

Assessment of heritage value under the *Heritage Act 1993*

Post Office
79-81 Ellen Street
Port Pirie 5540

Statement of heritage value

The Post Office at Port Pirie expresses, along with other major public buildings in the same area, the period of economic growth in Port Pirie during the 1870s, which was a consequence of agricultural expansion in South Australia. The area in and around Ellen Street was, and still is the focus of commercial activity. Ellen Street is particularly interesting as it curves along the line of the river. The Post Office complements the other civic buildings and contributes to the historical character of the streetscape.

Relevant Criterion

(a) demonstrates important aspects of the State's history in exemplifying the expansion and commercial optimism of Port Pirie, and is a reflection of the wider pattern of agricultural expansion in South Australia, as well as developments in transport.

Port Pirie

Port Pirie's growth as a town is a reflection of its use as a major port. Although wool and sheep had originally been transported to and from the port, it was the wheat industry that became the port's main reason for existence for several years. The increased use of Port Pirie as a port, partly reflected the agricultural expansion of South Australia, which in turn was a direct result of the Strangways Act of 1869. In addition the parallel development of the road and railway network during the 1870s, as well as development of the port's facilities enabled the rapid expansion of the wheat trade.

Expansion of the wheat trade assisted the further development of shipping facilities and created a need for the establishment of a railway service. The growth in population created a need for better town facilities, and the proclamation of the Corporation of Port Pirie in 1876 signalled the town's stability. (Lester *et al*, 12-13)

It was this era of growth that led to the erection of a group of civic buildings, including the Post Office (1878), the Custom's House (1875), the Town Hall (1874), as well as other major buildings such as banks and hotels. (Lester *et al*, 20)

After this period the rapid expansion of the town was due to the discovery of silver, lead and zinc at Broken Hill in 1883. The established port was further developed to transport mineral-ore after the town was linked by rail to the northern mines in 1887. The treatment of ore at Port Pirie further established the township as an industrial town. (Danvers, Pt 1, 5-8, 29-30)

Port Pirie's transformation from a wheat port to an industrial centre had taken shape by 1896, but the wheat trade in Port Pirie had helped to expand and stabilise the new town during its early years.

Post Office

The Post Office was built on reclaimed land . The first post office , in Brown and Wood's store next to the Royal Exchange Hotel site, opened in 1873 with Nicholas Simons as the postmaster. A twice-weekly service was established between Adelaide and Port Pirie with the service stepped up in 1877 to a daily service. Telegraphic communication was available in 1874. Fifty-two subscribers were listed when the telephone exchange opened in 1899. Tenders were called for the post office in 1880. On 27 May 1880 J Fitzpatrick signed contracts for work on the post office and court house. The building was completed in the same year. (Branson, 54)

The building is a rendered two storey construction in the Free Classical style with corrugated galvanised iron roof. It has a symmetrical facade. Three arched openings to the front facade and a strongly moulded pediment and copings are distinctive features. A verandah canopy was added in 1920 and removed in 1945. It has a similar style and scale to other major civic buildings, which gives the Post Office an important place in the character of the streetscape.

References

Branson VM, *Port Pirie Sketchbook* (Rigby, Adelaide, 1976)

Lester, Firth & Murton, *Port Pirie Conservation Study*,
(Department of Urban and Regional Affairs, 1980)

Danvers Architects, & Bone and Tonkin Planners, *Port Pirie Heritage Study* Parts 1&2 (State Heritage Branch, Department of Environment and Planning, 1990)

