HERITAGE ASSESSMENT REPORT

NAME:	Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site	**PLACE:** 26454

ADDRESS:	Franklin Parade, Encounter Bay

This heritage assessment considers that the place meets criteria (b) and (c). Refer to Summary of State Heritage Place for final approved wording, including criteria statements.

Uncovered well 23 November 2017
Source DEW

Site works complete June 2019
Source DEW

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Statement of Heritage Significance:

The Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site is on the lands and waters of the Ramindjeri people of the lower Fleurieu Peninsula, who are a part of the Ngarrindjeri nation. The site represents a once significant early industry that no longer exists in South Australia. Founded by the South Australian Company in 1837 and continually operating until 1851, it was the longest-running whaling station in the State. It played an important role in the establishment of the whaling industry in South Australia as a prototype for other whaling stations and made a notable contribution to the fledgling colony's economic development.

The Rosetta Head Whaling Station is also an important contact site between European colonists and the Ramindjeri People. To Ramindjeri people, the whale is known as Kondli (a spiritual being), and due to their connection and knowledge, a number of Ramindjeri were employed at the station as labourers and boat crews. Therefore, Rosetta Head is one of the first places in South Australia where European and Aboriginal people worked side by side.

Evidence suggests that some archaeological deposits and artefacts associated with the station may survive at this site. Investigation of these deposits and artefacts may reveal further information about early contact between Aboriginal and non-

Aboriginal South Australians, or about how the whaling industry operated during the first 14 years of colonial settlement.

Rosetta Head Whaling Station is currently the only whaling site in South Australia that has an associated early whaling ship whose site has been discovered.

Statement of Archaeological Designation:

As one of the first examples of a shore-based whaling station operated by the South Australian Company and one of the State's earliest organised industries, the Rosetta Head Whaling Station played a significant role in the State's early economic development. In an industry where such establishments rarely lasted longer than five years, and most for considerably less time, Rosetta Head's continuous operation for 15 years was the longest of South Australia's known whaling stations. During that time, ephemeral structures were erected to process the whale blubber for oil and to house the men that worked the station. Some structures, such as the storeroom, were more substantial and thus more likely to leave subsurface indications of their construction and use.

While above-ground structures are no longer present, the discovery of the well and other subsurface features demonstrates the site's potential to retain archaeological evidence of the station's occupation and management. Similarly, the recent discovery of Aboriginal skeletal material adjacent to the whaling station site, dated to 200 years old, only a decade or two prior to establishment of the station, indicates the potential for the site to retain evidence of post-contact interactions between Aboriginal people and the early whalers, and provide information on Aboriginal use of European materials. The site has archaeological significance as it is likely that it will yield information that will inform a better understanding of bay whaling industrial processes, the lifestyles of the whalers and, potentially, aspects of the interactions and cooperation with the Ramindjeri people, who were employed at the station.

The site of the historic shipwreck *South Australian*, which was employed as an offshore whale processing vessel at the station, also provides potential to archaeologically inform aspects of station life and early whaling practices.

Relevant South Australian Historical Themes

The Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site demonstrates the following DRAFT (11 June 2020) historic themes:

2.0 Peopling Places and Landscapes

    2.1 Recognising the First People's intrinsic links to place and landscape[1]

    2.5 Establishing and abandoning settlements

4.0 Building Settlements, Towns and Cities

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[1] Hindmarsh River is associated with Kondoli as flint was used to make knives to cut the Kondoli and spear heads for dance and ceremony and making fires.

Comparability / Rarity / Representation:

Rosetta Head Whaling Station demonstrates four areas of potential significance to South Australia, namely places associated with the early whaling industry; places of archaeological significance; places with connections to the South Australian Company; and places associated with the early relationships between Aboriginal people and the first European colonists.

Whaling Stations

Whaling was one of the first industries to become formally established in the fledgling colony of South Australia, in fact, records show that the activities of sealing and whaling were being undertaken even before the colony was officially settled. Many of the first whalers came from Tasmania making the most of the sea life off the coast of Kangaroo Island and the yet-to-be-settled colony of South Australia.

It was a stated intention of the South Australian Company that the immigrant ships that brought the first colonists would then become whaling ships. It was believed that whaling would be an economic mainstay of the colony, as it was in other States. Sixteen known shore-based whaling stations were established within the first ten years of settlement, some of which were formed by the South Australian Company. However, most of these whaling stations were abandoned within the first few years of operation.[1]

Unlike most other stations and despite fluctuating yields, station rivalry and constantly changing management, the Rosetta Head Whaling Station continually operated from 1837 until 1851. Therefore, Rosetta Head was the longest continuously operated station in South Australia and regularly produced the highest yields of oil. After its official closure in 1851, it operated intermittently until the 1870s, with three recorded seasons between 1851 and 1872.[2] From this time on, the buildings and structures associated with whaling were gradually demolished. 1916 saw the symbolic end to the whaling industry in Victor Harbor, with the introduction of the Victor Harbor Electric Supply Co. Ltd., which revolutionised electricity supplies and replaced the need for oils of any kind for lighting and warmth.[3]

While Rosetta Head was the longest operating whaling station in South Australia, many other stations were in operation early in the establishment of the state. A representative sample of State heritage listed whaling sites include:

Point Collinson Whaling Station (Murat Bay) Unknown date (SHP 14425). Very little documentation exists for the establishment of this whaling station. However, Artefacts including whalebone, brick, cast iron plate and cast-iron pins were found at the site.[4]

Coffin Bay Whaling Site, unknown date (designated place of archaeological significance) Coffin Bay National Park (SHP 16216). The site of the Coffin Bay Whaling Station at Point Sir Isaac provides evidence of whaling, one of the Colony's first export industries. It is one of a small number of whaling station sites that was located in South Australia and may yield information about the whaling industry and the living and working conditions of the Whalers engaged in it.[5] Physical evidence of whaling found on the site includes a flensing platform, the skull of a Southern Right Whale, remnants of a stone building and one or two whale lookouts.[6] It was heritage listed in 1999 under criteria (a) and (b).

Fowlers Bay Whaling Station (via Ceduna) c1840-late-1840 (SHP 16226). The collection of whale bones at the western end of Fowlers Bay is clearly the result of the actions of European whalers during the early 1840s. The look-out at the eastern end of Point Fowler may well have been connected with these activities. The sites are therefore not only indicative of the whaling industry but also potentially represent the earliest known physical evidence of European activity in the Fowlers Bay area.[7] It was heritage listed in 1997 under criterion (b).

The Bluff Historic Site, known as 'The Bluff (Rosetta Head) Historic Site, including the Jetty & Whaling Station Site' (SHP 10353). The Bluff area was associated with the early whaling industry. A flag-pole on the summit was used to signal the sighting of a whale to the whaling station below. The wharf and road, built in 1854, reflect the importance of the site as a shipping outlet for produce from the hinterland and the potential link that existed at the time with Murray River trade. A plaque was installed near the summit of the Bluff in 1902 to commemorate the meeting in Encounter Bay in 1802 of the expeditions commanded by Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin.

It was heritage listed in 1983. This listing focused on the bluff itself, and the mapping shows the bluff and jetty, but not the rest of the whaling station site. Therefore, the current listing only includes a small part of the Rosetta Head whaling station. The original intent of the listing is not known. The current assessment aims to address this anomaly.

Rosetta Head Jetty
4 March 2020 Source DEW

View from the top of the Bluff, looking towards the
Whaler's village
4 March 2020

Sleaford Bay Former Fishery Bay Whaling Station (c1837-1843) (SHP 10223). The Sleaford Bay whaling station was initially established by the South Australian Company. By 1839 the station was under the control of the United Fishing Company of Adelaide, a partnership between the South Australian Company and Messrs Hack and Company. In 1841, the South Australian Company sold their share and the Hack brothers became sole owners. They in turn found themselves in financial difficulties in the depression of the early 1840s and were declared insolvent in 1843. At this time Hagan and Hart purchased the station, as well as the Rosetta Head Station, also owned by the Hack brothers at the time. They operated the Fishery Bay station for three or four months before closing it down. No further whaling seems to have occurred at Fishery Bay after 1843.[8]

In 1980, Archaeological Excavation at Fishery Bay discovered a number of whaling relics. These included a rock-hole used as a well, ruins of several whaler's huts, a track cut into the cliff face, and remains of a brick flensing table. A try-pot and whale bones were removed from the site prior to the investigation. Due to the quality and number of archaeological findings at Sleaford Bay, the site is considered the best surviving and most intact representative of an early South Australian whaling station.[9] The integrity of the remains has been relatively well preserved because there has been no subsequent development. It was heritage listed in 1982.

Remains of brick flensing table, Sleaford Bay

2005 Source DEW

Thistle Island Sealing Site/whaling (1838-1839) (designated place of archaeological significance) (SHP 13933)

The Whaler's Bay Whaling Site on Thistle Island is significant for its association with the early years of European settlement in South Australia and the activities of the South Australian Company in their search for an economic staple. The archaeological remains at the site may date back to 1838 and may contain evidence of the earliest European buildings built in the South Australian colony.[10]

A number of early reports suggest sealing was taking place at Thistle Island from 1802. However, whaling did not commence at Thistle Island until 1838 when the South Australian Company established a fishery. Due to poor yield and terrible conditions for the whalers, the operation was abandoned. With its amalgamation with the Hack Brothers, the newly formed Uniting Fishing Company established a new operation in 1839. By the middle of this year, no whales had been caught and the operation was once again abandoned.

Some building remains can be found at the site. However, most evidence of the whaling operation has been lost to the elements.[11] It was heritage listed in 1989 under the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978*.

Cape Jervis Fishery Site (1842-1851) (designated place of archaeological significance) (SHP 18820)

The Cape Jervis Whaling Station provides evidence of one of the Colony's first export industries, of which little is known or documented. It is one of a number of

whaling station sites which have been located in South Australia. The site of the Cape Jervis Whaling Station at Fishery Beach may yield information about the whaling industry, and the living and working conditions of the whalers.[12]

By 1843 a permanent settlement had been established at the site. Yields for the site were successful, however, in 1844 Haynes, the station owner perished in a shipwreck. The station was subsequently sold three times, the last being to Messers Boord and Bennett and Johnson in 1851, who also owned Rosetta Head. The Station was abandoned shortly after. The site was later used by the nearby Talisker lead and silver mine. Evidence of the crushing house can be found on the site while the footings of the Whaler's station master's house were uncovered in an archaeological excavation in 2000.[13] It was heritage listed in 2001 under criteria (b) and (c).

Remains of the Whaler's station master's house, Cape Jervis

2004 Source DEW

D'Estrees Bay Fishery Site (c.1943) (SHP 14422)

This whaling site, established by Messrs Hagen and Hart, was also referred to as the Flour Cask Bay. Three locations at D'Estrees Bay contain evidence of the early operation of the station. These include a stone-lined well, the main station site, and the lookout at Point Tin line. Limestone and some red bricks have been salvaged from the site.[14] It was heritage listed in 1993.

