

South
Australian
Heritage
Act
1978-80

HERITAGE SURVEY 13000
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 8
Item Ref. No. 36

ITEM NAME: Hamley Bridge Railway Station
Former or other Complex

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Hamley Bridge Railway Station is a substantial and attractive building, with a number of significant associated relics, including the ornate platform shelters and elevated water tanks. The railway yards witnessed a period of enormous activity during the town's heyday as a break-of-gauge railway centre.

The northern railway was extended from Roseworthy to Tarlee during 1868/69 and the bridge over the River Light was built. A few hundred yards north the Alma Railway Station was established. In 1880 the narrow-gauge western line was built between Balaklava and Hamley Bridge. Hamley Bridge took on new importance as a break-of-gauge junction, rapidly becoming a major railway town. The present station probably dates from this period.

LOCATION
Address Railway Reserve
Town Hamley Bridge
Postcode
Section
Hundred Alma
County
L.G.A. Owen
S.H.P. Region 8
A.M.G. Ref. 6629-III
54 28690 619560

SUBJECT

4.7

PERIOD
State

Study Area
1869-84

REFERENCES

National Trust 1983;
Bohnsack, Hamley Bridge Centenary

TYPE OF ITEM
LAND Natural feature ☐
Historical site ☐
Historical Gdn. ☐
BUILDING ☒
STRUCTURE ☐
PHYSICAL CONDITION

Verbal
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH Film No. 276 Negative No. 8
Direction of view to NW



STATUS
Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. ☐ Interim L ☐
Nominated ☐
National Estate
Reg. ☐ Proposed L ☐
National Trust
CL ☐ RL ☐ File ☒
Other
S.A. Highways Dept. ☐
Instit. of Engineers ☐

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State ☒ (B) Local ☐

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1982

RAILWAY HERITAGE of SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Site Name Hamley Bridge Railway Station, Signal Cabin and
 Water Tanks

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Hamley Bridge became a major railway centre because it served as a break-of-gauge junction, thereby highlighting one of the factors which bedevilled South Australia's railways for generations. The presence of the railway greatly contributed to the economy of the town and ensured its importance in the region. It is large complex featuring significant items, several of them with noteworthy detailing.

Significant Interest

- **Historical** The historical significance of the complex derives from the manner in which it reflects features of the development of the railways in South Australia, in general, and the problems associated with the break-of-gauge, in particular. The railways was a large employer in the town and had a major effect upon its economy.
- **Architectural** The detailing of the platform shelters is of interest though the design of the surviving items is common to that of others constructed during this period. Nevertheless, the complex is of considerable architectural interest because of the mutual association of the several items.
- **Environmental** This is a large complex, but because of its low scale and location on the edge of the town, it is not a major landmark item.

RECOMMENDATION

This item should be included on the Register of State Heritage Items.

We also recommend that the item should be included on the Register of the National Estate.

Site Name Hamley Bridge Railway Station, Signal Cabin and Water Tanks

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST


HISTORICAL

Date Station building 1881

Additions Water tower 1917; Signal cabin 1927

Hamley Bridge became the junction through which lines were built to Riverton (1869-1870) and Balaklava (1880) and was a major break-of-gauge terminus.

The northern railway extended from Roseworthy to Tarlee during 1868-69. In 1880 the narrow gauge western line was built between Balaklava and Hamley Bridge. The railway yards witnessed a period of enormous activity during the town's heyday as a break-of-gauge railway centre.

The station building was constructed in 1881 by Taylor & Forgie for £1956 8s. As the line became more heavily used, being at a junction, it became important also that there was sufficient water for the steam trains. At the yard are overhead square tanks on pylons and watering towers, like giant taps, of which few remain. 

The railways was a large employer in the town and had a major effect upon its economy, particularly because it was the terminus of both the narrow and broad gauge lines, and because of the need to tranship produce from wagons of one gauge to those of the other.

The significance of the station declined with the completion of the broad gauge line to Port Pirie and with the increased competition from road hauliers: the broad gauge line was extended from Salisbury to Redhill in 1925 and extended further to Port Pirie in 1937.

The station became unattended on 22 October 1986.

ARCHITECTURAL

Size Single storey

Wall Materials Bluestone, rusticated and painted

Roof Form Hipped and gabled, several gables to the street, two to platform

Roof Material Corrugated galvanised iron, painted red

Window type Timber, double-hung sash

Other features Verandah to street frontage with five steps. For the full width of the verandah two pipe handrails have been installed. There are decorative barge boards and circular gable vents, also several chimneys with classic mouldings and dentils.

Several stations in the Mid North are built of this style including those at Morgan and Eudunda.

The station has a residential quality and fits with the general area, there being several old houses and a restored hotel in close proximity.

