

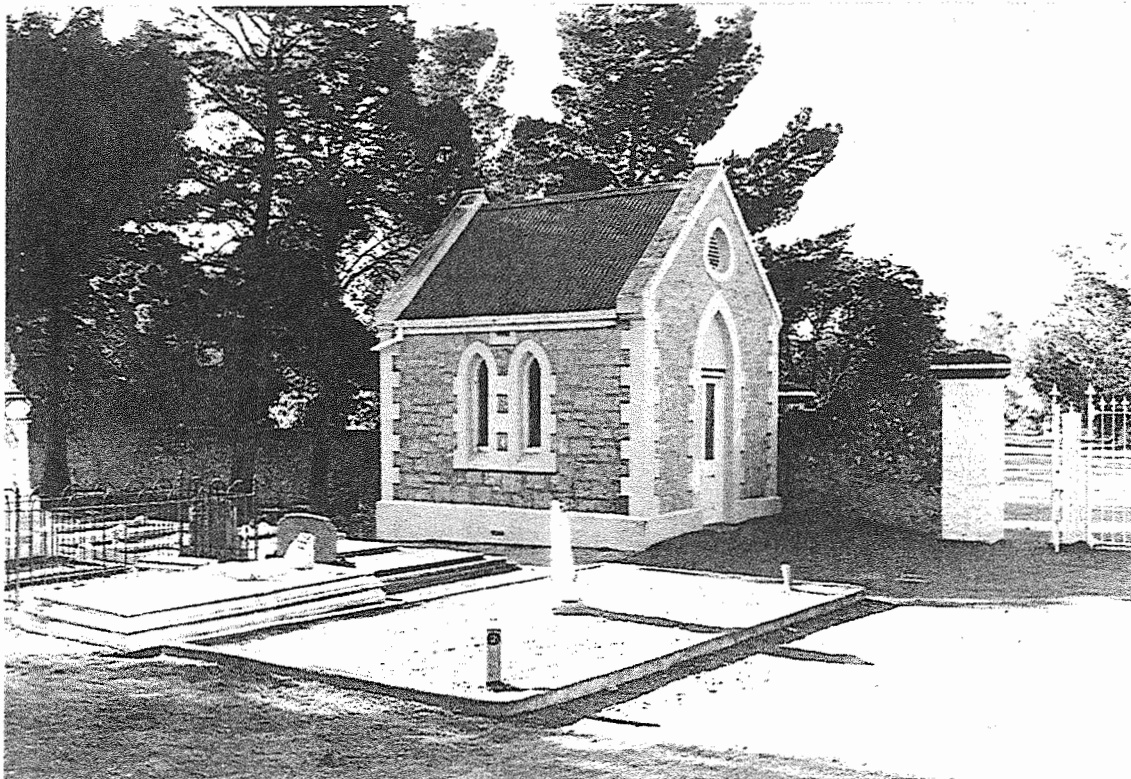
**Moonta Cemetery, Wall, Waiting Room, Gates and Bell****CC:118****LOCATION**

**Address** Retallick Road, Moonta SA 5558  
**Land Description** Sections 2250 & 2232, Hundred of Wallaroo  
**Certificate of Title** 617/107, 149/41

**Owners** District Council of the Copper Coast, PO Box 6, Kadina SA 5554

**State Heritage Status** Registered, 28 November 1985 **SHR File No** 11166  
**Other Assessments** National Trust of SA, Filed (File No. 3247)

**Photograph No** 12/17, 18, 19, 20, 21



*Moonta Cemetery*

**Moonta Cemetery, Wall, Waiting Room, Gates and Bell****CC:118**

---

**DESCRIPTION**

Moonta Cemetery occupies a large walled site surrounded by regrowth trees in the town's parklands. Most of the graves are formally laid out in rows. However, a notable feature of the cemetery is a large area of unmarked graves of the victims of the typhoid epidemics of the 1860s and 1870s.

