To:

The South Australian Heritage Committee

From:

The Senior Historic Architect

Subject:

REGISTER NOMINATION:

- POWDER MAGAZINE, YATALA LABOUR PRISON, NORTHFIELD

Date:

8 February, 1982

#### SUMMARY

This report is prepared as part of the Register Sub-Committee's programme of evaluating National Estate Items. It includes an appended overview of powder magazines as requested by the Register Sub-Committee meetings of the previous South Australian Heritage Committee.

Historically, the Powder Magazine is important because it is associated with the first labour prison in South Australia, built as a result of England's (and hence its colonies') abolition of convict transportation. It is a tangible reminder of the once busy quarrying industry which supplied approximately 95% of Port Adelaide's building stone. The "Yatala Stockade Quarries" also supplied stone for Adelaide's street gutters and supplied weathered shale for the cement industry.

<u>Architecturally</u>, the Powder Magazine is a simple, functional and well constructed building with perimeter safety wall.

Environmentally, it is important for being part of the overall Prison complex including other "outbuildings" such as the stable and lookouts. The building is a visual and historical landmark.

The Integrity of the building is poor. The roof of the magazine has collapsed and a large hole has been pierced through the perimeter wall.

The building is included on the Register of the National Estate and on the Classified List of the National Trust.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Yatala Gaol Powder Magazine be included upon the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorised A2, H2, H3, 3.1.

Barry G. Rowney

SENIOR HISTORIC ARCHITECT

MAB:BAH 8.2.82

South Australian Heritage	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures							
Act 1978-80	Item POWDER MAGAZINE, YATALA LABOUR PRISON, NORTHFIELD.							
Age 1879	Theme	0f	fice	:				
Period	Subject			a Harriston				
1852 - 1883	SECONDARY INDUSTRY - QUARRYING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	Reg	gion					
Building Type	Style	Sta	atus					
POWDER MAGAZINE	MID-VICTORIAN	N.E.R. N.Tr. (C.L.)						
Qualitative Data		Grading						
Component	Comment	E VG AG FP N						
History								
1. Context:	Associated with the first labour prison in South Australia, built after English Parliament abolished transportation of convicts in 1852. Adelaide had transported 200 convicts between 1836 and 1851, and when England abolished transportation, so did its colonies. The stone worked from its quarries - most of which are now filled, was railed to Port Adelaide. It has been estimated that 95% of Port Adelaide's stone buildings were constructed from the gaol quarries.	*						
2. Person/Group	Designed and supervised by the Government Architects Office for the Comptroller of Convicts.			*				
3. Specific Eve	ent: Not as yet established.							
Architecture								
4. Architect Builder	Government Architect. Not as yet established.			*				
5. Design:	Functional single roomed storage room with perimeter wall.			*				
6. Construction	: Random Stone.		*					
7. Interior:	Roof has collapsed.					*		
8. Representati	on: A good example of a building type of which few survive.		*					
Environment		The second second second						
9. Continuity:	Forms part of Yatala stone prison complex.		*			Α.		
10. Local Charac	ter: Of importance in maintaining the dominant		*					
11. Landmark:	An important historical and visual landmark.		*					

I.E.S./D3/211081

Heritage Buildings and Structures Item POWDER MAGAZINE, Act 1978-80 YATALA LABOUR PRISON, NORTHFIELD. Component Comment Grading Ε VG AG FP NA Integrity 12. Alterations: Intact. \* 13. Condition: Perimeter wall in reasonable condition. \* Magazine building in ruins. 14. Compatibility: Presently vacant. Supplementary Information 15. Adaptation: Limited scope. 16. Interpretation: Moderate potential. 17. Current Situation: No known threat. .E.S./D3/211081 Evaluated By Lothar Brasse Date Annely Aeuckens Register Architect Register Historian Reviewed By Date Mark Butcher Acting Register Supervisor South Australian Heritage Committee Categorization Date

Register of State Heritage Items

ITEM EVALUATION SHEET

South

Australian

TO: The Register Sub-Committee, South Australian Heritage Committee

RE: REGISTER NOMINATION:

POWDER MAGAZINE, YATALA LABOUR PRISON, NORTHFIELD

#### SUMMARY

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Historically, the Powder Magazine is important because it is associated with the first labour prison in South Australia, built as a result of England's, (and hence its colonies') abolition of convict transportation. It is a tangible reminder of the once busy quarrying industry which supplied approximately 95% of Port Adelaide's building stone. The "Yatala Stockade Quarries" also supplied stone for Adelaide's street gutters and supplied weathered shale for the cement industry.

