

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6630-10409
	Item WAR MEMORIAL MARKET SQUARE, BURRA	Status -
Age 1922	Subject EVENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE - Commemoration	Style Transition/ Memorial

History

Architecture

Environment

Integrity

Context	Associated with the country's involvement in the Great War of 1914-19, and illustrative of the contribution made by every town and city throughout the country towards the war effort.	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
Person/Group	Burra and Districts Community	X				
Event	29/3/1922 Unveiled by Hon. W.M. Hughes, Prime Minister		X			
Architect/Builder	Mr. Tillett (stone base and pedestal) Messrs. A.W. Dobbie, Adelaide (casting) Mr. Willmetts, Messrs. Pitt Ltd. (model)			X		
Design	Mr. Guy Makin, Architect Cast soldier in a menacing position atop an Egyptian column, stepped base with garlands, very tall proportions.		X			
Construction	Dressed and polished stone base and column, bronze figure and plaques.			X		
Interior	Not applicable.					X
Representation	A unique design, menacing position of figure is unusual, as is Egyptian column.		X			
Continuity	An accent feature rather than one which provides continuity.			X		
Local Character	A supporting element in Market Square's civic character.		X			
Landmark	A visually dominant element in Burra's commercial centre.	X				
Alterations	None.	X				
Condition	No obvious defects	X				
Compatibility	Still used as a War Memorial	X				



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### Supplementary Information

**Adaptation:** The Memorial's position and visual dominance should be maintained. Landscaping should be used to establish a visual link with the adjacent Rotunda.

**Interpretation:** The interpretative role of the Memorial is passive in the sense it is self explanatory.

### History and Sources

The War Memorial located on Market Square, Burra, was opened by the Prime Minister, the Hon. W.M. Hughes, at 2.30 p.m. on March 29th, 1922. Like countless similar towns and cities throughout the country, the War Memorial symbolised the relevance of the local population in the country's involvement in the First World War. Burra's contribution to the war effort was, according to the Prime Minister in his speech on the day, an outstanding one. Out of a population of 3,000 men, women and children, a total of 600 men had volunteered for service. As well, over £60,000 was contributed to the Patriotic Fund, £136,000 to War and Peace loans and other monies were contributed towards soldier's facilities and rehabilitation.

The monument, which comprises the figure of an Australian Soldier with fixed bayonet atop a circular granite pedestal, is the work of Mr. Tillett. He was assisted by an "honorary architect" Mr. Guy Makin, who advised on Mr. Tillett's design and subsequent construction. The figure of the soldier was modelled by Mr. Willmett of Messrs. Pitt Ltd. It was cast by Messrs. A.W. Dobbie & Co., of Adelaide in 5 sections. Weighing 10½ cwt. (or 500 kg) it was "scratch finished" on the surface to withstand colour change through weathering. At the time, it was noted as the largest piece of statuary ever attempted in the State. Five bronze plaques were attached to the granite base. These commemorate the name of 102 soldiers killed in the War from the Burra and District.

"Billie" Hughes, hailed as the "Digger's friend" unveiled the statue at the invitation of the town. Other dignitaries present included the Hon. R.W. Foster (Minister for Works and Railways), Senators Wilson, Newland Senior and Rowell, the Hon. G.R. Laffer (S.A. Minister for Repatriation) and the Hon. W. Mills. Tributes paid to the Prime Minister during the ceremonies of the day reveal the esteem bordering upon reverence, felt by the townspeople towards him, based to a large extent upon his role as leader of the country during the Great War. There were also undercurrents of non-sympathy within the community towards the extravagance of the monument's cost, referred to in some of the speeches made on the opening day. Disenchantment with the conception of Empire was referred to, and refuted, in the Prime Minister's speech. Not to the same extent would Burra and other country towns erect memorials following the subsequent 1939-1945 World War. A crowd of between 4,000 to 5,000 people attended the opening ceremony.

At a regional and State level, the War Memorial is significant in its representation

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### History and Sources

of the impact of The Great War upon the Australian community which at a national level claimed the lives of 60,000 men out of a total 300,000 sent to fight for King and Country.

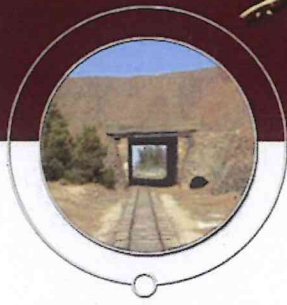
#### Sources:

Ian Auhl: Burra and District: A pictorial Memoir, Investigator Press Pty. Ltd., 1980

Burra Record	4/1/1922
	11/1/1922
	18/1/1922
	25/1/1922
	8/2/1922
	5/4/1922



# State Heritage Areas of South Australia



## Burra State Heritage Area Memorials and Monuments

*State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register*

Market Square, in reality a triangle, has provided a focus for Burra's traffic for many years. Its development from a watering point for horses to an area of lawn, dissected by bitumen roads and decorated with civic structures, reflects the town's transition from a mining town to a modern rural centre.

The first public amenity in Market Square was a pump and trough which, in 1879, tapped a bore sunk to a depth of 300 feet. The square was also the focus for community activities such as horse markets, Cornish wrestling, revival meetings and brass bands. As a pivotal location along Burra's main road, Market Square was the obvious site for the erection of two civic monuments, which are State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

### Market Square Rotunda

**Market Square, Burra**

**SAHR 10405 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 14 February 1985**

The rotunda on Market Square was built in 1910 to commemorate King Edward VII, and is an example of the loyalty to King and Empire that was prevalent in South Australia during the early years of the twentieth century (pre World War I).

