

GAWLER HERITAGE STUDY: STAGE 1  
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

6628-11049-

- 107 -

Hignett & Company

ITEM NAME

Current: ESSEX HOUSE (H.B. CROSBY PTY. LTD.)

Historical: SHEARD's (Drapers)

ITEM NUMBER

121, 226

DATE

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

Built 1905 (see notes below) with further additions 1911 and extensive building 1928, doubling and duplicating the 1905 facade. Original design by architects English and Soward using local contractors (not named). Extensions also designed by English and Soward, contractor William Essery; mason W.E. Corey. 1905 section had ceilings of Wunderlich stamped metal.

Original drapery on site opened by Oscar Wehrshedt, but already much expanded in 1880s and 1890s by Alfred Sheard after he took over premises 1886 and decision made to rebuilt frontage to connect existing buildings with more recent (1897) additions at rear.

LOCATION

Street No: 92-100

Allotment: Pts. 46, 47

Section:

Hundred:

Street: Murray

Town:

LGA:

Postcode:

State Hist.Pres.

Region:

HISTORICAL THEME

Theme: Industry and Commerce

Subtheme: Commerce

HISTORICAL PERIOD

State:

Study Area: 1901-28

REFERENCES:

Written: Bunyip 3 November 1905, 16 March 1928, 24 September 1980, 14 February 1973.

Vocal:

Archival Photographs: Bunyip 16 March 1928.

TYPE OF ITEM

LAND Natural Feature ☐

Historical Site ☐

Garden ☐

BUILDING Individual ☒  
Group ☐

STRUCTURE Complete ☐  
Relic ☐

RECOMMENDATION:

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No:

Negative No:

Direction of view:

STATUS

Register of State

Heritage Items

On Register ☐

Interim List ☐

Nominated ☐

National Estate

National Trust

R.A.I.A.

Civic Trust

N.P. & W.L.S.

Council

Australian Heritage

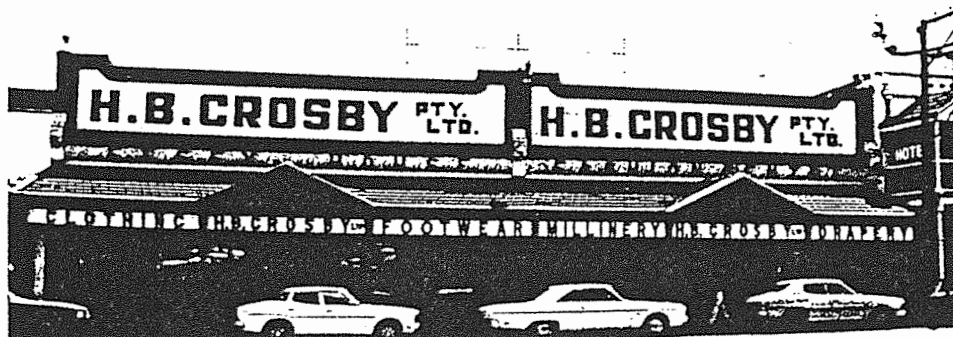
Engin. Record

Other

MAP

Scale:

Source:



PREPARED BY:

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 11049 6628-12167
	Item ESSEX HOUSE 96 Murray Street (Sheards Drapers)	Prepared By: HIGNETT & COMPANY MARGARET MAY

### Supplementary Information

Adaptation: Due to the locality of this item it is unlikely that this building will be used for other than retail or commercial purposes. The facade of the building should not be altered and the interior should be maintained.

Interpretation: The item illustrates the early prosperity of this town and lends to the interpretation of Gawler as a major country township in the 19th and early 20th Century. It is in a prime location accessible to the public with proximity to other such resources. The land base capability is good.

CURRENT OWNER: H.B. CROSBY PTY. LTD.