<u>Architecturally</u>, the Powder Magazine is a simple, functional and well constructed building with perimeter safety wall.

Environmentally, it is important for being part of the overall Prison complex including other "outbuildings" such as the stable and lookouts. The building is a visual and historical landmark.

The Integrity of the building is poor. The roof of the magazine has collapsed and a large hole has been pierced through the perimeter wall. The building is included on the Register of the National Estate and on the Classified List of the National Trust.

Items from the Yatala Gaol complex which are already listed on the State Register are the Administration Building, "A" Division Cell Block and Former "A" Division Guards Quarters.

The Newer Stable, "B" Division Cell Block (No. 1 Post) and the Stone Prison Wall are on the Sixth Interim List.

#### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Yatala Gaol Powder Magazine be included upon the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized A2, H2, H3.

Barry G. Rowney

SENIOR HISTORIC ARCHITECT

LB:JD 21/9/81

Her	tralian itage	REGISTER OF STATE HERITAGE ITEMS ITEM EVALUATION SHEET BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES			Office Use: File No. Comp. Ref.					
Act 197	8-80	ITEM: POWDER MAGAZINE YATALA LABOUR PRISON	Co	ogmc.	Re	f.				
COM	PONENT	COMMENT	GI	RADI	NG	************				
			E	VG	AG	FP	N			
Int	egrity				Name of the Control o					
13.	Alterations	Intact	*							
14.	Condition	Perimeter wall in reasonable condition. Magazine building in ruins.		To a second seco		*				
Comp	atibility for	Reuse								
15.	Compatibili	Presently vacant.				*				
16.	Adaptabilit	Low degree of adaptation				*				
17.	Interpretat	ion Has potential for interpretative development.			*					
18.	Services									
		. *								
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RARI	TY/SCARCITY			and the state of t			m è un bouve made			
STAT	PUS: Na	tional Trust National Estate Other		nativisiani si en	motoritis des annues	Mingraphy or other election				
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TAVE	Lo	thar Brasse onsultant Architect N.E.)		L.9.	81					
REVI	EWED BY		DA	TE						
SOUT	H AUSTRALIAN	HERITAGE COMMITTEE CATEGORIZATION	.DA	TE						

South Australian Heritage Act		REGISTER OF STATE HERITAGE ITEMS TEM EVALUATION SHEET BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES	1	fic.le	e Us No.	e:						
1		TEM: POWDER MAGAZINE YATALA LABOUR PRISON	Co	omp.	Ref	•						
	RIOD 552-1883	SUBJECT: SECONDARY INDUSTRY, QUARRYING, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION	1			A Principle of the Paris						
	MPONENT	COMMENT	1	RADII VG	NG AG	FP	NA					
His	tory											
1.	Context	Associated with the first labour prison in South Australia, built after English Parliament abolished transportation of convicts in 1852. Adelaide had transported 200 convicts between 1836 and 1851, and when England abolished transportation, so did its colonies. The stone worked from its quarries - most of which are now filled, was railed to Port Adelaide. It has been estimated that 95% of Port Adelaide's stone buildings were constructed from the gaol quarries.	*									
2.	Person/Group	Designed and supervised by the Government Architects Office for the Comptroller of Convicts.			*							
3.	Event	Not as yet established.										
Arch	hitecture				and Constitution of the Co							
4.	Architect Builder	Government Architect Not as yet established.			*							
5.	Age	1879 according to P.B.D. Historic Document 106			*							
6.	Style				NA NEW YORK OF THE PROPERTY OF							
7.	Design	Functional single roomed storage room with perimeter wall.			*	Assertion of the second						
8.	Construction	Random Stone		*								
9.	Interior	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·				Articles especial and construction of the cons						
Envi	ronment											
10.	Continuity	Forms part of Yatala stone prison complex.		*								
11.	Local Character	Of importance in maintaining the dominant "Labour Prison" character.	*									
12.	Landmark	An important historical and visual landmark.		*								
		5	,		And the second s							

5628-1057

# CITY of SALISBURY HERITAGE SURVEY

- 82 -

# Powder Magazine

Item No L/9

Address Yatala Labour Prison, Inglefarm, 5098

# STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The primary significance of this item lies in its association with the Yatala Stockade, and most particularly, its identification with the quarries that were worked by the prisoners and which supplied much of the building stone for Port Adelaide and much of the paving-stone for Adelaide. The powder magazine is a simple, functional and well constructed building. The item is of additional significance because it forms part of the larger prison complex.

