
former Adamson's Flour Mill (Ruin) (Yelki Mill)OTH:015

LOCATION

Address	Smith's Creek
Suburb	ONE TREE HILL 5114
Owners	N Sergi & C Carbone, Lt 19 Seaview Road, Golden Grove SA 5125
Allotment No	44
Section	4160
CT	5273/931
Hundred	Munno Para

State Heritage Status Registered, 28 November 1985

SHR No 11051

Other Assessments Register of the National Estate, Registered

Film/Neg No -

former Adamson's Flour Mill (Ruin) (Yelki Mill)

DESCRIPTION

Remains of stone walls, mill wheel and weirs. Wheel is 4.1 metres outside diameter with 64 buckets overshot type. [Access denied].

HISTORY

Mr and Mrs James Adamson and their seven children arrived in Adelaide late in 1839 on board the *Recovery*. Adamson, a wheelwright, came to the Smithfield area in 1850 and was the original grantee of Section 4160, Hundred of Munno Para on 9 February of that year. The mill was probably constructed about mid 1853, as a report in the *Observer* of 17 September 1853, states:

Water mills - the stream of water on the Gawler Plains, known as Smith Creek, which until these three or four years was never known to flow across the Great North Road during the summer months, has now become so much more powerful and constant than formerly, that a water-mill has been erected thereon by Mr Adamson of Adelaide, near the base of the hills. The fall of water obtained is 30 feet, and the circumference of the water wheel 35 feet.

Adamson is reputed to have brought the wheel and milling plant with him from Scotland, but possibly had a hand in its making, given his profession. The dams that Adamson built in connection with the mill caused many local settlers, including John Smith, to become disgruntled about the situation and a public meeting was held which apparently found in favour of Adamson. Adamson built two dams above the mill, the furthest being some 100 metres upstream.

It is not known when business at Adamson's mill ceased, but the property was handed to Adam and David Beveridge Adamson (probably James' sons) as joint owners, on 24 March 1870. It is reputed that James was unable to compete with the mills in Salisbury and eventually went out of business.

The property remained in the Adamson family until 1909, the area around it continuing as farmland to the present day, although more recently threatened by housing development.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

This site is significant as a major early enterprise associated with the principal primary industry of the northern Adelaide plains from the mid to late 19th century. The site is also significant as an archaeological site which represents an early and extensive milling enterprise, notable for the use of water-driven power.

References

State Heritage Branch files (File No. 11051)



MUNNO PARA
HERITAGE SURVEY

FIGURE 4.2
Existing State Heritage Places
ONE TREE HILL



ADAMSON'S FLOUR MILL (FORMER)
"YELKI" SMITH'S CREEK
SMITHFIELD

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, the Smith's Creek flour mill, dams, water wheel, surrounding European trees and cart track comprise an historic site of State and regional significance as a major early enterprise associated with the principal primary industry of the Northern Adelaide plains from the mid to late nineteenth century. Also the focus of a courtcase c.1856 concerning rights of settlers re access to local water supplied.

Physically, the Smith's Creek flour mill site is significant as an archaeological site which represents an early and extensive milling enterprise, notable for the use of water driven power. Only two water mills were identified in an 1863 survey which listed 77 operating flour mills in the province, most of which were steam powered.

Environmentally, the Smith's Creek flour mill site relates well to the immediate rural surroundings.

The Integrity of the site is high although the associated structures only exist in a ruined state.

NOMINATION/SOURCE/THREAT

This report has been prepared as part of an assessment of mills in the Salisbury area. The mill ruins have survived because of their relatively isolated and concealed location, but could be considered to be under threat due to extensive new housing developments in the vicinity. There are also apparently plans for Rotary to restore and relocate the mill wheel, using stone from the ruin to build an enclosure.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION BRANCH RECOMMENDATION:

..... *Peter Bell*
for Manager

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized A3, H3.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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Chairman

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Historic Site	Ref. No. 6628-11173
	Item ADAMSON'S FLOUR MILL (FORMER) "YELKI" SMITH'S CREEK SMITHFIELD	Status Identified Nthn. Metro. Region Study
Age C.1852	Subject PROCESSING OF PRIMARY PRODUCTIVE PRODUCTS	Site Type —

