

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6630-10436
	Item STONE WALL COMMERCIAL STREET (WEST SIDE) BURRA	Status None
Age Unknown	Subject -	Style Vernacular

History	Context	Illustrates the workmanship of Burra's stone masons, many of whom were of Cornish origin.
	Person/Group	Not readily available, possible Cornish masons.
	Event	No known event.
	Architect/Builder	Not readily available.
	Design	'L' shaped plan, typical stone wall with a castellated stone capping, this capping is relatively unique to Burra but not rare.
Architecture	Construction	Coursed rubble stone, castellated top course.
	Interior	Not applicable.
	Representation	Similar to many other stone walls in Burra, several of this type have been included with recent approved nominations.
	Continuity	An isolated element not directly adjacent to other stone walls or buildings, reflected across the road in another wall.
	Local Character	A contributing element in the character of Burra, not a particularly 'dominant' element, located along main entry into Burra.
Environment	Landmark	Distance removed from road and its relative scale do not create a visual focal point.
	Alterations	Only an 'L' shape left, difficult to determine its original extent, shed has been integrated at one end into the wall.
	Condition	Only minor repointing necessary.
Integrity	Compatibility	Still used as a portion of a paddock fence.

E	VG	AG	FP	NA
	X			
		X		
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		X		
		X		
		X		
		X		
X				

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	Item STONE WALL COMMERCIAL STREET, BURRA	Prepared By: Ivar Nelsen Iris Iwanicki

Supplementary Information

Adaptation: Not applicable.

Interpretation: Passive only as a landscaping element.

History and Sources

The date of the Wall's construction is elusive, but it appears from early sketches that the wall did not exist before 1870. Located on Pt. Allotments 75 and 76 the wall stands near where the bullock teams were pastured at "The Paddock" opposite the original Burra Hotel by the main entrance to the town from the south.

Much of Burra's charm and interest is found in these beautifully constructed stone walls, which, together with remaining miner's cottages, chapels and the more substantial commercial buildings constructed during the 1870's, reflect the Cornish influence upon the mining town.

Sources:

P. Finch and I. Auhl: Burra in Colour, Rigby 1973

Burra Conservation Study.

M. Perry and I. Auhl: Burra Sketchbook, Rigby 1974

I. Auhl: Burra & District: A Pictorial Memoir, Lynton 1975

S.A.A: Burra pictures.



Engineering works and stone constructions (especially by Cornish masons) are prevalent within the Burra State Heritage Area. Three bridges and two stone walls have particular significance as State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

Mine Bridge

Market Street, Burra (opposite Peacock's Chimney & the Burra Mine Site entrance)

SAHR 10021 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

This single-arch stone bridge was completed in 1868, during Burra's prosperous mining period, and provided a link between the townships of Koorunga and Redruth. It also helped to channel the water produced by the copper mining operations, which entered Burra Creek via Mine Creek.

Mine Bridge was built under contract for the Central Road Board by Messrs Tiver and Woolcott. On 8 May 1868 the Register reported that the "bridge is progressing favourably and the work certainly does great credit to the contractors" This followed an observation that

The Burra Mine will soon wear a livelier aspect as the engine house to the new shaft is to be at once erected. From the fact that so expensive a piece of work has been ordered we infer that the mine will shortly resume underground operation.



Eastern parapet, Market Street, 2005

Earlier, in December 1867, the local correspondent had complained that the Central Road Board had "not kept their promise to complete the road near the Mine Store and making the bridge. It was left off very abruptly and is in a very dangerous condition for anyone passing in a cart on a dark night."

With the widening of the main road, sections of Mine Bridge have been removed at various times and the creek bed has been backfilled on the western side. Only the eastern parapet and arch detailing now survive, with a concrete pipe channelling water from the mine site to the west.



Eastern arch and parapet, 1994



Creekbed and surviving stone arch, 2005

Kooringa Bridge

Commercial Street, Burra

SAHR10006 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place on 6 May 1982

The Kooringa Bridge was constructed during 1878-79 at the beginning of the post-mining period of Burra's development. It was one of five riveted, wrought iron, bow-string trusses built in the northern districts by the Midland Road Board – others were at Redruth (see below), Merriton, Balaklava and Undalya.

The bridge consists of two 18-metre arched spans, on two metal pillars sunk into the creek bed. It was originally finished with jarrah planking, but the Highways Department replaced this with concrete in the 1930s.

This bridge links the eastern and western areas of Kooringa, and replaced an earlier timber structure at Bridge Street (one street south) that had been carried during a flood in March 1877. The Kooringa Bridge originally cost £2,500 and was opened to traffic during May 1879, but there was no official ceremony.



*Burra Creek in flood at Kooringa 1915
Photo B 27686: State Library of SA*



Kooringa Bridge, 2005



*Across Kooringa Bridge to
Commercial Street, 2005*

Redruth Bridge including Stone Abutments & Walls

Ludgvan Street, Burra

SAHR 10413 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 24 March 1983

The Redruth Bridge, constructed at the same time as the Kooringa Bridge (see above) is an example of a riveted iron bow-string truss. It was officially opened at a ceremony on 12 December 1879 by the local representative of the Midland Road Board, Captain Killicoat, and a large party of civic dignitaries from the town and district councils.



Footpath, Redruth Bridge, 2005

The Redruth Bridge cost £1,400 to build, and replaced an earlier timber laminated arch bridge that had become quite rotten and unsafe. The bridge was designed as an iron bow-string truss with shaped stone abutments, and provided separate vehicular and pedestrian access. Like the bridge at Kooringa, the Redruth Bridge was originally finished with jarrah planking, which was replaced with reinforced concrete in the 1930s.



Redruth Bridge, 2005

**Stone Wall located on the east side of Commercial Street and Ware Street
cnr Commercial & Ware Streets, Burra**

SAHR 10435 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

&

**Stone Wall located on the west side of Commercial Street
Commercial Street, Burra**

SAHR 10436 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

Much of Burra's charm and interest is reflected in these well-constructed stone walls which, together with remaining miners' cottages and other buildings up to the late-1870s, signal the Cornish influence within the town. The construction dates for both walls are elusive, but early sketches of Burra suggest that they were built after 1870.



Corner Commercial (east) and Ware Streets, 2005



Wall on Commercial Street (west), 2005

The wall on Commercial Street's east side is an L-shaped one, on the corner of Ware Street. It stands near the remains of Burra's first Roman Catholic chapel and school (late 1840s).

The wall on the west side of Commercial Street stands near 'The Paddock', where the bullock teams were pastured, opposite the original Burra Hotel and by the main southern entrance to the town.



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SH/10436

STONE WALL LOCATED ON WEST SIDE OF
COMMERCIAL STREET
29 COMMERCIAL STREET
BURRA STATE HERITAGE AREA
HERITAGE CARE PROGRAM



Film No.

6630-10436
STONE WALL, COMMERCIAL ST. (WEST)



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