File Number: 11566

Site Record

Post Office
79-81 Ellen Street
Port Pirie 5540

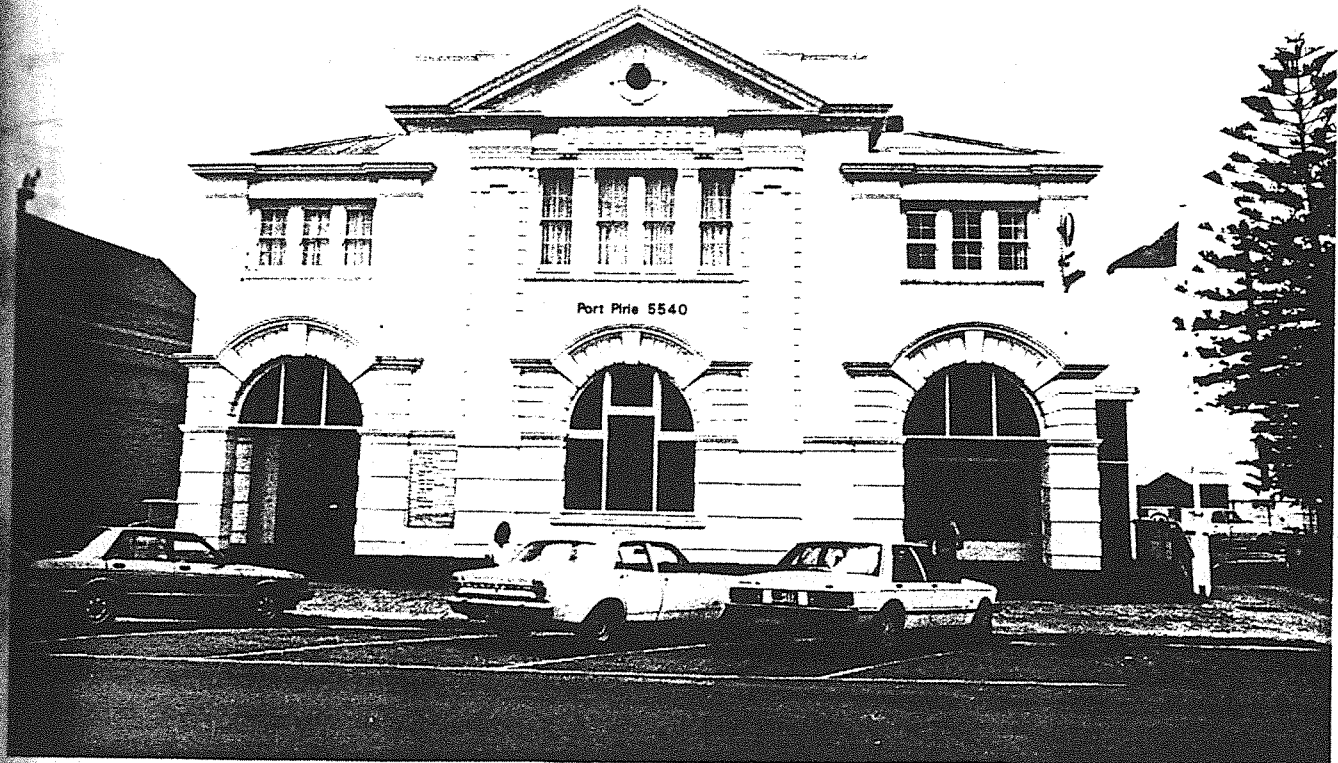
Location	79-81 Ellen Street, Port Pirie
Amg Reference	
Description	Post Office only
Boundary	Post Office only
Land Description	CT 4059/758 Pt Lot 130: Hundred Pirie
Local Government	Corporation of the City of Port Pirie
Owner	Australian Postal Corp
Use	Post Office
Condition	Good
Other Assessments	Identified in the <i>Port Pirie Conservation Study</i> as a State Heritage place, and in the <i>Port Pirie Heritage Study</i> as a place of local significance
Heritage Status	In the Recorded List of the National Trust of SA, File No. 2864
Photographs	Danvers, Bone & Tonkin
Report By	Francesca Stropin

PORT PIRIE HERITAGE STUDY

NO.: 030

ITEM NAME: Post Office

Street: Ellen Street



PHOTOGRAPHS

Archival: B7360, 1932
B8456, 1932
B10202, c. 1890
B12108, 1907-11
B3140, c. 1875

B & W: 01/33

Slide:

Danvers Architects Pty Ltd, 1990

PORT PIRIE HERITAGE STUDY

ITEM NO.: 030

ITEM NAME: Post Office

Former/other names:

Date: 1880

Architect:

LOCATION

No.: Street: Ellen Street

Location: Port Pirie

C.T.:

Map No.: Port Pirie

Section: Lt 24

CURRENT STATUS

State Heritage Register: Nominated

National Trust: Classified

National Estate:

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Description:

Rendered two storey stone building with corrugated galvanised iron roof. Three arched openings to front facade with above. Multi-paned double hung sash windows to first floor. Rendered parapet and pediment with circular opening to section. Rendered detailing.

History:

The Post Office was built on reclaimed land. The first post office was opened in July 1873 with Nicholas Simons as p. A twice weekly service was established between Adelaide and Port Pirie, with provision made for the sale of money or telegraphic communication in 1874. Daily service to Adelaide began in 1877. Tenders were called for the Port Pirie P in March 1880. On 27 May 1880 J. Fitzpatrick signed contracts for work on the post office and court house. The build completed in December of the same year. A verandah canopy was added 1920 and removed 1945.