History	Context	Representative of extremely early secondary industry associated with wheat growing, the principal primary industry of the Northern Adelaide plains from the mid to late nineteenth century.	E	VG	AG	FP	NA
	Person/Group	James Adamson, Wheelwright, builder and machine-maker.		X			
	Event	Court case (Smith v. Adamson c.1856) re blocking of Smith's Creek by Adamson's dams, and associated meetings of local settlers, newspaper reports etc.	X				
	Natural Elements	Open undulating rural land, sloping steeply down to rocky creek bed. Sparse vegetation, a few gums and pines around ruins.			X		
Physical	Man-Made Elements	The mill site has an isolated picturesque setting beside creek concealed by surrounding hills. One two storey stone wall of the mill structure remains, with evidence of other walls, stone pylon, the mill wheel, dams and traces of stone quarrying and bullocking tracks.		X			
	Representation	An important and rare example of a water mill, earlier mills (Bethany, Rosedale included) having been demolished.	X				
	Continuity	Compatible with immediate rural setting.		X			
Environment	Local Character	Evidence of an historic land use in the Salisbury area, which is under threat of suburban expansion.		X			
	Landmark	—					X
	Alterations	Cannot be evaluated due to deteriorated state of fabric. One water wheel apparently removed to site on Little Para River.					X
Integrity	Condition	Ruinous				X	
	Compatibility	Disused				X	

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Supplementary Information

Adaptation: Urgent stabilisation work is required, and a large section of the remaining two storey wall is in danger of collapse. Security and protection from vandalism would be important considerations for a future management plan.

Interpretation: Although currently in private ownership, the mill ruins have great potential for active interpretation.

History and Sources

In the late 1840's and early 1850's, when the Para Plains were first settled, river frontages were quickly taken up in view of the aridity of the area. Wheat soon became the major primary industry and remained so throughout the nineteenth century (though some dairying and citrus-growing also occurred), so it was natural that flour milling should be the earliest and more important secondary industry of the Salisbury, Smithfield district, remaining so until the post-World War II period.

Mr. & Mrs. James Adamson and their seven children arrived in Adelaide late in 1839 on board the "Recovery". Adamson, a wheelwright, came to the Smithfield area in 1850 and was the original grantee of section 4160, Hundred of Munno Para on 9th February that year. The mill was probably constructed about mid-1853, as a report in The Observer of 17th September, 1853, states:

Water Mills - the stream of water on the Gawler Plains, known as Smith Creek, which until these three or four years was never known to flow across the Great North Road during the summer months, and which was not in existence at all until a few years ago, has now become so much more powerful and constant than formerly, that a water-mill has been erected thereon by Mr. Adamson of Adelaide, near the base of the hills. The fall of water obtained is 30 feet, and the circumference of the water wheel 35 feet. Mr. Hogarth, who has a section of land just below Mr. Adamson's mill, has made arrangements for the construction of another water-mill thereon. He anticipates being able to obtain at that place a fall of 20 feet.

Hogarth (later the Honorable Thomas Hogarth MLC) presumably built his mill too, as an official return of flour mills in the province in May 1854 by the local police corporal shows two water mills on Smith's Creek. Adamson's mill was explicitly included in his mortgage of the property in 1856 for £900.

Adamson is reputed to have brought the wheel and milling plant with him from Scotland, but possibly had a hand in its making, given his profession. (In the 1840's he had leased property in the City of Adelaide describing himself in the Directories variously as a builder, wheelwright and machine maker).

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History and Sources

In October 1855 Adamson, with financial assistance from the Council, had a bridge erected "near Mr. Scoulars", probably where Uley Road now crosses the creek over an embankment downstream of the mill (1:50,000 map number 6628-IV, grid reference 907578). Though the bridge would undoubtedly have been used to transport wheat and other materials to the mill, it was probably also used by locals forced to travel from the Main North Road to water their cattle above the mill, as dams associated with the mill interfered with the normal flow of Smith's Creek. Naturally local settlers became disgruntled about this situation, particularly as a local case in June of the same year (Crittenden v. Smith before Justice Cooper in the Supreme Court) had found that John Smith's diversion of Smith's Creek to the new township of Smithfield was illegal.

