

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

NAME: **Magill Stone Mines**

PLACE NO.: **12768**

Address: **Wyfield Street and Coach Road, Wattle Park SA 5066**

Description of State Heritage Place

The Magill Stone Mines is a large area of seven surface quarries, mainly on the Burnside Council Reserve, Wattle Park. There are eight underground stone mines tunnelled in from the sides of the surface quarries. Their entrance occurring over an area about 150m from east to west and 180m from north to south, totalling slightly greater than a hectare. Although their spread seems irregular on the map, they follow outcrops of a particular stratum of dark brown stone.

There are three underground mines, the largest has an internal space about the size of a suburban house, but most are much smaller. Of the five mines on the Council Reserve, three have had only a few cubic metres of stone removed. One appears larger, but has been partially blocked by a collapsed roof. Another is a single exploratory passage about six metres in length.

Heritage Significance of the Place

The Magill Stone Mines demonstrates important aspects of the evolution of the States history (*criteria (a)*) in that it informs us about an early extractive industry in South Australia. The mines demonstrate a rare and uncommon method of stone extraction (*criteria (b)*) and may yield further information about mid-nineteenth century quarrying techniques. The stone mines represent unique technique of underground quarrying (*criteria (d)*) and demonstrate a high degree of technical accomplishment in relation to particular construction techniques (*criteria (e)*).

Extent of Listing / Significant Fabric / Curtilage

The components which are critical to the heritage significance of the Magill Stone Mines include the stone mines themselves and entrances to the stone mines from the surface (open) quarries.

The extent of listing excludes the tracks between the stone mines.

History of the Place

Very little is known about the history of the Magill Stone Mines. Underground stone mines are rare and almost unknown because they were inconvenient, costly and more dangerous than surface quarrying. The 1840's was a time of economic depression and drought in South Australia and wages were at their lowest for most of the decade. These conditions during the 1840's may have made underground stone mining commercially viable for a short period of time.

Early land conveyance documents in the General Registry Office indicate that Section 1083 was granted to Edward Castle and James Low on 18 January 1848. Eighteen months later on 23 July 1849, they signed an Indenture with Edward Castres Gwynne, granting him a lease over Section 1083. On 12 August 1852, Castle and Low sold the freehold of Section 1083 to Gwynne. Gwynne advertised the land for sale in the SA Register on 7 December 1854. The advertisement referred to a "Quarry of splendid Building Stone, and Copper". Apart from this advertisement of 1854, there is no documentary reference to quarrying building stone from the land. There are repeated references in 1849 and 1854 to metals, ores and specifically copper on the land. The evidence on the site shows more effort was put into extracting stone than copper.

Evidence from the configuration of the underground workings, which removed as much as possible of a single stratum of a hard dark brown stone which dips (i.e. slopes) downward to the west suggest excavations have been dug in pursuit of one type of stone. There is no significant quantity of waste rock dumped on the site, which suggests that what was being removed from underground was commercially viable.

After Gwynne sold the land in 1854, the land was subsequently sold a number of times until it became a large scale olive plantation in 1876. The site remained an olive plantation until 1971 when much of the land was subdivided as residential blocks. The steep land and areas scarred by the nineteenth century quarry became a Council Reserve still covered in planted and feral olive trees.

SITE RECORD

FORMER NAME:	Magill Stone Mines				
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	Stone mine entrances, adits, cavities, pathways and original topography				
DATE OF COMPLETION:	c.1840's				
SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:	Description:	Confirmed mines on private land			
	Date:	23 November 1989			
	Description:	Confirmed mines on public land			
	Date:	7 December 2012			
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS	N/A				
CURRENT USE:	Description:	Council Reserve and Private land			
	Dates:				
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Description:	Stone mine, mixed agricultural uses (olive orchard)			
	Dates:				
ARCHITECT:	Name:	N/A			
	Dates:	N/A			
BUILDER:	Name:	Unknown			
	Dates:	c.1840's			
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Description:	Burnside			
LOCATION:	Unit No.:	-			
	Street No.:	-			
	Street Name:	Wyfield Street and Coach Road			
	Town/Suburb:	Wattle Park			
	Post Code:	5066			
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Type:	CT	CT	CT	CT
	Volume:	5162	5477	5110	5553
	Folio:	702	464	444	573
	Lot No.:	110	112	2	19
	Plan:	F17420	F17420	F100221	D10838
	Hundred:	ADELAIDE	ADELAIDE	ADELAIDE	ADELAIDE

SITE PLAN



Magill Stone Mines boundary outlined in orange.
Approximate location of quarries / mines indicated in red.

PHOTOS OF THE MAGILL STONE MINES



Interior of largest stone mine on Lot 112, looking north toward entrance.



Entrance to stone mine on Council Reserve, Lot 19.



Entrance to smallest stone mine on Council Reserve, Lot 19.



Entrance to the collapsed stone mine on Council Reserve, Lot 19