SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the Heritage Places Act 1993

NAME: Kanmantoo Homestead and Winery Complex  PLACE NO: 22796
Including Homestead, Outbuildings, David Unaipon’s Cottage and Stone Winery Buildings

ADDRESS:  25-30 Vineyard Road, Kanmantoo SA 5252

Physical Description

Farm complex including a large stone house (incorporating an earlier 1850s cottage), numerous domestic and agricultural outbuildings, small stone cottage (once occupied by David Unaipon) and stone winery buildings.

Statement of Heritage Significance

This homestead and winery complex has an outstanding quality and integrity and is closely associated with the development of the Kanmantoo area, the viticultural development of the State, with pioneer land agent, pastoralist and vigneron Charles Burney Young, and prominent indigenous Australian David Unaipon.

Relevant Criteria under section 16 of the Heritage Places Act 1993

(a) Kanmantoo Homestead and Winery demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State’s history. The history and development of this complex and the people associated with it (especially the Young family and David Unaipon) are closely involved with the agricultural and industrial development of the greater Kanmantoo area, and with the themes of pioneering, surveying, viticultural development and political service in South Australia. Charles Burney Young contributed significantly to the establishment of South Australia’s reputation for producing fine wines, with Kanmantoo’s St George Claret winning a gold medal at the 1889 Great Paris Exposition in 1889, alongside wines from Penfolds & Co at Magill and T Hardy and Sons of Bankside. Charles’ son, Harry Dove Young, carried
on the work into the twentieth century, considerably enlarging the cellars as well as developing a successful thoroughbred racing stable.

(d) The Kanmantoo Homestead and Winery is an **outstanding representative of a particular class of place of cultural significance**. This is a particularly fine group of homestead and winery buildings which is well-constructed of local stone and retains a high integrity. There is a consistency in the design and construction of these buildings which creates a coherent and integrated complex, to which each building makes a significant contribution as well as expressing its own use and history. Because the complex has been developed and added to using similar materials and simple functional design ethic, the complex remains an outstanding representative of both a homestead complex and a winery complex.

(g) The Kanmantoo Homestead and Winery has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance. The house and winery complex is closely linked with Charles Burney Young a prominent figure in the establishment of the South Australian wine industry, as well as a land agent, surveyor, politician and pastoralist, with practical involvement in a range of civic activities. Important amongst these was his role as foundation Secretary of the Aborigines Friends' Association. The property was also associated with significant indigenous Australian David Unaipon.

**Extent of Listing**

The components that are integral to the heritage significance of Kanmantoo Homestead and Winery include:

- Main house incorporating original ‘Holmesdale’ Cottage;
- Outbuildings within homestead complex, including dairy and underground Tank;
- David Unaipon’s Cottage;
- Stone Winery Buildings, including stone walls and small separate stone building adjacent to vineyard.

The extent of listing excludes all later buildings and structures on the allotment.

**History of the Place**

The Kanmantoo Homestead and Winery complex has close associations with the survey and establishment of the Kanmantoo area, and with its agricultural and viticultural development.

The history and development of this complex and the people associated with it (especially the Young family and David Unaipon) reflect the development of the greater Kanmantoo area, and with the themes of pioneering surveying, viticultural
development and political service in South Australia. Charles Bume Young contributed significantly to the establishment of South Australia’s reputation for producing fine wines, with Kanmantoo’s St George Claret winning a gold medal at the 1889 Great Paris Exposition in 1889, alongside wines from Penfolds & Co at Magill and T Hardy and Sons of Bankside. Charles’ son, Harry Dove Young, carried on the work, into the twentieth century, considerably enlarging the cellars as well as developing a successful thoroughbred racing stable.

As well as being a prominent figure in the establishment of the South Australian wine industry CB Young was a land agent, surveyor, politician and pastoralist, with practical involvement in a range of civic activities. Important amongst these was his role as foundation Secretary of the Aborigines Friends’ Association. The property was also associated with significant indigenous Australian David Unaipon.

Charles Bume Young established the property he called Holmesdale in 1856. Young was an important pioneering surveyor who was commissioned by the Britannia Mining Company to map the Kanmantoo area. On completion of the survey, the land was offered for sale, and Young chose a block of land containing a small stone cottage in a hidden valley to form the heart of Holmesdale. The cottage is believed to have been built about 1846 by the SA Company as a residence for William Tonkin, Captain of the Kanmantoo Mine (Mills 80). In 1857, Young officially purchased this property and immediately established a vineyard there. In the following year, he also purchased land in Kanmantoo South where he planted more vines. The house was enlarged in 1880, and underwent further modifications in subsequent years.

