

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE PLACE

REGISTER ENTRY

Entry in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the
Heritage Places Act 1993

NAME: Lobethal Woollen Mill **PLACE NO.:** 26414

ADDRESS: Adelaide–Lobethal Road, Lobethal SA 5241
CT 5897/519, Lot 87 & 90, F4620 Hundred of Onkaparinga
CT 5169/516, Lot 88, F4620 Hundred of Onkaparinga
CT 5897/516, Lot 201, D60535 Hundred of Onkaparinga
Part Road reserve (between lots 200 & 201 Hundred of
Onkaparinga)

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Lobethal Woollen Mill is one of South Australia's most significant industrial complexes, and the large numbers of surviving buildings represent 100 years of industrial, commercial and social development at the site. The place is an outstanding and rare example of an industrial group with the majority of the original buildings surviving, and has significant associations with the Onkaparinga Woollen Company, an enterprise that gained an international reputation and made South Australia a leader in woollen exports.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (under section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*)

- (a) *It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history*, being a significant surviving example of a woollen mill complex, and representing the development and increasing significance of the Lobethal Woollen Mill over more than a century. The Onkaparinga Woollen Company site in Lobethal became the most important woollen mill in Australia and one of the State's most significant industrial complexes.

- (b) ***It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance***, being a rare intact example of a woollen mill complex comprising a range of associated buildings and structures not found anywhere else in the State. The Lobethal Woollen Mill is not only a rare place, but also demonstrates an industrial process that is no longer practised. It is an industrial complex which incorporates working, living and recreational areas and demonstrates not only the Onkaparinga Woollen Company's commitment to its workers but also the constraints of operating an industry in a rural location.
- (d) ***It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance***, being South Australia's most substantial and best surviving example of a woollen mill complex, a class of places which has made a significant contribution to the State's industrial development. The number, type, size and scale of the individual buildings and structures that remain and the relationship between them contributes to the Lobethal Woollen Mill being an outstanding representative of a woollen mill.
- (g) ***it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance***, being the main representative of the Onkaparinga Woollen Company, a South Australian manufacturing enterprise which developed an international reputation. The surviving group of mill buildings demonstrates the association with the Onkaparinga Woollen Company most visibly through the two buildings which bear the Company's name: Buildings 5 and 14. These buildings visually linked the Mill to its products through the corporate logo.