A representative sample of whaling sites that are not listed as a State Heritage Places include:

Point de Mole Whaling Station. Unknown date. (Via Streaky Bay). There is no documentary reference on Point de Mole. However, locals claim a try-pot and whale relics could be found on the beach many years ago.[15]

Freemans Nob Whaling Site (late 1830s). This site was used as a vantage and boat launching point by the Encounter Bay Fisheries. Proposals to establish a station at this site were never realised.[16]

Rivoli Bay Fishery Site (c.1830s). Whaling took place at this site from the 1830s until the mid-1840s. Reports made in 1884 suggest the station had a revival, however, it is unlikely that it continuously operated from the 1830s until 1884. No remains of the station have been found, although a monument has been erected to mark the location of the station.[17]

Boston Island Whaling Site c.1840

Newspaper reports from the time suggest a whaling company was to be established on Boston Island in 1840. However, as there were no subsequent references to whaling or oil export from the site, it is likely the station was either never established or was not successful.[18]

Kingscote Whaling Site, Doyle Bay (c.1840s)

The Doyle Bay Whaling Site was established by Messers Hagen and Hart near Kingscote. The station was largely unsuccessful and was abandoned soon after establishment.[19]

Hog Bay Fishery Site (c.1841-1844)

This station had two owners over three years and moderate success, however no physical evidence of the site survives.[20]

Noarlunga Fishery Site (1841-1843)

Due to the urban development around the site, no surviving remnants of the operation remain.[21]

Trial Bay Whaling Site (1845)

There is some conjecture and confusion as to the exact location of the Trial Bay site, as it has not been conclusively located yet. The site could have either been in a bay immediately north of Point Westa, or to the east at Yanerby in Sceale Bay. There are two whalers – *Arachne* and *Elizabeth Rebecca*, recorded as being lost at Trial Bay, but neither have yet been located. The Maritime Register places the two ships off Yanerby. There is a cutter called *Maris Stella* (a cutter hasone mast, while a ketch has two masts) listed at the northern end of their (unnamed) bay but that was only 30 ft. long. The station was in operation for one year in 1845. It was owned by Messers Hagen and Hart.[22]

Streaky Bay Whaling Site (1945)

It appears there was no whaling village established at Streaky Bay, with whaling activities being conducted from ships.[23]

Archaeological evidence

Three of the South Australian whaling stations listed above have been designated as places of archaeological significance, namely:

- Coffin Bay Whaling Site, unknown date (designated place of archaeological significance) Coffin Bay National Park (SHP 16216)
- Thistle Island Sealing Site/whaling (1838-1839) (designated place of archaeological significance), (SHP 13933)
- Cape Jervis Fishery Site (1842-1851) (designated place of archaeological significance) (SHP 18820)

Archaeological research carried out at these three places discovered evidence of the early whaling activities and history of the sites. As such they are regarded as having high archaeological interest.

South Australian Company

The South Australian Company (the company) was established through an Act of Parliament in 1834 to settle a new Australian province through the advanced sale of land. In this respect, the foundation of South Australia was different from other States in that settlement would not be a drain on the British Treasury. Therefore, the Colonisation Commissioners required the sale of £35,000 of land with £20,000 deposited to the British Treasury prior to settlement.

The Company was founded by George Fife Angas, chairman of the board of directors. Angas was integral to the initial establishment of the new colony, contributing some £40,000 to various pursuits of the Company. Angas was behind many of the founding attributes of South Australia. These included the low cost of land and religious freedom. He established the South Australian Banking Company and the South Australian School Society.[24]

Prior to the settlement of South Australia, sales were slow. Land sale targets were only met due to George Fife Angas, Henry Kingscote and Thomas Smith acquiring much of the land. This was sold directly back to the South Australian Company for re-sale later on. This allowed the colonisation of South Australia to commence and directly resulted in the construction of mills, roads, bridges and wharves - the infrastructure required to allow development to occur in the new province.

As part of their aim to generate a sound economy for the new colony, The Company was involved with the early establishment of three whaling stations, Rosetta Head, Thistle Island and Sleaford Bay, referred to above. The Company's involvement in whaling was brief, and by 1841 it appears it had ceased whaling and sold most of its whaling stations, ships and stores.[25]

Although whaling was a significant early industry in South Australia and did have some associations with the Company, it was not the most significant or influential sphere of the Company's work. The Company had a profound influence on the early

establishment and development of the colony, in particular the settlement patterns and early land divisions. Some of the South Australian places that are associated with the Company include the following:

Gawler Chambers (1913) (SHP 13104)

Built on the site of their earlier head office, Gawler Chambers was constructed in 1913 as the South Australian Company offices. Therefore, Gawler Chambers is the most significant surviving single relic of the operations of the South Australian Company, one of the most important organizations in the history of the State. It is also significant for being one of Adelaide's earliest high rise office buildings and demonstrates the beginnings of a significant change in both the scale and the construction technology of Adelaide's commercial buildings.[26]

Lindsay Park (1850) (SHP 12212)

George Fife Angas founder and chief benefactor of South Australia, purchased this extensive homestead from Henry Evans, his son in law in 1851. Lindsay Park was Angas' primary residence and remained in the Angas family until 1965.[27]

Collingrove Homestead (1854) (SHP 10094)

In 1847, George Fife Angas sent his son John Howard Angas to South Australia to manage his affairs. John Angas and his wife settled in the Barossa Valley and built their homestead, Collingrove which included many outbuildings, a family church and office. The house represents the role Angas had on the early colonisation of South Australia and the wealth and importance of the first South Australians responsible for the settlement of the new colony.[28]

Zion Lutheran Church (1844) (SHP 12225)

The Union Church in Angaston (named after George Fife Angas) was built to accommodate the expanding congregation of the Union Chapel at Penrice. George Fife Angas was a devout Baptist, together with his son John Howard, donated the land on which the church is built and subscribed to the fund for its construction. The church therefore, has strong links with the Angas family and also represents the religious freedom on which South Australia was founded. [29]

Aboriginal encounters

Rosetta Head is associated with the early working relationships between Aboriginal people and the early colonists and whalers. There are a number of other places on the Register that have significant associations with early Aboriginal contact. These include:

Freshfield's House and Graves, Penneshaw (SHP 16020)

This site is the remains of the house of Nathaniel Thomas, an early settler on Kangaroo Island. The site includes the gravesite of Thomas and his Tasmanian

Aboriginal wife, demonstrating early relationships between the Aboriginal people and the first settlers.[30]

Mulka Store Ruins, Marree. (SHP 12758)

Built c.1885 with additions c.1924, this place was first owned by Alexander Scobie. From c.1924 to c.1953 the building became a store and was owned by George Aiston, an Aboriginal Welfare Officer who became protector of the Dieri and Wonkongura tribes. He also wrote the book 'Savage Life in Central Australia' based upon 20 year's study of Aboriginal life.[31]

Mulka Store Ruins

2005 Source DEW

Dalhousie Homestead Ruins, Witjira National Park (SHP 13626)

Dalhousie Homestead Ruins are of heritage value as an example of a pastoral station complex. The site is also of archaeological interest as it may provide information on the development of the pastoral industry, the lives of the inhabitants (including Aboriginal workers), the European approach to surviving in a remote and hostile environment, and their relationship and interactions with the Aboriginal people.[32]

Dalhousie Homestead Ruins

2005 Source DEW

Daisy Bates' Campsite, Via Port Augusta (SHP 14265)

The campsite at Ooldea was used by Mrs Daisy M Bates CBE, from September 1919 until 1934. She studied and interacted with Aboriginal people and learned approximately 180 different Aboriginal dialects and wrote *The Passing of the Aborigines*, which was published in London in 1938.[33]

Assessment against Criteria under Section 16 of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*. All Criteria have been assessed using the 2020 Guidelines.

(a) it demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

> *The place should be closely associated with events, developments or cultural phases which have played a significant part in South Australian history. Ideally it should demonstrate those associations in its fabric*

> *Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if they are of a class of things that are commonplace, or frequently replicated across the State, places associated with events of interest only to a small number of people, places associated with developments of little significance, or places only reputed to have been the scene of an event which has left no trace or which lacks substantial evidence.*

The Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site demonstrates two important aspects of the evolution of the State's history, namely the early history of the whaling industry in South Australia, and contact relationships between European colonists and Aboriginal people. Each is considered in turn.

Sixteen whaling stations were established along the South Australian coastline between settlement in 1836 and the 1850s. These early stations had variable success, with only a few operating for any period of time due to poor yields and poor working

and living conditions. While whaling proved less profitable to wheat farming for the early South Australian economy, the shore-based whaling industry was still an important source of revenue and among the first export industries established in the new colony of South Australia.

Whaling commenced at Rosetta Head from 1837, continuing uninterrupted until 1851 and then sporadically until the 1870s, making it the longest continuously operating whaling station in South Australia. Most whaling stations only operated for a short time, including the State heritage listed:

- Fowlers Bay Whaling Station (via Ceduna) c.1840-late-1840 (SHP 16226) – operational for around 8 years

- Sleaford Bay Former Fishery Bay Whaling Station (c.1837-1841) (SHP 10223) – operational for around 4 years

- Cape Jervis Fishery Site (1842-1851) (SHP 18820) – operational for around 9 years.

Therefore, the whaling station at Rosetta Head has close and relatively long-lived associations with one of the first industries that built the fledgling economy of the new colony of South Australia.

During its operation, the facilities at Rosetta Head Whaling Station included two timber huts, a boat shed, workshops, tryworks, flensing floor, a store house, and a further row of huts, a well, and a blacksmith's shop. However, as the town of Victor Harbor grew in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, all above-ground physical evidence of the whaling station was lost. The only visible remains are the recently discovered well.

An archaeological investigation of the site has discovered an area of charcoal staining together with an iron bolt, both believed to date from the site's time as a whaling station between the 1830s and 1860s. In addition to the recently found physical evidence, there are also primary sources including diaries, newspaper reports, maps, charts and drawings that record the early establishment of onshore whaling in South Australia at Rosetta Head and document the evolution of this important aspect of the State's history.

The Rosetta Head Whaling Station was also an important contact site between European whalers from the 1830s and the Ramindjeri people of the southern Fleurieu Peninsula. The whalers based at Rosetta Head were among the first Europeans to have sustained contact with the Ramindjeri people and employed men from the Encounter Bay clan as both labourers at the whaling station and as crew on the whaling boats, taking advantage of generations of knowledge about whale behaviour. Early documentary evidence indicates that a degree of cooperation existed between the Europeans and Ramindjeri people during the first two decades of the colony which was an atypical contact experience.

Other sites on the Register that have links to European relationships with Aboriginal people tend to demonstrate the more typically understood relationships such as welfare support, exploitation and conflict. Therefore, working relations between Aboriginal people and European colonists which occurred at the Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site could be considered a significant aspect of the evolution of the State's history that is not well represented on the Register.

However, the ability of the site to demonstrate these significant aspects of South Australian history have been eroded by the many changes that have happened to the whaling station over the past century. This is evidenced by the loss of all buildings or structures (apart from the well). Further, even the topography of the site has changed to accommodate the building of houses, roads and carpark. There is certainly significant documentary evidence about the significant historical associations of the whaling station, and the site is likely to have archaeological potential. This means that it is more likely to meet criterion (c) than (a).