### History and Sources

"Essex House" was built in 1905 for Alfred Sheard who had taken over the drapery shop on this site in 1886 formerly established by Oscar Wehrshedt. Prior to this a Mr. Hardy had a tin smith's shop on this allotment.

"Essex House" was designed by architects English and Soward and in 1928 an extension of the same design doubled and duplicated the original facade. In 1905 the "Bunyip" reported that another landmark in Murray Street was to be demolished, however,

"the structure to be erected will have a fine frontage and will form a handsome improvement to the town."

Around "Essex House" the commercial centre of the town developed.

Around 1920 Henry Burgess Crosby M.P. purchased "Essex House" and the business was considerably expanded. It became known as the "shopping centre of the north."

In April 1983 "Crosby's" (as Essex House is also known) was advertised for sale. Described as "ideal for imaginative redevelopment" the property comprised two attached buildings on two separate titles with a frontage to Murray Street of 83 feet.

There was some concern that the Lamson Rapid Wire System, a conveyance that carried dockets and cash from one part of the store to another may be removed. The Lamson had become part of Gawler's heritage and a top tourist attraction. However, a condition of sale of the building required that the "flying fox" remain in the building and it has since been restored to working order. "Essex House is still run as H. B. Crosby.

### Sources

Advertiser, 7.4.83

Bunyip, 12.5.1905

E. H. Coombe, History of Gawler, 1837-1908 (Adelaide, 1910) Adot.V11.

Cyclopaedia of South Australia 11 (Adelaide, 1908)pp.291-2.

L. S. Duncan, Gawler, Colonial Athens (Gawler, 1939)

Gawler Heritage Study, Stage 1 (Adelaide, 1981)p.102.

South Australian Heritage List 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 11049 6628-12167
	Item ESSEX HOUSE 96 Murray Street, Gawler.(Sheards Drapers	Status
Age 1905	Subject Trade and Commerce	Style Victorian (late)

## Qualitative Data

## Grading

History		E	VG	AG	FP	NA
1. Context	Around "Essex House" the commercial centre of Gawler developed. A feature of the building is the Lamson Rapid Wire System some 50 years old and in working order.	X				
2. Person/Group	Since 1920's H. B. Crosby Pty. Ltd. H. B. Crosby was a member of Parliament prior to buying Essex House, had a drapery futher up Murray Street.			X		
3. Event	No particular event.		X			X
Architecture		E	VG	AG	FP	NA
4. Architect/Builder	Architect: English and Soward		X			
5. Design	Single storey symmetrical building with parapet wall and pediments over main entrances. Ornate carved stone work on the facade with terra cotta tiled verandah.		X			
6. Construction	Mainly constructed of brick with corrugated iron roof and timber supports for the verandah.		X			
7. Interior	Well preserved with flying fox, sky lights, old wooden shop counters and pressed metal ornamentation. The interior has two large spacious areas.		X			
8. Representation	The building is representative of a building type which has architectural and engineering significance. This type of construction is scarce along Murray Street.		X			
9. Environment	The item forms an intrinsic part of the commercial and shopping precinct along Murray St. It is in a prime central location opposite a major supermarket. It is flanked by the Gawler Arms Hotel to the north and a chemist to the south.		X			
10. Local Character	The item makes a significant contribution to the local character of the Murray Street precinct.	X				
11. Landmark	The item is an important landmark in the Murray St. precinct because of its notoriety. It has sentimental value which transcends its function.		X			
12. Integrity	Minor additions were made to the original building in 1911 then in 1928 the building was duplicated and the facade was doubled.		X			
13. Condition	The building is generally in reasonable condition and is of sound construction.		X			
14. Compatibility	The item has always been used as a retail outlet and is centred in a retail district. Unlikely to change.		X			

## GAWLER HERITAGE SURVEY STAGE 2

## REGISTER NOMINATION REPORT

Date: 3/10/83

Item Name: ESSEX HOUSE

Item Address: 92-100 Murray Street,  
GAWLER.(Allot. 46,47)

Heritage Branch

Reference Number:

121

Gawler Heritage Survey

Stage 1 Item No. :

11049

6628-12167

SUMMARY

This report has been prepared under Stage 2 of the Gawler Heritage Survey.