Significance:

Important building in civic sector of Ellen Street.

References:

Branson, V. M. , Port Pirie Sketchbook, Rigby, Adelaide, p. 54
National Trust Files
PRO Records
Robinson, N. 1976, Reluctant Harbour: the Romance of Pirie, Nadjuri Australia, Port Pirie, p. 91

Danvers Architects Pty Ltd, 1990

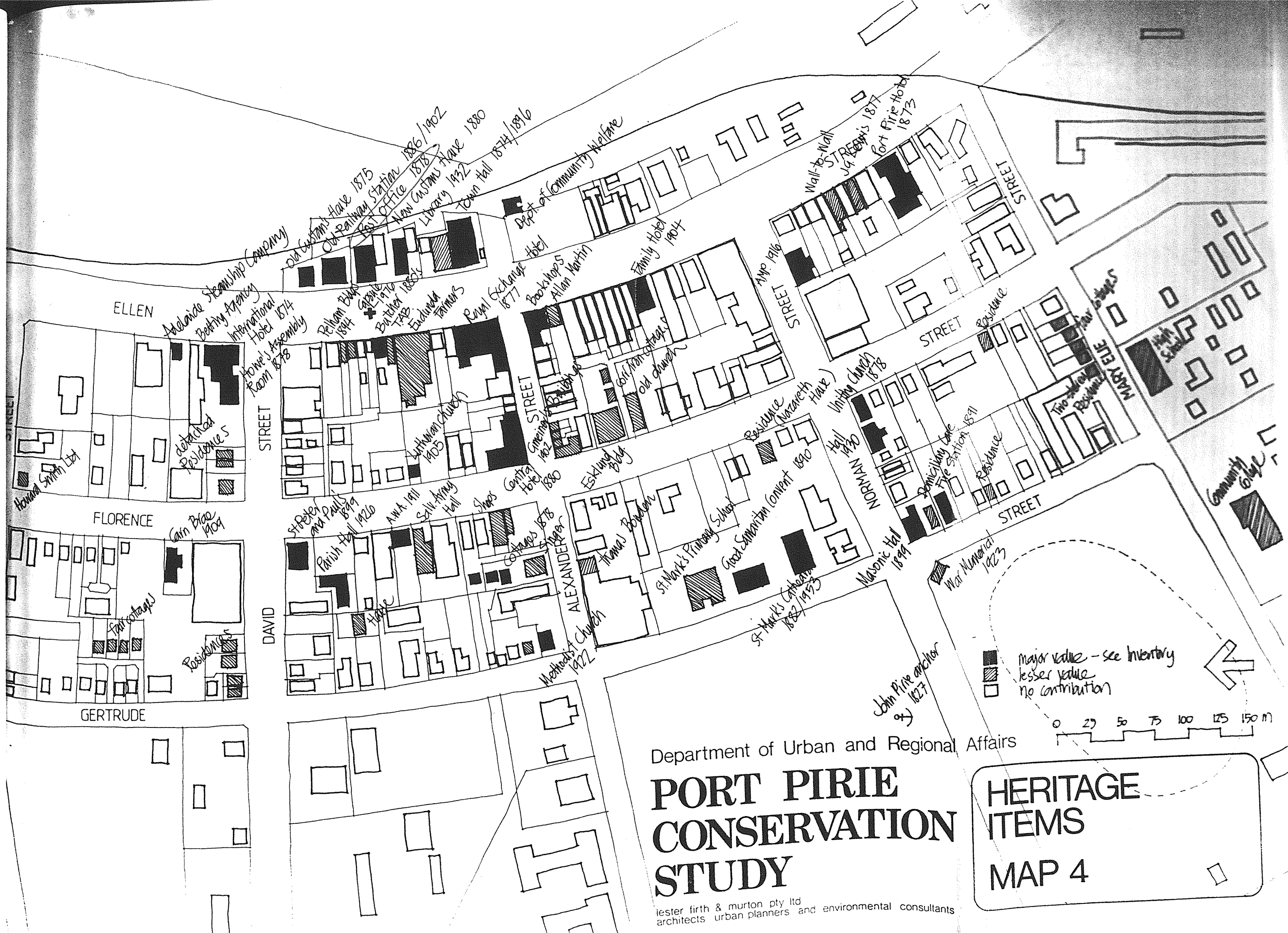
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No.:

PHOTOC

Archiva

Danver



Department of Urban and Regional Affairs

PORT PIRIE CONSERVATION STUDY

lester firth & murton Pty Ltd
architects urban planners and environmental consultants

HERITAGE
ITEMS
MAP 4

SCANNED

Advertiser - Thursday 4/1/96
 Provisional - 015 (10/8/95)
 016 (Cassini only)
 017 14/12/95

Removals - 10/8/95, 12/10/95
 & 14/12/95

Confirmations - 011 - 12/10/95
 012 - 14/12/95

Designation not advertised
 as such 9/2/95.