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (a).

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

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

> *The place should demonstrate a way of life, social custom, industrial process or land use which is no longer practised, is in danger of being lost, or is of exceptional interest. This encompasses both places which were always rare, and places which have become scarce through subsequent loss or destruction.*

> *Places will not normally be considered under this criterion if their rarity is merely local, or if they appear rare only because research has not been done elsewhere, or if their distinguishing characteristics have been degraded or compromised, or if they are at present common and simply believed to be in danger of becoming rare in the future.*

The Rosetta Head Whaling Station was operated continuously from 1837 until 1851 and was the longest running and one of the earliest whaling stations in South Australia. The Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station site was one of sixteen whaling stations established between 1836 and the 1840s along the coast of South Australia. Shore-based whaling stations represent a way of life and industrial process that was an important part of the early establishment of the South Australian economy. As most whaling stations only operated for 1-5 years and whaling stopped altogether in South Australia in the 1870s, it is rare to find any surviving physical evidence of whaling in South Australia.

A variety of primary source materials associated with the Rosetta Head Whaling Station complex survive, including early paintings, sketches and maps that clearly indicate the location of the station along the foreshore at Rosetta Head. Later photos and drawings of the site suggest that most of the buildings were demolished by the 1860s. However, a photo from c.1890 shows a stone store building and pump house located approximately where the well was discovered. Archaeological evidence

found in connection with the well, including an iron bolt and charcoal staining, date the well to the whaling era (1830s-1860s).

Of the sixteen known South Australian whaling stations, only seven contain similar physical evidence of whaling, namely:

- Point Collinson Whaling Station (Murat Bay) Unknown date (SHP 14425)

- Coffin Bay Whaling Site, unknown date (SHP 16216)

- Fowlers Bay Whaling Station (via Ceduna) c.1840-late-1840 (SHP 16226)

- Sleaford Bay Former Fishery Bay Whaling Station (c.1837-1841) (SHP 10223)

- Thistle Island Sealing Site/whaling (1838-1839) (SHP 13933)

- Cape Jervis Fishery Site (1842-1851) (SHP 18820)

- D'Estrees Bay Fishery Site (c.1943) (SHP 14422)

Of the whaling stations listed above, only two, Sleaford Bay Former Fishery Bay Whaling Station (c.1837-1841) (SHP 10223), and D'Estrees Bay Fishery Site (c.1943) (SHP 14422) have wells believed to be associated with whaling operations.

The Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site is one of only eight sites in South Australia to retain any physical evidence of whaling activities and one of only three with a well. The place demonstrates rare associations with an important industrial process that is no longer practised in South Australia and which was envisaged by the founders of the colony as a vital means to assist with the industrial development and financial security of the fledgling colony.

It is recommended that the nominated place **fulfils** criterion (b).

(c) it may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should provide, or demonstrate a likelihood of providing, information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the past. The information should be inherent in the fabric of the place. The place may be a standing structure, an archaeological deposit or a geological site.

Places will not normally be considered under this criterion simply because they are believed to contain archaeological or palaeontological deposits. There must be good reasons to suppose the site is of value for research, and that useful information will emerge. A place that will yield the same information as many other places, or information that could be obtained as readily from documentary sources, may not be eligible.

Historic maps, sketches and photos indicate that the Rosetta Head Whaling Station operated from 1837–1851 using three main locations. The first was the lookout at the Rosetta Head Bluff, used as a vantage point to observe the whales. The second

location was the stretch of land along the top of the bank above what is now known as Franklin Parade – an area used to accommodate the whalers and their families. The third was used for the processing of whales in the low-lying area between the shore and the bank – now the Franklin Parade carpark.

The first location (#1) – the lookout – is already included in the South Australian Heritage Register as 'The Bluff Historic Site' and known as 'The Bluff (Rosetta Head) Historic Site, including the Jetty & Whaling Station Site'. This suggests that the original intention may have been to list the whole of the whaling station site. However, according to current mapping and the land description for the State Heritage Place, only the Bluff is currently protected.

The second location (#2) mentioned above, namely the area along the top of the bank, was the site of the whaler's huts. This strip of land has undergone extensive excavation for 11 houses, 42 apartments and in 1988, the demolition of the Whaler's Inn and construction of a two-storey restaurant and conference centre. The scale of development and excavation that has taken place means the potential for the discovery of archaeological remains has been significantly reduced. In addition, there have not been any extensive archaeological investigations on the privately owned land adjoining the Franklin Parade carpark. Therefore, there is no strong evidence to suggest that the site is likely to yield archaeological remains on this section of land.

The third location (#3) is the low-lying foreshore area south of Solway Crescent and is the focus of this heritage assessment report. Archaeological surveys have proven that there is potential for the discovery of remains from the former Rosetta Head Whaling Station in the low-lying foreshore area including the carpark, south of Solway Crescent. This area was used for processing the whales and was the location of the blacksmith building and stone store. The discovery of the well directly in front of the Whaler's Inn, in addition to archaeological discoveries including an area of charcoal staining and an iron bolt, demonstrates the high potential for this section of Franklin Parade to contain information that will contribute significantly to our knowledge of the Rosetta Head Whaling Station and the South Australian colonial shore-based whaling industry. In addition, archaeological deposits along the foreshore at Rosetta Head may contribute to a better understanding of cultural contact between Aboriginal people and European colonists during the first decade after European colonisation.

The low-lying foreshore area south of Solway Crescent, on which a stone store, smithy and well were located, contains archaeological remains of the whaling station and therefore is likely to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history.

It is recommended that the nominated place **fulfils** criterion (c).

(d) it is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should be capable of providing understanding of the category of places which it represents. It should be typical of a wider range of such places, and in a good state of integrity, that is, still faithfully presenting its historical message.

Places will not be considered simply because they are members of a class, they must be both notable examples and well-preserved. Places will be excluded if their characteristics do not clearly typify the class, or if they were very like many other places, or if their representative qualities had been degraded or lost. However, places will not be excluded from the Register merely because other similar places are included.

The Rosetta Head Whaling Station is a representative of the class of places known as shore-based whaling stations. While the site's previous use as a whaling station is significant, the only fabric surviving above-ground to represent the class is the well. All other structures, namely the tryworks, stone store, smithy and workers cottages have been removed, diminishing the integrity of the site and compromising its ability to represent the class of place.

In comparison, there are other examples of whaling stations that are more intact, including the Sleaford Bay (Former Fishery Bay) Whaling Station (c.1837-1841) (SHP 10223) – the most intact example of a shore-based whaling station in South Australia (see Comparability, Rarity, Representations).

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (d).

(e) it demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

The place should show qualities of innovation or departure, beauty or formal design, or represent a new achievement of its times. Breakthroughs in technology or new developments in design would qualify, if the place clearly shows them. A high standard of design skill and originality is expected.

Places would not normally be considered under this criterion if their degree of achievement could not be demonstrated, or where their integrity was diminished so that the achievement, while documented, was no longer apparent in the place, or simply because they were the work of a designer who demonstrated innovation elsewhere.

At the time of the establishment of the Rosetta Head Whaling Station, the practice of slaughtering whales and processing their blubber and bones for oil, porcelain, steel and items such as umbrellas and corsets had been carried out all over the world for hundreds of years. Documented history does not suggest new achievements in whaling technology occurred at Rosetta Head Whaling Station. Nor is there any evidence to suggest the architecture or layout of the whaling station at Rosetta Head used any special construction techniques or design characteristics. In addition, the well, being the only known fabric remaining at the whaling station, was built using

standard construction techniques for wells and cannot be considered to be an outstanding representative of that type of structure.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (e).

(f) it has strong cultural or spiritual association for the community or a group within it.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

> *The place should be one which the community or a significant cultural group have held in high regard for an extended period. This must be much stronger than people's normal attachment to their surroundings. The association may in some instances be in folklore rather than in reality.*
>
> *Places will not be considered if their associations are commonplace by nature, or of recent origin, or recognised by a small number of people, or not held very strongly, or held by a group not widely recognised, or cannot be demonstrated satisfactorily to others.*

The Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site was a place where the first European colonists and Ramindjeri people interacted. Unlike other areas of South Australia where relations between the two peoples centred on education and conversion of the Aboriginal people to European religion and culture, at Rosetta Head, interactions appear to have been based around shared work. Therefore, this unusual relationship may be of importance to both European and Aboriginal people.

Modern research and understanding of this relationship are limited, with evidence only being obtained from documentary and historical evidence. There is no recent research or evidence to suggest either the Ramindjeri people or Europeans have an ongoing cultural or spiritual connection to the Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (f).

(g) it has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.

Criterion arguments have considered the *Guidelines for State Heritage Places*:

> *The place must have a close association with a person or group which played a significant part in past events, and that association should be demonstrated in the fabric of the place. The product of a creative person, or the workplace of a person whose contribution was in industry, would be more closely associated with the person's work than would his or her home. Most people are associated with many places in their lifetime, and it must be demonstrated why one place is more significant than others.*
>
> *Places will not generally be considered under this criterion if they have only brief, incidental or distant association, or if they are associated with persons or groups of little significance, or if they are associated with an event which has left no trace, or if a similar association could be claimed for many places, or if the association cannot be demonstrated. Generally, the home or the grave of a notable person will not be entered in the Register*

unless it has some distinctive attribute, or there is no other physical evidence of the person's life or career in existence.

The Rosetta Head Well and Whaling Station Site has been associated with a number of individuals as well as with the South Australian Company. Each is considered in turn.

There was a swift procession of managers and owners at the Rosetta Head Whaling Station and therefore it is associated with a large number of people, including Samuel Stephens, Captain Wright, John Hack, Jacob Hagen, and Messrs Boord and Bennett. While their ownership and/or management of the Rosetta Head Whaling Station means these people played a role in the whaling industry in South Australia, their contribution was brief and there is no particular person who can solely be attributed with the establishment and successful operation of the Rosetta Head Whaling Station.

An owner of note was Captain John Hart. Hart was a prominent South Australian mariner, merchant and politician, who was Premier in 1865-1866, 1868 and 1870-1871. Prior to commencing his political career in 1851, Hart was involved with the establishment of a number of whaling stations in South Australia including the Rosetta Head Whaling Station, of which he was superintendent from 1838 and then its owner and manager from 1842 until 1850. While he was connected in some degree with the station for most of its operational life, he didn't establish the station. Due to his political and many other business interests that kept him in Adelaide and other parts of the State, Hart was unlikely to have influenced the day-to-day running and lives of those living permanently there. Places that are considered to better represent the life and work of Captain John Hart are the former Hart's Flour Mill (SHP 10928) and his residence Glanville Hall (SHP 10929).

Like the Sleaford Bay Whaling Station (c1837-1843) (SHP 10223) and Thistle Island Sealing Site/whaling (1838-1839) (SHP 13933), the Rosetta Head Whaling Station is associated with the South Australian Company. The South Australian Company was established in 1835 to sell land in the province of South Australia and enable its colonisation. In relation to whaling, the most relevant clause in the South Australian Company prospectus was the proposition for new settlers to pursue whale, seal and other fisheries, and the culling of fish for exportation. Indeed, the Thistle Island Sealing/Whaling Site was listed in 1989 under the *South Australian Heritage Act 1978* due to its association with the early years of European settlement in South Australia and the activities of the South Australian Company in their search for an economic staple.

