

SHOP - WATERFALL GULLY KIOSK  
WATERFALL GULLY

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#### HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Historically, the kiosk is the physical representation of the beginnings of Government recognition of the need for natural reserves that could be used as recreation areas for Adelaide's, and indeed South Australia's, residents.

Architecturally, the item is important because it is an early 20th century romantic building prepared by the respected firm of A.S. and F. H. Conrad. It is also important because it taps into a 20th century German rather than British cultural source for its design philosophy. The broader effect this may have had on a wider scale of South Australian building design could be very important.

Environmentally, the item, with its abundant use of stone and pseudo half timbering blends well into the natural park environment. It is a welcome landmark not only for those wishing to view the nearby waterfalls, but also those compelled by wanderlust.

The Integrity of the item is good. Numerous accretions have been added.

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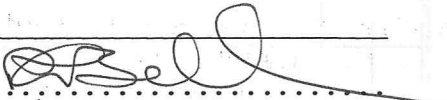
#### NOMINATION SOURCE/THREAT/OWNER

This report has been prepared by the Branch at the request of Committee Member, Nancy Whittle.

The building is under no threat, and the present tenant/lessee of the restaurant is in the process of applying to National Parks and Wildlife Service to have the kiosk reinstated to its former appearance.

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#### HERITAGE CONSERVATION BRANCH RECOMMENDATION: .....

  
for Manager

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items, and that it be categorized H1, H2, A1, A2, A3.

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-82	Register of State Heritage Items ITEM EVALUATION SHEET Buildings and Structures	Ref. No. 6628-13675
	Item WATERFALL GULLY KIOSK	Status -
Age	Subject ORIGINAL AND PRESENT USE: 0905 RESTAURANT	Style GERMANIC INFLUENCE SWISS CHALET & TEUTONIC

History

Architecture

Environment

Integrity

<b>Context</b>	The kiosk was constructed as part of the amenities of the first National Pleasure Resort in 1912, when the need for public recreational areas was officially acknowledged.	<u>E</u>	<u>VG</u>	<u>AG</u>	<u>FP</u>	<u>NA</u>
<b>Person/Group</b>	Agitation for the reserve came from significant South Australians, Davenport, Cleland and others, who also resided in Burnside.	X				
<b>Event</b>	Opening ceremony November 10, 1912 Used as location for Lottie Lyell film in 1917.		X			
<b>Architect/Builder</b>	Architects were the brothers Albert Selmar and Frank Herbert Conrad		X			
<b>Design</b>	Heavy Germanic influence in the treatment of gables and crossed barge boards - the only example of its kind found. The tower is also significant and may have been derived from German sources.	X				
<b>Construction</b>	Lavish use of stone and brick and timber to represent the picturesque. Use of materials is however cosmetic rather than structural.			X		
<b>Interior</b>	Large and finely treated voluminous spaces which do not reflect the rusticated external facades. All finishes and the execution of detail are commendable.		X			
<b>Representation</b>	Probably the first example of refreshment rooms in a National Park setting. It probably set the trend for the provision of National Parks building.	X				
<b>Continuity</b>	The choice of materials is suitably applied to blend with the public, garden and public pleasure idiom.		X			
<b>Local Character</b>	Not applicable					X
<b>Landmark</b>	A well known historical and visual landmark. It is the terminus for general public vehicle access.		X			
<b>Alterations</b>	Apart from the adjoining toilet-block, several light weight, easily reversible alterations have been poorly carried out. Any rehabilitation of the complex should reinstate the item to its original glory.				X	
<b>Condition</b>	In excellent condition, both structurally and physically.	X				
<b>Compatibility</b>	Present use is as originally intended.	X				



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### Supplementary Information

#### Adaption:

Its form and scale, particularly the single, public room, limits its adaption potential. The verandah should remain open, as originally designed.

#### Interpretation:

Any interpretation programme should reflect the historic themes of the building and Waterfall Gully. This should be limited to photographic displays, as the original dining/tea room function should be retained.

### History and Sources

The Waterfall Gully Reserve below Mt. Lofty has served as a recreation area for the population of Adelaide since the early years of settlement. Excursions into the foothills both to experience the pleasures of nature and, particularly in the summer to escape the heat of the plains were an important leisure activity.

