

South
Australian
Heritage
Act
1978-80

HERITAGE SURVEY ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5

Item Ref. No. 117

ITEM NAME: Former Railway Superintendent's
House
Former or other

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This interesting building, besides being probably the first substantial building constructed in the town, is also its most historically significant because of the association with the Port Elliot and Goolwa railway.

Construction commenced July 1852 and the house was occupied by Mr. Buxton Forbes Laurie, the first Superintendent of the Port Elliot and Goolwa Railway in January 1854. He occupied the house for several months after which it was used as a summer cottage by Governor Young.

The unusual house shows clearly on the sketch of Goolwa made in 1853 by James H. Adamson. It is built of travertine limestone with some sawn limestone and has a distinctive curved, corrugated iron roof.

LOCATION

Address Part lot 271
Town Goolwa
Postcode
Section
Hundred Goolwa
County
L.G.A. Pt. Elliot and
S.H.P. Region 5 Goolwa
A.M.G. Ref. 6626-I

SUBJECT

2.1
4.7
4.10

PERIOD

State

Study Area

1853-1880

REFERENCES

Port Elliot and Goolwa Heritage Study, pp. 5, 20 (no. 8)
National Trust, 349

Verbal
Archival photographs

TYPE OF ITEM

LAND Natural feature ☐
Historical site ☐
Historical Gdn. ☐
BUILDING ☒
STRUCTURE ☐
PHYSICAL CONDITION ☐

PHOTOGRAPH Film No. 103 Negative No. 7
Direction of view to N

STATUS

Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. ☒ Interim L ☐
Nominated ☐
National Estate
Reg. ☒ Proposed L ☐
National Trust
CL ☒ RL ☐ File ☐
Other

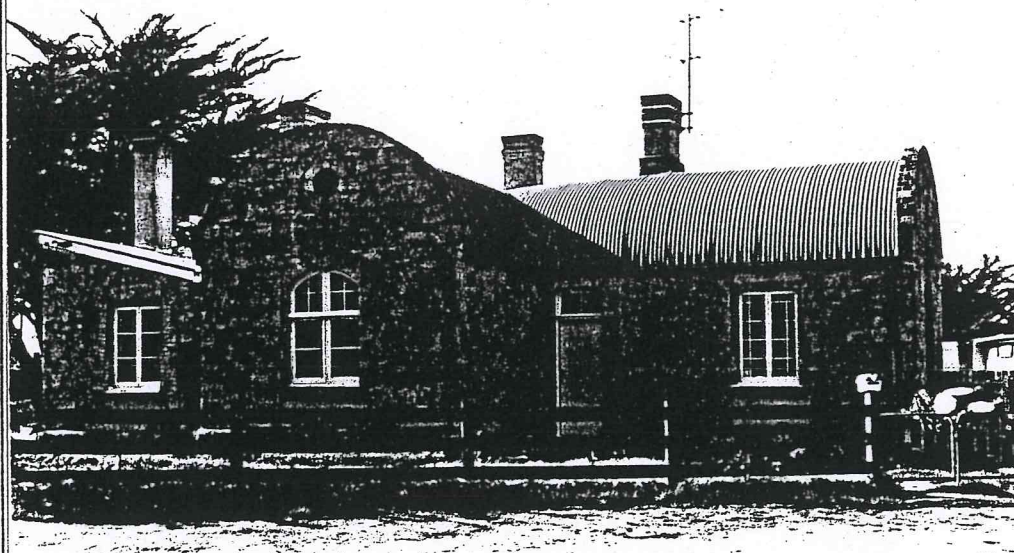
RECOMMENDATION

(A) State ☒ (B) Local ☐

PREPARED BY

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983



RAILWAY HERITAGE of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Site Name Goolwa Railway Superintendent's House

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

This is a significant vernacular building because of its design and construction, even though it is not one of evident architectural distinction. It is also an item of great historical significance because of its identification with the development of the horse tramway between Goolwa and Port Elliot in the mid 1850s.

Significant Interest

- **Historical** This is an item of great historical significance because of its identification with the building and early development of the tramway between Goolwa and Port Elliot.
- **Architectural** This is a vernacular building, and though not one of architectural distinction is certainly a distinctive one because of its design and detailing and is therefore an item of considerable architectural interest.
- **Environmental** The design and detailing of this building make it a distinctive element in Goolwa, though its location means that it is not a landmark.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the item should be included on the Register of the National Estate.