Like Thistle Island Whaling Station, the Rosetta Head Whaling Station was established by the South Australian Company in 1837. However, this assessment has been undertaken according to the *South Australian Heritage Places Act 1993*, and the level of association is not considered to be particularly strong, especially given the Company only owned the Rosetta Head Whaling Station for a short period of time as they sold it in the early 1840s. In addition, whaling was not a mainstay of the Company's business activities, but rather one of many opportunities it pursued in South Australia. Thus, the place is not considered to have a special association with the

Company. Places which better represent the historic importance of the South Australia Company include Gawler Chambers (1913) (SHP 13104), Lindsay Park (1850) (SHP 12212), Collingrove Homestead (1854) (SHP 10094), Zion Lutheran Church (1844) (SHP 12225) and are covered in the comparison section above.

It is recommended that the nominated place **does not fulfil** criterion (g).

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Analysis of historical maps, photographs and written accounts indicates that the former Rosetta Head Whaling Station consisted of three sites with a group of structures located at each. The first (#1) is the summit of the Bluff which was used as a lookout and signal station. A wharf was also located close to the base of the Bluff. A second location (#2) was the sandy escarpment adjacent to the low coastal fringe where a group of huts were built (residential area). The third part (#3) of the whaling station site was located on the low flat area of the foreshore, where it is likely a number of structures were built including a stone store, workshops, tryworks, a blacksmith, two huts and a well (industrial area).

The area considered for listing is #3, the industrial area that is now a bitumen carpark and boat ramp. The area is bounded by Solway Crescent to the north, Rosetta Harbor to the north/east, Whaler's Inn restaurant to the south/west, Jagger Road and the carpark entrance to the west, and Franklin Parade and the Bluff to the east including the road and coastal reserve.

Carpark looking west.

Note low-lying foreshore dedicated to a carpark (#3) and the bank above on which the whaler's Inn and residential houses have been built (#2).

Source DEW January 2020

In 2017, when site-works were undertaken to the carpark on Franklin Parade (in front of the Whaler's Inn), a brick-lined well was uncovered. The top of the well is 1200mm in diameter and lined with handmade red bricks.

The carpark works have subsequently been completed and the well has been protected with the installation of a new white concrete cylindrical top. There is a metal grill over it and glazed brown-brick paving around the base.

Well with white concrete cylindrical top and surrounding paving

Source DEW 17 September 2019

Elements of Significance:

Elements of heritage significance include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Original redbrick fabric of well
- Sites with archaeological potential including location of the whaling station processing works (now covered by the Whaler's Inn carpark) and the beachfront.

Elements of Significance include the original redbrick fabric

Source DEW 21 November 2017

Elements not considered to contribute to significance of place include (but are not necessarily limited to):

- Residential houses and Whaler's Inn and conference centre
- Modern white concrete surround to well and modern grille

HISTORY

Whaling in Victor Harbour

On 8 April 1802, English explorer Captain Matthew Flinders met French explorer Captain Nicholas Baudin by chance on the south coast of South Australia. As a consequence of their meeting, Flinders named the place Encounter Bay. On his return home, Flinders reported the abundance of seals and whales for skins and oil, drawing people to Encounter Bay years before South Australia was officially colonised in 1836.[34]

Therefore, from 1802, whaling and sealing vessels frequented the mainland coastline of South Australia and adjacent islands such as Kangaroo Island, making the most of the abundant native sea and land creatures. Although early whalers and sealers left behind little evidence to mark their presence, their activities were significant to South Australia as the colony's earliest trades, predating official proclamation in 1836.

In 1835, the South Australian Company was formed by Scottish financier George Fife Angas in order to build a new colony by meeting the obligation of the *South Australia Act 1834*. In order to reduce the financial burden the settlement of other Australian colonies imposed on the United Kingdom, South Australia was settled through the sale of land for colonisation. In relation to whaling, the most important clause in the South Australian Company prospectus was the proposition for new settlers to pursue whale, seal and other fisheries, and the culling of fish for exportation.[35] At the time whaling was a hugely important international industry because oil sourced from the head of the whale or from rendered blubber was used for lamp oil or to make candles, the primary source of lighting. In addition, burnt whale bone was used in the production of porcelain and steel, and other parts of the animal was used for umbrellas, corsets and industrial brushes.[36]

In late 1836, the South Australian Company, led by Colonial Manager, Samuel Stephens, a relation of Angas, chose Rosetta Head – named after the wife of George Fife Angas - as its first official site for a whaling station. Records from the time show that a brick lined well was dug *'close to the present position of the Whaler's Inn'* to provide water for the anticipated whaling settlement.[37]

In September 1836, the Company acquired HMS *Swallow* re-rigging the vessel as a barque and renaming it *South Australian*. The Company's intention was to transport settlers to the new colony and then use the vessel in whaling activities.[38]

In February 1837, the brig *John Pirie*, under Master John Martin of the South Australian Company, sailed into Encounter Bay to establish the whaling station at Rosetta Head.[39] After *South Australian's* arrival in the colony the vessel's master, Captain Allen, had difficulty finding enough experienced whaling crew, so the ship was used to transport crew, livestock and provisions from Kangaroo Island to Rosetta Head in

readiness for shore-based whaling operations to commence. In May 1837, Captain Allen was ordered to refit the barque as an offshore whale processing platform, or 'cutting-in' vessel.[40]

In its first year, more than two hundred tons of whale oil was exported from the Rosetta Head Whaling Station that was run by a series of managers who were hired and fired by Samuel Stephens. During these early days, as was intended, the barque *South Australian* was anchored in Rosetta Cove for 'cutting-in' duties by the whalers.[41] The process required the newly slaughtered whale to be towed alongside the ship where the blubber was cut from the animal and then cut into smaller portions ready for processing (rendering) in the trypots.[42]

After its last round-trip voyage to Kangaroo Island in November 1837, now under the command of Captain J.B.T .MacFarlane, *South Australian* arrived back at Encounter Bay, the crew prepared the whaling station's produce (200 barrels of whale oil and 10 tons of whale bone) for shipment aboard the ship *Solway*, another of the Company's vessels. On 8 December 1837, while awaiting *Solway's* arrival, a strong south-easterly gale arose causing *South Australian* to part its mooring cables and run aground in the shallows about 300 metres out from the Fountain Inn, thus putting an end to the facilities provided by *South Australian* to the whaling station.[43]

After *South Australian* was wrecked, a range of new water-based facilities were constructed including a floating barge used for cutting-in and shears, which is a tri-pod of wooden poles driven into the sea bed to which boats were attached for the cutting-in process.[44] In addition, structures were built along the shore of Rosetta head to provide protection from the elements.[45] Some of the early buildings included timber equipment stores, slab and thatched huts, and a tryworks for rendering whale blubber and converting it to oil. Despite fluctuating profitability of the burgeoning business many of these structures were replaced with more permanent structures in the following years.

The sketches pictured below show the ships anchored in Encounter Bay and structures both on the shore and hill above the beach.
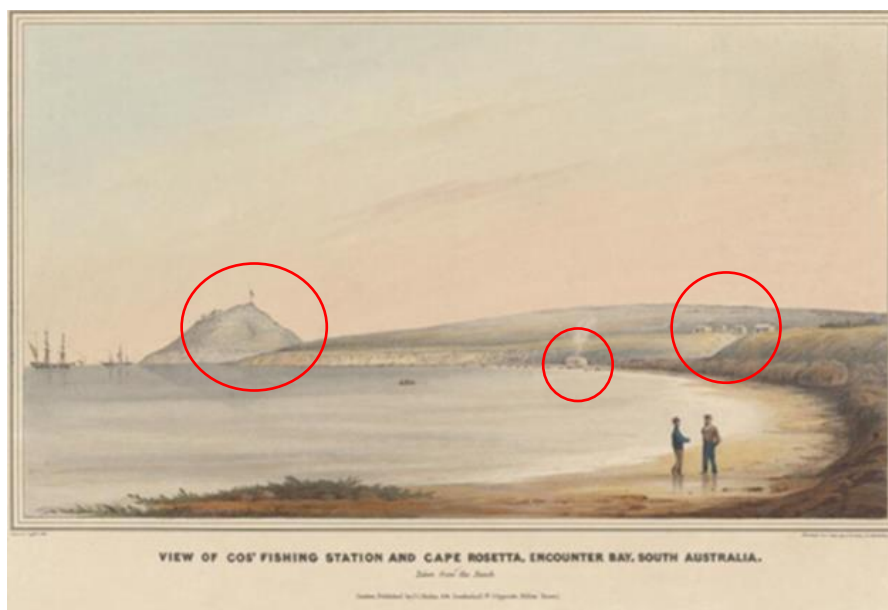

The Shears at Rosetta Harbor c1841

Lithograph of Rosetta Head attributed to Robert Peterson, master of *Solway*, and drawn in Dec 1837. (c.1836-40). The sketch shows a number of ships, including *South Australian* at the top, *Solway* in the middle and *John Pirie* in the foreground. Evidence of two production structures on the shore and four domestic structures including a fenced garden area. A second cluster of buildings can be seen towards the base of the drawing.
Source- National Library
https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-135767300/view

In April 1837, Captain Blenksinsopp from Sydney defied earlier warnings by Stephens' to stay clear of Encounter Bay, and established a second whaling station at nearby Police Point. Blenkinsopp's suggestion to work co-operatively, as frequently occurred in Tasmanian whaling stations, was rebuffed by Stephens, and despite claims by the *South Australian Gazette and Register* that there should be enough whales for two whaling stations to operate alongside, Stephens was determined that the South Australian Company station was there first and Blenkinsopp's operation should be shut down.[46]

Stephens was ruthless in his attempt to put a stop to the rival station. He lured Blenkinstopp's men to join his team by offering better wages and appealed to Governor Hindmarsh to have Blenkinstopp and his men expelled on the grounds that they were squatting. The competition between the two stations meant that when a whale was sighted, boats from both stations set out in pursuit and raced to intercept the animal.[47]

To resolve the conflict, Parliament passed an Act for the Regulation and Protection of the Whale Fisheries. Ownership was defined in the Act and stated that the whale belonged to the party whose harpoon first struck the animal. However, if the line broke and a second harpoon was struck, the whale became joint property.[48]

In December 1837, Blenkinstopp drowned while trying to navigate the coast at the Murray Mouth and while this put an end to some of the conflict between the rival whaling stations, arguments continued for a number of years.[49]

In 1838 the Police Point Fishery was purchased by Brothers John and Stephen Hack at auction after Blenkinstopp's drowning. The Hacks employed Captain Wright to manage Police Point and in 1839, the Rosetta Head and Police Point stations combined under the name of the United Fishing Company. Despite improvements in the management of the stations, the United Fishing Company had limited success.

In January 1840, Governor Hindmarsh, the owner of Whaling Station No. 1, Rosetta Head with 134 acres comprising 61 acres of dry land and 53 acres water, advertised the land 'To Let' and from that time The South Australian Company ceased whaling at Encounter Bay.[50] The land, originally granted Section 1, including the Bluff was purchased by John Hindmarsh, Governor Hindmarsh's son.