Following the King's death, on 6 May 1910, the Burra Corporation instigated a public fund to raise money for the rotunda. The Burra Record recorded its opening on 8 February 1911, under the heading 'A Red Letter Day at Burra'. After a lunch at the nearby Burra Hotel, local and State dignitaries opened the memorial before a large crowd of residents from both the town and district.

A bronze plaque on the rotunda reads:

*Erected in memory of our late beloved King Edward VII,  
by the inhabitants of the town and district, Jan. 1911; John  
McLaren Mayor.*

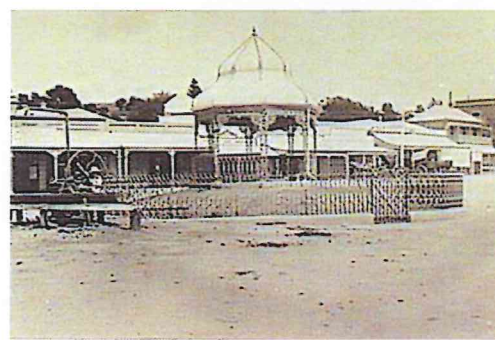


*Rotunda, Market Square, 2005*

Built at a cost of £160, the rotunda provided shelter for local bands. A circular wrought iron fence that defined the structure's outer perimeter has since been removed.



*A WW1 fundraising event, Kooringa c1915  
Photo B 27685: State Library of SA*



*Market Square Rotunda, late 1910  
Photo B 27700: State Library of SA  
(rotunda is unpainted - the weather vane and ball were  
not added until June 1911)*

## Burra War Memorial

Market Square, Burra

**SAHR 10409 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 14 February 1985**

The Burra War Memorial, erected in Market Square in 1922, reflects South Australia's response to the First World War, and in particular Burra's commemoration of local soldiers. At the time it was noted as the largest piece of statuary attempted in the State.

The memorial was unveiled on 29 March 1922 by the Prime Minister, the Hon. W.M. (Billy) Hughes. Like countless similar memorials in towns and cities throughout Australia, the War Memorial symbolised the relevance to the local population of the country's involvement in World War I.

According to the Prime Minister, in his speech on the day, Burra's contribution to the war effort had been an outstanding one. Of a total population of 3 000 men, women and children, 600 men had volunteered for service. As well, over £60,000 was contributed to the Patriotic Fund, £136,000 to War and Peace loans, and other monies contributed towards soldiers' facilities and rehabilitation.



War Memorial, Burra 1922

Photo B 27693: State Library of SA



Burra War Memorial, 2005

The monument, which comprises the figure of an Australian soldier with fixed bayonet, atop a circular granite pedestal, is the work of Mr Tillett. He was assisted by Guy Makin, an 'honorary architect', who advised on the design and the construction. Mr Willmetts, of Messrs Pitt Ltd, modelled the figure of the soldier.

The statue was cast in five sections by A.W. Dobbie & Co of Adelaide. Weighing 10.5 cwt (500 kilograms) it was 'scratch finished' on the surface to withstand colour change through weathering. Five bronze plaques attached to the granite base commemorate the names of the 102 soldiers from Burra and District who were killed during the war.



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Department for Environment  
and Heritage

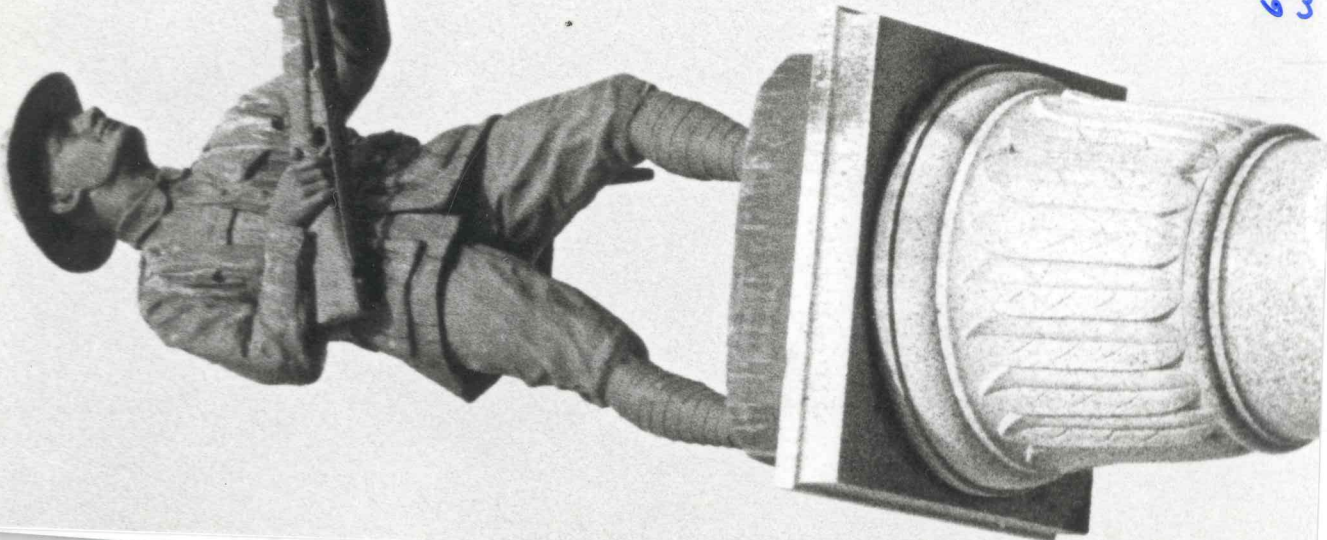




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