

To: The South Australian Heritage Committee

From: Senior Historical Architect

Subject: REGISTER NOMINATION REPORT -  
KEYSTONE BRIDGE,  
BROWNHILL CREEK, MITCHAM

Date: 31 May 1982

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### Summary

This report has been prepared as a result of the Bridge being identified as a significant item in the Mitcham Heritage Survey. The Bridge is on a major traffic artery and is only just coping with the existing traffic volume. It could come under threat in the future but no known threat exists. This item was nominated by the Heritage Conservation Branch.

Historically, the Keystone Bridge is a significant remains associated with the early traffic routes out of Adelaide to the hills area and the importance of the Old Mitcham Town Centre.

Architecturally, the Keystone Bridge is an important example of a simple but well constructed single arch stone bridge.

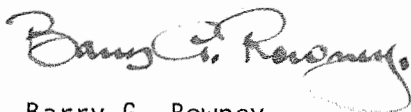
Environmentally, the Keystone Bridge is a significant visual element adding to the very pleasant character of the Mitcham Reserve. The Reserve still retains much of its 'village green' atmosphere.

The Integrity of the Keystone Bridge is very high with no major alterations, changes of use or deterioration of condition.

The item is listed on the National Trust Register as a Classified Item and also the National Estate Register.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Keystone Bridge, Brownhill Creek, Mitcham, be placed on the Register of State Heritage Items and be categorized A2, A3, H3.



Barry G. Rowney  
JEC:JD

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures						
	Item KEYSTONE BRIDGE, MITCHAM						
Age 1867	Theme		Office 6628-11549				
Period 1852-1884	Subject SETTLEMENT - EARLY TRANSPORTATION - LAND		Region Adelaide Metropolitan				
Building Type Bridge	Style VICTORIAN/VERNACULAR		Status N.Tr.(CL) N.E.R.				
<u>Qualitative Data</u>			<u>Grading</u>				
Component			E VG AG FP NA				
<u>History</u>							
1. Context:	Associated with the early development of Mitcham and the road transport route between Adelaide and the hills area, provided an all weather crossing of Brown Hill Creek to replace the ford at Mugg's Hill Road, adjacent to Old Mitcham Town Centre.			*			
2. Person/Group:	Early works project by Mitcham Council				*		
3. Event:	Not yet established.						*
<u>Architecture</u>							
4. Architect/Builder:	Not yet established. John Prince						*
5. Design:	A well proportioned single arch bridge. A second small bridge about 15m north of the main arch is about 1m higher at the base, apparently to clear high flood waters. It is of similar construction to the main arch. Whether this was erected at the same time as the main bridge or added later to accommodate flood conditions has not been confirmed.			*			
6. Construction:	Arches, cappings, quoins and upper walls are of dressed and "packed" dimensioned freestone. The "fill in" of the facing walls is Random cut bluestone. The arches rest on well proportioned springers and are finished with a large keystone, probably giving the bridge its name.		*				
7. Interior:	Not applicable.						*
8. Representation:	The bridge is typical of the structure of many built during this period.				*		



KEYSTONE BRIDGE, MITCHAM

By the 1860's, some of the major roads planned by Colonel Light had been surfaced and were in constant use. Fullarton Road was the main road from Adelaide to Mitcham and beyond, to Belair and Coromandel Valley. Unley Road was often an impassable bog, until its upgrading in 1855, when it was also directly connected with the city, and after which it gradually became the major thoroughfare to the southern area of Mitcham. South Road weaved uncertainly towards Reynella, until the route was finalised in 1850 and sealed with stone.

Settlement along these thoroughfares intensified, particularly around existing houses and proposed villages. With the increasing ease of access to the city, families of wealth and leisure also removed to the outer areas and erected fine country villas. The following advertisement appeared in The Register of 1840.

"Delightful Sites for Villas"

In compliance with applications from several parties who were desirous of securing sites for villas in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, but which should at the same time secure the advantages of a country residence, the manager of the South Australian Company begs to announce to those friends who applied for portions of section 248 on the Brownhill Creek, in the event of its being laid out in that manner, that it has been surveyed and mapped accordingly . . . ."

The village was laid out by William Giles, around an English-style village green, and named Mitcham after his home town in England. Sales were brisk, with acre allotments fetching up to \$40. The village layout was altered slightly, with a new street, Welbourne Street, soon making an appearance.