Historically, this building is significant because around "Essex House" in Murray Street the commercial centre of Gawler developed. Under the proprietorship of Henry Burgess Crosby it became known as the "shopping centre of the north". A feature of the building is the Lamson Rapid Wire System for carrying cash and dockets from one part of the store to another which is some fifty years old and still in working order.

Architecturally, the building is significant because it is a rare example of commercial architecture of the time. The interior with its "Flying Fox", wooden shop counters and pressed metal ornamentation has significant value.

Environmentally, the building is significant because it is an integral component of the commercial and retail centre of Gawler. The item has sentimental value which transcends its function.

The integrity of the building is complete.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION BRANCH RECOMMENDATION:

.....  
Manager

It is recommended that this item be included/~~not included~~ (delete that phrase not applicable) on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorised (recommended S.A. Heritage Committee categorisation, if applicable). A1, A2, H3.

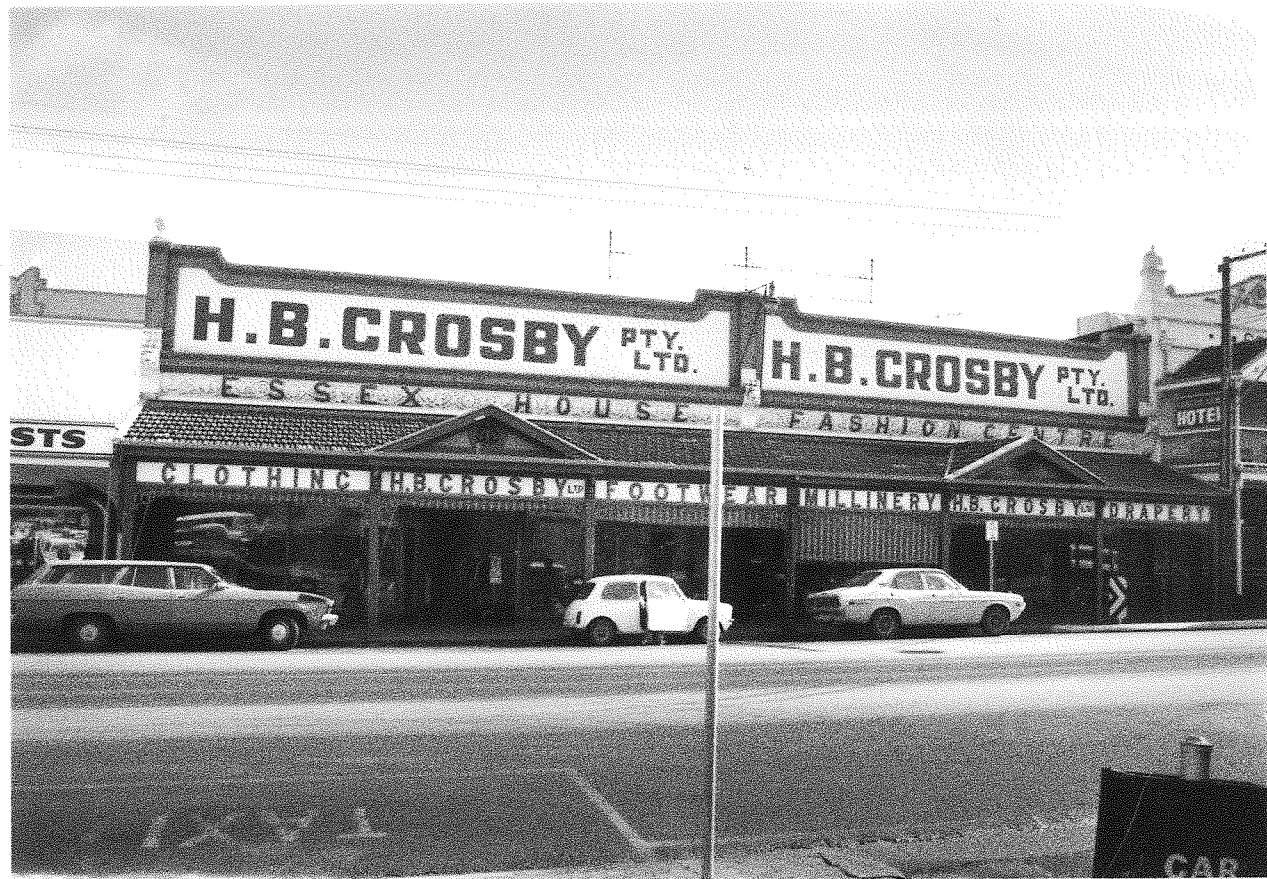
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

