

South
Australian
Herit.
Act
1978-80

HERITAGE SURVEY

ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

PROJECT BURNSIDE
HERITAGE SURVEY: PART 2
Item Ref. No.

ITEM NAME: Toll House
Former or other

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

A small, hexagonal, white painted, stone structure with a chimney in the middle of the roof, the toll house squats in the centre of the busy Mt. Barker Road entrance to the Adelaide plains.

It was built in 1841 when the colony was suffering acute financial hardship and tolls were more or less successfully collected from road users until 1847 when Samuel Davenport, a local member of the Legislative Council, moved for the abolition of the levies. It was perceived as highly unjust as no other highway was subsidised in this way and, indeed, many crafty bullock drivers and other travellers were simply by-passing that section of the road.

The building is one of the oldest in the state and a rare example of its type. It well illustrates the early history of governmental fund raising and is a justly famous landmark.

LOCATION

Address Mt. Barker Rd.
Glen Osmond
Town
Postcode 5064
Section
Hundred ADELAIDE
County
L.G.A. BURNSIDE
S.H.P. Region 2
A.M.G. Ref.

SUBJECT

4.7

USE

PERIOD

State

Study Area

1838-60

REFERENCES

Local History Collection Files
Warburton, pp. 108-9

Verbal

Archival photographs

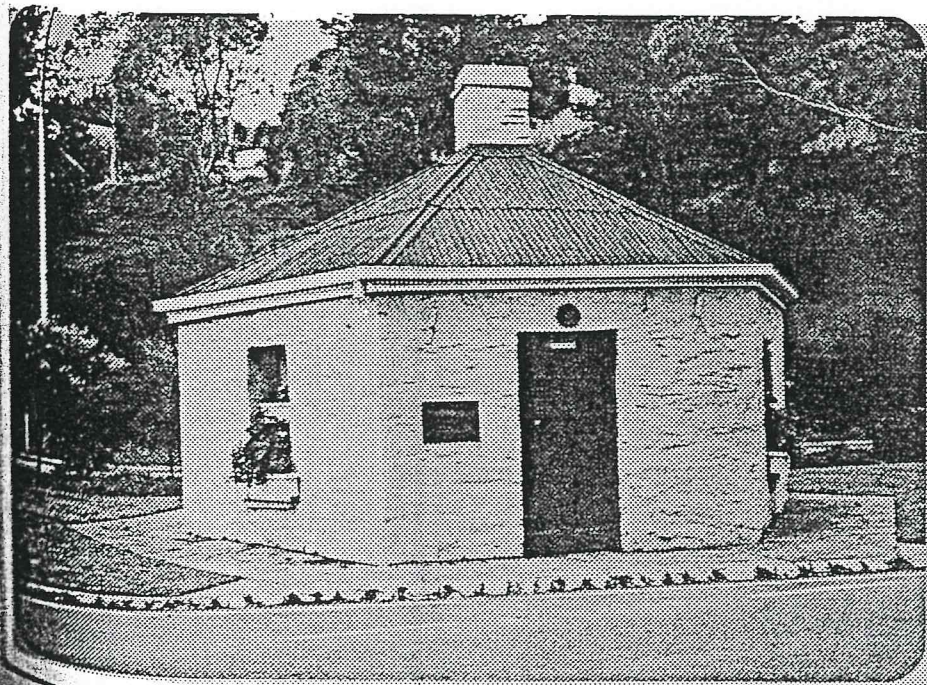
TYPE OF ITEM

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

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 8

Negative No. 13



STATUS

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

LAND TITLE

Commonwealth
Road Reserve

RECOMMENDATION

(A) State ☒ (B) Local ☐

PREPARED BY

ALEXANDRA MARSDEN AND
JOHN DALLWITZ

Date: 1987

6628-10526
Former Toll House
Glen Osmond.

18/13/01

Cotterell & Finch - 1973

TOLL HOUSE, Glen Osmond

On 2 October 1841 a paragraph appeared in the *Register* to the effect that "the road cut through the Glen Osmond Valley would soon be open to the public." This road was the Great Eastern Highway from Adelaide through Crafers and on to the Mount Barker district.