Mitcham grew relatively quickly, and by 1852, it comprised 56 homes, a hotel, 2 grocery shops and a butcher. There was a Union Chapel/school house on the green, where, the following year, public meetings were held that resulted in the formation of the Mitcham District Council - the first local governing body outside Adelaide in South Australia.

The Mitcham District Council set aside a portion of section 248 for a public reserve and this is now known as the Mitcham Reserve in which the Keystone Bridge is set. The area had been a meeting place for Aborigines prior to European settlement. The exact nature of the Reserve was not established for some time and it went through a variety of uses in its early years.

Mitcham's importance laid partially on the fact it was on the old route to Belair and Coromandel Valley. The following is a description from The History of Mitcham:

"The original route to Belair and Coromandel Valley was from the corner of Park Terrace and Greenhill Road along Eastwood Terrace and Fullarton Road to Mitcham, then via Maitland Street, Taylor's Road and Albert Street to the ford at the foot of Mugg's Hill Road past the Mitcham Cemetery (then not in existence) and up the short cut to Belair, taking the western branch round the Devil's Elbow near the top. From the top of the hill at Belair the road to Coromandel Valley appears to have run somewhat on the line of the present road through the National Park."

In 1841, the residents of Mitcham approached the Governor for the construction of a bridge across Brownhill Creek. An agreement was reached and a bridge constructed but its exact location has not been established. The road through from Fullarton Road to Belair suffered badly for lack of maintenance and heavy use by quarrymen from Brownhill Creek.

In about 1866-67, Mitcham Council built a new road to replace the difficult crossing of the creek at Mugg's Hill Road and part of the project was the construction of the Keystone Bridge. It was built by John Prince and when almost complete, was washed away by a flood. Mr. Prince had to rebuild the bridge at his own expense and it is possible this is when the second, higher, arch was added as a flood relief measure.

Sources:

W.A. Norman The History of the City of Mitcham (Adelaide, 1953)

L. Brasse and A. Marsden City of Mitcham Heritage Survey (1979)

The Register, 21/11/1840 P. 12.

Ivar Nelsen  
Register Architect

IN:BAH  
16.6.82

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**Keystone Bridge**

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**MIT:028****LOCATION**

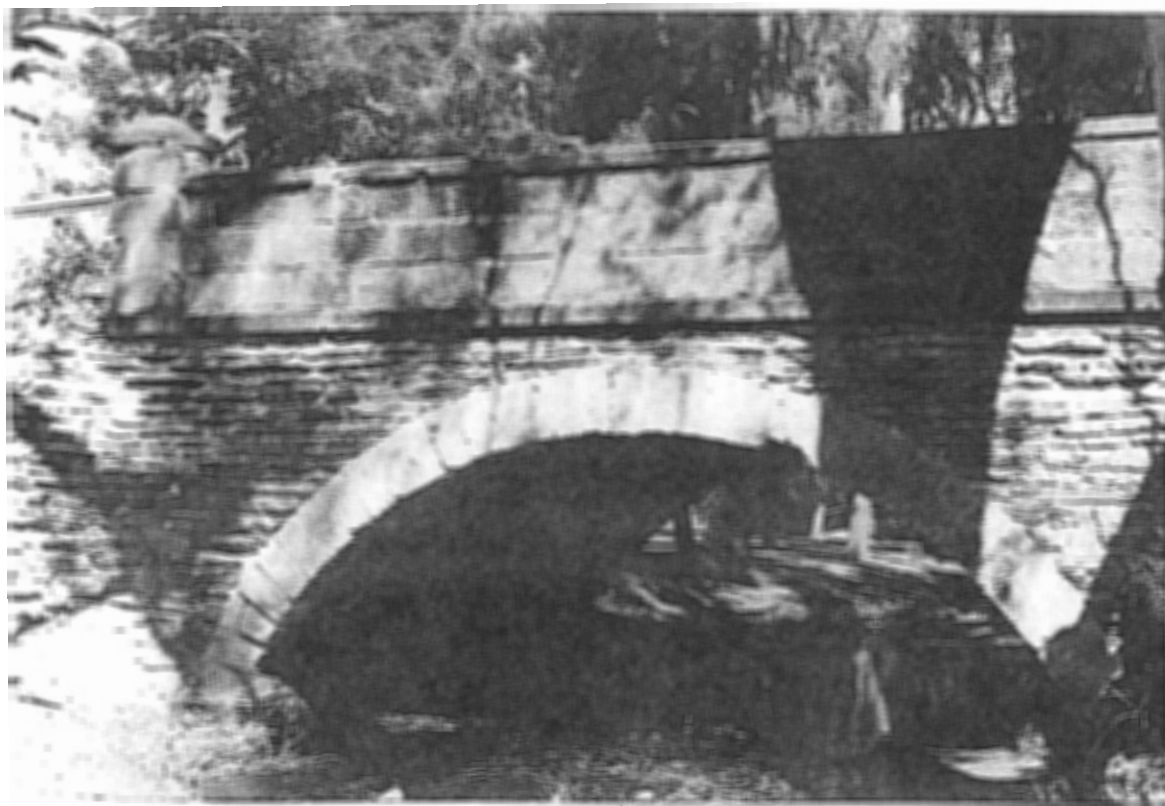
Address Taylors Road  
Suburb MITCHAM 5062  
Owners City of Mitcham, 131 Belair Road, Torrens Park SA 5062  
Allotment No Mitcham Memorial Reserve  
Section 248  
CT GM 165/388  
Hundred Adelaide