## Significant Interest

- Historical The magazine is primarily of historical significance because of its identification with South Australia's first labour prison. It was more particularly associated with the nearby quarries that were worked by prison labour, and which supplied a great part of Port Adelaide's building stone. The 'Yatala Stockade quarries' also supplied stone for Adelaide's gutters and also weathered shale for the cement industry.
- Architectural The item is of simple functional design and construction. It is not an item of major architectural significance.
- Environmental This is not a landmark item because of its location in a valley behind the Yatala Labour Prison. It is logically associated with the Labour Prison which is in the Enfield council area, but lies just within the Salisbury Council area.

Ieritage Theme Industry
Sub-Theme Explosives

### ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

### HISTORICAL

Architect Colonial Architect
Date 1879
Original owner Government of South Australia
Original Use Powder magazine

This powder magazine was built in 1879, primarily to store explosives used in the nearby quarries which were worked by inmates of the Yatala Stockade.

### **ARCHITECTURAL**

Size Single storey
Wall Materials Stone
Roof Form Barrel vault
Roof Material -

Other features The central magazine is surrounded by a perimeter wall

### REFERENCES

State Heritage Branch files

## SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### **CIRCUMSTANCES**

The item was nominated for the Register in 1978 and its inclusion was recommended in 1982. The item was included on the Interim List in 1983 and the Register of State Heritage Items later the same year.

The item is listed as being in the Enfield local government area, but is just within the boundary of Salisbury.

The land on which the magazine is situated was acquired by the Highways Department on 7 January 1982.

### INTEGRITY

The perimeter walls are in fair condition, but the magazine building is in ruins. The integrity of the building is compromised by its poor condition.

# ENVIRONMENT / PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

The item is one of several closely associated with the Yatala Labour Prison, although it is on the other side of the Dry Creek and so in a different local government area. Its significance is enhanced by the recent destruction of other prison items.

Idress Yatala Labour Prison, Inglefarm, 5098
Section 5827
Hundred Yatala
CT No NUA
Local Government Area Salisbury
Ward Levels
Owner(s) Government of South Australia
State Heritage Status Register of State Heritage Items
Other Assessments Included on the National Estate Register: Classified by the National

Other Assessments Included on the National Estate Register: Classified by the National Trust.

Current Use Abandoned

Condition Poor

Known Threats Nil

Conservation action identified Conservation is not warranted, but deterioration could be retarded.

Associated item(s) Buildings of the prison

#### Comments

This item is already included on the Register of State Heritage Items. It has not been examined during the course of this project. The information is included here for the sake of completeness and has been taken from the nomination reports of the State Heritage Branch.

The item is one of considerable heritage significance and efforts should be made to retard its deterioration.

Im / Neg Number See Heritage Branch files
Direction of View To the south east
Photographer Lothar Brasse
Subject Name Powder Magazine with Yatala Labour Prison to the south



Film / Neg Number See Heritage Branch files
Direction of View To the south east
Photographer Lothar Brasse
Subject Name Interior of the Powder Magazine with Yatala Labour Prison to the south



DATE:

21 September 1981

SUBJECT:

OVERVIEW OF POWDER MAGAZINES

TO:

Senior Historic Architect

FROM:

Consultant Architect (National Estate)

At meetings held by the Register Sub-Committee in January 1979 and March 1981, it was requested that before assessing the Yatala Labour Prison's Powder Magazine, an overview of Powder Magazines be undertaken.

This report attempts to give a brief background into the history, use and some common misconceptions of Powder Magazines. A list of those Magazines already upon the Register of State Heritage Items as well as other historically significant magazines has been included.

Powder and/or Explosive Magazines are buildings used for the safe storage of explosives and they are not designed to contain an explosion and the different terminology is purely historical.

The earliest explosive used was Gunpowder. Also known as Blasting Powder and Black Powder, the explosive is a mixture of potassium nitrate, carbon and sulphur. Names such as Powder Magazine, Powder Van and Powder Monkey have perpetuated to the present day.

It was not until the 1860's that Alfred Nobel discovered Dynamite - Nitroglycerine absorbed in an inert solid, and the use of this more shattering explosive in South Australia became common towards the end of the nineteenth century. Dynamite requires a detonator to set off the explosion and it is required to store detonators and dynamite in separate compartments or magazines.

