

GUMERACHA HERITAGE SURVEY

Survey Place No:

BD 43

Site Description:

Birdwood Mill (Former Grainstore)
Shannon Street
BIRDWOOD SA 5234

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE:

Architectural -

The mill building is substantially that built by the Pflaums in 1888. There are two major sections, both with symmetrical facades. The older portion has dressed stone voussoirs and the later section has brick quoins. Windows in the older section are timber casement, with stone in the newer section. However most windows of the newer section are twelve pane sash type. Both window openings are of random bluestone, as is the prominent chimney.

Historical -

Originally built in 1854 by Johann Gottlob Blumel, one of Blumberg's most prominent early residents, the flour mill was associated with the early development of the town in the 1850s and 1860s.

In the mid 1860s the Randell family of Gumeracha acquired the flour mill. William Beavis Randall's son, Samuel managed the mill until 1868 when closure was forced as a result of declining demand. Only a year previously, in February 1867 a disastrous fire destroyed most of the mill. It was rebuilt.

The flour mill was not used during the period of 1868 to the early 1870s. It was then leased by the Pflaum brothers to power the wattle bark mill which they constructed on site. They appear to have restarted the milling of flour and in 1887 invested a substantial amount of money to rebuild the old steam mill as a modern four-storey roller mill, using the most up-to-date techniques available at the time for producing high quality flour. The mill became known as the Peerless Roller Mill and was in continuous operation until the middle of this century.

Alongside the new flour mill, the bark mill continued grinding wattle bark until well into the 1920s. In addition, there was also a chaff mill in operation for some time. The former Peerless Roller Mill is significant for its role as Blumberg's leading industry for almost three-quarters of a century, providing a focus for much of the town's economic life during this time. It is also important for its association with the Pflaum brothers and their families who were the leading citizens of the town in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition, it is significant as an important country flour mill which continued in operation well after many others had closed down due to competition from larger and more centrally located concerns.

References - State Heritage Branch File No 6628-10517

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Location: Shannon Street
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Mapsheets: Onkaparinga 6628 - 2

AMG Reference: 3128 614.480

Description: Two-storey stone mill

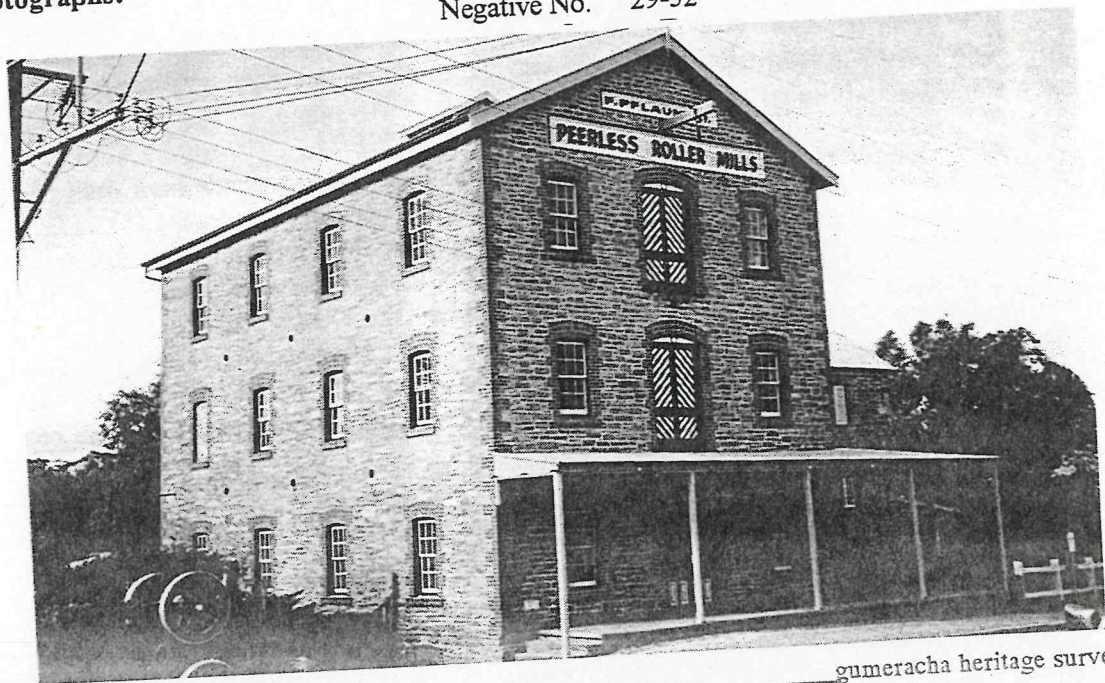
Land Description: Allotment 53
Section No. 6587
Hundred of Talunga
Certificate of Title 5112/42

LGA: District Council of Gumeracha

Owner: History Trust of South Australia
C/- Birdwood Mill Museum
BIRDWOOD SA 5234

Heritage Status: Register of the National Estate, Registered No. 007499
State Heritage Register, Registered No. 6628-10517
National Trust of South Australia, former Classified List.

Photographs: Film No. C01
Negative No. 29-32







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