

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

(b) It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

The Mount Salt Limestone Track is a rare surviving intact example of a track cut for animal-drawn vehicles.

The track was purpose-made for carts and buggies drawn by single animals or a file of animals. Part of the three-groove track was cut out of limestone outcrops which lay along the route. These cuts were probably created after Mount Salt station was amalgamated into the expansive Mount Schank Estate. The track facilitated efficient movement of people and small loads to and from Mount Salt Station until 1921, when the Government repurchased much of it for closer settlement. Designed for a specific road technology and never since altered for more modern transport, this is a particularly intact and interpretable relic of its time.

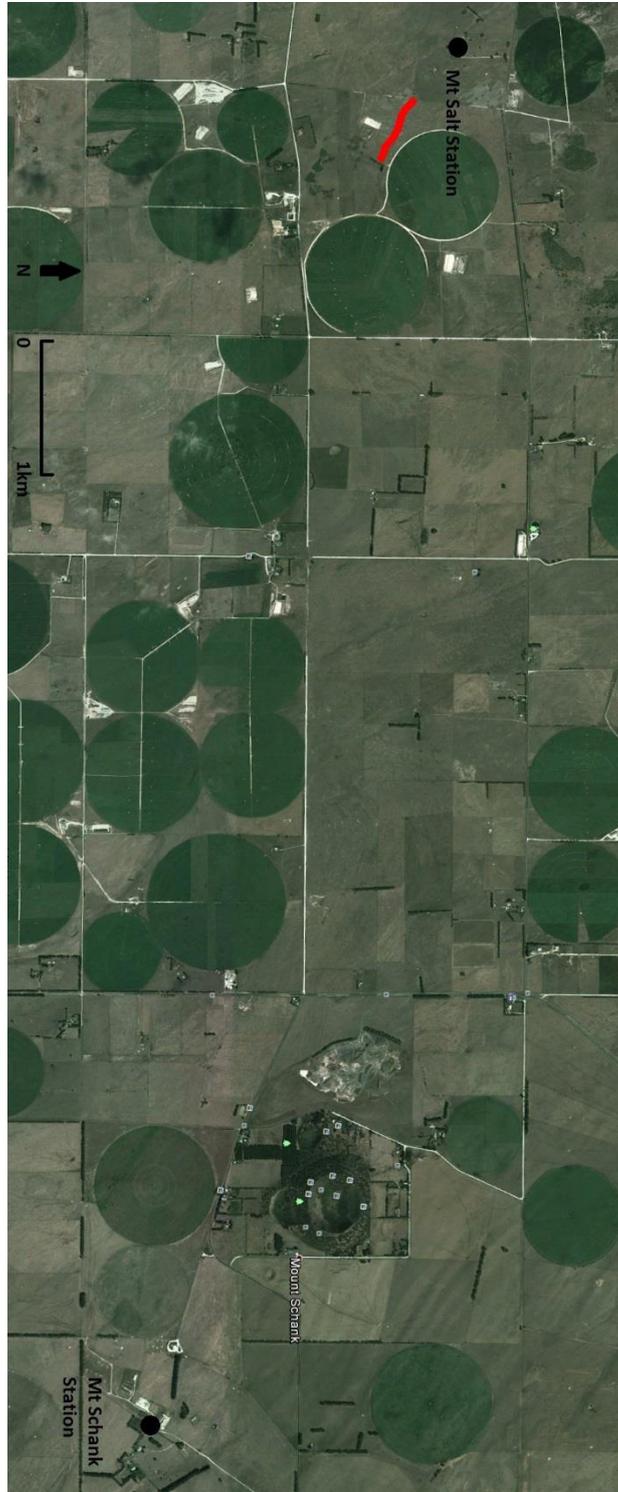
It is unusual that this track only allows passage to limited vehicle types. Few examples are likely to have been constructed in this way, with fewer, if any, surviving today. No comparable examples were identified in South Australia. Most historic vehicular roads and tracks could have been used by a range of vehicle types.

Now long abandoned, the track is highly intact, showing no signs of impact from ongoing pastoral operations. While examples of stone showing the wear from animal-drawn vehicles probably exist, only one other example was found in Australia: the Maytown Wagon Tracks in Cape York, Queensland.

SITE PLAN

Mount Salt Limestone Track
640 McLeans Road, Mount Schank SA 5291

PLACE NO: 26430



Mount Salt Limestone Track (in red) over Google satellite imagery.