After CB Young’s death in 1904, the Kanmantoo property was taken over by his son Harry. In the early 20th century, Harry extended the house and cellars and increased the landholdings of the property. In 1944, Harry Young died and the property passed to his only child Nora, who had been assisting with the running of the property for some time. The vineyards and stables had been closed during the late 1930s. She died without issue in 1976, after which the property was inherited by the Well’s Family. Vineyards have now been replanted at Kanmantoo homestead and the old winery buildings are still in use.

Charles Byme Young (1824-1904) was an important pioneering land agent and surveyor who was commissioned by the Britannia Mining Company to map the Kanmantoo area. He established his own property at Kanmantoo in 1856-57, where he developed a vineyard and later a winery. By 1866, Young had 25 acres of vines which later increased to 40 acres. When the local population dwindled in the latter part of the 19th century, Young negotiated an agreement with the local school to use students for harvesting. Not only did these students get to miss lessons, but at the end of the harvest they received their pay and a grand celebratory picnic and sport’s day was held. This tradition continued for many decades. Young gradually established several other important pastoral and wheat farming properties, including a large station near Port Pirie, Mount Templeton station, and others (Mills 83). He was also on the Legislative Council from 1878-80 and was involved with...
several early committees including the Government Education Board and was founding Secretary of the Aborigines Friends’ Association. He was closely associated with the Point McLeay mission, and in 1887, he visited the mission and brought back a 16-year-old Aboriginal boy named Gnunaitponi (David Unaipon). A small room was constructed for David Unaipon on a hill near the Kanmantoo homestead, and he lived there intermittently while an employee CB and HD Young. According to Mills (p 83), Unaipon was recorded as a resident and employee of the Youngs in 1920.

After CB Young’s death in 1904, the Kanmantoo property was taken over by his son Harry Dove Young. In the early 20th century, Harry extended the cellars and increased the landholdings of the property. Another son, Edward Burney Young, served as manager of the South Australian Depot in London, promoting wine and other South Australian produce to the British market. Additional vine plantings at Kanmantoo during this period brought the total area of the vineyards to 60 acres. In addition to his successful management of the cellars, HD Young was closely involved with politics and local sporting ventures. He served as Chairman of the Narine District Council, and in 1914 he was elected as local Member (Murray) to the House of Assembly, where he served for 15 years until moving to the Legislative Council for a further 15 years. He also established the Kanmantoo racing stables which produced several Oakbank winners. With regard to winemaking, HD Young achieved considerable success, especially with the St George’s Claret, which was produced up until 1929 when the old vines were pulled out and the property given over to stock breeding. In 1944, Harry Young died and the property passed to his only child Nora, who had been assisting with the running of the property for some time. From 1946-1956, Nora Young was a Councillor on the Mount Barker District Council. She died without issue in 1976, after which the property passed to the Wells family.

David Unaipon (1872-1967) is a figure of outstanding significance to Australia’s history. He was a man of acute intelligence, erudition and vision, whose many achievements in the arts and sciences, and as an advocate on behalf of the Aboriginal people of South Australia constitute a valuable contribution to this State.

David Unaipon was a Ngarrindjeri man born in 1872 at the Point McLeay Mission, now known as Raukkan on the Lower Murray (State Heritage Place No 12725). He received his initial education at the Mission School where he showed himself to be an exceptionally bright and engaged student. In 1885 he was employed as a servant by CB Young, secretary of the Aborigines’ Friends’ Association, who encouraged his interest in literature, philosophy, science and music. He was able to further his education in Adelaide while living at the Young’s home ‘Swanscombe’ in Walkerville, and later at Kanmantoo, before returning to Raukkan in the 1890.

His interest in science and engineering led him to devise a number of inventions including an improved handpiece for sheep-shearing which he patented in 1909, and many other mechanical devices. He read widely on a diverse range of topics,
and was an accomplished public speaker and preacher. He was widely acclaimed at the time as ‘the black genius’, and ‘Australia’s Leonardo’ (Jones, ADB).