Ironically, Smith himself became one of the prime complainants against Adamson's dams obstructing the flow of Smith's Creek. A meeting of "some of the principal" Gawler Plains settlers in May of the following year to discuss the issue contended that Adamson's dam "erected for the purpose of elevating the water to a sufficient height to work his mill, built on the creek about 2 miles up from the Main North Road", was "completely humbugging the whole neighbourhood", and that "Nothing appeared more un-English than that a single individual should be allowed with one stroke to cut off that stream and dry its course, famish those people and turn a once rising little township into desolation and ruin". The report of this meeting in The Register (16/5/1856) also expressed disappointment at the case of Smith v. Adamson, which apparently found in favour of Adamson "on the plea of having built a mill, or expended a deal of money on the creek". Adamson in fact built two dams above the mill, both of which are still more or less intact, the furthest from the mill being some 100 metres upstream. A cart-track can still clearly be seen in the hillside from the mill to the creek above the dams, and no doubt this carried much of the stock diverted from the Main North Road to water there.

According to the memoirs of Adamson's neighbour the Hon. Thomas Hogarth, a pioneer wheat-farmer in the area, both Adamson and himself made improvements to John Ridley's reaper, Hogarth stating Adamson's adaptations to be better than his own.

It is not known when business at Adamson's mill ceased, but the property was handed over to Adam and David Beveridge Adamson (probably James' sons) as joint owners, 24th March 1870. It is reputed that James was unable to compete with the mills in Salisbury and eventually went out of business.

The property remained in the Adamson family until 1909, the area around it continuing as farmland to the present day. The dams and mill ruins have been little vandalised as they are hidden from the nearby road. However, with the encroaching housing subdivisions such as Craigmere Estate on the horizon, it is likely more vandalism and removal of rocks for local rock gardens etc. may occur, making the need for stabilisation and protection more urgent.

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History and Sources

A study made by engineer, Jack Connell, in 1980-81 of a water-wheel formerly on the Little Para River upstream of the Old Spot Hotel shows it to be almost identical to the one still in situ on Smith's Creek. It is likely that both wheels were used at Adamson's mill, and are of slightly different dimensions to cater for different forces of water flow, both being overshot wheels. The one on the Little Para was probably removed from the mill in the first two decades of this century and used for irrigating orchards by the then owner of the Old Spot, Mr. Kuhlmann. It has since been removed and restored by the local Rotary club, though the stone structure in which it was housed is still partly intact in a Council reserve and protected from vandalism by fencing.

Rotary apparently wishes to remove the Smith's Creek mill wheel also for restoration, using loose stone from the mill ruins (and possibly from the Little Para pit?) for a shelter to house both wheels at another location. Such action would be detrimental to the integrity of both sites, the Smith's Creek site being of State and regional significance and the other of local significance historically. The more important site, at Smith's Creek, although possibly beyond reconstruction, preserves essential features of Adamson's enterprise, and is a scarce example of such an early flour mill in South Australia.

Sources:

Research conducted by Gillian Pearson, local history officer of the Northern Adelaide Plains.

GRO search: Book 20, Mem. 115; Book 100, Mem. 246; Book 20, Mem. 207; Book 40, Mem. 11; Book 9, Mem. 213.

LTO search: CT.142/181 & 182.

South Australian Almanacks 1841-1862

The Observer: 17/9/1853, p.5 c.6; 23/6/1855 p.5c,4; 7/7/1855 p.5 c.7.

District Council of Munno Para East, Minutes of Meeting 1/10/1855.