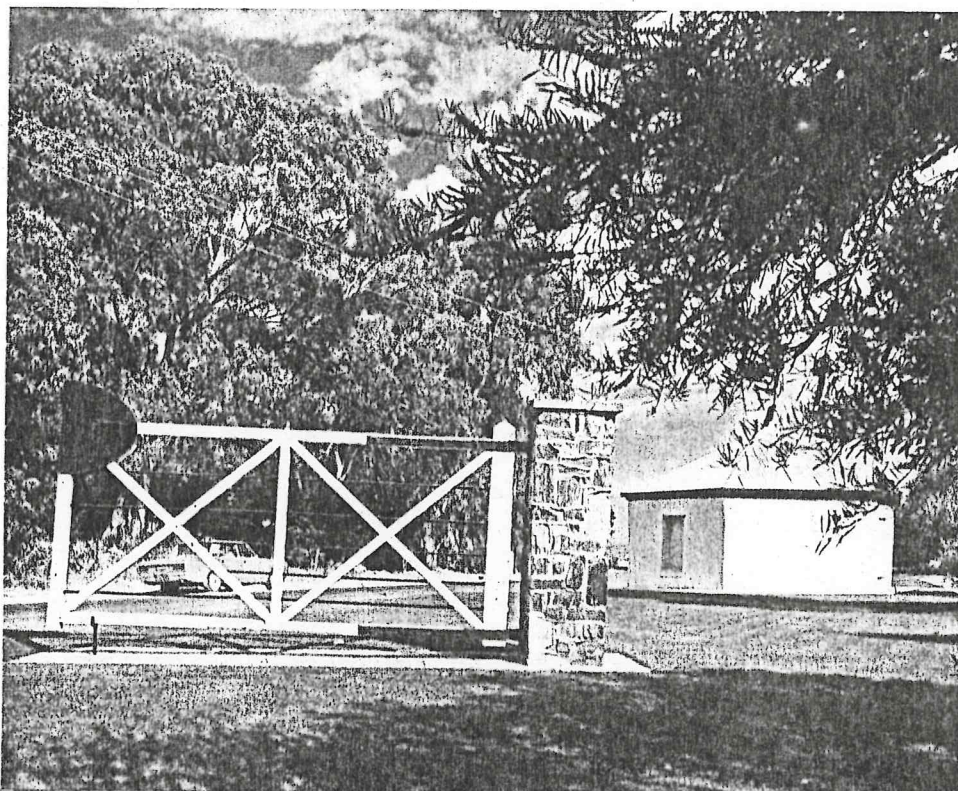
To help finance the undertaking a Toll House and turn-pike gate was erected in 1842 just above Glen Osmond at the entrance to the Adelaide Hills.

The house, hexagonal in design, with a chimney in the centre, was provided for the keeper who was responsible for collecting the tolls, which included the following:

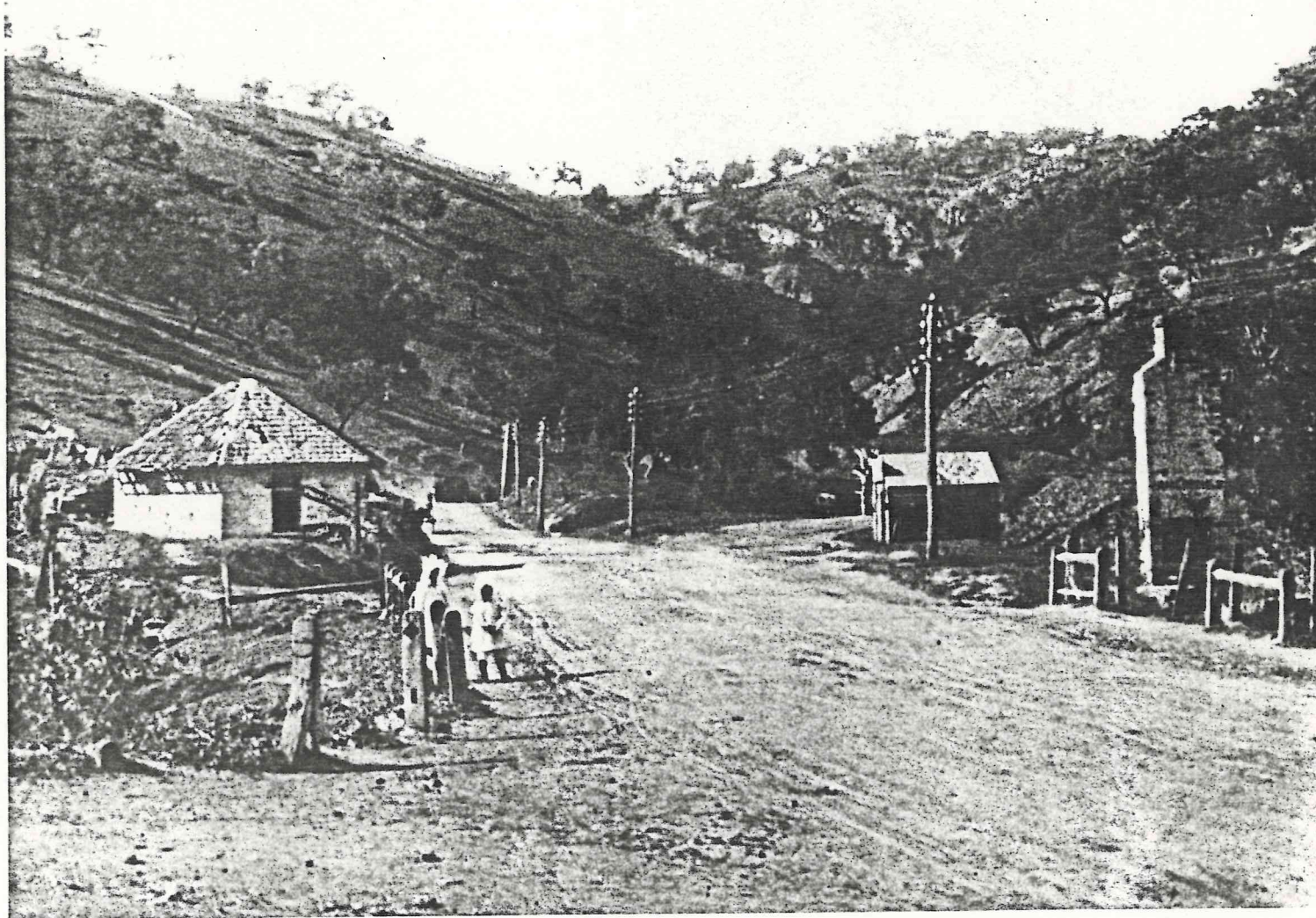
"For every coach, chariot, gig and hearse, caravan or other carriage, and every cart, waggon, drag or other vehicle if drawn by one horse or two bullocks, 1/-. For every such vehicle drawn by two horses or four bullocks, 1/6. For every saddle or lead horse, mule or ass, 6d. For all sheep, lambs, calves, hogs, swine or goats driven, $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per head."

However, persons travelling to divine worship were exempt from toll. According to reports, the toll keeper was often hard pressed to decide if all those who claimed exemption on Sundays were, in fact, on their way to church.

The Toll House was closed in 1847 and in the following years fell into decay, but it has since been restored and now stands on a median strip on Adelaide's main highway to the eastern states.



6628-10526
Former Toll House
Glen Osmond



The Toll-bar House at about the turn of the century. It was built in 1842 at the entrance to the Glen Osmond Gorge, when the newly-constructed road to Mount Barker had just been opened. A turn-pike gate was adjacent to the hexagonal building shown in the photograph, and a toll was exacted from all vehicular traffic using the road. A charge of ten cents was required for a one-horse drawn vehicle, and thirty cents for a six-horse wagon. The turn-pike levies were eventually discontinued in 1847. The hexagonal building was the residence of the toll-house keeper who worked "from twelve o'clock at night to twelve of the clock of the next succeeding night." (The hexagonal building has been restored, and is still standing at the entrance to the Hills highway.)



WILLIAM H. H. H. H.
WILLIAM H. H. H. H.
WILLIAM H. H. H. H.
WILLIAM H. H. H. H.

TOLL-BAR HOUSE

GREAT EASTERN ROAD

INSTITUTED 1841

CLOSED 1847

(ON ABOLITION OF TOLLS)