Due to the sensitivity of explosives, the aim of magazines is to protect the contents from the risk of sparks and fire. For these reasons magazines are often built of thick stone walls with perimeter guard walls (as at Yatala) internal timber lining and special lightning conductors.

Early reference to the storage of explosives dates from 1842 (1) relating to a number of private magazines built along the bank of the Port River. These magazines were probably flimsy timber affairs of which little, if anything, remains today. In 1850 (2) the Government decided to establish a magazine at North Arm Creek enabling safe, controlled storage and distribution of explosives.

The stone magazine at Burra, acclaimed as "Australia's earliest Mine Building"  $^{(3)}$  was begun in 1847. Its designer, Thomas Burr, goes to great lengths to describe its layout, construction and associated safety precautions. "To the security of life and property (Burr writes) I would advise that shoes of a peculiar construction be made ... forthwith for the use of those visiting the magazine and who will be engaged in moving the powder".  $^{(4)}$ 

Similar precautions were taken at the Wallaroo magazines where 30 centimetre thick rubber floor mats were used, a storekeeper was in charge, and those handling explosives wore rubber soled shoes. Of the three magazines that were built at Wallaroo Mines, only one remains.

The Yatala Powder Magazine was built in 1879 (5) and is associated with South Australia's first labour prison built after the English Parliament abolished transportation of convicts in 1852. Between 1836 and 1851, two hundred (6) convicts were transported from Adelaide and when England abolished transportation of its convicts, so did its colonies

Yatala was chosen from Brownhill Creek, Cox's Creek and Kangaroo Island as a suitable site for convict management. The stone worked from its quarries - most of which are now filled, was railed to Port Adelaide where approximately 95% of the buildings were constructed from Yatala Stone (7)

Yatala quartzite was also used for Adelaide's street water tables and the weathered shale or clay slate was used for burning with limestone to manufacture cement.

Explosive Magazines often represent the only remaining and tangible evidence of major engineering projects. The Mayurra Magazine, related to the South East drainage scheme as well as magazines at Bremer Mine, Adelaide Gaol and Burra, are listed upon the State Register of Heritage Items. Other magazines remain at Yatala Gaol complex, Callington, Dry Creek (1903 Government magazines still in use), Morgan and Moonta - no doubt there are many more.

This report does not attempt to be an exhaustive study of powder magazines in South Australia. It does, however, indicate that these buildings are in their own right, important elements of our Heritage, which reflect social attitudes and specific historical events.

For these reasons, I recommend that the Yatala Gaol Magazine as well as Magazines at Callington, Morgan and Moonta, be placed upon the State Register.

(1) Brown, L. Typed notes prepared by Mr. Brown, a retired magazine keeper, p.1.

Alsoidx.

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- (2) Brown, L. op cit. p.1.
- (3) The Heritage of Australia (1981) (Ch. 5, p.82).
- (4) National Trust Reg. No. 719 hotes from S.A. Mining Association letter book 1847-1849 supplied by I. Auhl.
- (5) P.B.D. Historic Record 106.
- (6) Griffith, A.R.G. A History of South Australian Prisons: Sp. 44. (extract of thesis in P.B.D. H.R. 106).
- (7) Information supplied by David Young from the Department of Mines and Energy.

#### Other Sources

Mr. R.T. Howard, Senior Scientific Officer, Chemistry Division, Department of Services and Supply.

Lothar Brasse

VB

LB:BAH

16/12/93

#### AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

PAGE:

1 1/

NAME OF PLACE YATALA POWDER MAGAZINE

006218 3/01/024/0001/01 REGISTERED

# LOCATION/BOUNDARIES:

Yatala Labour Prison, Grand Junction Road, Northfield.

TITLE INFORMATION:

# STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

THE MAGAZINE IS SIGNIFICANT HISTORICALLY BECAUSE OF ITS ASSOCIATION WITH THE FIRST LABOUR PRISON BUILT IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA FOLLOWING THE END OF TRANSPORTATION TO OTHER AUSTRALIAN COLONIES. IT IS IMPORTANT ALSO BECAUSE OF ITS CONNECTION WITH A ONCE LARGE QUARRYING INDUSTRY AND BECAUSE OF THE WAY IT REFLECTS A WAY OF LIFE AND AN INDUSTRIAL PROCESS NOW PASSED. FINALLY, THE MAGAZINE IS IMPORTANT AS PART OF THE OVERALL PRISON COMPLEX.