The Register: 16/5/1856, p.1

Memoirs of Thomas Hogarth (Smithfield Reference File, Munno Para Public Library)

Obituary of Thomas Hogarth (Smithfield Reference File, Munno Para Public Library)

E.A. Opie: South Australian Records Prior to 1841 (Adel. 1917)

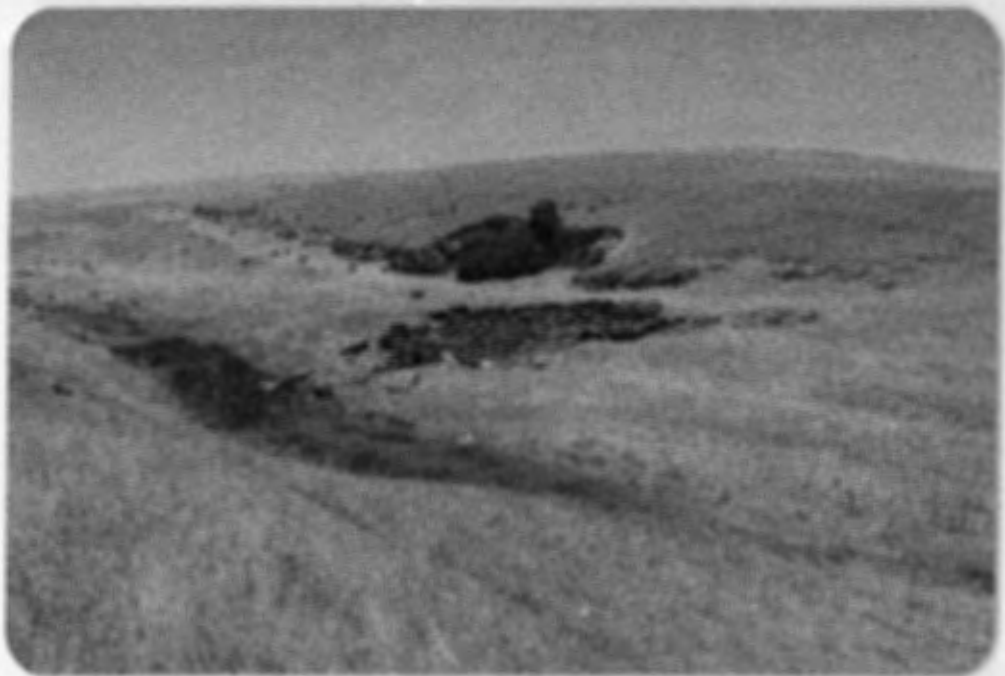
Transcript of conversation (Nov. 1978) with Mr. W. Kelly, present owner of "Yelki" farm on which the site stands (transcript held at Munno Para Public Library)

H.J. Lewis: Salisbury, South Australia: A History of Town and District (Adel. 1980)

Study by Jack Connell, engineer, Heritage Unit, 1980 on (see notes on file).