---

**STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE**

Moonta cemetery is significant in having a particularly fine collection of 19th century grave monuments in a variety of styles, which provide insight into the economic, ethnic and social structure of the community. It is especially significant for the evidence it provides of the severity of the early typhoid epidemics. This significance is enhanced by the fact that the burial records for the cemetery are still in existence.

---

**HISTORY**

Moonta Cemetery has been in use for burials from the time the town was surveyed in 1863 until the present. It has always been a municipal cemetery, operated by the Corporation after 1872, and so all religious denominations are represented there.

The monuments in the cemetery depict the predominantly protestant and dissenting faiths of the mining community, but there is a great variety of styles and motifs present. The poorer members of the community seem to be under-represented by monuments; for example there are very few monuments which mention mining accidents or mining-related illnesses such as phthisis. One of the most famous memorials is that of Thomas Woolcock, whose wife Elizabeth was hanged at Adelaide Gaol for his murder in 1873.

Part of the cemetery is given over to the unmarked mounds of the hundreds of victims of typhoid epidemics in the first two decades of Moonta's history. Early Moonta had no reticulated water or sewerage and there is no natural surface water in the district; the sparse water supply was pumped from the mines, or carried on drays from Tiparra Springs near the coast. In these conditions water-borne diseases were endemic, and child mortality remained high among the crowded cottages of the Moonta Mines community for twenty years until reticulated water became available from the Beetaloo Reservoir in 1882. The grave mounds have been maintained by the community over the decades as a memorial.

---

**References**

J R Harbison, 25 October 1996

MOONTA CEMETERY  
MOONTA

---

#### HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, the Moonta Cemetery poignantly illustrates the difficulties of life in a mining community. Moonta was the largest and most important mining centre within the Copper Triangle which dominated South Australia's mining industry for over 60 years.

Physically, the Moonta Cemetery in many respects is a typical cemetery with its neatly ordered and edged graves and variety of tombstones. Its significance lies in the exceptionally large number of small unmarked graves, evidencing the high mortality rate in the early days of Moonta.

Environmentally, the Moonta Cemetery contributes both to the parklands around the township and the historic character of Moonta. The integrity of the site is unusually high.

---

#### NOMINATION SOURCE AND THREAT

This report has been prepared as part of an ongoing programme to assess items within the Copper Triangle. The cemetery is one of the elements in the parkland precinct identified in the Kinhill Study of Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo.

---

#### HERITAGE CONSERVATION BRANCH RECOMMENDATION

..... *B. G. Renshaw*  
Manager

It is recommended that this item be included ~~not be included~~ in the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized A3, H3.

---

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

.....  
Chairman

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Historic Site	Ref. No. 6429-11166
	Item MOONTA CEMETERY MOONTA	Status -
Age 1862	Subject PEOPLE : Social Groups	Site Type -

History	Context Within the copper triangle, Moonta Cemetery most adequately reveals social aspects of the lives of the predominantly Cornish immigrants who depended on copper mining for their livelihood.	E	VG	AG	FP
	Person/Group The unusually large number of unmarked childrens' graves is the most arresting feature of Moonta Cemetery. They form a distinct group in one section of the graveyard.	X			
	Event				
	Natural Elements Level ground, mature pines regularly spaced along approach road and around perimeter.			X	
Physical	Man-Made Elements Perimeter stonewalls, small shelter buildings at entrance and corners, campanile. Graves in regular double rows, many edged with clay tiles, typical headstones. Exceptionally large number of unmarked graves, granite memorial plaque to child victims of typhoid.		X		
	Representation An important cemetery because of its link with the Cornish mining community, visible proof of high mortality.		X		
	Continuity Located on perimeter of township, buffered between urban and rural land use.		X		
Environment	Local Character The perimeter buildings and many tombstones reflect the historic phase of Moonta's development.			X	
	Landmark Not significant.				X
	Alterations Any visible changes since establishment reflect evolution rather than alteration.		X		
Integrity	Condition Extremely well maintained	X			
	Compatibility Continuous use as cemetery	X			