[Note how the track would have helped provide a direct route between
Mount Salt and Mount Schank Stations]

SITE PLAN

Mount Salt Limestone Track
640 McLeans Road, Mount Schank SA 5291

PLACE NO: 26430



Mount Salt Limestone Track (in red) over Google satellite imagery – Close-up view.
[Note the track breaks into multiple paths in some places]

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

A 520 metre long track running north-west / south-east for the passage of a single animal and cart or buggy. The wear pattern presents at least two phases of use, one at or near the surface and one cut up to roughly 35cm into the limestone outcropping. The track has three linear grooves, which could only have been used by a single animal (or single file of animals) drawing a vehicle with an axle width between 4' 4.4" and 5' 9.7", with 4' 10.25" axle width being the best fit. Its neat outside edges indicate they were cut to purpose, rather than worn down. More rounded 'wear' edges are visible around the inner grooves. The track becomes a simple dip in the landscape towards its east end, where it runs through soil rather than rock, then disappears altogether.

Part of the original track (30 metres at the western end) lies in a neighbouring property and is not included in this listing.

The components identified as being intrinsic to the heritage significance of the Mount Salt Limestone Track include:

- The visible extent of the track within Lot A57, with a 10 metre buffer beyond each side that includes the associated limestone outcropping.

History of the Place

This track provided a direct link to the road network crossing the once extensive Mount Schank pastoral station. The pastoral history of this land started in 1843 when first squatted on by Edward and Fortescue Arthur. Mount Salt probably became a minor centre of pastoral activity after 1851, when it became the intersection of two local land routes. W J T Clarke, an immensely successful pastoral landowner, consolidated the various landholdings of Mount Salt from 1865 to around 1872, incorporating the station into his vast Mount Schank Estate. Captain Robert Gardiner leased the estate from 1868 – 1901, before the Clarke family resumed its management.

In 1921, the South Australian Government repurchased much of Mount Salt, including most of the subject track, under the Closer Settlement Act. This probably ended regular use of the route.

Excavating through the limestone outcropping allowed efficient passage of people and small loads through otherwise very rough terrain. It appears the track originally ran across the limestone surface and was later cut into the stone to smooth the route. Such a cutting would have been expensive, especially in the context of the track's relatively minor importance and the fact that less direct routes were probably available. Its

construction could only have been justifiable within an extensive pastoral operation such as Mount Schank. The track design suited a single animal and cart or buggy arrangement, which gradually wore deeper into the surface over decades of use. A paired animal arrangement and/or wide-axled vehicles could not have fit within the grooves of this track.

A 1921 survey plan shows that the track was originally around 2.4km long, running through both limestone and earthen ground. An associated 1921 plan of Mount Salt Station shows a buggy shed (now gone). This probably housed the vehicle that most used the track.

References

The primary source for this Summary was:

- Hartnell, Dr Cameron, Heritage Assessment Report 'Mount Salt Limestone Track' (2014), commissioned by DEWNR.

Refer to the Heritage Assessment Report for more detailed information about the history of the Mount Salt Limestone Track at Mount Schank and references.

SITE DETAILS

Mount Salt Limestone Track
640 McLeans Road, Mount Schank SA 5291

PLACE NO: 26430

FORMER NAME:	Track
DESCRIPTION OF PLACE:	A 520-metre cart and buggy track running through limestone and earth.
DATE OF COMPLETION:	Roughly 1872 - 1921
SA HERITAGE REGISTER STATUS:	Description: Confirmed Date: 12 August 2015
LOCAL HERITAGE STATUS	N/A
CURRENT USE:	Description: None Dates: Probably abandoned from 1921
PREVIOUS USE(S):	Description: Track Dates: c.1872-1921
ARCHITECT:	Name: N/A Dates: N/A
BUILDER:	Name: Possibly W J T Clarke or Captain Robert Gardiner Dates: c.1872-1921
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:	Description: District Council of Grant
LOCATION:	Unit No.: Street No.: 640 Street Name: McLeans Road Town/Suburb: Mount Schank Post Code: 5291
LAND DESCRIPTION:	Title Type: CT Volume: 6152 Folio: 401 Lot No.: 57 Plan No.: 935 Section: 734 Hundred: MacDonnell

PHOTOS

Mount Salt Limestone Track
640 McLeans Road, Mount Schank SA 5291

PLACE NO: 26430



Mount Salt Limestone Track - A section of the cut through the limestone outcropping.
(Photograph looking east)



Mount Salt Limestone Track - Close-up view of a cut section of the track.
[Note the difference between the cut walls (right) and the edges worn down
by animal and wheel use] (Photograph looking east)

PHOTOS

Mount Salt Limestone Track
640 McLeans Road, Mount Schank SA 5291

PLACE NO: 26430



Mount Salt Limestone Track - View of the track cutting through the limestone outcropping. (Photograph looking east)