At that time a newspaper account described the fishery:

> There is an extensive whale fishery establishment at Encounter Bay, which during the season, gives employment to a number of hands. It comprises try-works,

Coopers and Smiths shops etc There is also an Inn and Hotel in connection with which is a boat-building yard.[51]

The Hack Brothers found themselves in financial difficulties during the depression of the early 1840s and in 1842 they sold the Rosetta Head Fishery to prominent South Australian mariner, merchant and parliamentarian, Captain Hart and Johan Hagen. Due to his extensive political commitments, Hart was a silent partner, however, despite this, his previous experience in the whaling industry resulted in improved profits.

Indeed, in June 1843 it was reported that about seventy tons of oil and several tons of whalebone had been secured that season. At the time, high prices for whale oil and bones provided an excellent opportunity for the whalers to secure a good income.[52] This spurred the opening of many other whaling stations along the South Australian coast in the 1840s, including a vantage point and boat launching facility opened by Hagen and Hart at Freeman's Nob in Port Elliot.[53] It is unclear if any whaling took place at this location and there is little evidence of any station there.

In 1843 a new station named the Encounter Bay New Fishery was opened, thus re-establishing rivalries within the industry. Hart and Hagen continued in partnership until 1846 when they dissolved their partnership.[54] Over the next five years changing and evolving partnerships meant the ownership of the Rosetta Head station changed on a yearly basis.

Captain Hart's participation in whaling at Rosetta Head ended in 1850 and the continuous operation of the station ended the following year in 1851 at which time the station was sold to Messrs Boord, Bennett, and Johnson who also owned a shore-based bay whaling station at Fishery Beach, Cape Jervis.[55] In 1853 and 1854 a resurrection of the station was attempted by Fox and Johnson. However, in 1855 the station was officially closed.[56]

The following images below and description of the area in 1851 suggests that many of the buildings related to the whaling station were still in existence.

The whale fishery is now the property of Messrs Boord, Bennett, and Johnson. There are ten or twelve buildings forming the establishment, comprising stables, sleeping berths, boatsheds, and workshops. The whole place was strewed with the gigantic bones of the huge animals caught and slaughtered, and thousands of gulls, perched on the scattered rocks at the foot of the cliff, rose, when disturbed, in clouds, screeching and wheeling about in enormous flocks; till they settled again.[57]
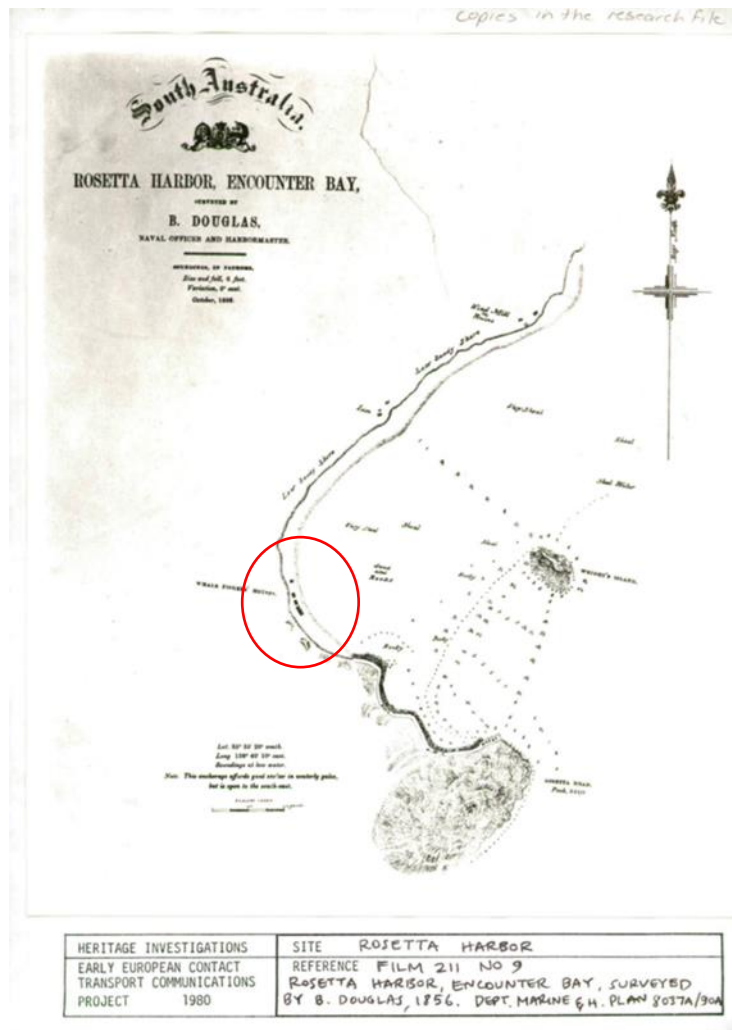
1856 map of Rosetta Head, clearly showing the row of whale fishers houses along the shore. This suggests some of the domestic structures may have been demolished and more structures built on the shore.
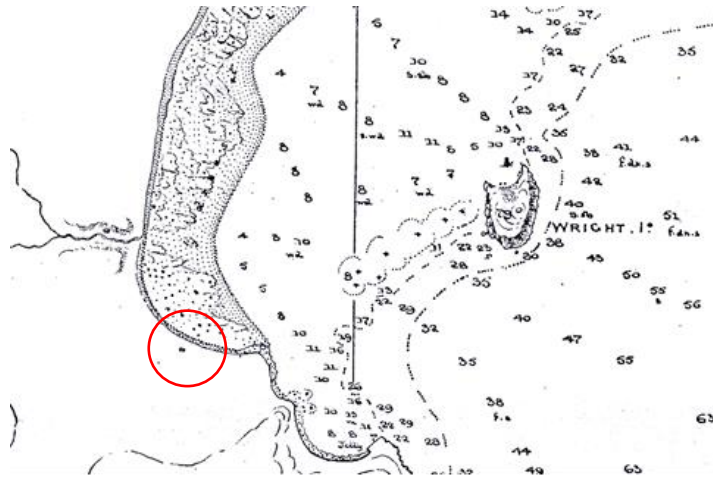Source- DEW
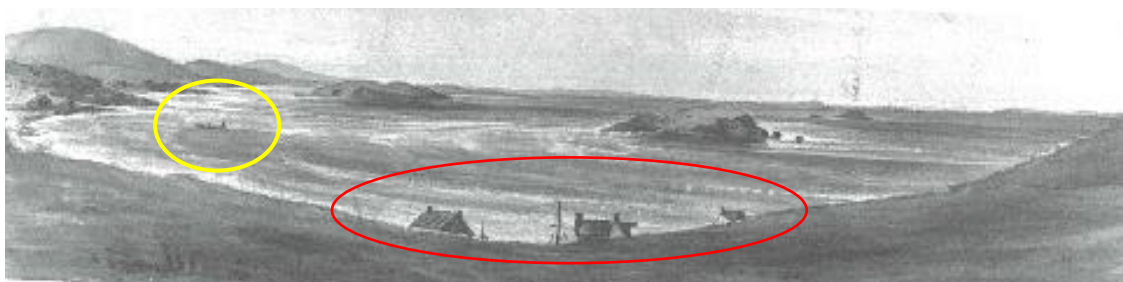
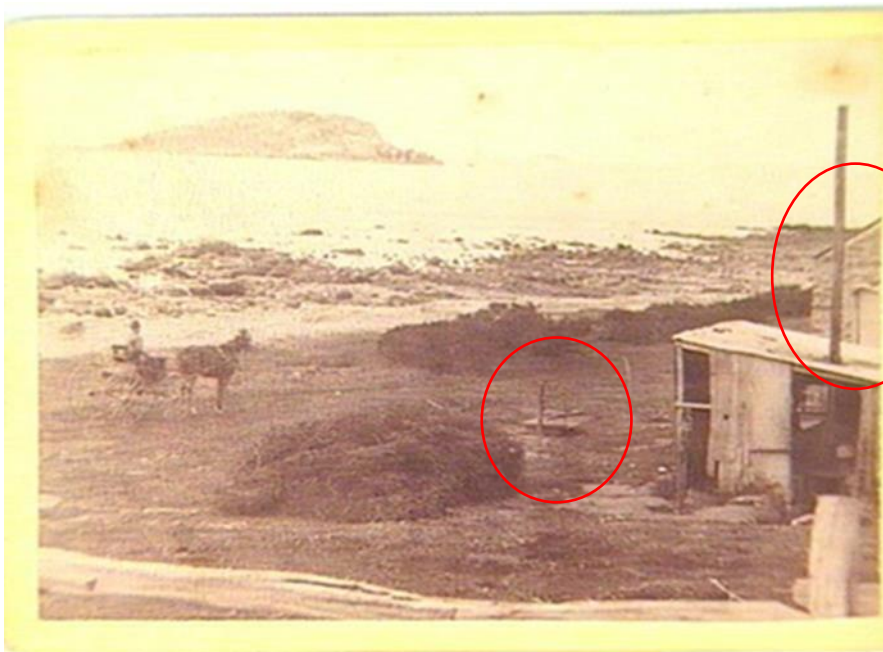Rosetta Head looking east showing a number of structures along the beach
Sketch by E.C Frome c.1841
Source Coroneos, Cosmos (1997), p44

Portion of 1869 chart indicating a single building on foreshore, probably the stone store house pictured below.

Source Adam Patterson

View east of shed and stone store taken from Jagger Street, the horse and cart are in the approximate location of Franklin Parade c.1890. The photo shows a pump which is possibly the location of a well. Very few other structures are apparent.

Source: Pat Uppill.
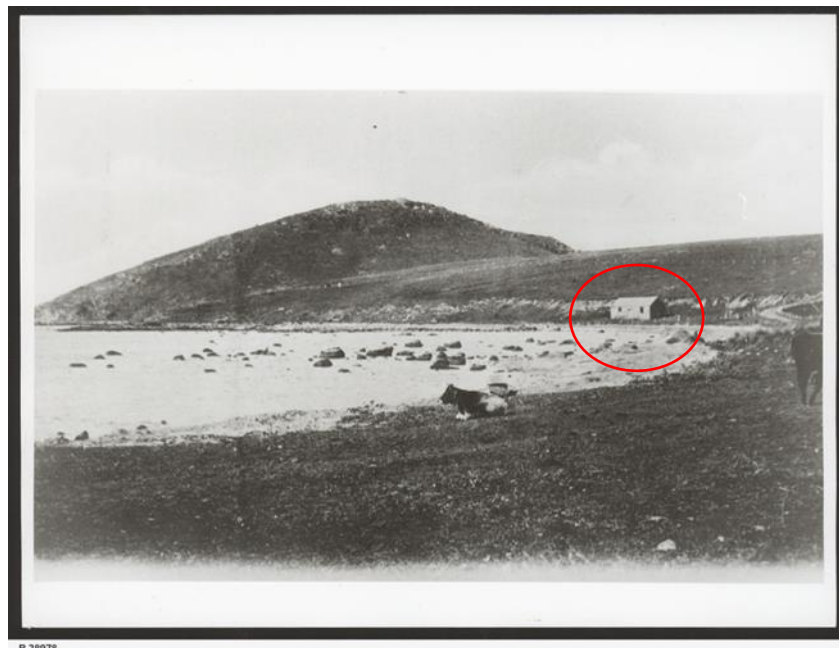
View looking south showing remaining stone building c.1900
Source: State Library of South Australia (B 28978)

Portion of 1914 plan of Victor Harbor with a single structure in the general area of the former stone building. All other structures have been removed.
Source: Patterson

As the images and maps above demonstrate, from 1837 the whaling village consisted of the Bluff, used as a lookout and signal station and at the base, the wharf and the jetty which were constructed in 1852; the domestic buildings located along the foreshore of the existing location of Franklin Parade and buildings associated with whaling works located directly along the shore.[58]

Settlement of Victor Harbor

Traditional owners

Aboriginal people are warned that this section may contain images of deceased persons or culturally sensitive material.