Section 920 of the Hundred of Adelaide which includes the First Falls in First Creek had remained a Government Reserve, even while other land lower down the valley was being taken up in subdivision in 1856. It was recognized as an important source of water supply for the settlers in the Eastern suburbs of Burnside, Kensington and Norwood through which First Creek flows. The proximity of the Gully to the city and the availability of road access (albeit primitive) for horses and buggies meant it was more easily reached than Mount Lofty or Belair for a day outing.

The importance of Waterfall Gully as a beauty spot and recreation area led local important residents, including Sir Samuel Davenport and J.F. Cleland, to lobby for some form of protection for the area. In 1884 it was gazetted as a "place for the amusement and recreation of the public" and placed under the control of the Burnside District Council. A more substantial track was put through along the creek after some negotiations with the land owners and the waterfall dam wall was built in 1885, despite the protest of the Field Naturalists Society about the steady de-naturalization of the charms of the area. The gazetting of Waterfall Gully did attempt to establish a degree of effective management of the area and to stop or at least try to control the removal of stones and native ferns from the reserve, but facilities and access remained fairly basic, apart from the establishment of tea gardens along the creek by enterprising land owners and the building of Mugge's hotel halfway along the track in 1883.

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In 1911, the Advisory Board for National Pleasure Resorts was formed, and the Waterfall Gully Reserve was the first area considered by the Board. In an attempt to create more amenities in the park, a refreshment kiosk was proposed - perhaps to compensate visitors for the adventure of reaching the falls by fording the creek four times. It was intended that the tramway to Burnside should be extended 4 kilometres to the new kiosk but this did not eventuate.

The Waterfall Gully National Pleasure Resort was proclaimed at an opening ceremony on 10th November, 1912 when the Governor Sir Day Hort Bosanquet told the assembled crowd that plans were in hand to acquire the Morialta Gorge and Falls and also the Rostrevor Estate as National Pleasure Resorts.

The kiosk itself was designed by Albert Selmar Conrad, a prominent Adelaide architect whose earliest works included Wests' Coffee Palace (Austral Stores). He designed the building in the idiom of the "alphutte" or European mountain chalet. Conrad mixed his national metaphors a little, but the finished product was eminently suitable with a broad verandah area for walkers to rest under, a tea room and kitchen inside, and toilets in the tower. The kiosk cost 1,613 pounds to build with extra for quite substantial excavation.

The original roadways and approaches were edged with rustic timber fences of crossed logs and provided with benches of a similar style.

The kiosk was used with considerable effect, in 1917, as a mountain chalet location for the film "The Woman Suffers While the Man Goes Free" made by Raymond Longford and Lottie Lyell. The film was shown in Adelaide in March, 1918, and aroused much criticism and condemnation of the moral issues involved.

Over time, due to both natural and man-made disasters, Conrad's empathetic siting of the building in the natural landscape has lost its effect. Flood damage, fire damage, thoughtless additions and renovations have taken their toll - the worst of these was the addition of fibro-cement toilets and the enclosing of the verandah to provide an ice-cream and soft drink sales area during the 1960's. A roof sprinkler system installed to avoid bush fire damage resulted in the removal of the distinctive crossed bargeboards, a retrograde step in aesthetic terms.

The kiosk at Waterfall Gully continues to be used as an important recreational focus for Adelaide residents. There is certainly a need to recreate the same pleasant environment at the kiosk as was previously available. As the public amenities for the first National Pleasure Resort, the kiosk is significant and it is also a particularly pleasant example of Albert Conrad's work.

After passing from the National Pleasure Resorts to the Tourist Bureau in 1915, the Waterfall Gully kiosk is now under the control of National Parks and Wildlife Department as part of the Cleland Conservation Park.



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## History and Sources

### Sources:

B.C. Cotton S.A. National Parks and Wildlife Reserves Adelaide 1964

National Parks and Wildlife Service Cleland Conservation Park Management Plan 1983

E. Warburton The Paddocks Beneath Adelaide 19

J.W. Warburton Five Creeks of the River Torrens Adelaide 1977

National Film and Sound Archives

Parliamentary Papers 1915 Volume 3, 73

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