Kathleen Patitsas
Register Historian

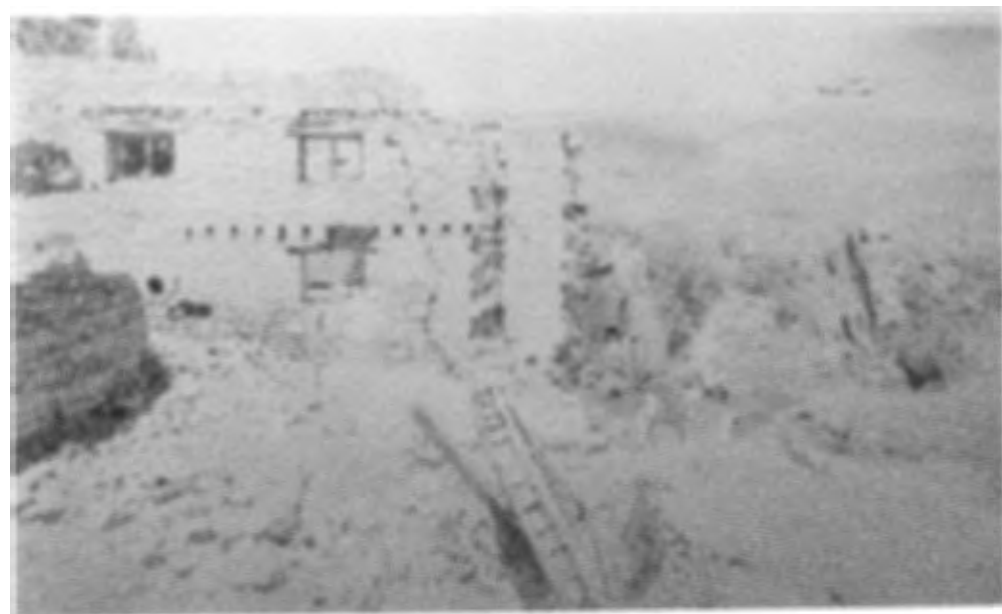
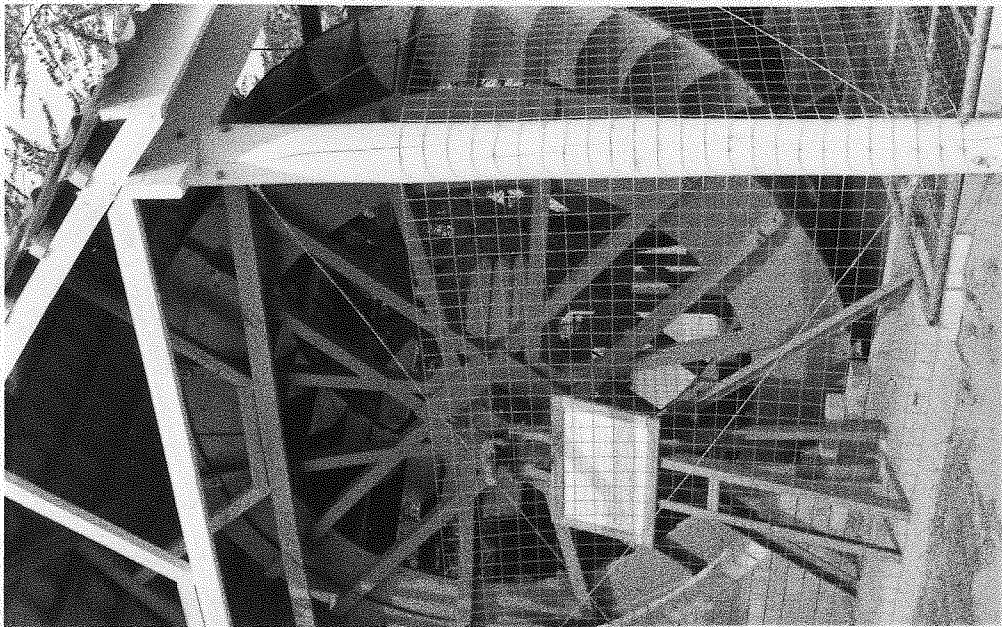






Small building in desert









SMITH'S FLOUR MILL,
NEAR ONE TREE HILL.



WATER WHEEL, MILL RUINS
SMITH'S FLOUR MILL, NEAR ONE TREE HILL

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 1643, 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>
District Council of Lincoln	
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.
District Council of Mannum	
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.
Corporation of the City of Marion	
Dwelling Hamilton's Winery	Morphett Road, Glengowrie 5044. CT volume 3597, folio 25, portion of section 176, hundred of Noarlunga.
District Council of Meningie	
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.
District Council of Munno Para	
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.
Corporation of the Town of Naracoorte	
Naracoorte Station Group	Stewart Terrace, Naracoorte 5271. CT. volume 4190, folio 171, allotment 71 of part section 1, hundred of Naracoorte.
District Council of Northern Yorke Peninsula	
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.
District Council of Penola	
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.
Corporation of the Town of Peterborough	
Railway Roundhouse	Railway Terrace, Peterborough 5422. CT. volume 3859, folio 129, part section 216, hundred of Yongala.
District Council of Robe	
Dwelling—'Attic House'	Victoria Street, Robe 5276. CT. volume 4040, folio 879, portion of allotment 9 of section 218, hundred of Waterhouse.
Corporation of the Town of St Peters	
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.
District Council of Strathalbyn	
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.
District Council of Victor Harbor	
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.
District Council of Willunga	
Former Temperance Hotel	
'Delabole'—Mining Village Ruins and Slate Quarry	Aldinga 5173. CT. volume 4237, folio 21, part section 400, hundred of Willunga.
	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.
District Council of Yorketown	
Lime Kiln and Jetty	Wool Bay 5576. <i>Government Gazette</i> 5.10.22, section 393, hundred of Dalrymple.