.....  
Chairman

Assessed: Recommended.

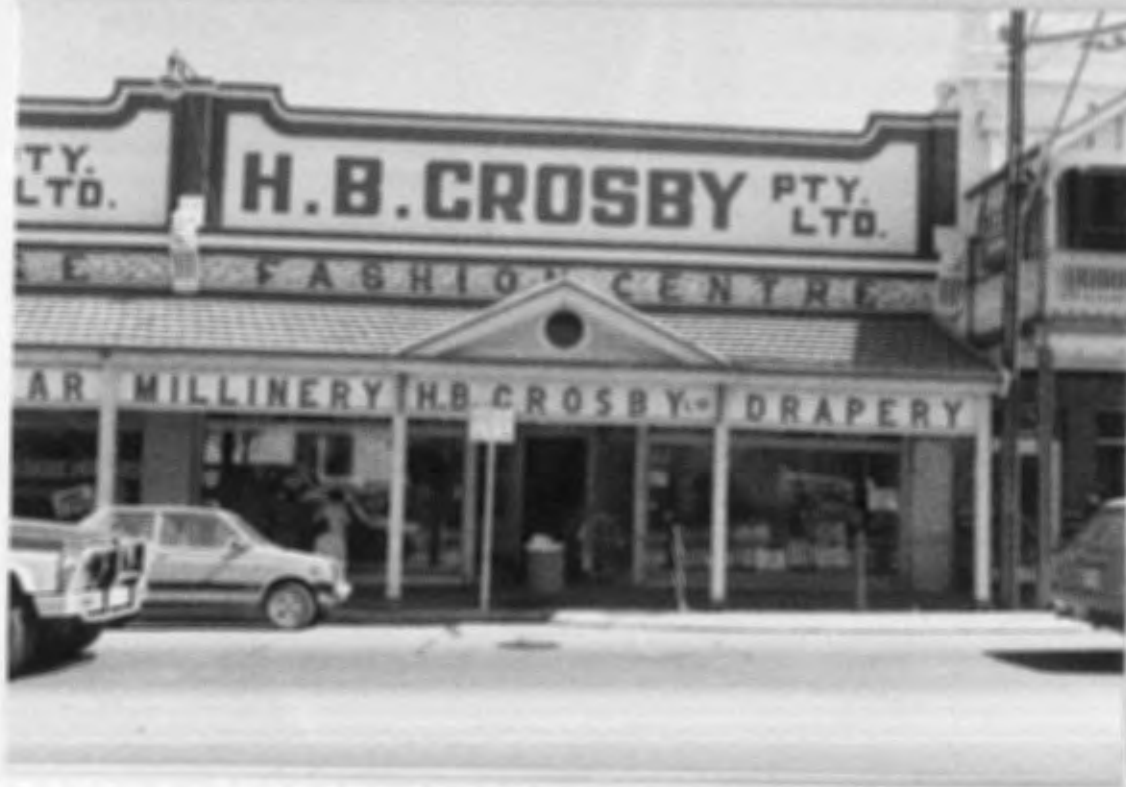
The Committee added the following riders:

1.











## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE ACT, 1978

*Entry of Items on the Register of State Heritage Items*

There has been an increased community awareness of the need to protect those buildings and features of our State which reflect our cultural heritage. The South Australian Government has recognised that awareness by passing the South Australian Heritage Act, 1978, for which the Minister for Environment and Planning is responsible. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Register of State Heritage Items is being compiled.

Where the Minister considers that an item (defined as any land, building or structure) that is not on the Register is part of the physical, social or cultural heritage of the State and that the item is of significant aesthetic, architectural, historical or cultural interest, then the Minister may enter that item on the Register.

Pursuant to the provisions of the South Australian Heritage Act, 1978, I, Don Hopgood, Minister for Environment and Planning and Minister for the time being administering the said Act, hereby give notice that I have entered on the Register of State Heritage Items and the items described in The Schedule hereunder.

Items listed in The Schedule were previously placed on an Interim List in accordance with the provisions of section 15 of the South Australian Heritage Act, 1978. Excepting items owned by the Crown and those within the area of the corporation of the city of Adelaide, the remaining items listed in The Schedule are subject to Part V of the Planning Act, 1982. That Act requires that no development, including demolition, conversion, alteration of, or addition to any item, is permitted without the written consent of the relevant Planning Authority. Items within the area of the corporation of the city of Adelaide are subject to the provisions of the City of Adelaide Development Control Act, 1976.

Dated at Adelaide, 18 November 1985.

D. J. HOPGOOD, Deputy Premier and Minister for Environment and Planning

## THE SCHEDULE

Name	Address
Corporation of the City of Adelaide	
Thebarton Mounted Police Barracks .....	Port Road, Adelaide 5000. Section 1015, hundred of Adelaide.
Adelaide High School and Observatory Site .....	West Terrace, Adelaide 5000. LG. volume 1782, folio 40, section 543, hundred of Adelaide.
District Council of Barmera	
Humphrey Pumps .....	Trussell Terrace, Cobdogla 5346. Section 853, Cobdogla irrigation area.
District Council of Barossa	
Wilksch Cottage .....	Yettie Road, Williamstown 5351. CT. volume 4249, folios 701 and 702, allotments 20 and 21 of portion of section 34, hundred of Barossa.
Corporation of the city of Burnside	
Boundary Wall—Glenside Hospital .....	Glen Osmond Road, Eastwood 5063. Mental Hospital Reserve, <i>Government Gazette</i> 24.2.83, section 621, allotments 10, 12, 18, 22; CT's volume 4116, folio 12 and volume 2394, folio 97, part allotment 2; CT. volume 2219, folio 6, part allotment 82; CT. volume 2219, folio 11, part allotment 87; section 265, hundred of Adelaide.
