Subtheme: Milling

HISTORICAL PERIOD

State:

Study Area: 1849-70

TYPE OF ITEM

LAND Natural Feature ☐
Historical Site ☐
Garden ☐

BUILDING Individual ☒
Group ☐

STRUCTURE Complete ☐
Relic ☐

REFERENCES:

Written: Loyau 17, 40-42; Coombe 103; Ellis 28, 2:18.

Vocal:

Mahony collection (1914/15)

Archival Photographs: SAA.B.10584 (1870s) and B.16412 (1908)

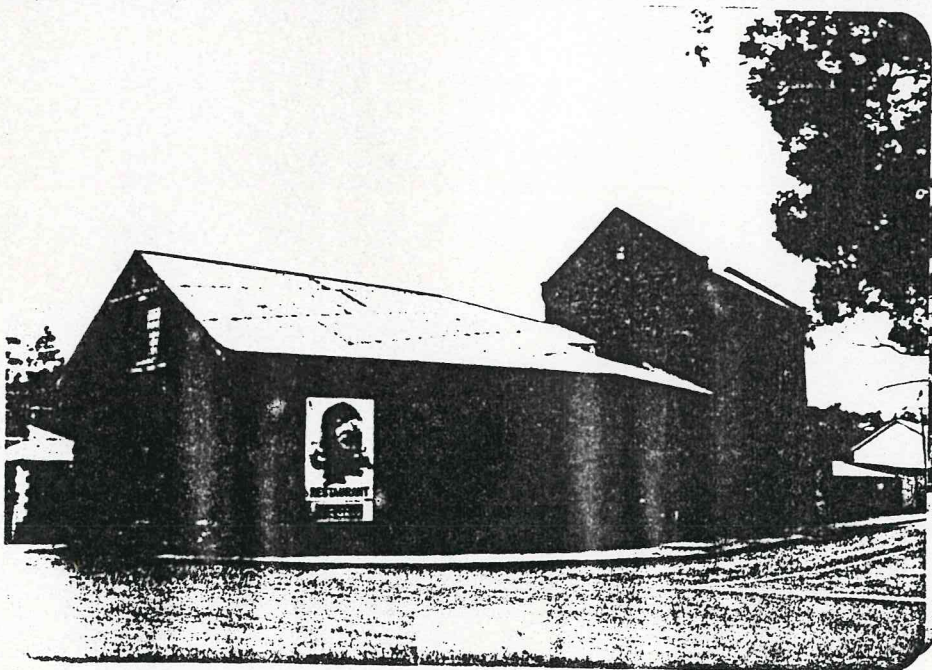
RECOMMENDATION:

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No:

Negative No:

Direction of view:



STATUS

Register of State

Heritage Items

On Register ☐

Interim List ☐

Nominated ☐

National Estate

National Trust

R.A.I.A.

Civic Trust

N.P. & W.L.S.

Council

Australian Heritage

Engin. Record

Other

MAP

Scale:

Source:

PREPARED BY:

DATE:



FILM 431
No 19

SAWLER FLOUR MILL

FEB '82
lothar