Unaipon, became prominent in public life as a spokesman for Aboriginal people, influencing the development of government policy through his participation in royal commissions and inquiries into Aboriginal issues. In 1928–29 he assisted the Bleakley inquiry into Aboriginal welfare. In 1934, he urged the Commonwealth to assume responsibility for Aboriginal affairs and proposed that an independent board replace South Australia’s Chief Protector of Aborigines. As an employee of the Aborigines’ Friends’ Association for many years, he travelled throughout south-eastern Australia giving public lectures, and became very well known as a promoter of ‘sympathetic co-operation’ between whites and blacks, equal rights for both black and white Australians.

In 1924 Unaipon became the first Aboriginal writer to be published, with the first of several articles about Aboriginal customs and legends appearing in the Sydney Daily Telegraph and The Home magazine. Between 1927 and 1929 the Aborigine’s Friends’ Association published a series of three of his booklets on Aboriginal themes, and numerous other articles, poetry and legends were published throughout his life.

Unaipon died on 7 February 1967 at the age of 94 and is buried in Point McLeay cemetery.

David Unaipon’s contributions to the advancement of Aboriginal Australians and to Australian literature were recognised in the award of a Coronation Medal in 1953, and the FAW Patricia Weickhardt Award for Aboriginal writers in 1985. The David Unaipon Literary Award for unpublished Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander writers was established in his honour under the Queensland Premier’s Literary Awards program in 1988, and The David Unaipon College of Indigenous Education and Research at the University of South Australia and an annual lecture in Adelaide are also named after him. His portrait appears on the $50 note first issued in 1995.

REFERENCES

Mount Barker Local History Centre, heritage files & photographs.
prompeople.sacentral.sa.gov.au/unaipon
http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/unaipon-david-8898
http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/unaipon-david-8898
### SITE RECORD

**Kanmantoo Homestead and Winery Complex**

Including Homestead, Outbuildings, David Unaipon’s Cottage and Stone Winery Buildings, 25-30 Vineyard Road, Kanmantoo

**PLACE NO:** 22796

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**FORMER NAME:**

‘Holmesdale’

**DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:**

Homestead and Winery complex, including house (incorporating original ‘Holmesdale’ cottage), outbuildings, underground tank, cottage (David Unaipon) and stone winery buildings and walls.

**DATE OF COMPLETION:**

c1846 – c1900

**SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:**

- Description: Confirmed
- Date: 23 August 2013

**LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS**

N/A

**CURRENT USE:**

- Description: Residence and winery
- Dates: c1856-present

**PREVIOUS USE(S):**

N/A

**ARCHITECT:**

- Name: N/A
- Dates: 

**BUILDER:**

- Name: unknown
- Dates: 

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:**

District Council of Mount Barker

**LOCATION:**

- Unit No.: -
- Street No.: 25-30
- Street Name: Vineyard Road
- Town/Suburb: Kanmantoo
- Post Code: 5252

**LAND DESCRIPTION:**

- Title Type: CT
- Volume: 6112
- Folio: 767
- Lot No.: 11
- Plan No: D91284
- Hundred: Kanmantoo
Kanmantoo Homestead and Winery Complex  
Including Homestead, Outbuildings, David Unaipon’s Cottage and Stone 
Winery Buildings, 25-30 Vineyard Road, Kanmantoo

Rear of house, tank & outbuilding (possibly dairy?) looking S.

Dairy & outbuilding – looking S.

David Unaipon’s cottage

Outbuildings – looking W. from rear of main house. Corner of dairy on right next to steps

Winery buildings 2 & 3 – looking SE, known as the cellars

Winery building 1 – looking SE Known as the cellars

Small outbuilding SE of winery – looking S.

Winery outbuildings & wall – looking SE.

All photographs are from the 2004 Heritage Online ‘Mount Barker Heritage Survey’
Site plan showing location of significant components within the larger land parcel. 
See enlargement A and B 
(cadastral boundaries indicative only)
SITE PLANS

Kanmantoo Homestead and Winery Complex
Including Homestead, Outbuildings, David Unaipon’s Cottage and Stone Winery Buildings, 25-30 Vineyard Road, Kanmantoo

Enlargement A showing homestead group: house (post c1850s) (1); original ‘Holmesdale’ cottage (c1850s) (2); tank (3); David Unaipon’s cottage (4); outbuildings (5)

Enlargement B showing winery complex buildings (6, 7 & 8) and outbuildings (9 (known as the stables) & 10 (known as the meat house)
Site Plan of House and Winery Complex, indicating relationship of significant components