District Council of Burra Burra	
Former Dugouts Sites .....	George Street, Burra 5417. CT. volume 985, folio 116, Allotments E and K, part section 1, hundred of Koorunga.
District Council of Central Yorke Peninsula	
Point Pearce Mission—Former .....	Point Pearce 5573. L.G. volume 3970, folio 106, sections 295, 298, hundred of Kilkerran.
District Council of East Torrens	
Dwelling 'Grove Hill' .....	120 Old Norton Summit Road, Norton Summit 5136. Memorial No. 105, book 539.
Corporation of the Town of Gawler	
Old Bushman Hotel .....	9 Cowan Street, Gawler 5118. CT. volume 3915 folio 51, portion of allotment 96, section 24, hundred of Mudla Wirra.
'Trevu' House .....	1 Deland Street, Gawler 5118. CT. volume 4195, folio 147, allotment 4, portion of section 3073, hundred of Barossa.
Railway Hotel .....	27 Eighteenth Street, Gawler 5118. CT. volume 3663, folio 91, allotment 22, subdivision of section 2, hundred of Mudla Wirra.
Office E. & W. S. Main Depot .....	Julian Terrace, Gawler 5118. <i>Government Gazette</i> 8.7.76, portion of part section 24, hundred of Mudla Wirra.
Old Spot Hotel .....	Murray Street, Gawler 5118. CT. volume 4137, folio 703, allotment 82, portion of section 4, hundred of Nuriootpa.
Pile's Building .....	Murray Street, Gawler 5118. CT. volume 3132, folios 91, 93 and 94, section 24, portion of allotment 93, hundred of Mudla Wirra.
McKinlay Memorial and Pioneer Park .....	Murray Street, Gawler 5118. Parklands, <i>Government Gazette</i> 9.7.36, and Indenture of Conveyance, No. 43, book 319, 26.12.1864.
Professional Offices .....	25 Murray Street, Gawler 5118. CT. volume 92, folio 44, part allotment 204, section 24 and part section 4. hundred of Nuriootpa.
Essex House .....	92-100 Murry Street, Gawler 5118. CT volume 4169, folio 801, allotment 2, section 24, CT volume 4169, folio 800, allotment 1, portion of section 24, hundred of Mudla Wirra.
House .....	11 Railway Terrace, Gawler 5118. CT volume 1043, folio 79, allotment 137, part section 8, CT volume 4089, folio 252, allotments 135 and 136, part section 8, hundred of Mudla Wirra.
Gasworks—Former .....	Seventh Street, Gawler 5118. CT volume 269, folio 244, allotment 105, section 3, hundred of Mudla Wirra.
Corporation of the City of Happy Valley	
'Mackereth' Cottage .....	Mathews Road, Dorset Vale. CT volume 2228, folio 74, part section 1427, hundred of Noarlunga.
Corporation of the Town of Hindmarsh	
Joiners Arms Hotel .....	9 Manton Street, Hindmarsh 5007. CT volume 871, folio 8, portion of allotment 80 of section 353, hundred of Yatala.
Corporation of the City of Kensington and Norwood	
Town Hall, Norwood .....	125 The Parade, Norwood 5067. CT volume 3131, folio 15, volume 391, folio 9, part block 2 of section 277, allotments 20 and 21 of section 277, hundred of Adelaide.