HERITAGE ACT 1993

CONFIRMATION OF ENTRIES IN THE STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

Pursuant to the provisions of the Heritage Act 1993, the State Heritage Authority hereby gives notice that the places described in The Schedule have been confirmed as entries in the State Heritage Register.

Places listed in The Schedule were previously placed in the Register as provisional entries in accordance with Section 18 of the Heritage Act 1993. Under the provisions of the Development Act 1993 any development of these places requires the written consent of the relevant Planning Authority.

THE SCHEDULE

- The Corporation of the City of Adelaide**
- Police Station Complex - Police Station, Red Brick Residence and the Cell Block and Walled Yard, 61-69 Archer St, North Adelaide 5006
- The Corporation of the City of Burnside**
- Glenside Hospital - Former Operating Theatre, Elms Building and Former P & O Wards, 226 Fullarton Rd, Eastwood 5063
- The District Council of Dudley**
- Penneshaw Cemetery, Penneshaw 5222
 - Hog Bay River Station - Rock Villa, Willson River Rd, Penneshaw 5222
 - Freshfields House and Graves, Antechamber Bay 5221
 - Fish Canning Factory Site, Ballast Head, American River 5221
 - Threshing Floor, near Pelican Lagoon, American River 5221
- The Corporation of the City of Enfield**
- Hillcrest Hospital - Former Administration Building, Mortuary and Superintendent's House, Fosters Rd, Gilles Plains 5086
- The District Council of Kingscote**
- Kilpatrick's Grave, Maupertuis Bay, Flinders Chase National Park, Kingscote 5223
 - Farm and Eucalyptus Oil Distillery Ruins, Duck Lagoon, Kingscote 5223
 - House and Eucalyptus Oil Distillery Ruins, Cygnet River 5223
 - Grassdale Homestead and Sealers Sites, Kelly Hill Conservation Park via, Kingscote 5223
 - Tilka Huts, Shed and Graves Site, Between Cape Bouguer and Cape Kersaint, Kingscote 5223
 - Threshing Floor, Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park, Kingscote 5223
 - Eucalyptus Plantation, south of Kingscote 5223
- The District Council of Millicent**
- Glencoe Homestead - Former Stables and Coach-House Building, off Glencoe East - Mount Gambier Rd, Glencoe 5291
 - Former Lock-up Police Station, off Davenport St, Millicent 5280
- The Corporation of the City of Mount Gambier**
- Engelbrecht Cave, 26 Chute St, Mount Gambier 5290
 - Umpherston Cave, 160 Jubilee Highway East, Mount Gambier 5290
 - Cave Gardens Reserve, 38 Commercial St East, Mount Gambier 5290
 - Fire Station 40a Sturt St, Mount Gambier 5290
- The Corporation of the City of Naracoorte**
- Former Limbert's Store and Residence, 23-25 McDonnell St, Naracoorte 5271
- The District Council of Northern Yorke Peninsula**
- All Saints Anglican Church, Blanche and Milne Tces, Moonta 5558
- The District Council of Onkaparinga**
- Klopsch Farm Complex, Neudorf Rd, Lobethal 5241
 - Blackford - Dwelling and Fence, Newman Rd, Charleston 5244
 - Schuberts House, Springhead Rd, Springhead 5353
 - Former Blackford Stables, Newman Rd, Charleston 5244
- The Corporation of the City of Port Pirie**
- Post Office, 79-81 Ellen St, Port Pirie 5540
- Unincorporated**
- Koonalda Homestead Complex, Nullarbor Plain 5690
 - Daisy Bates' Campsite, Ooldea

PROVISIONAL ENTRY OF PLACES IN THE STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

Pursuant to the provisions of the Heritage Act 1993, the State Heritage Authority hereby gives notice that the places described in The Schedule have been provisionally entered in the State Heritage Register.

Any person has the right to make submissions on whether these entries should be confirmed. The Authority will consider all written submissions received within three month of this public notice.

Submissions may be addressed to the Secretary, State Heritage Authority, GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001.