Site Name Goolwa Railway Superintendent's House

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

HISTORICAL

Date 1852

National Trust notes: 'Work began on the Port Elliot and Goolwa railway on 21 June 1852 and the foundations for the Railway Superintendent's House were laid in July 1852. National Trust Reg. No. 349 describes the building as 'In the form of a T-shape, the original section of the building is well constructed of limestone rubble, with massive roughly squared limestone blocks to quoins, gable stops and window surrounds. To the segmentally arched gables at the extremities of the T-shape, the windows have segmentally arched heads with unusual casement frames under. The heads are of shaped limestone and windows are small half-paned casements, under a transom with fanlight over. Above these windows are gable vents with stone surrounds. The copings to gables are of brick and the roof is of interest, for it is simply self supporting corrugated iron in semi-circular shape. There is no internal structure apart from ceiling hangers to support the lath and plaster ceiling. The interior retains cedar joinery to window, door and fire surrounds. Presently owned by the National Trust of South Australia, the building is being maintained and gradually restored by the caretaker. An underground tank with domed roof of brick exists at the rear. A pump is shortly to be reinstated to the tank in working order. Original thresholds are shaped granite'.

Work on the building was still in progress on 2 December 1853 when a Mr. Wilson was undertaking carpentry.

On 1 January 1854, Mr. Buxton Forbes Laurie was appointed as the first superintendent of the Port Elliot and Goolwa Railway. However, on 5 January of that year Mr. Laurie became the first district's Special Magistrate and Mr. Thomas Jones, C.E., took over the position of Engineer and Traffic Superintendent of the railway.

Research has not revealed the earlier residents of the house. Nevertheless, it has been understood that, on completion, the Lieutenant-Governor and his family occupied the 'cottage', as it was called, for three weeks whilst he was reviewing construction works and on other general administrative duties.

By 1878 the structure was designated as 'Govt. Cottage Occupied by Station Master'.

In the interim, organisational changes had taken place to the traffic-way. The Middleton-Strathalbyn railway had been opened on 23 February 1869. On 1 October 1884 steam locomotives were introduced on the Goolwa line. (The Adelaide to Victor Harbor railway line had been completely converted to steam by 1 April of the following year).

Under an agreement dated 1 September 1893 the house was rented by a Mr. J.A. Hewitt, an 'outside tenant' as other than railway employees were officially referred to, for 2/- per week. However, he vacated on 21 September 1894, and possession was immediately taken by Ganger Hurst at the increased rental of 3/- a week.

It would seem that the house was tenanted by railway staff until 1932, when the last employee was Ganger Litster.

Site Name Goolwa Railway Superintendent's House

On 23 May 1932, Miss Clara Hedding of Goolwa entered into an occupancy agreement at 8/- a week. It has been interesting to note that the fittings and fixtures were listed as: '5 Wire doors, 9 wire windows, 4 Mantle shelves, 4 cupboards, 3 Spring rollers, 1 copper, 1 Stove, 1 Douglas Pump & 6 Door Keys'. The payment was reduced on 11 January 1933 to a standard of 5/8d. plus 6d. for water. Miss Hedding lived in the residence until 18 October 1941.

Mrs. Muriel Stewart took over on the next 2 November at a weekly rental of 6/2, including the charge of 6d. for water. As the accommodation was required for Departmental purposes after World War II, Mrs. Stewart left on 2 July 1949. Maintenance work was immediately required such as the renewal of some lathe and plaster ceiling with caneite, the painting and kalsomining of the entire interior, the treatment with 'Boral' for floor borers and attendance to all the locks on the doors. Packer Arthur Stanley Forbes Arbon was the next tenant after Mrs. Stewart. Work for the provision of a bathroom and laundry commenced on 28 February 1950, and was completed on the following 18 April at an estimated cost of £162. Packer Arbon then had extra rent of

Bathroom	6d.
Bath heater	6d.
Washhouse	9d.
Total	1/9d. per week

Between 27 February 1953 and 8 April next three window hoods were added, and the rental again increased, by a further 3d. per week.

After being vacated by Packer Arbon, the house was occupied by Mrs. I.M. Pratt - from May 1961 - as a life tenant. When she passed away in January 1973 negotiations were entered into 'to dispose of House No. 120 at Goolwa to The National Trust of South Australia in accordance with Section 84(1)(a) of the South Australian Railways Commissioner's Act, 1936/71'. The sale was approved on 30 August 1973 and the contract with the Trust was in effect from 20 September of that year. In order to complete the legalities the transfer instrument was signed on 11 July 1974 by Mr. Warren Bonython as President and Mr. George Symes as Vice President of The National Trust of South Australia.

The Certificate of Title was issued on 23 August 1974.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Millward became the Trust's tenants and began undertaking a repair and renovation programme of the building, as well as establishing an outside garden and other external features.

(Note: Interior room sizes measured as -

Living Room	15' x 12'
Kitchen	15' x 10'
Bed Room	13' x 12'
Bed Room	12' x 11'
Bed Room	12' x 7')

Site Name Goolwa Railway Superintendent's House

ARCHITECTURAL

Size Single storey

Wall Materials Random rubble limestone with roughly squared blocks to quoins, gable stops and window surrounds

Roof Form Segmentally arched gables

Roof Material Corrugated galvanised iron

Window type The heads are of shaped limestone and windows are small half-paned casements, under a transom with fanlight over

Other features The plan of the building is in the form of a 'T'.

