

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6628-10444
	Item RAILWAY STRUCTURE - PORT DOCK DELIVERY GOODS SHED	Status -
Age c1875	Subject Original Use: Goods Shed Present Use: Educational Building	Style -

History

Architecture

Environment

Integrity

Context	Illustrates expansion in rail traffic and facilities at Port Adelaide in 1870s to cater for South Australia's coastal and overseas trade.	E X	VG	AG	FP	NA
Person/Group	-					X
Event	-					X
Architect/Builder	Unknown.					X
Design	Simple rectangular gable-roofed building with timber end walls, relieved by valenced arched openings over tracks.		X			
Construction	Timber posts supporting timber trusses over tracks and platform. Knee braces, cantivered awning to east, corrugated galvanised iron roof.	X				
Interior	Timber elevated platform of massive construction. Single span between perimeter posts. Trusses exposed.		X			
Representation	The largest nineteenth century goods shed known in the State, and one of the very few timber ones.	X				
Continuity	Continues the industrial/transportation character of the surroundings.		X			
Local Character	An important historic element in Port Adelaide, one of few remaining early railway structures.		X			
Landmark	A large building, although not conspicuous in its surroundings.			X		
Alterations	Little change to basic structure, some superficial extensions to both ends.		X			
Condition	Generally sound. In need of maintenance. Both termite and fungal damage evident, especially to platform.			X		
Compatibility	Proposed use as railway museum.		X			

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6628-10444
	Item Railway Structure - Port Dock Goods Delivery Shed	Prepared By: Peter Bell Vivien Stewart

Supplementary Information

Adaptation: Re-use as railway museum is entirely appropriate. The two additions at the northern end of the building should be retained.

Interpretation: Will be appropriately covered by museum function.

History and Sources

The Port Dock Goods Delivery Shed, constructed in c1875, was built during the boom years of railway construction in South Australia. It formed an integral part of an important railway system linking Adelaide with its port. Secondly, its size and scale reflect the expansion in facilities at Port Adelaide in the 1870s to cater for South Australia's growing import and export trade.

When the Adelaide to Port Adelaide Line opened for traffic on 21 April 1856, it represented the British Empire's first State-owned railway. It was also the first steam traction railway to be constructed in South Australia. Up to 1870, Adelaide and its port were the terminus for the Colony's main railway system and 88% of the wheat was shipped from Port Adelaide. Although this fell when railway lines were subsequently built from the northern wheatlands to ports on Spencer Gulf, its trade in wool rose. This coincided with the opening of the railway between Adelaide and Morgan in 1878 to take advantage of the Murray River wool trade.

Furthermore, Port Adelaide as the gateway to Adelaide, always dominated the import trade. None of the outports served a large enough population to support a direct import trade from overseas. The expectation was, that with the opening of the line to Kapunda and North West Bend, Adelaide would become an important feeder of the Colony's trade and Port Adelaide in particular.

The plan for the Port Dock Goods Delivery Shed was drawn in 1873. It is reasonable to assume that it was constructed by 1879 as it appears in a lithograph by A.C. Cooke published in Illustrated Adelaide News in May 1879. Situated on the eastern boundary of the Port Dock Station Yard, it would provide undercover accommodation for two goods trains, each carrying approximately 16 four wheel wagons. It was built as a response to increased rail traffic and expansion in facilities at Port Adelaide.

As early as 1865, station arrangements at Port Adelaide proved incapable of handling the amount of traffic which had developed. There was considerable discussion to improve railway facilities in 1870-71. It was planned to improve and alter lines to carry goods by train to the wharfs. Lines were built to carry horse-drawn wagons to the docks, wool stores and warehouse premises.

contd.

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6628-10444
	Item RAILWAY STRUCTURE - PORT DOCK GOODS DELIVERY SHED	Prepared By: Peter Bell Vivien Stewart

History and Sources

Between the 1850s and 1880s there was a great increase in the volume of traffic through Port Adelaide. In 1868 the Port Adelaide Dry Creek Loop Line was opened. Railways were built to connect Port Adelaide with Glanville and Semaphore in 1878 and Largs Bay in 1882. The line was later extended to Outer Harbor in 1908. Alterations were made to Port Dock Station and yards to cater for the increase in traffic. By 1880 the Port Dock was constructed to provide increased wharfage accommodation and the railway to Adelaide was duplicated.

When the Glanville via Commercial Road Station at Port Adelaide was opened in 1916 the volume of traffic at Port Dock Station decreased. In 1922 it was closed to through traffic. In 1964 the platforms at Port Dock Railway Station were shortened to take three car trains only as part of the demolition of the original station. A new, smaller station was built. It was closed down several years ago; the last passenger service was on 13 September 1981. The station yard has subsequently been used to store rolling stock.

The Port Dock Delivery Goods Shed is the only intact surviving building which remains of the original Port Dock Station complex.

References

S.A.R. Drawings of Goods Delivery Shed, Port Adelaide, 2468/233 1873, 24545/233 1909, 233/2468 1915, Commonwealth Archives, Collinswood.