THE SCHEDULE

- The District Council of Barossa**
- Hillside House and Wine Cellars, Daly Rd, Lyndoch 5351
- The District Council of Clare**
- Wendouree Cellars, near Clare 5453
- The District Council of Dudley**
- Threshing Floor, between Ironstone Hill and Alex's Lookout, via Penneshaw 5222
 - Frenchmans Rock Monument, Well and Pine Trees, Frenchmans Tce, Penneshaw 5222
- The District Council of East Torrens**
- Former Weirmaster's House, Garage, Stone Channel and Dry-Stone Walling Ramp, Gorge Road, Black Hill Conservation Park, Montacute 5134
- The District Council of Kanyaka/Quorn**
- Institute/Town Hall, 20 Railway Tce, Quorn 5433
 - Depot Creek Weir, Depot Flat, Quorn 5433
- The District Council of Kingscote**
- Cassini Station Complex and Mulberry Tree, Cape Cassini via Kingscote 5223
- District Council of Millicent**
- Mayura Homestead - Early Kitchen and Entrance Avenue of Pines, Mayurra Rd, via Millicent 5280
- The Corporation of the City of Noarlunga**
- Pingle Farm - Dwelling, Barn and Underground Tank, Onkaparinga River Recreation Park, Port Noarlunga South 5167
- The District Council of Onkaparinga**
- Former St John's Presbyterian Church, 17 Moffett Street, Woodside 5244
 - Former Lobethal Mill Complex - Chimney, Early Tweed Mill Walls, Former Two Attached Cottages, Red Brick Loom Shed, Two-Storey Former Blanket Finishing Rooms and the Former Mill Shop, 1 Lenswood Rd, Lobethal 5241
- The District Council of Penola**
- Wynns Coonawarra Winery, Coonawarra 5263
- The Corporation of the City of Port Adelaide**
- Southern Abutment Remains of 1857 Bridge, Old North Arm Rd, Port Adelaide 5015
 - Alberton Railway Station - Station Building, Western Platform and Footbridge, Station Place, Alberton 5014
- The Corporation of the City of Port Augusta**
- Seaview House - Former Bank of South Australia, 12 Tassie Tce, Port Augusta 5700
 - St Augustine's Anglican Church, 9 Church St, Port Augusta 5700
 - Davenport Reservoir and Storage Tank, Stirling North 5710
 - Water Tower, Mitchell Tce, Port Augusta 5700
 - Port Augusta Wharf, off Tassie Tce, Port Augusta 5700
- The District Council of Port MacDonnell**
- "Coola" Shearing Shed, Mount Gambier - Carpenters Rocks Rd, via Port MacDonnell 5291
- The District Councils of Rocky River and Spalding**
- Bundaleer Reservoir Tower, Two Aqueducts, Three Weirs, Channel Systems and Reservoir Keeper's House, near Gulnare 5471
- The Corporation of the City of Tea Tree Gully**
- Dwelling - "The Park", One Tree Hill Rd, Golden Grove 5125
- The District Council of Yankalilla**
- Geological Site - (Part of) Normanville Coastal Dunes, Normanville 5204

DESIGNATION OF A PLACE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Pursuant to the provisions of the Heritage Act 1993, the State Heritage Authority hereby designates the place listed in The Schedule hereunder to be a place of archaeological significance.

Any person has the right to make submissions on whether this entry in the Register should be confirmed. The Authority will consider all written submissions received within three months of this public notice.

Submissions may be addressed to the Secretary, State Heritage Authority, GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001

THE SCHEDULE

- Unincorporated**
- Sealing Site, Peet Point, Thistle Island 83 6000/0026 Pt Sec 29 Out of Hundreds (Lincoln)

REMOVAL OF ENTRIES FROM THE STATE HERITAGE REGISTER

Pursuant to the provisions of the Heritage Act 1993, the State Heritage Authority hereby gives notice that it has removed the places described in The Schedule hereunder from the State Heritage Register.

THE SCHEDULE

- The Corporation of the City of Adelaide**
- Former South Adelaide Creche, 15 Gouger St, Adelaide 5000
 - Torrens Training Depot, King William Rd, Adelaide 5000
- The Corporation of the City of Angaston**
- Former Henschke Farm, Gnadenberg Rd, Moculta 5353
- The District Council of Wakefield Plains**
- Former Bank, Dwelling and Wall, 38 Edward St, Port Wakefield 5550
- The Corporation of the City of Hindmarsh and Woodville**
- Nubrik Hallett Brickmaking Plant, Hallett St, Allenby Gardens 5009

DEPARTMENT OF
 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Dean Davies
 Presiding Member
 STATE HERITAGE AUTHORITY
 CH24661