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Historic Site	Ref. No. 6429-11166
	Item MOONTA CEMETERY, MOONTA.	Prepared By: Laurice Parkes Carolyn Wigg

### History and Sources

The Moonta Mines Area was declared a State Heritage Area in May, 1984. The broader historical significance of this area cannot be adequately understood without reference to the Moonta Cemetery, because the cost of the Moonta inheritance was extremely high in terms of human life. The graves of young men who "fell asleep" in Moonta Mines, young women who died in childbirth and the hundreds of unmarked children's graves, victims of the typhoid epidemics which plagued the community throughout the second half of the nineteenth century tell a poignant story of lives carried on in the shadow of sorrow, hardship and uncertainty. An extremely high mortality rate for young people is a typical feature of frontier mining communities and Moonta is the Cemetery within the Copper Triangle which demonstrates this aspect of mining life most emphatically.

The Moonta Cemetery is also significant for the importance it has always had for the local community. The Cornish people have a tradition of conscientiously celebrating the rituals of death and at Moonta a funeral was an important outing. All the local histories of the area include at least one anecdote about a spectacular or interesting funeral. In the early days the coffin was carried by relays of bearers, but the distance between the mines and the cemetery made a hearse drawn by black horses a more practical proposition, and this would lead a procession of mourners, accompanied by a choir, all singing durges. Jim Richards, a local musician composed some of these durges and the most popular of his works had a refrain which went:

"Whate'er we do, where'er we be,  
we are travelling to the grave".

After the burial, friends and relatives would gather for a feast. It was considered essential that people have "a decent send off".

Oswald Pryor, a cemetery trustee, says in his book "Australia's Little Cornwall", that the cemetery was always well kept and local people went there regularly after Sunday School. It was also a place one always took visitors.

The cemetery was first declared a reserve for burials in 1862 in accordance with the Cemeteries Act (No. 19) of that year, and the Moonta Cemetery Trust was formed to manage it in 1866. Burial charges were Adults 15/- and children under 10 11/-, which would have been a severe financial burden for families living on approximately Two Pounds per week, and modest memorials and unmarked graves are a noticeable feature of the older sections of the Moonta cemetery. Alfred Jewell was appointed the first grave digger. The original graveyard area was 5 acres, but this has been extended considerably over the years. The site was first fenced with mallee posts, stringybark rails and wire in 1867. A stone front wall and tool house were erected by Nettle and Thorn in 1872. Between 1874 and 1876, the stone walls were extended down the sides of the cemetery and in 1878 a dozen seats were installed. A bell made of local copper smelted at Wallaroo was erected in 1896 and tolled during funeral ceremonies, but this is no longer a feature of the Moonta Cemetery.

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Historic Site	Ref. No. 6429-11166
	Item MOONTA CEMETERY, MOONTA.	Prepared By: Laurice Parkes Carolyn Wigg

## History and Sources

2.

The Moonta Cemetery Trust Minute Book records in 1874, the Church of England Reverend Taplin requested that a separate section be set aside for the burial of Anglicans, but this request was refused because the Trustees decided the cemetery was not large enough to be broken up into sections. They did however, accede to Mr. Manheim's request for a separate Jewish section in 1875 because the piece of land involved was only very small. The Moonta Cemetery Trust appear to have conscientiously maintained and improved the cemetery reserve throughout their period of management and the Moonta Corporation, which took over the responsibility for the cemetery in 1930 has ensured that this cemetery has not suffered from the neglect one usually notices in older cemeteries.

The Moonta Coorporation has recently erected a memorial plaque for the children who died as a result of the major typhoid epidemics.

### SOURCES:

Moonta Cemetery Trust Minute Book. Extracts Compiled by Jim Harbison (roneo)

National Trust (Moonta Branch): Occasional Papers Moonta Cemetery (roneo)

Phillips, A. & Hand, M. : Moonta Wallaroo Kadina Sketch Book,  
 Rigby Australia, 1974.