SIGNIFICANT ASSOCIATIONS:

SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

1879

#### DESCRIPTION:

THE BUILDING IS SITUATED IN THE MIDDLE OF STOUTLY CONSTRUCTED PERIMETER WALLS WITH A SLIGHT BATTER. BUILT ON THE SIDE OF A HILL, THE PERIMETER WALLS ARE SHAPED TO HILL CONTOURS AND STILL CONTAIN A LITTLE OF THE ORIGINAL RENDERED COPINGS WITH BROKEN GLASS. THE PERIMETER ENCLOSES A LARGE YARD WITH AN ORIGINALLY VAULTED MAGAZINE WHICH MEASURES APPROXIMATELY 2 METRES BY 1.5 METRES.

THE MAGAZINE WAS BUILT TO HOLD EXPLOSIVES USED BY PRISONERS WORKING IN NEARBY QUARRIES.

### CONDITION:

SUFFERING FROM VANDALISM WITH THE DOOR TO THE PERIMETER WALLS AND MAGAZINE KICKED OUT, ROOF DEMOLISHED, SIDE WALLS FALLEN IN AND LARGE HOLE IN PERIMETER WALLING. IT IS IN POOR CONDITION.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY:

PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT, S.A., BOOKLET NO. 106 V. A.R.G.GRIFFITH, "A HISTORY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN PRISONS", P44; "THE HERITAGE OF AUSTRALIA", 1981, P82. To:

The Senior Historic Architect

From:

The Consultant Architect (National Estate)

Subject:

OVERVIEW OF POWDER MAGAZINES

Date:

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This report does not attempt to be an exhaustive study of powder magazines in South Australia. It does, however, indicate that these buildings are in their own right, important elements of our Heritage, which reflect social attitudes and specific historical events.

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#### Other Sources

Mr. R.T. Howard, Senior Scientific Officer, Chemistry Division, Department of Services and Supply.

Lothar Brasse

VB

LB:BAH

To P.Bell Hortage Brennet. 207209

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The Dry Creek reserve contains a range of features of heritage significance from the time when quarrying was undertaken by inmates of the Yatala Labour Prison.

The following seven items have been identified in a preliminary survey by the State Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Planning.

## (1) Powder Magazine

The building is on the register of State Heritage Items and is therefore subject to Sections 47 and 48 of the Planning Act. Any work to the structure would require planning approvals. The structure could be retained as a ruin but there is need to stabilize the walls.

## (2) Warders Lookout

The lookout over the creek is an iron structure which requires both maintenance and restoration. This structure is also on the register of State Heritage Items.

# (3) Stone Walling and Bridges

There are remains of stone walling along the creek bed which were built of stone quarried from the site. The walls need to be stabilized.

### (4) Blacksmith's Store

It is believed that the building, which is now only a ruin, was constructed as a store although there is some evidence that blacksmithing activities were carried out on adjacent land possibly in another building.

# (5) Lookout Towers

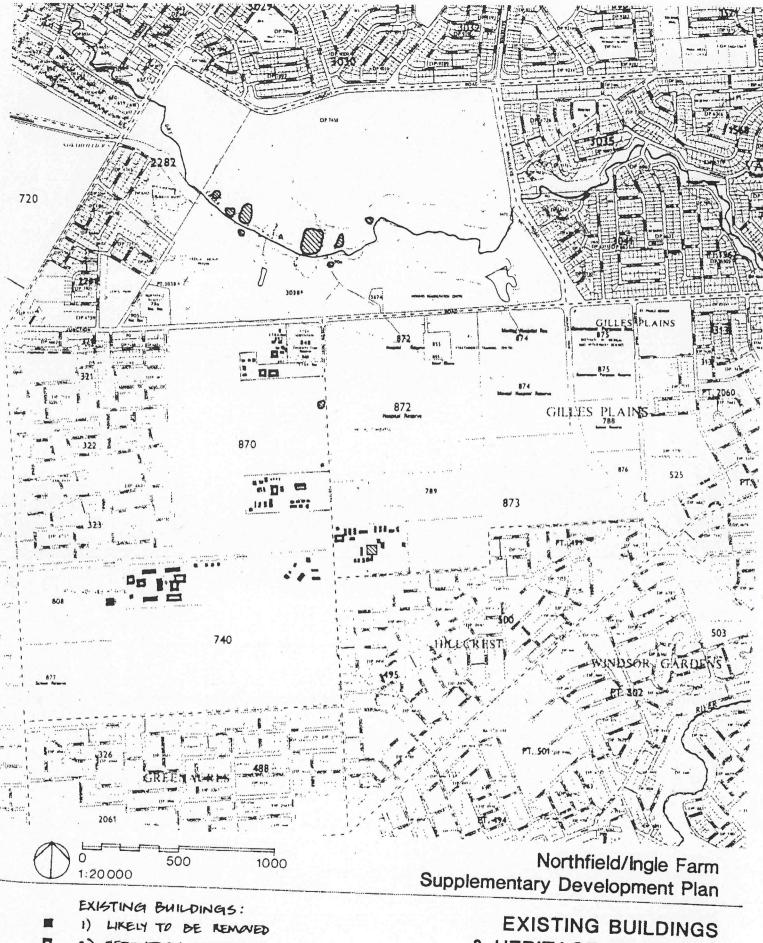
In addition to the warders lookout there are two other lookout towers built predominantly in stone. The southern-most tower is in poor condition and in urgent need of support. The reconstruction of one of the towers, based on archival evidence, is an option.