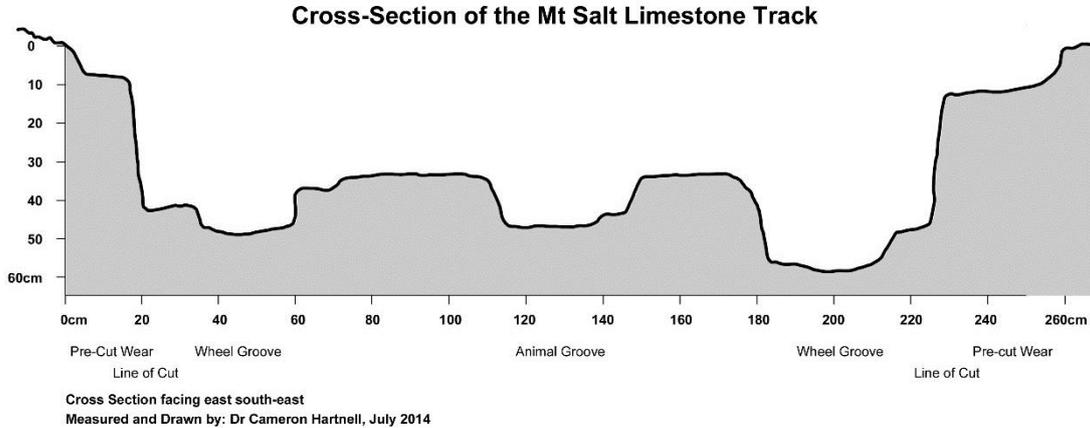


Mount Salt Limestone Track - View of the rough limestone outcropping that the track passes through. (Photograph looking north-east)

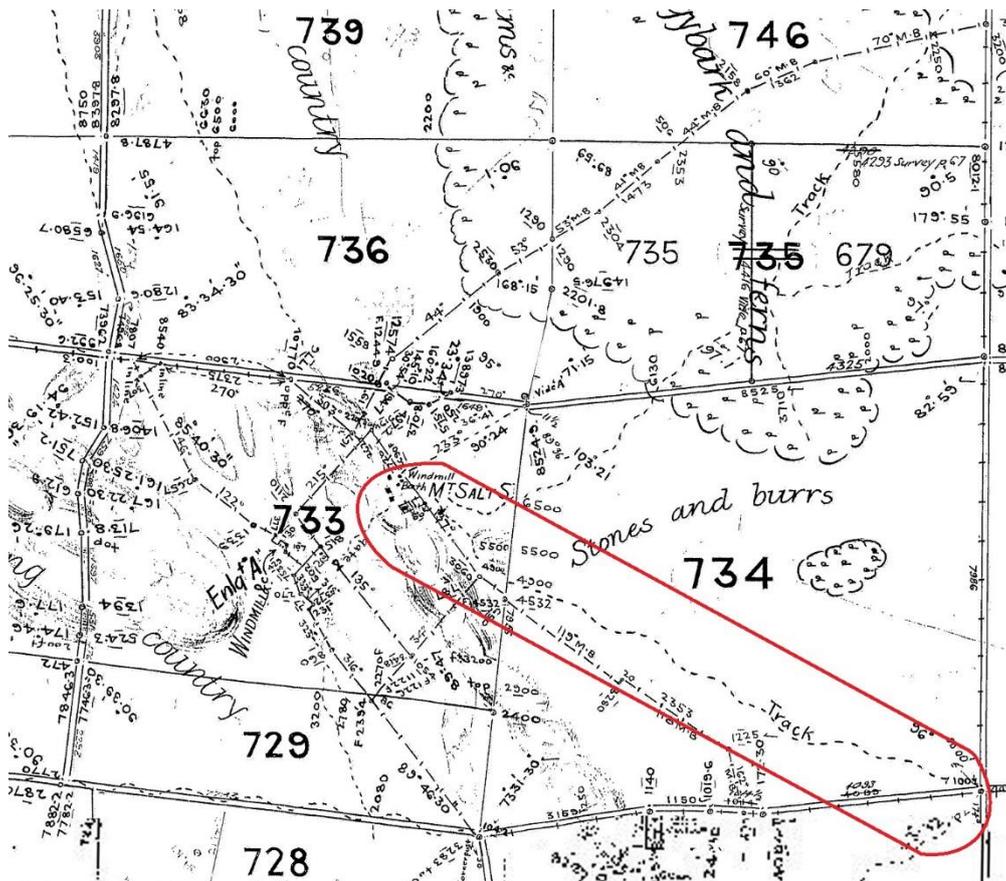
PHOTOS

Mount Salt Limestone Track
640 McLeans Road, Mount Schank SA 5291

PLACE NO: 26430



Measured cross section drawing of the track. [Looking south-east]



Multiple 1921 government survey plans joined together, showing the track and Mount Salt Station (red boundary).
[Note the many tracks crossing the area at that time]