<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
<b>District Council of Lincoln</b>	
Poonindie Brickworks .....	Poonindie. CT volume 1538, folio 129, portion of section 12, hundred of Louth.
Poonindie Mission—Superintendent's Residence ..	Poonindie. CT volume 4192, folio 699, allotment 12 of portion of section 127, hundred of Louth.
Poonindie Mission—Bakehouse Complex and Well .....	Poonindie. CT volume 4182, folio 651, allotment 3 of portion of section 127, hundred of Louth.
Poonindie Mission—Schoolhouse .....	Poonindie. CT volume 4182, folio 648, portion of section 127, hundred of Louth.
<b>District Council of Mannum</b>	
Shearer House and Observatory .....	Anna Street, Mannum 5238. CT volume 3683, folio 51, allotment 39 and part allotment 38, part section 114, hundred of Finnis.
<b>Corporation of the City of Marion</b>	
Dwelling Hamilton's Winery .....	Morphett Road, Glengowrie 5044. CT volume 3597, folio 25, portion of section 176, hundred of Noarlunga.
<b>District Council of Meningie</b>	
Point McLeay Mission—Former .....	Via Tailem Bend 5259. L.G. volume 4057, folio 870, sections 21, 290, 291, 469, 635, 636, 637 and 638, hundred of Baker.
<b>District Council of Munno Para</b>	
Adamson's Flour Mill—Former .....	Smiths Creek, Smithfield 5114. CT. volume 4161, folio 955, allotment 44, part section 4160; CT. volume 4161, folio 956, allotment 26, section 1679, hundred of Munno Para.
<b>Corporation of the Town of Naracoorte</b>	
Naracoorte Station Group .....	Stewart Terrace, Naracoorte 5271. CT. volume 4190, folio 171, allotment 71 of part section 1, hundred of Naracoorte.
<b>District Council of Northern Yorke Peninsula</b>	
Kadina Mortuary and Cemetery .....	Drain Road, Kadina 5554. L.G. volume 106, folio 6, section 2179, hundred of Wallaroo.
Moonta Cemetery .....	Petallick Road, Moonta 5558. L.G. volume 617, folio 107, section 2250. L.G. volume 149, folio 41, section 2232, hundred of Wallaroo.
<b>District Council of Penola</b>	
Office Shop:	
Former Butter and Cheese Factory .....	Riddoch Street, Penola 5277. CT. volume 4121, folio 768, portion of allotment 108 of portion of section 3, hundred of Penola.
Neilsons Cottage .....	Via Penola-Naracoorte Road, Penola 5277. CT. volume 3457, folio 169, hundred of Penola.
<b>Corporation of the Town of Peterborough</b>	
Railway Roundhouse .....	Railway Terrace, Peterborough 5422. CT. volume 3859, folio 129, part section 216, hundred of Yongala.
<b>District Council of Robe</b>	
Dwelling—'Attic House' .....	Victoria Street, Robe 5276. CT. volume 4040, folio 879, portion of allotment 9 of section 218, hundred of Waterhouse.
<b>Corporation of the Town of St Peters</b>	
Plumbers Shop .....	Payneham Road, College Park 5069. CT. volume 1726, folio 99, portion of allotment 2 of portion of section 257, hundred of Adelaide.
Bon Marche Building .....	1-13 Payneham Road, College Park 5069. CT. volume 3825, folio 167, portion of allotment 1, portion of section 257, hundred of Adelaide.
<b>District Council of Strathalbyn</b>	
Office .....	8 Albyn Terrace, Strathalbyn 5255. CT. volume 4166, folio 340, allotment 9 of part section 2600, hundred of Strathalbyn.
Arsenic Labyrinth .....	Wheal Ellen 5255. CT. volume 4104, folio 450, allotment 1, section 1198, hundred of Strathalbyn.
<b>District Council of Victor Harbor</b>	
Soldiers Memorial Gardens .....	Esplanade, Victor Harbor 5211, section 766, hundred of Encounter Bay, Recreation Reserve declared under Act of Parliament 1281/1917.
Station Master's Residence—Former .....	2 Flinders Parade, Victor Harbor 5211. CT. volume 2407, folio 81, part section 16, hundred of Encounter Bay.
Shop and dwelling .....	8 Railway Terrace, Victor Harbor. CT. volume 4028, folio 526, part allotments 66 and 81 of part section 16. CT. volume 4028, folio 527, allotment 66 of part section 16, hundred of Encounter Bay.
Shop and Dwelling .....	9 Railway Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211. CT. volume 99, folio 68, allotment 65, hundred of Encounter Bay.
Causeway and Jetty Historic Site .....	Victor Harbor 5211, Marine and Harbours Reserve, section 666, <i>Government Gazette</i> 29.4.65, hundred of Encounter Bay.
Former Post Office .....	Yankalilla Road, Victor Harbor 5211. CT. volume 2407, folio 80, section 714, hundred of Encounter Bay.
<b>District Council of Willunga</b>	
Former Temperance Hotel .....	Aldinga 5173. CT. volume 4237, folio 21, part section 400, hundred of Willunga.
'Delabole'—Mining Village Ruins and Slate Quarry .....	Delabole Road, Willunga 5172. CT. volume 4163, folio 333; CT. volume 4032, folio 462, part lot 102, portion of section 758 and other land, part sections 753, 757, hundred of Willunga.
<b>District Council of Yorketown</b>	
Lime Kiln and Jetty .....	Wool Bay 5576. <i>Government Gazette</i> 5.10.22, section 393, hundred of Dalrymple.