Pryor, O. : Australia's Little Cornwall,  
 Rigby Australia, 1980.

See also Appendix A: Moonta Cemetery Register of Burials, Extracts 1866-1867.

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Historic Site	Ref. No.  6429-11166
	Item MOONTA CEMETERY MOONTA	Prepared By: Laurie Parkes Carolyn Wigg

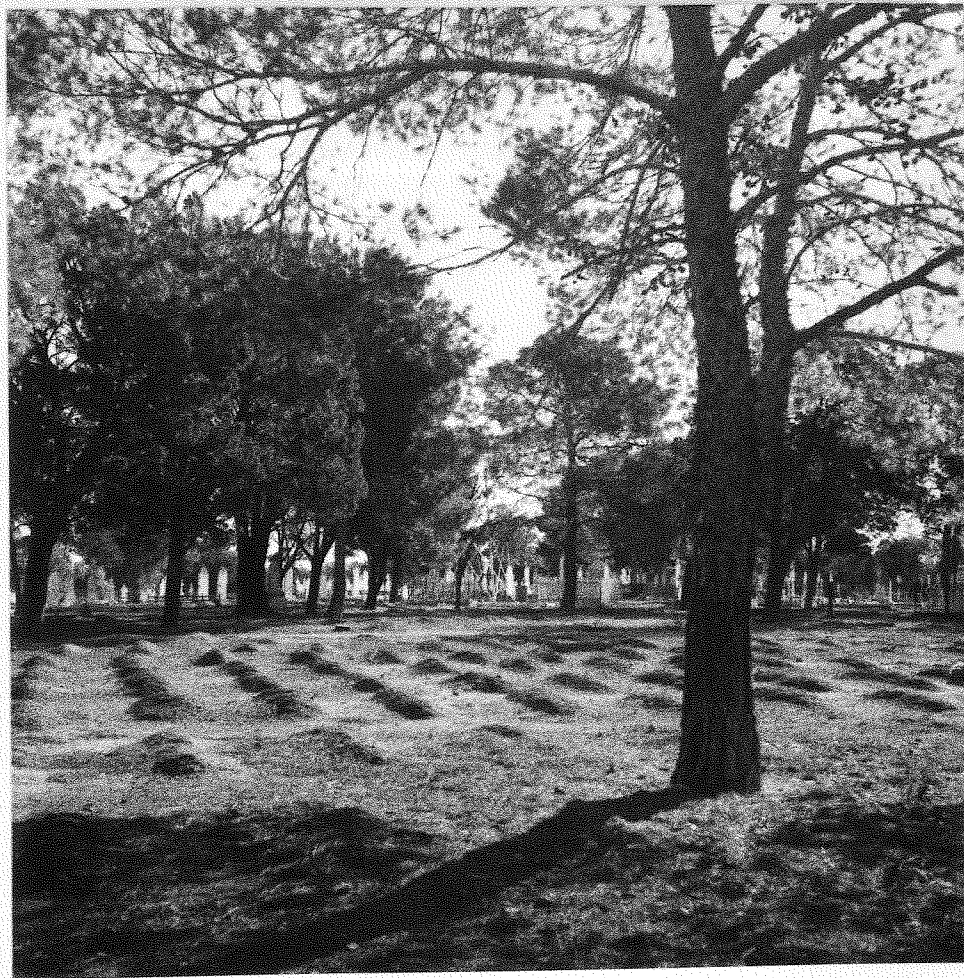
### Supplementary Information

ADAPTATION: Although retention of the formal layout and the built elements, the perimeter walls and small buildings would be a high priority, the unmarked graves are considered to be the most significant aspect of the cemetery.

INTERPRETATION: The Moonta Cemetery has a high potential for active interpretation in the context of the Moonta Mines Heritage Area.

### History and Sources





MOONTA CEMETERY

6429-11166

③



MOONTA CEMETERY





MONTE CEMETERY





## 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>
<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.
<b>Moonta Cemetery</b> .....	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.