The land from Cape Jervis, Victor Harbor and all the way to Kingston is the traditional lands and home of the Ngarrindjeri people. There are around eighteen territorial clans or lakalinyeri that constitute the Ngarrindjeri 'confederacy' or 'nation'. The clan of Encounter Bay are named the Ramindjeri.

Although official European colonisation on the Ngarrindjeri lands did not begin until 1836, it is thought that the Aboriginal people were affected by contact with Europeans prior to this. This included Kangaroo Island sealers stealing Ngarrindjeri women as slaves, infection with contagious disease such as Smallpox - which killed many Aboriginal people, and experience of the effectiveness of fire arms.[59]

Ramindjeri responded in many different ways as colonisation of their area took place. Some avoided the Europeans and were resistant to changing their customs. Others observed the newcomers and actively accepted new ways of life. Some became employed to assist with farm work, while others worked at the whaling station, earning money, tobacco and rum.

In order to establish control over the Aboriginal people in 1838, the office of the *Protector of Aborigines [sic]* was established. This position was created as a result of a recommendation contained in the United Kingdom Report of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Aboriginal Tribes, (British settlements) (1837) of the House of Commons. The role of the *Protector of Aborigines [sic]* was to protect Aboriginal people from acts of cruelty, oppression and injustice.[60] Despite this, in a lot of cases the *Protector of Aborigines [sic]* were heavily involved in controlling and dictating the lives of First Nations peoples.

The Ramindjeri are reportedly the first South Australian Aboriginal people to work with Europeans. An 1839 newspaper report stated that:

> *We are informed that at the fishing station at Encounter Bay, a whaling boat is manned entirely with aborigines [sic], whose dexterity in using the oar is unsurpassed by any white person.*[61]

Similarly, an 1858 article reported that Aboriginal people were working at the whaling station at Encounter Bay, and that some boats were worked by Aboriginal crews.

> *The whaling season has again commenced, two boats partly manned by aborigines [sic], with T Clark and J. Jones for headsmen, being stationed at Encounter Bay.*[62]

Therefore, it is evident that some of the Ramindjeri people were employed in the processing of whale oil for around 20 years in exchange for meat, gin and tobacco. Some of the reports suggest they were treated as equals to their European colleagues.[63]

The Ramindjeri peoples' initial thoughts and feelings about the process of capturing whales must have been mixed, as whales were considered to be an extremely powerful Ngatji or totem. The Ngarrindjeri value the area where the Rosetta Head Whaling Station is situated as it is known as Kondilindjerung, the home of the whales, or Kondoli. The Bluff or Kongkengguwarr or Longkewar was also a highly valued whale site.[64] Prior to whaling taking place at Encounter Bay, the Aboriginal people performed a ceremony to call the Kondoli to the shore. They would celebrate when on occasion whales were beached on the shore as the beaching process was seen as the whales returning home. They would eat the meat, use the fat to bind pigment and for warmth and use the bones for shelter and utensils. Whale oil was also used as a base for native poisons used on 'neiljari' bones, and was mixed with red ochre as a body paint.[65] This practice continued with the whale carcasses discarded by the whaling station.

The Ramindjeri people's relationship, appreciation and knowledge of whales may have played a role in the working relation between the Aboriginal people and the whalers. Reports from the time suggest one Ngarrindjeri person, known as Charlie Warner, had a gift of being able to interpret the seasonal patterns and movements of the whales. Charlie was employed by the whalers as a watcher or lookout and was well known for his abilities reading the whale's behaviour and movements.[66]

Whale song is an example of Ramindjeri/Ngarrindjeri connection. The 'kondoli tugar', or whale song, belongs to the Ramindjeri and is sung in the Ramindjeri language.

> *Around the bay mother and son 'Galing 'nen 'jowar 'dur:'ein'gol hei! ei! 'galing 'nen 'jowar 'pulu'rein'go! 'galing 'nen 'jowar he! ei! ei!*[2]

The song tells a story of a female whale and its calf swimming in the shallow water near the beach at Encounter Bay. The young whale is nearly ashore. Some natives are anxious that it should strand so that they may collect the oil or 'kraipunuk'.

A 'kondoli' or totem man would sing the song, with the wish, or 'miwurun' that the whale and its young should go around the bay and escape, lest it be interfered with by 'evil-minded' people.[67]

One newspaper report during the 1850s, paints a picture of the status of the relations between the Ramindjeri people and Europeans during the gold rush when labour was scarce:

> *In consequence of the scarcity of European labor [sic], numbers have found employment with the farmers and stockowners. At the whaling station, Encounter Bay, a party of nine is employed in whaling, and has been very successful; Mr. Clark, the chief headsman, speaks very highly of their behaviour.*[68]

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[2] The miwurun is expressed in the vehement 'hei! ei! ei!' described as "setting your mind on wishing." The word 'dur:'ein'gol' is a combination of 'duri' (mother), and 'ol: I' (male child).

These relations could have potentially initiated a peaceful and functional relationship between both the Ramindjeri people and European colonists, while helping fill gaps in the whaling station work force.

While primary source material on whaling during this period is rare, the diary of the missionary Reverend Taplin provides valuable evidence. Taplin was a Congregationalist minister who was appointed by the *Aborigines [sic] Friends Association*, in 1859, as their first missionary teacher to work in the lower Murray districts. The site he chose for a settlement on the shores of Lake Alexandrina was a traditional camping ground called Raukkan (The Ancient Way), known to Europeans as Point McLeay.[69] Many of the Ngarrindjeri people went to Raukkan and Taplin had a good understanding of their culture, language and social structure. He wrote a number of books and kept the letter books of the *Protectors of Aborigines* [sic] and minutes of the Legislative Council Select Committee upon Aborigines [sic].[70]

In his diary in 1859, Taplin makes reference to the impressive fishing abilities of the Ramindjeri people and a letter dated 1860 mentions that there were about 22 Ramindjeri people employed at the whale Fishery at Encounter Bay.[71]

In 1860 Taplin told the Legislative Council Select Committee, that he had distributed rations to young Ngarrindjeri men who had returned to Raukkan from the Fishery without receiving payment. Lack of payment may reflect exploitation, however, in the case of whaling, it is possible that the men were unpaid because no whales were caught.

A year later Taplin recorded in his diary:

> *23 July 1861 - heard today that Tom the brother of Pongge and Nangowane has died at Encounter Bay. He was engaged in the whale fishery. Poor fellow, he was one of the first who attended my Sunday services and was always very diligent and attentive while he stopped here. I feel much affected at his death and many enquiries arise in my mind concerning him.[72]*

Despite it appearing that Ramindjeri worked alongside the whalers, relations were volatile with newspaper reports of murder trials, robberies and mistreatment.[73]

In 1839, a whaler named John Driscoll was murdered by a Ramindjeri man due to Driscoll's treatment of two Aboriginal women.[74] The Aboriginal man was incarcerated for three months on the barque *South Australian* anchored in Encounter Bay.[75] He was never tried and two years after his incarceration the *Southern Australian* newspaper reported that the Aboriginal man was brought to Adelaide and "*he was so carelessly watched or rather opportunities of escape were so directly afforded him, that he escaped his bonds*".[76]

In 1840 there were graphic reports of an Aboriginal man murdering both an Aboriginal woman and also a European sailor at Encounter Bay. The man was pursued by police however, he escaped into the bush and was not seen again.[77]

In 1841, a complaint was made by the Society for the *Protection of the Aborigines* [sic] about the execution of two Ramindjeri people, charged on murder. It was claimed that they did not receive a fair trial and that an investigation should be carried out to ensure better treatment of the Aboriginal people when accused of a crime.[78]

Newspaper reports of the unfair trial of Aboriginal people raised questions about the effectiveness and purpose of the *Protector of Aborigines [sic]* position and the justice the Colonial Court could provide the Aboriginal people.[79] This was largely due to the fact that testimony of Aboriginal people under colonial law could not be used as evidence, because, not believing in a Christian God, they couldn't swear a binding oath.

Despite evidence suggesting Aboriginal camps remained in the area up until the early twentieth century (see photo below), by the 1840s, the majority of the Ngarrindjeri people were forced to leave their traditional lands due to the spread of European settlement.[80] A population estimated to have been about 5,000-6,000 prior to colonisation had been reduced to around 1,000 in 1860. The death of the senior Ngarrindjeri elder Karloan Ponggi (Albert Karloan) on 3 February 1943 marked the end the Ngarrindjeri people being recognised as owners of the Fleurieu Peninsula.[81] More recently in 2002, custodianship of traditional Ngarrindjeri lands has been discussed through an agreement with the Ngarrindjeri Nation called the Kungun Ngarrindjeri Yunnan (KNY) Agreement.