REFERENCES

See National Trust notes and the State Heritage Branch file

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CIRCUMSTANCES

The building is owned by the National Trust

INTEGRITY

The essential integrity of the item appears to be high.

ENVIRONMENT / PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

The building is close to the Signal Point interpretation centre.

Site Name Goolwa Railway Superintendent's House

Address Brooking Street, Goolwa

Section Pt Section 271

Hundred Hundred of Goolwa

CT No 4024/235

Local Government Area Port Elliot and Goolwa

Owner(s) National Trust of South Australia

State Heritage Status Registered 26 November 1981

Other Assessments Register of the National Estate

Current Use National Trust Museum

Condition Good **Exterior** Good

Known Threats None

Conservation action identified None

Associated item(s) Railway cutting and former stables.

Comments This building is a prominent one near the centre of the town and a feature of the Heritage Area.

Site Surveyor Peter Donovan **Date(s) of Survey** 3 December 1991

Site Name Goolwa Railway Superintendent's House

Film/Neg Number SHB 6626-10469

Photographer State Heritage Branch

Subject Name Railway Superintendent's Cottage



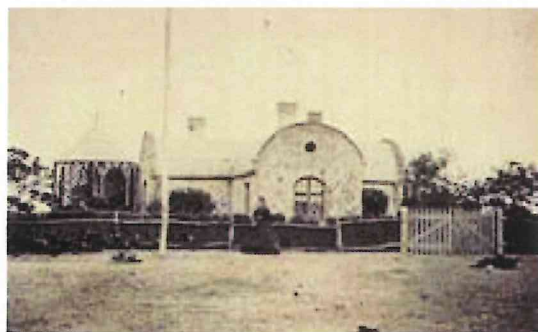
State Heritage Areas of South Australia



former Railway Superintendent's House

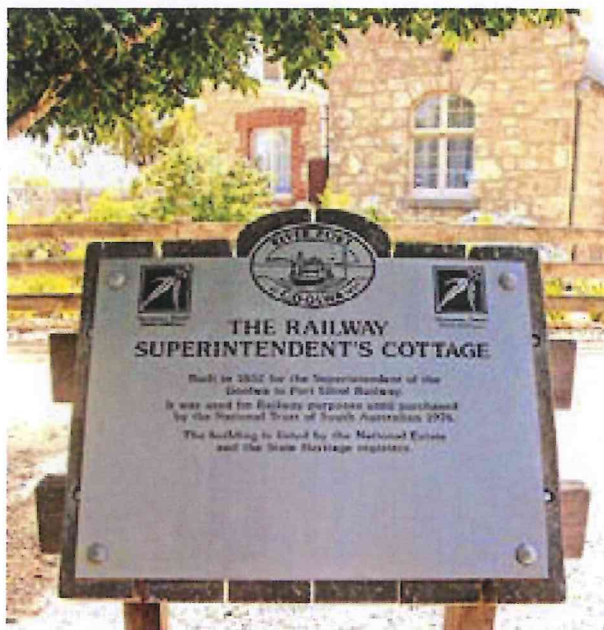
B.F.Laurie Lane, Goolwa

SHR 10469 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place on 26 November 1981



*Cottage of Goolwa occupied by Thomas Jones
Superintendent of the Goolwa Tramway 1869
Photo B 5681: State Library of SA*

The Railway Superintendent's Cottage is one of Goolwa's most significant and distinctive buildings. The dwelling was possibly Goolwa's first substantial building, and is historically important because of its association with South Australia's first railway, from Goolwa to Port Elliot.



Interpretive Panel, March 2005

Construction of the residence commenced in July 1852 and after its completion it was initially occupied by Mr Buxton Forbes Laurie, the first superintendent of the Port Elliot Goolwa line. He lived in the house for only a few months, after which Governor Sir Henry Fox Young used it briefly as a summer cottage.

Architecturally the limestone dwelling is of an unusual T-shaped design, with a curved, self-supporting, corrugated iron roof.



Rear view, March 2005



Side view and garden, March 2005



Front entrance, March 2005



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Heritage



6626 - 10469



FILM 103
No 7

RAILWAY HOUSE, PORTER ST
10469

GOOLWA
31-7-79



FILM 103
NO 8

RAILWAY HOUSE FROM NORTH WEST

10469

GOOLWA
31-7-79



FILM 103
NO 10

KITCHEN, RAILWAY HOUSE, PORTER ST
10469

GOOLWA
31-7-79



FILM 104 EAST WALL, RAILWAY HOUSE, PORTER ST.
NO 1 10469

GOOLWA
31-7-79



6626-10469

Railway Superintendants Cottage - Crookwa

August 84