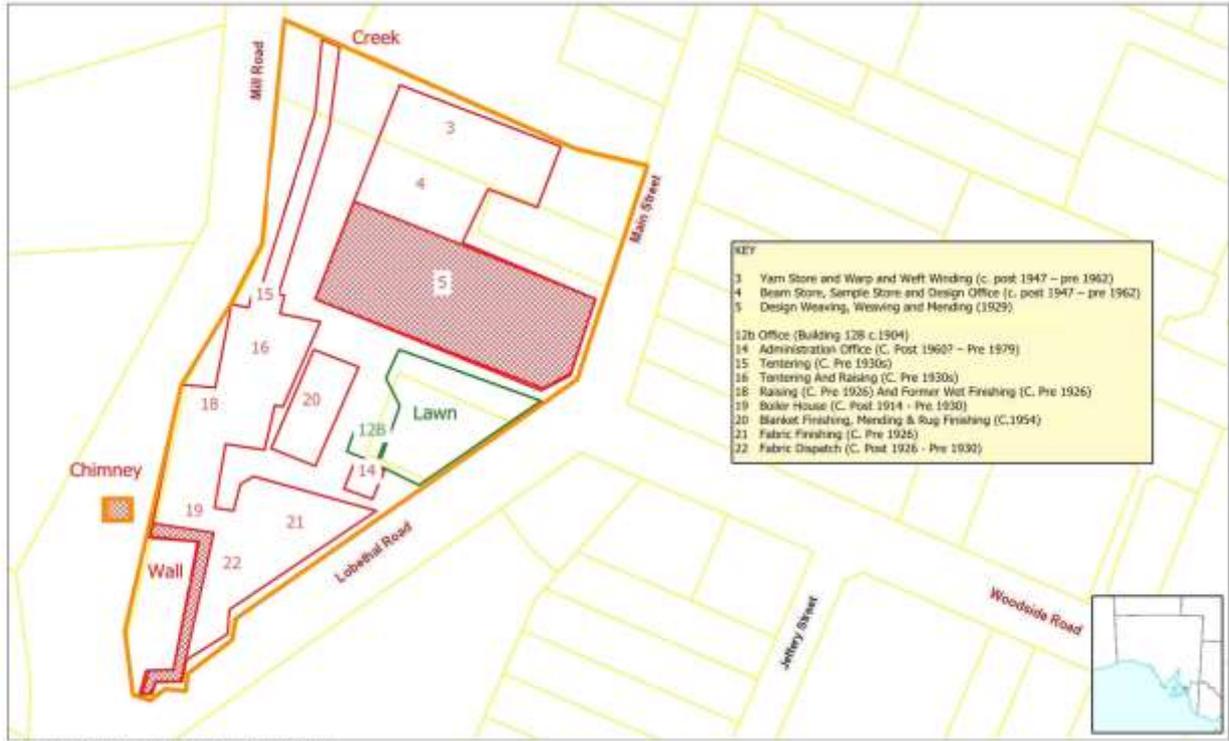
SITE PLAN

The attached Site Plan 1 indicates the boundary of the place, and Site Plan 2 generally indicates the important features and elements of the place.

SITE PLAN 2

Lobethal Woollen Mill, Adelaide-Lobethal Road, Lobethal

PLACE NO: 26414



A site plan of Lobethal Woollen Mill, generally indicating important features and elements of the place (including main mill site and chimney and excluding buildings on the eastern side of the Adelaide-Lobethal Road).

- Components of State Heritage Place 16192 are shown in red with diagonal hatching.
- Components of high significance are outlined in red.
- Components of moderate significance are outlined in green.

COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

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

Physical Description

The former Lobethal Woollen Mill is a landmark in Lobethal, South Australia. It is a gateway to the town and occupies a significant portion of its southern end. At its peak the Mill complex covered an area of ten hectares and contained over thirty buildings of consistent character, clustered around Lobethal Creek. These included galvanised steel sheds, red brick buildings with saw-toothed roofs, early stone buildings and associated manufacturing plant.

The mill complex is split in two by Adelaide-Lobethal Road. The western side was mainly used for manufacturing and comprises primarily masonry buildings whereas the eastern side was used for storage and comprises lightweight framed buildings clad with corrugated sheeting.

This State Heritage Place encompasses the western side of the former complex, and incorporates State Heritage Place No 16192, 'Chimney, Early Tweed Mill Walls, Red Brick Loom Shed, Former Lobethal Woollen Mill' and is closely associated with the former Lobethal Woollen Mill Shop (State Heritage Place No. 16195) located on the eastern side of the Adelaide-Lobethal Road.

The components identified as having **high significance** in the context of the Place are defined on Site Plan 1 and summarised below.

- 1877 Brick Boiler Chimney (State Heritage Place No. 16192)
- 1877 Factory Walls (Three Walls – Rear of Building 22, Side of Building 19 and Freestanding Wall) (State Heritage Place No. 16192)
- Line Of Creek (as specified on Site Plan 2)
- Building 03 Former Yarn Store and Warp and Weft Winding (c. 1947– 1962)
- Building 04 Former Beam Store, Sample Store & Design Office (1947– 1962)
- Building 05 Former Design Weaving, Weaving and Mending (1929)
(already entered in the Register as part of State Heritage Place No. 16192).
- Building 14 Former Administration Office (c. Post 1960? – Pre 1979)
- Building 15 Former Tenting (c. Pre 1930s)

- Building 16 Former Tenting and Raising (c. Pre 1930s)
- Building 18 Former Raising (c pre1926) and Former Wet Finishing (c. pre1926)
- Building 19 Former Boiler House (c. Post 1914 - Pre 1930)
- Building 20 Former Blanket Finishing, Mending and Rug Finishing (c.1954)
- Building 21 Former Fabric Finishing (c. Pre 1926)
- Building 22 Former Fabric Dispatch (c. Post 1926 - Pre 1930)

The components that have been identified as having **moderate significance** in the context of the place are summarised below.

- Building 12B Former Office (Building 12B c.1904)
- Unnumbered External Recreation Area: Former External Recreation Space Adjacent Building 14

The components that have been identified as having **low significance** in the context of the place are summarised below.

- Building 07 Former Yarn Store 2 (c. post 1982 – pre 1990)
- Building 11 Former Grey Piece Store No.2 (c. post 1937-1940s)
- Building 12A Former Office (Building 12A c. post 1960)

The component that has been identified as having **no significance** in the context of the place is summarised below.

- Building 10 Former Dining Room (c. post 1947 – pre 1962)

The following component is **excluded** from the listing:

- Unnumbered WC Block (Western Site)

History of the Place

Chronology of the Lobethal Woollen Mill

- Around 1851 Kleinschmidt with Messrs. Ploenges and Engelking built a stone brewery building on the site.
- Carl Edward Kramm founded the first woollen mill in South Australia, in a hut in Hahndorf.
- 1869 Kleinschmidt closed the brewery and started growing hops.
- Around 1870 Kleinschmidt formed a syndicate with the Kumnick brothers to set the Kramm brothers up to make cloth in the former brewery building, renamed The Lobethal Tweed Factory.
- 1872 a company was formed with 20 workers.