Road approach to the wharf (c.1844)
The view shows a horseman accompanied by an Aboriginal man, on foot and carrying a spear, walking along a track through lush scrub. The harbour and bluff are prominent in the background.
Source State Library South Australia B15276/16

Natives of Encounter Bay making cord fishing nets in a hut formed by the ribs of a whale c.1846
Source State Library South Australia B 15276/56
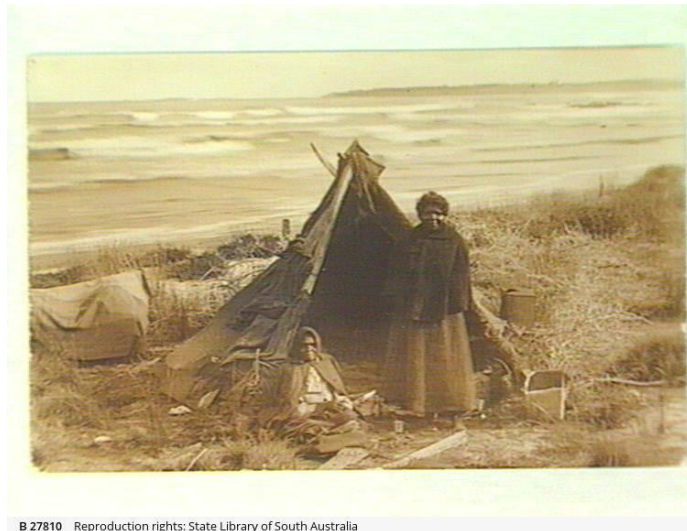
Jenny Holmes, (seated) is the last surviving Ngarrindjeri woman to live in Encounter Bay. C.1911
Source State Library South Australia B 27810

European settlement

The earliest European inhabitants of the Fleurieu Peninsula were connected to the whaling industry in Encounter Bay. However, once South Australia was formally settled in 1836, settlers soon recognised the agricultural potential of such a picturesque and fertile land region. Settlement was promoted by the South Australian Company, with their vision to make the most of South Australia's land and primary resources. Land surveys were quickly undertaken to open up farming land, and by 1838, areas around Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Rapid Bay, the Onkaparinga River and Victor Harbor had been surveyed.[82]

Early farming activities were impeded by limited access to labour for building and lack of government financial support to assist with the establishment of farms. In addition, early attempts to grow wheat in the newly-surveyed areas often failed because the first farmers struggled to adapt traditional European farming techniques to suit the South Australian climate. By 1839, farmers had made some headway dealing with the South Australian climate and began to experience some success with their crops. From this point forward, people flocked to the Fleurieu Peninsula to establish farms to feed the colony. The first farming settlement in Victor Harbor area was in Encounter Bay at a place called Yilki – the Aboriginal word for 'a place by the sea'. Yilki was located along the coast that stretches from the Rosetta Head Bluff and is now commonly known as Encounter Bay.[83]

Yilki was established by the Rev. Ridgway Newland, a Congregationalist minister who came to South Australia with a party of 200 people in 1839. The party, which included many members of his family and friends, came from Liverpool in the ship *Sir Charles Forbes*. Among the passengers were a blacksmith and wheelwright, a stone mason, ploughmen and farm labourers. Newland selected the members of his party with the view of establishing a fully functioning settlement. By 1849, the new settlers had established the Tabernacle church.
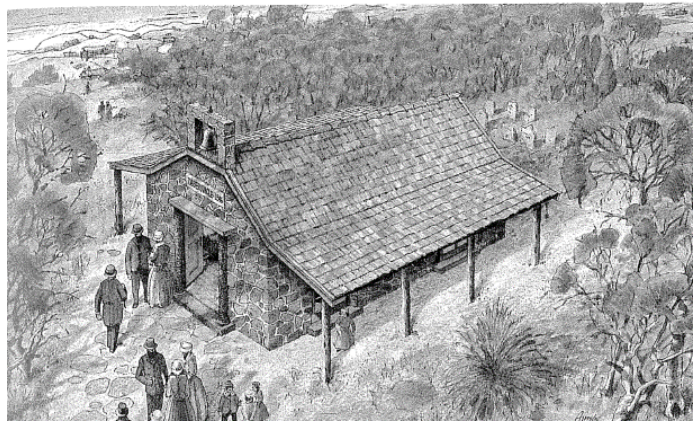
Sketch of The Tabernacle c.1849 now demolished. The church was replaced by the First Newland
Memorial Congregational Church in 1919.
Source Michael Page, (1987), p.39

The new colonists were well educated and motivated to create a new life. This contrasted starkly with the existing whalers who were known to be among the roughest settlers to the state. Despite this, the two groups formed a strong relationship, the Newland's party provided butter, eggs and services to the whalers and the whalers re-paid them with protection and information about other parts of the state.[84]

In addition to the whaling and farming operations, Encounter Bay was also a base for the local fishing industry. One of the early fishing families were the Rumbelows. The Rumbelows were based at Yilki and were responsible for building a number of houses and buildings linked to their fishing business.[85]

Together the whalers, fishermen and farmers gradually changed the landscape of Encounter Bay. Prior to European settlement, bushland and forests grew almost to the water's edge. The whalers used large amounts of timber to fuel the tryworks and build boats, and the farmers cleared the land to grow crops and graze animals for sale and personal use. Indeed, the first settlement of Rosetta Head changed the landscape forever.[86]

By the 1850s, Yilki had become a well-established settlement. The town included a pub - the Fountain Inn in 1847 (SHP 10357) which was a popular place for the whalers to spend their time off; a post office in 1855 (Local Heritage Place), a mill in 1850 (SHP 10352); a dairy, malting house, a school, customs house and a number of dwellings (now demolished)(see photos below).[87]

Fountain Inn c.1933. First built in 1847. (SHP 10357)
Source State Library South Australia B8729

Rumbelow fishing shack at Yilki c.1900
(now demolished)
Source Coroneos, Cosmos (1997), p17

Yilki Post Office c.1870. First built in 1855.
Source State Library South Australia B25703

The Rumbelow family residence in Franklin Parade, Yilki, c.1880. The original home on the right was a wooden structure referred to by the family as the 'Crystal Palace'; the stone house on the left is 'Yeltanna'.
Source State Library South Australia B-27477

After the Rosetta Head Whaling Station was shut down in the 1850s amid a background of controversy over the future use and development of Encounter Bay, the Government planned to upgrade port facilities in general and in 1854 notified its intention to construct a wharf at The Bluff in the *Gazette*. In addition, the District Council of Encounter Bay, formed in August 1853, was asked to provide a road approach to the wharf, which it completed in July 1854.

By the late 1800s, Encounter Bay was populated with a number of farming properties. In addition to the Rumbelow farm, a 1914 map of the area shows buildings owned by families named Shannon, Jefferis, Francis and Battye.

Extensive reconfiguration of the Encounter Bay foreshore was undertaken in the 1880s as part of further harbour development, which transformed Victor Harbor into a major seaside resort.[88] This included modification of the Police Point Whaling Station within the Victor Harbor Township, while the Rosetta Head station remained relatively undisturbed. Further expansions of the town were made with the arrival of passenger

railway services from Adelaide in 1884. Ten years later, the horse-drawn tram was introduced between Granite Island and the mainland.[89]

In 1917, the Victor Harbor Foreshore Act was passed to enable the Victor Harbor Council to improve the town for tourism. The Act gave the government control of the land along the coast at Victor Harbor, between the high water mark and the road. Camping was subsequently prevented along this stretch of land and it was left largely untouched, with the Victor Harbor Soldiers' Memorial Gardens (SHP 12746) being a notable exception.[90]

In 1927, the bluff area was declared a Recreation and Pleasure Reserve, thus preventing further development on the bluff site.[91] As outlined above, a small number of the original Yilki buildings remained. However, the area on which the whaling station village was located, at the time owned by Hope Jager, has undergone gradual but substantial change and development.

Recent development

In 1955 during a visit to Victor Harbor, Rex and Dorothy Tilbrook, motor bike manufacturers from Adelaide, bought four acres of land at Rosetta Head from Hope Jager. Shortly after his purchase, Tilbrook heard of the death of Alice Rumbelow, who lived in Rumbelow cottage (also known as 'Crystal Palace'), one of the original Yilki dwellings (see images above). After purchasing the cottage, over the next three years, Tilbrook dismantled Crystal Palace and re-built it on his land.[92] The building was opened in 1962 as a whaling and pioneers museum.[93] Tilbrook's passion and affinity with the whaling history of the site motivated him to create an entire complex dedicated to the site's whaling history. Known as the Whaler's Haven Complex, it included the colonial museum and a new restaurant known as the Whaler's Inn.[94]

Rosetta Head Whaler's Haven Complex c.1977
Source State Library South Australia B 64310/88

During this time, Tilbrook's knowledge of the site and its whaling past was a great source of information. He provided information to the National Trust in relation to the whaling history at Encounter Bay, and in 1962 helped salvage the anchor of the *Solway* that had been wrecked at the Bluff in 1837.[95]

In 1981 and based on Tilbrook's recollections, John Dallwitz of the South Australian Heritage Unit recorded the whaler's village in a sketch that identified the location of most of the structures. See below.

Map of Rosetta Head based on Tilbrook's knowledge of the site. The well is circled in red.

The location of the well recently unearthed during excavations to the foreshore car parking is in the same location as indicated on the Tilbrook/Dallwitz map, suggesting that the accuracy of the location of the other whaling structures is high.

Not long after the establishment of the Whaler's Haven Complex, Rosetta Head became a source of dispute among the State Government, the local council and the residents. The Government planned to extend the Bluff Recreation Reserve to include Rosetta Head, and Tilbrook was issued with an Acquisition Order. Tilbrook took out a Writ of Memorandum against the government to prevent the compulsory acquisition in addition to a claim for damages for $1m. The claim and Memorandum was won, and Tilbrook remained in possession of the Whaler's Haven Complex until 1986.[96]

It was around this time that Rosetta Head's significance as a shore-based whaling station was recognised. In 1983, 'The Bluff (Rosetta Head) Historic Site, including the Jetty & Whaling Station Site' (including the area designated as a Recreation and Pleasure Reserve in 1927), was confirmed on the South Australian Heritage Register. While the listing does cover some parts of the whaling station, including the site of the tryworks used by *South Australian* (when it was a whale-processing platform in 1837); an underground stone water tank; hut site of Alexander Ewin who was the last headsman, and the 'calcining' pits indicated in the Tilbrook sketch, it did not include the area along Franklin Parade which was the site of the blacksmith, the stone store, the well and the whaler's huts.

In 1986 the Whaler's Haven Complex was purchased by Thompson and Associates, and in 1988 the site was subdivided to make four smaller titles. At this time, approval was given for the original Whaler's Inn to be demolished and construction of a new two-storey restaurant and conference complex.[97] The 1988 development included the addition of villas for accommodation on the newly subdivided land to the south and west of the Whaler's Inn.[98]

In 1998, a further expansion was proposed to the accommodation units, however, it was rejected as the proposal utilised the governmental road reserve, which connects the Bluff Reserve with the foreshore in this area.[99] In 1994, the Whale Visitor's Centre was established in the 1864 goods railway shed at Victor Harbor situated on the low-lying foreshore about 5kms to the north of Rosetta Head.[100] This development took the whale museum away from the Franklin Parade and resulted in the demolition of the 'Crystal Palace'.

In 2006, the site was purchased for $11 Million by Jagger Developments, who proposed a $30 Million development including beachside apartments and associated facilities, however, it never came to fruition. In 2009, the site sold to a consortium of Adelaide investors, including the previous owner Roger Thompson, for $5 million. A portion of the land was proposed to be developed as beachside apartments; however Thompson's $2 million stake in the property effectively

prevented any further increases or extensions to the facilities.[101] Jagger Developments went into administration just over a year later and considered suing Thompson over his caveat associated with the establishment. This caveat was eventually removed and The Bluff Resort Apartments were constructed to the west of the restaurant site in 2015, incorporating 42 apartments within the setting of the already established restaurant.[102]

In 2015, the land located to the south of the Whaler's Inn was subdivided to make six titles. Construction of houses on these blocks is in various stages of completion.[103]

Discovery of the well

As the above history demonstrates, Rosetta Head has undergone an ongoing process of change. This has included the levelling and infilling of the carpark fronting the Whaler's Inn, replacement of the first Whaler's Inn, subdivision of the land and construction of domestic residences, and the demolition of all the historic structures, including the previously relocated Crystal Palace.

