

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6630-10419
	Item HOTEL, FORMER SMELTER'S HOME	Status
Age 1849	Subject TRADE AND COMMERCE - ACCOMMODATION	Style

History	Context	Associated with the growth and development of Burra's copper mining and smelting industry, and thus reflects the social life of the town's mining population at a time when Burra was a major town in South Australia.	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
	Person/Group	1849 Licensee J. Robins		X			X
	Event	1875 - Smelters closed - hotel renamed Opie's Hotel		X			
	Architect/Builder	William Paxton		X			
Architecture	Design	A large single storey hotel with an almost residential character, simple lines and basic detailing, parapet and pediment at front.		X			
	Construction	Rubble stone walls, brick and stone quoins, corrugated iron roof over shingles, timber verandah around perimeter.			X		
	Interior	Spacial arrangement intact, timber partitions divide present flats, most joinery intact, bar fittings removed but still exist.			X		
	Representation	Represents the lower range of pubs in Burra in contrast to say the exchange hotel, residential in scale but obviously commercial in form.		X			
Environment	Continuity	Maintains the scale and character of the immediate area, sparsely developed portion of Burra North.			X		
	Local Character	An important character element along the main road between Burra and Burra North, readily identifiable early building in an area of the same.		X			
	Landmark	Not a highly 'visible' building but notable for its age and proximity to the road.		X			
	Alterations	Some stonework painted, internal and external form intact but some timber infills, altered to flats with minimal disruption.			X		
Integrity	Condition	No major faults, some damp in walls, in need of maintenance but basically sound.			X		
	Compatibility	Subdivided into flats.			X		

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	Item HOTEL, FORMER SMELTER'S HOME LATTERLY OPIE'S HOTEL	Prepared By: IVAR NELSEN IRIS IWANICKI

Supplementary Information

ADAPTATION: The external form should be maintained and restored where it faces the road. Adjacent landscaping and fencing etc. should be sympathetic. The original internal arrangement should be retained and a more sympathetic treatment encouraged. Fewer restrictions should apply internally and to the rear. While the retention of the stables should be encouraged, its poor structural state is recognized and its possible demolition is appreciated.

INTERPRETATION: The interpretative role of the building is basically passive as an early traditional element in an important township. The building does not require active interpretation but could be commented upon in literature. Its scale and form should be contrasted to the larger hotels and in particular the adjacent exchange hotel.

History and Sources

The Smelter's Home Hotel, built near the Burra Mine area, was first licensed in 1849. When built, it was hailed as a "splendid new place of entertainment". In the same year a new smelting works was established by the Patent Copper Company on the other side of Burra Creek from the mine to process the rich copper ore produced. According to Licensing Court records, there were eleven hotels in Burra during the 1850's. These catered for the miners, smelters and carters associated with the mine and provided a meeting place for social gatherings. When the smelters closed in 1875, two years before the mine ceased operation after 32 years, the Hotel was re-named Opie's Hotel. In 1875 the South Australian Mining Association subdivided the land in the vicinity in an unsuccessful attempt to realise surplus assets. The hotel stands on allotment 3 of the resultant subdivision of Graham.

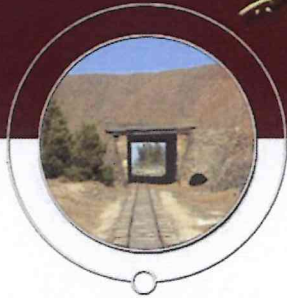
The proliferation of hotels during Burra's boisterous mining days was not wholeheartedly approved of by everyone. Success was experienced by the Total Abstinence Society in enlisting pledge signers from amongst the town's drinking population.

It was however noted that repentant drinkers were signing on a weekly basis. In 1872, a resident of Redruth, in supporting Sunday closing, stated that at one location in the township he could almost throw a stone into any one of 5 hotels. He queried whether so many were necessary for a population of 480 inhabitants.

The hotel contributes to the overall historic character of Burra and is a conspicuous example of the 1850's hotels once so prevalent in the mining town. It is now used for residential purposes, having been converted to flats.