- A new building was added to the old brewery with the foundation stone laid on 6 November 1875. Building designed by architect Julius Hammer of Lobethal.
- 12 March 1874 Lobethal Woollen and Tweed Company Ltd established.
- 1877 building completed.
- 1878 tweed factory ceased operations.
- Around 1881 another company was formed but was unsuccessful.
- 1883 the South Australian Woollen Company was formed. 30 employees.
- 1889 reservoir built to guarantee water for mill.
- 1891 the Company began supplying railway, customs and military uniforms.
- 1894 new head office and warehouse in Grenfell Street.
- 1895 60 employees at the factory and 60 at the warehouse. Products included clothing, tweeds, knit wools, shirtings, flannels, rugs and blankets with 10,000 different patterns
- 1898 trade depression.
- 1899 Woollen mill ran day and night making uniforms for the State's contingent of soldiers going to the Boer War.
- Around 1909 manager's residence built and new finishing room.
- 1910 additional buildings constructed.
- 1911 new buildings to hold plant.
- 19 February 1914 fire destroyed the finishing rooms, scouring and dye house, wool store, new tenting and drying room, boiler house and engine room.
- Rebuilt in brick or stone.
- 1914 provided uniforms for World War One.
- 1917-1935 the town of Lobethal renamed Tweedvale.
- 1928 company renamed Onkaparinga Woollen Company.
- 1939-45 1 million military blankets, 250 miles of heavy khaki overcoating, 300 miles of tunicking, and many more miles of flannel for underclothing for World War Two produced.
- 1991 Mill ceased operations.

The Lobethal Woollen Mill complex illustrates the operation of a woollen mill, with buildings and structures located across the entire site housing a range of functions critical to the mill's operation.

The 1877 brick boiler chimney (State Heritage Place No. 16192) was used to vent smoke produced by burning firewood which heated the water in the boiler. The boiler produced steam to power the engine and run machinery such as the looms, carding mills and spinning machines. Prior to 1877 the spinning machine was horse powered. The use of steam power was central to the Mill and its operations. It

considerably increased the capacity for production and established the Mill as an industrial manufacturing site rather than a craft based industry.

The early buildings (15, 16, 18, 19, and 22) constructed along the creek line show the importance of the creek and water supply in the establishment of the Mill. In 1870 wool was washed by hand in the creek and the location of the Mill was determined by the creek as a source of water, although it was soon discovered that the water supply was inadequate. There is an old well under Building 20 which is adjacent to the creek line.

The stone buildings (19, 21, and 22) reflect the early period of the Mill's development. It is possible that some of the nineteenth century buildings have been incorporated into these early twentieth century structures.

The Boiler House (Building 19) contained an engine and numerous large boilers. This tall, masonry walled structure contains an extant section of a steam boiler house wall and corbelled brickwork that supported a former gantry crane as well as other remnants of equipment and structures evident in the walls. This was one of the central buildings in the complex and powered the Mill.

The saw-toothed roof factory buildings (3, 4, 5, 15, 16, 18, 20 and 22) demonstrate those buildings which housed manufacturing functions dependent on good south light levels, large spanning clear internal spaces and separated operation areas. The number and varying size of these buildings shows how the complex developed over time according to need, and that the manufacturing functions were best carried out in individual buildings. The scale of these buildings, particularly the tall single storey height, illustrates the scale of the machinery housed in them.

The Lobethal Woollen Mill is significant as a precinct that illustrates the manufacture of woollen products from the late nineteenth to the late twentieth centuries; a process which has disappeared from South Australia's manufacturing industry.

The Mill complex has rarity value as one of the few industrial complexes which integrated work, living and recreation areas. Although this integration is seen in 'company' towns such as Woomera or Roxby Downs, it is atypical on a smaller scale such as in an industrial complex. The majority of the site is occupied with former manufacturing and storage factory buildings however there is a notable presence of residential buildings not only the former manager's residence (Building 12B) but also, more unusually, the Mill Shop (Building 36, State Heritage Place No 16195), which was bought in 1921 to house boarders. The accommodation buildings represent the Company's fluctuating need to bring in workers from outside the Lobethal area whether it be from areas such as the Barossa Valley and Murray plains, or 'displaced persons' after World War Two. The Company attracted workers through the provision of on-site accommodation, a necessity in a relatively isolated, rural area. The Company went further and in association with the State Bank it

started a housing scheme for the married men operatives. Ten houses were built in the town.