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State Heritage Status	Registered, 1 September 1983	SHR No	6628-11549
Other Assessments	National Trust of SA, Classified, File No. 2080 Mitcham Heritage Survey, Classification A		

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Film/Neg No A/22



## Keystone Bridge

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### DESCRIPTION

Random rubble bluestone bridge with dressed stone arch and keystone. Coursed dressed sandstone parapets with capped pillars at ends. Smaller culvert of similar construction to the north.

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### HISTORY

Built by John Prince in 1866 of local stone, to provide an improved route to Belair for the bullock drays and other vehicles, bypassing the ford and steeper climb associated with the route through Mugg's Hill Road.

By the 1860s some of the major roads planned by Colonel Light had been surfaced and were in constant use. Fullarton Road was the main road from Adelaide to Mitcham and beyond, to Belair and Coromandel Valley. Unley Road was often an impassable bog, until its upgrading in 1855, when it was also directly connected with the city, and after which it gradually became the major thoroughfare to the southern area of Mitcham.

The bridge was used by vehicular traffic until 1982 when the structure was restored by the Mitcham Council and a bypass road was constructed.

### STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

This bridge is a significant remains associated with the early traffic routes out of Adelaide to the hills area and the importance of the Mitcham village. The bridge is an important example of a simple but well constructed single arch stone bridge.

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### References

Marsden, A. & Brasse, L. 1979, *City of Mitcham Heritage Survey*, National Estate, Adelaide  
Norman, W. A. 1954, *The History of the City of Mitcham*, Corporation of the City of Mitcham  
State Heritage Branch Files, File No. 11549



FILM 219  
No 13

BROWN HILL CREEK BRIDGE CULVERT FROM  
EAST

MITCHAM  
CITY OF MITCHAM  
4-3-81





FILM 219  
No 7

BROWN HILL CREEK BRIDGE FROM  
WEST

MITCHAM  
CITY OF MITCHAM  
4-3-81



FILM 219

NO 1

BROWN HILL CREEK BRIDGE FROM

NORTH EAST

MITCHAM

CITY OF MITCHAM

4-3-81



FILM 213  
NO 10

BROWN HILL CREEK BRIDGE AND  
FOOTBRIDGE FROM SOUTH EAST

MITCHAM  
CITY OF MITCHAM  
4-3-81

## 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 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 any 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.