### (6) Ruin

There are remains of a small building across the creek from one of the quarries. This may have been a shelter or ablution block and is of limited interest.

### (7) Quarries

It is proposed that rubbish be removed from the quarry beds and low profile safety fencing be erected as necessary to protect the public.

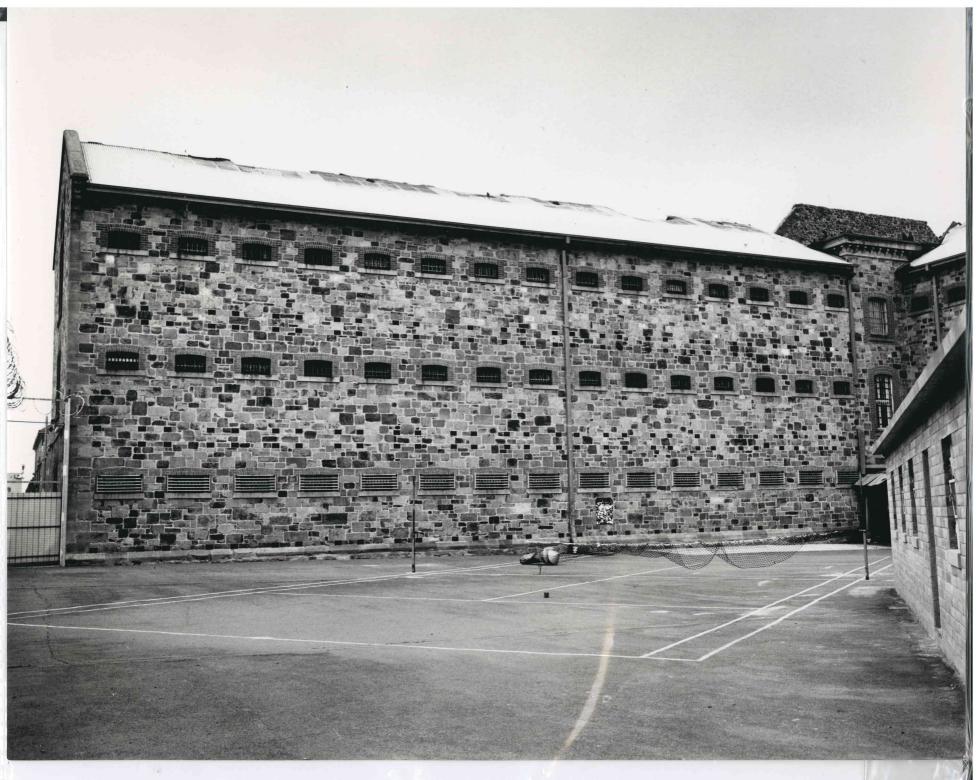


12,05,1994

- 2) RETENTION DESIRABLE
- HERITAGE & SIGNIFICANT FEATURES

& HERITAGE FEATURES

MAP 6





OFF SUDE SAA NEW file 360 No 11

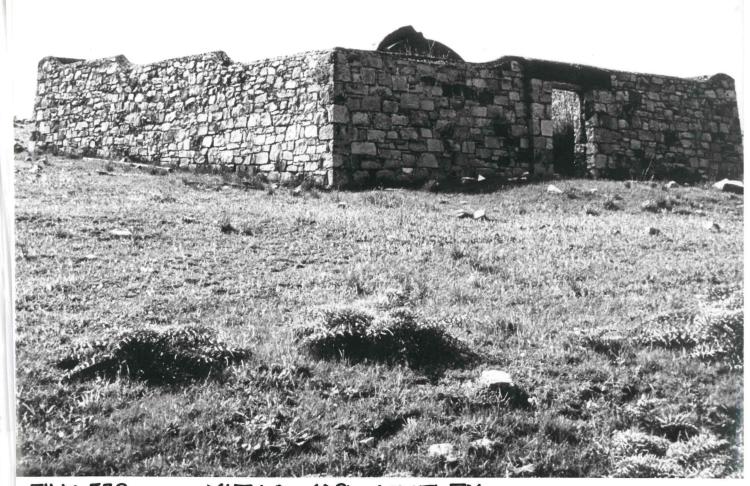