Site Name Hamley Bridge Railway Station, Signal Cabin and
Water Tanks

There is a large verandah to the platform side. The station is set back from the platform and connected by a ramp. The verandah has been extended at some time with cast-iron brackets. The timber ticket-bar rail still exists. There has been an extension to the north-west end made in bluestone with painted brick quoins. The south-east end is original and was probably the station-master's residence. There is an elaborate canopy on the station, centrally supported on large timber posts with wrought iron cantilevered beams and a corrugated galvanised iron roof.

The platforms are stone fronted with stone edging and bitumen paving.

REFERENCES

Advertiser, 29 September 1868 for a report on turning the first sod
Bohnsacki, H.M. *Hamley Bridge Centenary 1868-1968*, Hamley Bridge, 1968
Heritage Investigations, 'Heritage Survey, Region 8', 1982, Item 36
National Trust Files 1983 and 3392
SAPP Railway Commissioner Report for June, 1881-85, 1888, 1892, 1902
State Heritage Branch File 6629-13000

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

CIRCUMSTANCES

The site was recommended for inclusion on the Register of State Heritage Items on 22 August 1984 but no action was taken at the time.

INTEGRITY

Despite the lack of maintenance, the essential integrity of the complex is high.

ENVIRONMENT / PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

The complex is a significant one in the town.

Site Name Hamley Bridge Railway Station, Signal Cabin and Water Tanks

Address Railway Reserve, Hamley Bridge - 71.5 kms on the Peterborough line
Section

Hundred Mudla Wirra

AMG Reference 1:50,000 Ser, 6629-III, Hamley Bridge, 286800 (E), 6195400 (N)

CT No NUA

Local Government Area Owen

Owner(s) State Transport Authority

State Heritage Status Nil

Other Assessments National Trust File

Current Use Unattended

Condition Fair

Exterior Fair

Known Threats Vandalism

Conservation action identified The finding of an appropriate new use

Associated item(s) 2 x platforms and timber shelters; signal box; 2 x water tanks; goods platform and crane; silos

Comments The complex comprises several different types of items that complement one another. The main station building is a large one, residential in scale and style, which could be re-used as a residence if there were no other available uses.