## THE SCHEDULE

Name	Address
<b>District Council of Barossa</b>	
Boer War Memorial .....	Queen Street, Williamstown 5351. CT. volume 2583, folio 78, part government reserve, hundred of Barossa.
<b>Corporation of the City of Brighton</b>	
Dwelling—'Brighton House' .....	King George Avenue, North Brighton 5048. CT. volume 4185, folio 431, portion of allotment 102, hundred of Noarlunga.
<b>District Council of Burra Burra</b>	
Redruth Police Station, Lockup and Stables .....	Bounded by Ludgvan, Tregony and Helston Streets, Burra 5417, allotment 31, hundred of Kooringa.
Redruth Courthouse .....	Cnr Sancreed and Helston Streets, Burra 5417, allotments 19, 20, 28 and 30, hundred of Kooringa.
Hampton Township .....	The whole of the township of Hampton being part of section 2071 in the hundred of Kooringa including blocks 1 to 51 with all streets and reserves as laid out in G.P. 293 of 1857.
<b>District Council of Clare</b>	
Soldier's Memorial Gates .....	Main North Road, Clare 5453. CT. volume 2597, folio 177, allotments 38-46 inclusive, allotments 55-64 inclusive, allotments 90-104 inclusive and portion of allotments 47, 48 and 54 of section 38, hundred of Clare.
Bain Rotunda .....	Soldier's Memorial Park, Clare 5453. CT. volume 2597, folio 177, allotments 38-46 inclusive, allotments 55-64 inclusive, allotments 90-104 inclusive and portion of allotments 47, 48 and 54 of section 38, hundred of Clare.
<b>District Council of East Torrens</b>	
Dwelling—'Brooks Cottage' and Slab Hut .....	Swamp Road, Uraidla 5142. CT. volume 3613, folio 198, portion of part section 1009, hundred of Onkaparinga.
Dwelling—'Belmont House' .....	Old Norton Summit Road, Magill 5072. CL. volume 1592, folio 91, section 484, hundred of Adelaide.
<b>Corporation of the City of Enfield</b>	
Dwelling—'Vaughan House' .....	Enfield 5085. CT. volume 4011, folio 138, portion of part section 341, hundred of Yatala.
Sunnybrae Farm Historic Site .....	Regency Road, Regency Park 5010. CT. volume 4125, folio 185, portion of section 801; historic conservation and recreation reserve, <i>Government Gazette</i> 25.3.1982; E. & W.S. reserve, hundred of Yatala.
Powder Magazine .....	Yatala Labour Prison, Northfield 5085. Portion of section 5827, hundred of Yatala.
<b>Corporation of the Town of Gawler</b>	
Church—Baptist .....	Murray Street, Gawler 5118. CT. volume 667, folio 67, part allotment 9 of section 24, hundred of Mudla Wirra.
Dwelling—'Tortola House' .....	Cnr Tod and Dundas Streets. Gawler 5118. CT. volume 3964, folio 113, allotment 20 of section 24, hundred of Mudla Wirra.
Mill .....	4 Bridge Street, Gawler 5118. CT. volume 4158, folio 596, portion of allotments 1 and 3 and portion of part allotment 4 of section 24, hundred of Mudla Wirra and Nuriootpa.
<b>District Council of Hallett</b>	
Shop .....	Main Street, Terowie 5421. CT. volume 1127, folio 7, portion of section 527, hundred of Terowie.
<b>District Council of Jamestown</b>	
'Bundaleer North' Homestead .....	Highway 83, via Jamestown. LG. volume 3644, folio 177, portion of section 715, hundred of Belalie.
<b>District Council of Karoonda-East Murray</b>	
Nildottie Well .....	Bakara 5354. CL. volume 871, folio 23, section 61, hundred of Bakara.