R. Fluck, Mile End Railway Museum.

J.B. Hirst, Adelaide and the Country 1870-1917 1973, pp. 23-27.

G. Eardley, "The Port Adelaide Railway System", In: The Australian Railway Historical Society Bulletin, No. 393, July 1970.

A.A. Strempel, "The Centenary of the Adelaide - Port Adelaide Railway" In: The Australian Railway Historical Society Bulletin, No. 224, June 1956.

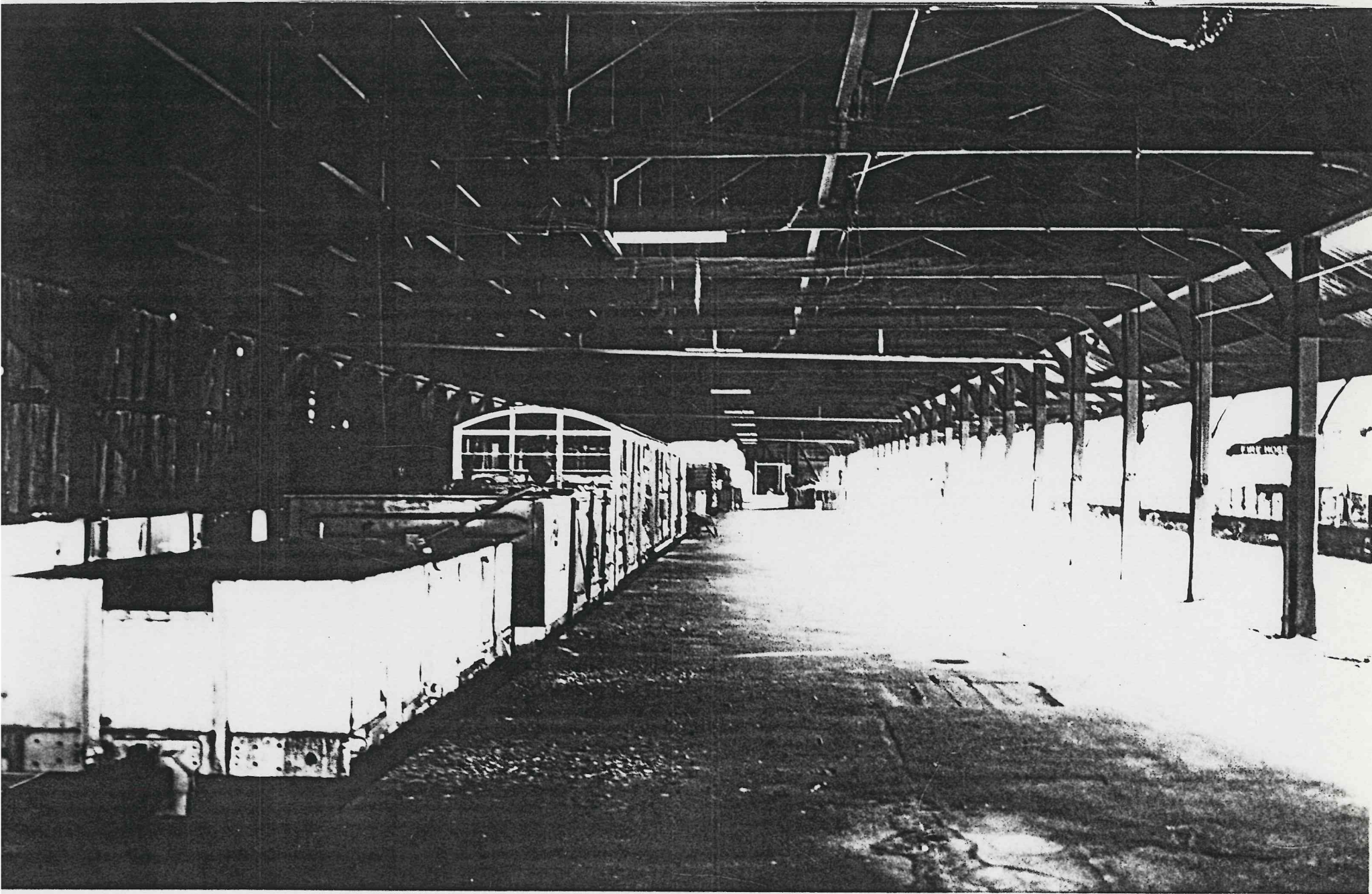
S.A.P.P., 1870-71, No. 164 "Alteration of Railways at Port Adelaide", p. 2.

R. Parsons, Southern Passages: A Maritime History of South Australia, 1986, pp. 79-87.

Port Adelaide News, 8 June 1878

Footnote: Further to writing this report it was ascertained from A.N.R. Assets Register that the Goods Delivery Shed was constructed 1873/4

(VS-1[DG]:NR3/9.RAI)



6628-10444 Port Dock Goods Shed
Interior looking north

26 June 1987



6628-10444 Port Dock Goods Shed
Interior looking north

26 June 1987