Workers were provided lunches in the Mill Shop in the 1920s and the Dining Room (Building 10) was built in the 1950s. The provision of amenities for its employees illustrates this social aspect of working at the Mill. The Dining Room was one of the places where workers might meet and socialise over a meal. The need for an on-site dining room perhaps also reflects the Onkaparinga Woollen Company's work patterns namely shift work which is commonplace in manufacturing.

In addition the Company also provided recreation spaces for its employees, the most prominent being the large lawned area adjacent the Administrative Building (Building 14). This space was used as a tennis court from as early as 1929 and also for croquet. The collection of buildings and spaces used for working, living and recreation form a precinct that is atypical when compared with other industrial sites in South Australia.

References

The main reference for this Record is:

- Lustri, Susan, University of South Australia 2013, *Assessment Report for Former Lobethal Woollen Mill*, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.

Additional references include the following:

- Adelaide Hills Council (AHC), Mulloway Studio and Paul Kloeden, (2008), 'Heritage Significance Report for the Former Woollen Mill Lobethal', unpublished report.
- Boyce, W., Hills, P., Mazzone, J. (1990) 'Recycling the Onkaparinga Mill : a study arising from the closure of the Onkaparinga Woollen Mill, Lobethal, S.A., and the environmental, political and socio-economic implications of establishing small scale recycling industries on the mill site', Unpublished University of Adelaide Thesis.
- Brockhoff, C. (2008) *Onkaparinga: the Story of a Mill*, Lobethal Heritage Association, Lobethal.
- Millar, P. (1990) 'Onkaparinga Mill Redevelopment Lobethal', Unpublished UniSA Thesis.
- 'Onkaparinga: A Triumph of Determination', *Australian Women's Weekly (AWW)*, 14 May 1969, pp.52-3.
- Queale, M. (2010) Weaving a Sustainable Future: Onkaparinga Woollen Mill, conference paper at Australia ICOMOS Conference.
- 'The South Australian Woollen Company' in Burgess, H.T. (1909) *The Cyclopaedia of South Australia*, Cyclopaedia Co., Adelaide.

- Young, G. (1983) *Lobethal Valley of Praise*, South Australian Centre for Settlement Studies, Adelaide.
- Australian Wool Innovation Limited (Wool) online at http://www.wool.com/Media-Centre_Australian-Wool-Production.htm accessed 11 March 2013.
- *The South Australian Advertiser, SA Weekly Chronicle, South Australian Register, The Advertiser, The Register* various dates, accessed through <http://trove.nla.gov.au>

SITE RECORD

Lobethal Woollen Mill, Adelaide-Lobethal Road, Lobethal

PLACE NO: 26414

FORMER NAMES:

Lobethal Tweed Factory 1870
Lobethal Woollen and Tweed Company 1874
South Australian Woollen Factory Company 1882
South Australian Woollen Company 1890
Onkaparinga Woollen Company 1928

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:

The Lobethal Woollen Mill is a landmark in Lobethal. One of the gateways to the town, it occupies a significant portion of its southern end. The site includes over thirty buildings including early stone buildings, red brick buildings with saw-toothed roofs, and lightweight sheds clad with corrugated sheeting. The site is on the western side of the Adelaide-Lobethal Road and was mainly used for manufacturing.

DATE OF COMPLETION:

Various

SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:

Description: Confirmed
Date: 28 August 2014

LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS

N/A

CURRENT USE:

Description: Adelaide Hills Business and Tourism Centre
Dates: c.1994-current

PREVIOUS USE(S):

Description: Brewery
Dates: 1851-1869
Description: Woollen Mill
Dates: 1870-1991

ARCHITECT:

Name: Various
Dates:

BUILDER:

Name: Various
Dates:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:

Description: Adelaide Hills Council

LOCATION:

Street Name: Adelaide-Lobethal Road
Town/Suburb: Lobethal
Post Code: 5241

LAND DESCRIPTION:

Title Type:	CT	CT	CT	Road Reserve
Volume:	5897	5169	5897	
Folio:	519	516	516	
Lot No.:	87 & 90	88	201	
Plan No:	F4620	F4620	D60535	
Hundred:	Onkaparinga	Onkaparinga	Onkaparinga	

PHOTOS

Lobethal Woollen Mill, Adelaide-Lobethal Road, Lobethal

PLACE NO: 26414



Significant view of the mill on Adelaide-Lobethal Road. Source: Google Streetview



Significant view of mill buildings from Woodside Road
Source: Google Streetview



Significant view of surviving mill buildings from Mill Road
Source: Google Streetview