## THE SCHEDULE

Name	Address
Corporation of the City of Kensington & Norwood Rising Sun Inn	64 Bridge Street, Kensington 5068. CT. volume 4137, folio 970, portion of allotment 2 of section 289, hundred of Adelaide.
Church—Kent Town Uniting—Hall and Schoolroom	Cnr Fullarton Road and Grenfell Street, Kent Town 5067. CT. volume 2978, folio 178, portion of allotments 168 and 170 of section 255, hundred of Adelaide.
Church—Kent Town Uniting—Manse	36 Grenfell Street, Kent Town 5067. CT. volume 2978, folio 178, portion of part allotment 207 of section 255, hundred of Adelaide.
Malt House	Cnr Rundle Street and Dequetteville Terrace, Kent Town 5067. CT. volume 3047, folio 33, part allotment 381 and allotments 382-385 inclusive of portion of section 255, hundred of Adelaide.
District Council of Kingscote Dwelling—'Hope Cottage'	Centenary Avenue, Kingscote 5223. CT. volume 4148, folio 700, allotment 140 of portion of section 5, hundred of Menzies.
Shop	Dauncey Street, Kingscote 5223. CT. volume 1816, folio 161, portion of part section E, hundred of Menzies.
Reeves Point Settlement Site	Reeves Point, Kingscote. CT. volume 3743, folio 156, sections A, B, C and portions of section 1; CT. volume 3743, folio 155, portion of section 1; CT. volume 1968, folio 180, portion of section 5; CT. volume 3362, folio 176, portion of allotment 23; district council reserve adjoining section 1, <i>Government Gazette</i> 6.7.1899, cemetery reserve adjoining section 1, <i>Government Gazette</i> 31.10.1899; portions of coast reserve adjoining section 1 and extending to ordinary low water mark, hundred of Menzies.
District Council of Lacedpede Dwelling—'Cantara'	Coorong National Park, hundred of Neville.
District Council of Laura Courthouse	Hughes Street, Laura 5480. Allotment 112, National Trust Reserve, <i>Government Gazette</i> 27.11.1969, hundred of Booyoolie.
District Council of Light Dwelling—'Mattiske House'	Near Rosedale 5350. CT. volume 2108, folio 18, portion of section 50, hundred of Nuriootpa.
District Council of Lincoln 'Green Patch' Homestead	Port Lincoln 5607. CT. volume 4133, folio 528, part sections 504 and 527, hundred of Wanilla.
Dwelling—'Boston House'	Lincoln Highway, Port Lincoln 5606. CT. volume 4067, folio 473, portion of part section 19, hundred of Lincoln.
District Council of Loxton Chimney and Water Tank	Pyap 5320. CL. volume 673, folio 123, section 119, hundred of Pyap.
Corporation of the City of Mitcham Keystone Bridge	Taylor's Road, Mitcham 5062. Mitcham Memorial Reserve, portion of part section 248 in G.R.O. plan No. 117 of 1855, hundred of Adelaide.
Dwelling—'Wattlebury House'	42 Wattlebury Road, Lower Mitcham 5062. CT. volume 3416, folio 86, portion of allotment 112 in F.P. 13807, hundred of Adelaide.
District Council of Mount Barker Courthouse	Hutchinson Street, Mount Barker 5251. CT. volume 2152, folio 20, allotment 296 in F.P. 9787, hundred of Macclesfield.
Mill	2 Junction Street, Nairne 5252. CT. volume 1506, folio 136, allotment 45 and part allotments 46 and 47 of section 5202, hundred of Kanmantoo.
Aclare Mine Historic Site	CT. volume 1977, folio 74, portion of part section 1296, hundreds of Kanmantoo and Strathalbyn.
Dwelling—Reimann Barnhouse	Schroeder Road, Hahndorf 5245. CT. volume 596, folio 31, portion of part section 3833, hundred of Onkaparinga.
Dwelling and kitchen	Victoria Street, Hahndorf 5245. CT. volume 3756, folio 134, allotment 16 of section 4002, hundred of Onkaparinga.
Dwelling	Victoria Street, Hahndorf 5245. CT. volume 4013, folio 843, portion of part allotment 8 of portion of section 8, hundred of Onkaparinga.
Dwelling	Victoria Street, Hahndorf 5245. CT. volume 4009, folio 593, portion of allotment 10 of section 4002, hundred of Onkaparinga.
Dwelling and Barn	Victoria Street, Hahndorf 5245. CT. volume 3188, folio 81, portion of allotment 15 of section 4002, hundred of Onkaparinga.
District Council of Murray Bridge Church and Grave Site—Presbyterian—Former	Monarto 5254. CT. volume 698, folio 94, portion of part section 448, hundred of Monarto.
District Council of Onkaparinga Dwelling	5 Woodside Road, Lobethal 5241. CT. volume 2455, folio 22, portion of allotment 296 in F.P. 4771, hundred of Onkaparinga.
Corporation of the City of Port Adelaide Semaphore Cinema	Semaphore Road, Semaphore 5015. LG. volume 432, folio 77, allotment 165 in F.P. 2668, hundred of Adelaide.
Corporation of the City of Port Lincoln Police Station and Courthouse	Corner Washington Street and Adelaide Place, Port Lincoln 5606. Section 237, hundred of Lincoln.
District Council of Port Wakefield Police Station and Courthouse—Former	Port Wakefield 5550. Portion of allotment 152, hundred of Inkerman.