Site Surveyor Peter Donovan **Date(s) of Survey** 28 September 1991

Site Name Hamley Bridge Railway Station, Signal Cabin and Water Tanks

Film/Neg Number 10/8

Photographer Peter Donovan

Subject Name Railway station and one of the platform shelters



Film/Neg Number 10/9

Photographer Peter Donovan

Subject Name Railway station



Dickins

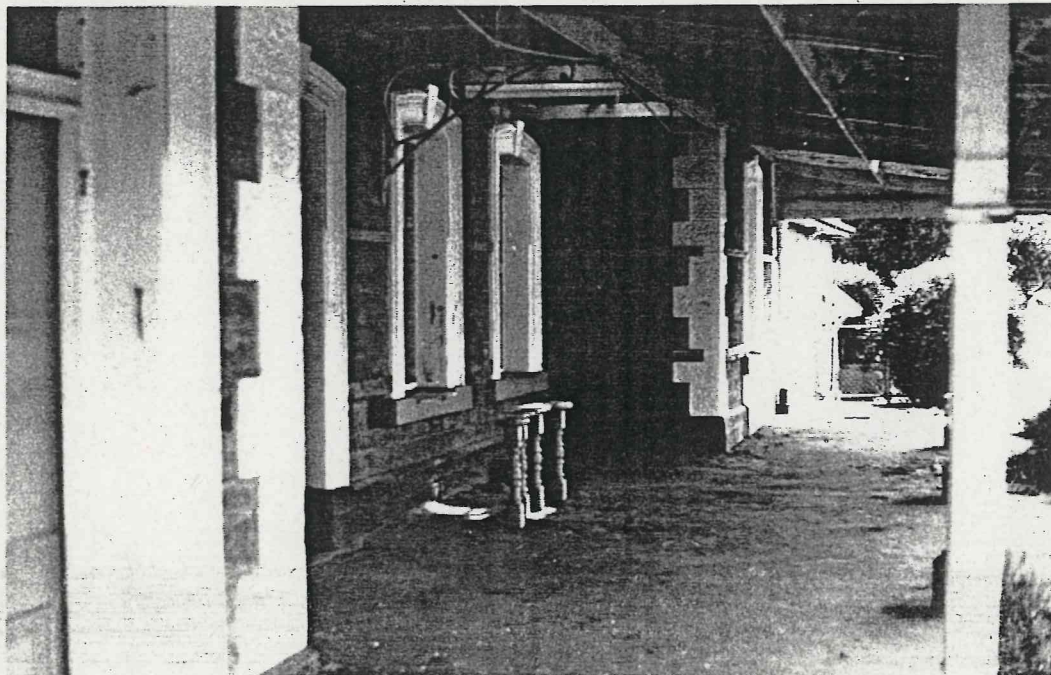
Railway Heritage of South Australia

Site Name Hamley Bridge Railway Station, Signal Cabin and Water Tanks

Film/Neg Number 10/12

Photographer Peter Donovan

Subject Name View of area under main verandah



Film/Neg Number 10/13

Photographer Peter Donovan

Subject Name Railway station from the road



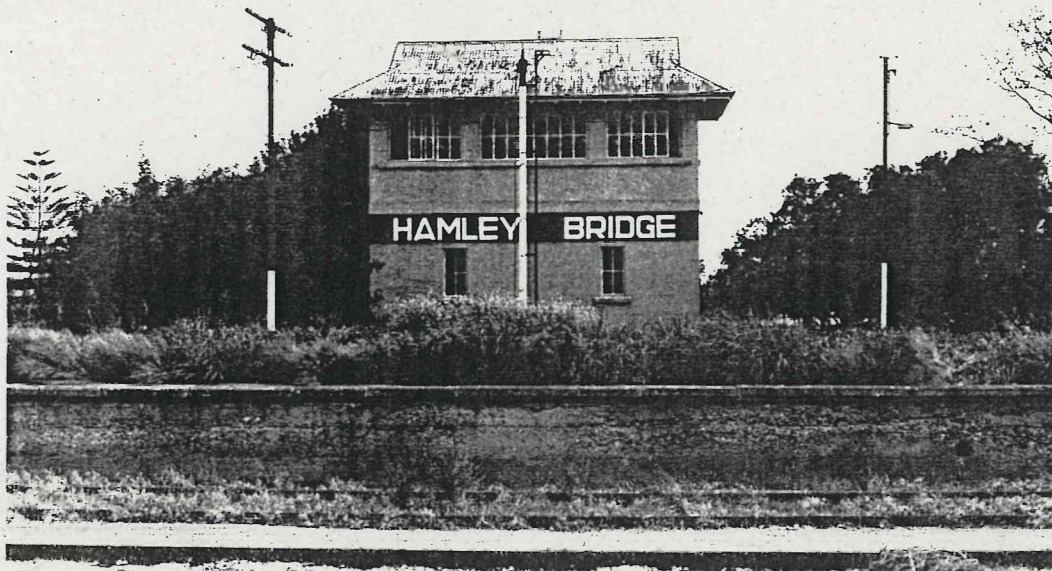
Railway Heritage of South Australia

Site Name Hamley Bridge Railway Station, Signal Cabin and Water Tanks

Film/Neg Number 10/6

Photographer Peter Donovan

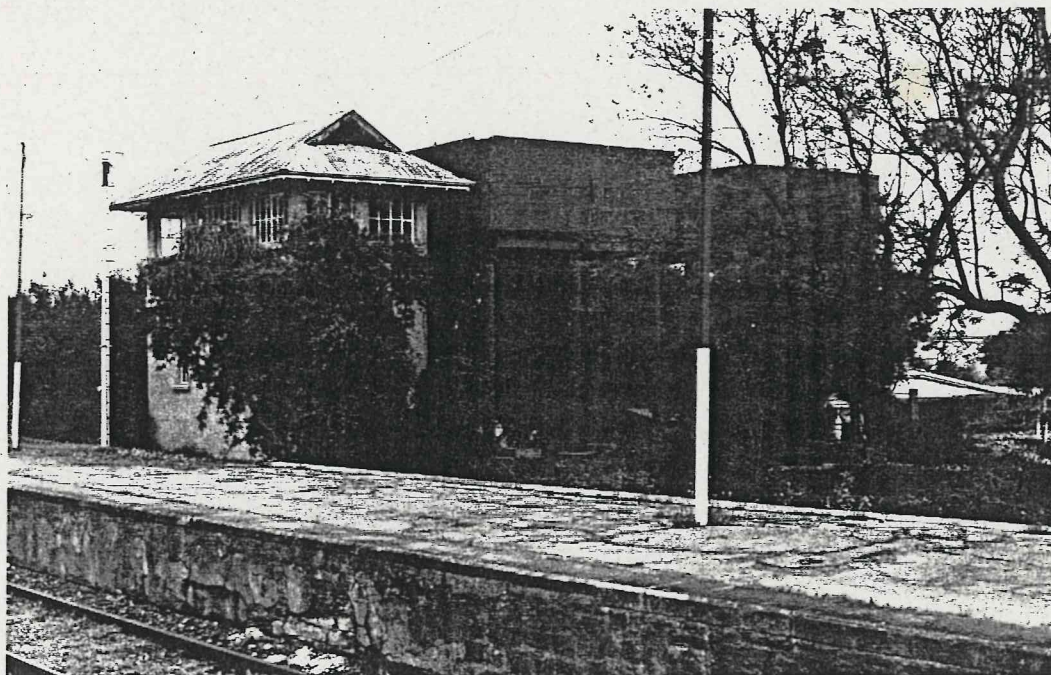
Subject Name View of signal cabin



Film/Neg Number 10/11

Photographer Peter Donovan

Subject Name View of signal cabin and water tanks



Site Name Hamley Bridge Railway Station, Signal Cabin and Water Tanks

Film/Neg Number 10/7

Photographer Peter Donovan

Subject Name View of platform shelters