YATALA GAOL COMPLEX PONDER MAGAZINE IN FOREGROUND



FILM 532 No 3

YATALA GAOL COMPLEX
POWDER MAGAZINE - MAGAZINE RUIN

1981 lothar



FIUM 532 Nº 1

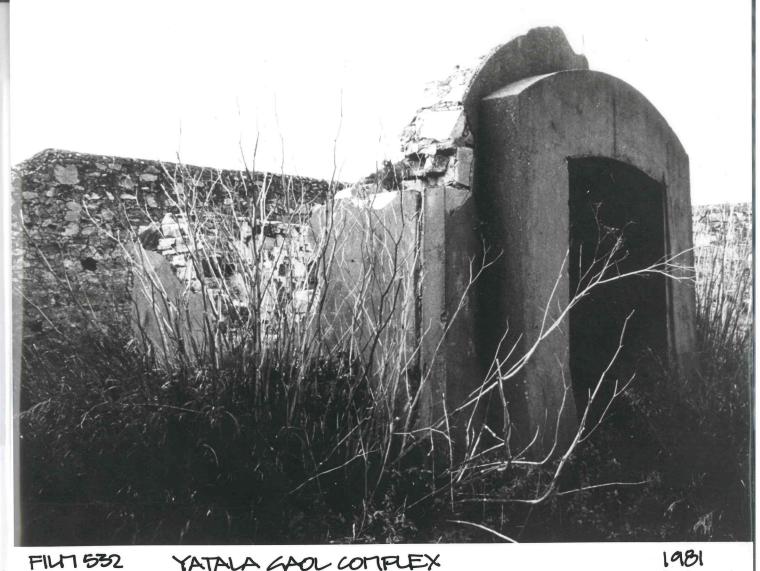
YATALA GAOL COMPLEX
PONDER MAGAZINE-GAFETY WALL

1981 lothau



OFF SUDES IN FIVE SAA 360 Nº 10

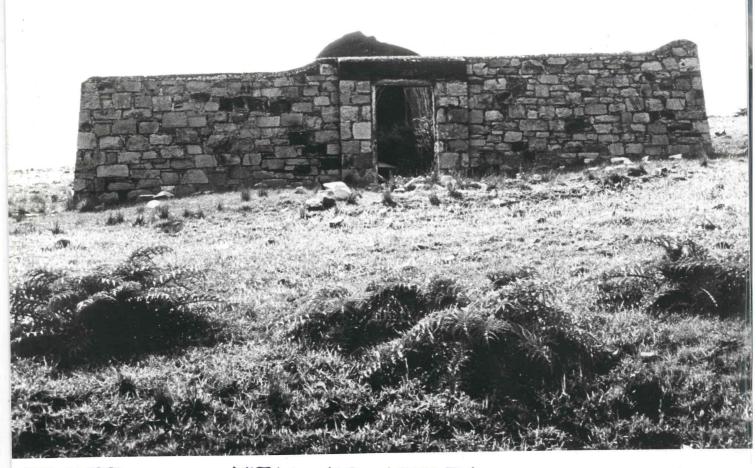
YATALA LAOL COMPLEX PONDER MACAZINE



PILM 9

YATALA GAOL COMPLEX POWDER MAGAZINE - MAGAZINE RUIN

1981 Lothan



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YATALA GAOL COMPLEX PONDER MAGAZINE