## THE SCHEDULE

<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
<b>District Council of Robe</b>	
Church—'Star of the Sea' .....	Hagen Street, Robe 5276. CT. volume 4062, folio 158, allotments 22 and 53, hundred of Waterhouse.
Bush Inn .....	Millicent Road, Robe 5276. Section 394. Drainage reserve, hundred of Waterhouse.
Caledonian Inn .....	Victoria Street, Robe 5276. CT. volume 2787, folio 47, allotment 1 of portion of section 220 hundred of Waterhouse.
<b>Corporation of the City of Salisbury</b>	
'The Levels' Homestead .....	Levels Road, The Levels 5095. CT.s volume 4190, folio 299 and volume 4190, folio 300, portion of allotments 101 and 103 of section 2185, hundred of Yatala.
<b>District Council of Stirling</b>	
St. Vigean's Estate .....	Laurel Road, Stirling 5150. CT. volume 4179, folio 589, allotment 1 of portion of section 48; CT. volume 4179, folio 590, portion of allotment 3 of portion of section 48, hundred of Noarlunga.
Shop—Arts and Crafts .....	Strathalbyn Road, Aldgate 5154. CT. volume 2073, folio 86, portion of part allotment 58 of part section 92, hundred of Noarlunga.
<b>District Council of Strathalbyn</b>	
Bleasdale Winery .....	Langhorne Creek 5255. CT. volume 2678, folio 148, portion of part section 3562, hundred of Freeling.
Shops .....	4-6 Albyn Terrace, Strathalbyn 5255. CT. volume 4166, folio 340, portion of allotment 9 of portion of section 2600, hundred of Strathalbyn.
Victoria Hotel .....	16 Albyn Terrace, Strathalbyn 5255. CT. volume 4035, folio 308, portion of allotment 32 of portion of section 2600, hundred of Strathalbyn.
Terminus Hotel .....	Rankine Street, Strathalbyn 5255. CT. volume 4158, folio 743, portion of allotment 1 of portion of section 2600, hundred of Strathalbyn.
National Bank .....	2 Albyn Terrace, Strathalbyn 5255. CT. volume 102, folio 95, portion of allotments 7 and 8 of section 2600, hundred of Strathalbyn.
Angas Bakery .....	18 Albyn Terrace, Strathalbyn 5255. CT. volume 2550, folio 10, portion of allotment 33 of section 2600, hundred of Strathalbyn.
Savings Bank of South Australia .....	Corner Dawson and Donald Streets, Strathalbyn 5255. CT. volume 523, folio 22, allotment 29 of section 2600, hundred of Strathalbyn.
Soldiers' Memorial Gardens .....	Strathalbyn 5255. Limited CT. volume H, folio 11, portions of the allotment marked 'Reserve' of section 2600; CT. volume 698, folio 32, portions of reserve of section 2600; St Andrews Bridge; portion of St Andrews Road, hundred of Strathalbyn.
Shops .....	39-41 Dawson Street, Strathalbyn 5255. CT. volume 2559, folio 91, portion of part allotment 94 of section 2600, hundred of Strathalbyn.
Church—Prebyterian—St Andrew's .....	Corner Alfred Place and Sunter Street, Strathalbyn 5255. CT. volume 698, folio 32, portion of part section 2600, hundred of Strathalbyn.
<b>District Council of Tanunda</b>	
Dwelling .....	24 Murray Street, Tanunda 5352. CT. volume 102, folio 231, part section 40, hundred of Moorooroo.
<b>Corporation of the Town of Thebarton</b>	
Brick Kiln .....	South Road, Torrensville 5031. CT. volume 3190, folio 6, portion of part section 47, hundred of Adelaide.
<b>District Council of Truro</b>	
Moorundie Ruins .....	CT. volume 4183, folio 617, section 32. CT. volume 4190, folio 685, allotment D; portion of sections 33 and 34 referred to in G.R.O. Memorial No. 103, Book 522.
<b>Corporation of the City of Unley</b>	
Dwelling—'Ackland House' .....	631 South Road, Black Forest 5035. CT. volume 2997, folio 15, portion of allotment 52 in F.P. 6522, hundred of Adelaide.
<b>District Council of Victor Harbor</b>	
The Bluff Historic Site .....	Victor Harbor 5211. Recreation and Pleasure Resort Reserve. Sections 294 and 300, <i>Government Gazette</i> 22.9.1938. Section 1. <i>Government Gazette</i> 2.6.1927; section 393. Trig Reserve Station, hundred of Waitpinga.
<b>Corporation of the Town of Wallaroo</b>	
Railway Station—Former .....	John Terrace, Wallaroo 5556. CT. volume 1042, folio 98. Railway Reserve. Part section 2229, hundred of Wallaroo.
<b>Corporation of the City of Whyalla</b>	
Lighthouse Group .....	Point Lowly. CT.s volume 4144, folio 85 and volume 4144, folio 86, portion of allotments 1 and 2 of section 5, hundred of Cultana.

Dated at Adelaide, 1 September 1983.

D. HOPGOOD, Minister for Environment and Planning