Sources: I. Auhl: Burra and District - a pictorial memoir: Investigator Press. 1980
M. Perry and I. Auhl: Burra Sketchbook Rigby 1969
L.T.O. Searches
SAA: McLellan, Index to Hotels
A. Moore: Breweries of South Australia, 1836 - 1963
(Adelaide University Architecture Paper No. 10).

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Burra State Heritage Area Hotels

State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register

Burra has four large hotels and another former hotel, which are particularly significant as State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register. If considered chronologically, this group of buildings traces Burra's history as a mining town and its transition to become an important rural centre and mid-north transportation hub.

Burra Hotel, formerly Miners Arms Hotel

5 Market Street, Burra

SAHR 10404 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

The Burra Hotel was originally built in 1847 as the single-storey Miners Arms Hotel. Located in the hub of the main road system in Kooronga, the hotel became a focus of after-work celebrations by the miners. Free ginger beer was supplied for miners who competed in regular wrestling matches in the hotel's stable yards, and a whole bullock was often roasted. Many of these contests continued throughout the night and were known to last up to three days during Christmas holiday breaks.

The hotel also provided refreshments and accommodation for coach travellers. One of its more famous visitors was the explorer [John McDouall Stuart](#), who stayed overnight on 16 December 1862, as he returned from his successful crossing of Australia from south to north.

In 1878, the same year as the railway extension from Burra to Hallett was opened, the hotel was badly damaged by fire. In 1880, after it was rebuilt, it became the Burra Hotel. A second storey was added in 1912, and the verandah in 1920.

(Another hotel in the town, opened in 1846, was previously known as the Burra Hotel but this later became the Burra Hospital in the 1870s.)



Burra Hotel, 2005

former Smelter's Home Hotel

Market Street, Burra

SAHR 10419 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984



Former Smelts Hotel, 1994

The establishment of this hotel (as its name implies) coincided with the opening of the new smelting works in 1849. Located near the mine, the former Smelters Home Hotel (at one time also known as Opie's Hotel) is situated in what was the township of Graham, subdivided by the SA Mining Association. It was designed by William Paxton and is a large single-storey building, with a simple 'domestic' appearance.

In 1917 the hotel's licence was transferred to the Booborowie Hotel and the building became private residential accommodation.



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SMELTERS HOME MOTEL

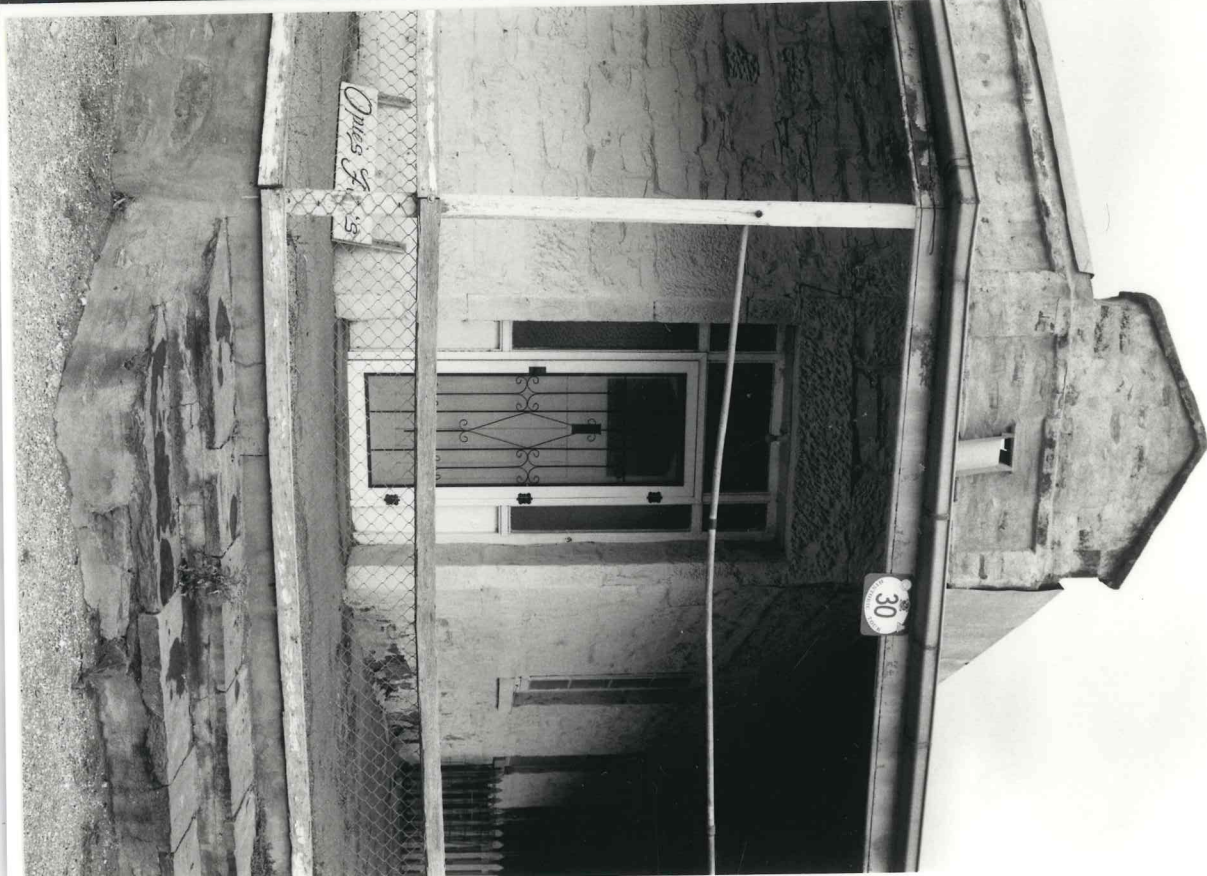
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SMELTERS HOME MOTEL

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FILM NO.

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SMOLTERS HOME HOTEL

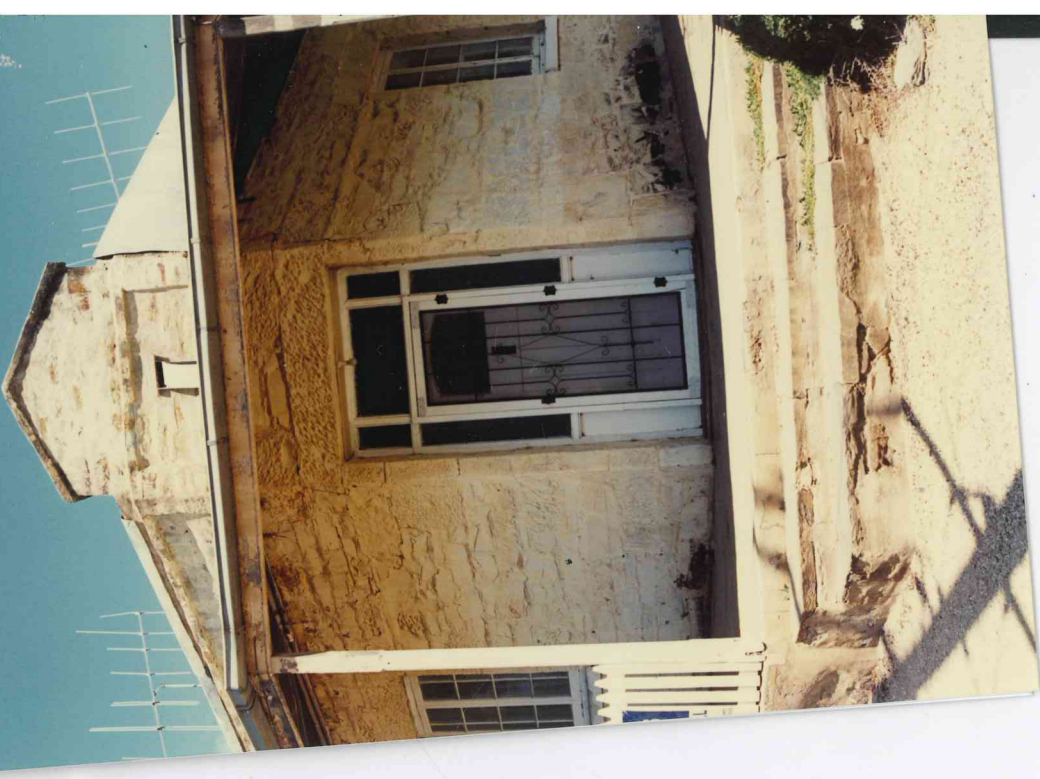
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