In 2017, the Victor Harbor Council proposed a further re-design of the carpark area fronting the Whaler's Inn. Due to the perceived archaeological potential of the site, Heritage South Australia requested archaeological monitoring of the works. Therefore, the Victor Harbor Council commissioned Austral Archaeology to undertake an archaeological monitoring brief during construction of the carpark extension. The Victor Harbor Council also commissioned the Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority to supply a representative to monitor the works.

On Thursday 16 March 2017, a large stone was uncovered along with a small area of poor quality reinforced concrete slab that was cracked and broken. These items covered a circular brick well measuring approximately 800mm in diameter and constructed of stretcher bond dry laid bricks. The Council workers immediately stopped work and archaeologist Justin McCarthy conducted extensive archaeological investigations at the area.[104]

It was found that the bricks appeared to be handmade, however, detailed inspection was not possible due to site constraints. The well was filled with rubbish, rubble and soil to within a metre of the surface. The contents of the well were removed and analysed. The material removed from the well included a lot of soil and/or decomposed organic material; broken fence posts and tangled fencing wire; and a number of smaller artefacts including bottles, ceramics, metal objects such as parts of a gas lamp and a bedstead, some rubber strips or seals and bricks. The artefacts ranged in date from the 1870s to the 1950s. The finding from the well excavation suggest it was used as a rubbish dump from the time whaling stopped until the well was covered during development of the site in the 1950s.[105]

Four trenches were dug in the area around the well in order to observe the various layers and to expose the archaeological remains underneath. The surface layers comprised recent building material such as loose blue metal gravel with patches of

grass. Below this was a clay deposit and an area of black charcoal staining and a single artefact, an iron bolt. It was thought that this may be remnants from a blacksmith's building located on the site behind the well. The eastern side of the trench exposed the edge of a crushed limestone deposit that extended beyond the trench towards the east. A number of bottle remains were discovered with production dates ranging from 1880 until 1955. No archaeological survey has been undertaken on the bank above the carpark area.

The discovery of the well, black charcoal staining and an iron bolt dispels the notion that development activities at Rosetta Head has eradicated all evidence of the whaling station and its activities.

The Historical Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring Report was prepared in April 2019 as a result of the archaeological survey by Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd. The report identifies three stages of development at the site. These include the whaling era 1830s to 1860s, the farming era 1920s to late 1930s, and then the Tillbrook era at which time demolition of the buildings on the site except for a small pump house took place. The report stated that:

> It is considered that other remains of the 1830s whaling station are likely to exist along Franklin Parade as documented by Dallwitz in 1981. [106]

Further to the suggestion that remains may exist along Franklin Parade, on 15 May 2019, SA Power Network were digging holes for power cables and uncovered bones *'a few hundred metres from the Encounter Bay boat ramp'*.[107] The bones were confirmed to be Aboriginal and were around 200 years old.

Once the Archaeological survey was complete, the carpark re-development was re-commenced. This included landscaping around the well and interpretative signage.

Site of well discovered in front of Whaler's Inn March 2017
Source DEW

Discovery of the *South Australian* shipwreck site

The Solway shipwreck site was discovered by divers in the 1960s, prior to the introduction of any protective historic shipwreck legislation. Its location roughly

midway between Black Reef and the Bluff Boat Ramp, in relatively clear open water, meant that it was relatively accessible to early recreational divers.

In contrast, the site of the South Australian was not discovered for over 180 years after it was wrecked. Although the general location was known, because the wreck-site was in a location that was hazardous for boating (in shallow waters close to the edge of the inshore reef (Yilki Platform), it was not officially discovered until March 2018. . In addition, the majority of the hull disintegrated in the 180 years since it wrecked, leaving only the lower hull which covered with marine sediment hiding it from discovery.

The shipwreck site was discovered during an archaeological survey undertaken by a collaboration of maritime institutions who were specifically looking for the site. Since then, several field inspections of the site have revealed the extent of the remains, which comprises a largely intact section of the lower hull on the port side, with a range of in situ artefacts that have the potential to inform how the crew of an early whaling vessel lived and worked the vessel.

A conservation management plan has been prepared for the site to inform future management and archaeological research, and includes a significance assessment showing the site is of State, national and international significance. It is one of only three archaeological sites of former packet ships, whose location is known, anywhere in the world.

The site is registered as an historic shipwreck under the *Historic Shipwrecks Act 1981*, and in July 2018 a protected zone of 30 metre-radius was declared over the site. Entry into the protected zone is illegal without a permit, and no underwater activity such as diving is permitted.

Maritime archaeologists surveying the remains of *South Australian*, July 2019
Source DEW

Location of extant and demolished structures

Based on the evidence of the historic sketches, maps and plans, the buildings that were located at both the foreshore and on a small rise to the west, include: two timber huts, boat shed, workshops, the former industrial facilities such as the tryworks and flensing floor which were located to the south of the current study area, and a store-house. A further row of buildings associated with the whaling station operation were built on the shore, which now forms the western extent of Franklin Parade. There was a stone store, well and a blacksmith's shop located in what is now the Whaler's Inn carpark.

In his 2015 Rosetta Head whaling station assessment, Adam Patterson overlaid historic maps and drawings onto a current aerial photo to locate the possible positions of the whaling station buildings.

Cadastral map with 1856, 1869 and 1914 building
locations overlayed.
Source DEW

Portion of 2005 aerial photograph with 1856, 1869
and 1914 building locations overlayed
Source DEW

In addition to the whaling station structures, the following map shows the location of the existing Bluff (Rosetta Head) Historic Site, including the Jetty & Whaling Station Site (SHP 10353), the discovered well, and the location of the Aboriginal bone discovery.

	Approximate location of whaling station structures
	Location of discovered well
	Location of discovered bones 2017
	Outline of 2017 archaeological site.

Chronology

Year	Event
1802	8 April – Captain Matthew Flinders met French explorer Captain Nicholas Baudin at 'Encounter Bay'.
c1830s	Unofficial whaling activities take place at Encounter Bay.
1835	The South Australian Company was formed by Scottish financier George Fife Angas in order to sell land in South Australia for colonisation.
1836	Colony of South Australia was officially settled and proclaimed.
late 1836	Colonial Manager, Samuel Stephens, chooses Rosetta Head as its first official site for a whaler's station.
Sept 1836	The Company acquired *HMS Swallow*, re-rigg the vessel as a barque and rename it *South Australian*.

1837	**February – Construction commences on Rosetta Head Fishery.**
1837	March – Blenkinsopp arrives from Sydney – his joint venture proposal is refused by Stephens.
1837	April – Blenkinsopp establishes Police Point fishery.
1837	May – *South Australian* converted for use as whale processing platform ('cutting in' vessel).
1837	December – Blenkinsopp drowns, and *Solway* and *South Australian* are wrecked.
1838	Areas around Adelaide, Kangaroo Island, Rapid Bay, the Onkaparinga River and Victor Harbor surveyed.
1838	Hack brothers buy Blenkinsopp's fishery.
1838	**The office of the Protector of Aborigines (sic) was established.**
1839	**Ridgway Newland a Congregationalists minister and party of 200 arrive in South Australia.**
1839	**Newspaper report suggested one boat had at least six Ngarrindjeri Whaler's**
1839	Both stations combine.
1840	Granite Island abandoned as an independent fishery.
1841	South Australian Company abandons Black Whale fishing – Hart buys Encounter Bay stations.
1841	Stephen Hack sold his share and John Hack continued the Rosetta Head Fishery.
1842	Hagen and Hart buy out Hack holdings.
1843	Encounter Bay New Fishery established.
1846	Hagen and Hart dissolve partnership and join Wilde and Howard.
1847	Johnson joins the 1846 partnership.
1847	Fountain Inn built at Yilki.
1848	Hagen, Barrett, Baker and Hart own fishery.
1849	The Tabernacle is the first church built at Yilki.
1850	Mill built at Yilki.
1850	Bennett, Boord Johnson and Clarke own fishery.
1851	**Bennett, Boord and Johnson own fishery. Last year of continuous whaling at Rosetta Head.**
1853-54	Fox and Johnson own Fishery.
1853	District Council of Encounter Bay formed.
1854	Road approach to the wharf completed.

1855	Post Office built at Yilki.
1858	**Newspaper article reported that Aboriginal crews were working at the whaling station at Encounter Bay, and that some boats were worked by Aboriginal crews.**
1860	**Aboriginal population dropped from 5,000-6,000 (pre-settlement) to 1,000.**
1871-1872	Ranford unsuccessfully attempts to re-establish fishery – whaling ceases after 1872.
1880s	Victor Harbor transformed into a major seaside resort.
1885	Passenger railway services from Adelaide open in Victor Harbor.
1895	Horse-drawn tram was introduced between Granite Island and the mainland.
1917	Victor Harbor Foreshore Act was passed giving control of beach to the government.
1927	The bluff area was declared a Recreation and Pleasure Reserve.
1956	Rex Tilbrook bought four acres of land at Rosetta Head.
1962	Discovery of the barque *Solway*, which was wrecked at the Bluff in 1837, and recovery of its anchor (now on display outside the Whale Discovery Centre).
1980	A nomination for heritage listing for Rosetta Head was received by the South Australian Heritage Unit.
1981	John Dallwitz of the Heritage Unit recorded Tilbrook's recollection of the whaler's village.
1983	Kitchen fire at the Whaler's Inn forces its closure.
1983	**Rosetta Head (SHP 10353) was provisionally entered in the then Register of State Heritage Items (now known as the South Australian Heritage Register).**
1988	Construction of Villas behind the Whaler's Inn.
1994	Whale Visitor's Centre was established in the old railway goods shed at Victor Harbor.
1995	As a result of the discovery of some European artefacts in the gully at the base of the hill above the whaler's village site, an archaeological assessment was carried out at Rosetta Head by Simon Coote and Cosmos Coroneos.
1997	A Heritage Survey was undertaken that included the Victor Harbor area. The report found that the bluff area should remain on the State Heritage Register.
2006	Whaler's Inn site was purchased for $11 Million by Jagger Developments.
2009	Whaler's Inn site sold to a consortium of Adelaide investors, including the previous owner Roger Thompson, for $5 million.

2009	A mapping correction project was undertaken at the Bluff area and identified that there was some confusion around what was heritage listed and that further work needed to be done to clarify what should be listed.
2015	The Bluff Resort Apartments at the Whaler's Inn were constructed.
2015	As a result of the mapping correction project, an external consultant (archaeologist Adam Paterson) was engaged to undertake a heritage assessment of the whaling station site.
2017	Victor Harbor Council commissioned Austral Archaeology to undertake archaeological monitoring of the Franklin Parade site while carpark improvements took place.
2017	**16 March, Brick-lined well discovered in front of Whaler's Inn site.**
2017	*South Australian* shipwreck discovered.
2017	A number of bottle remains were discovered with production dates ranging from 1880 until 1955.
2019	Austral Archaeology Pty Ltd released a Historical Archaeological Excavation and Monitoring Report.
2019	**SA Power uncovered Aboriginal bones on the corner of Franklin Parade and Solway Court, Rosetta Head.**

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SITE RECORD

NAME:	Rosetta Head Whaling Station Site	**PLACE NO.:**	26454

DESCRIPTION OF PLACE: Red brick-lined well structure and site of whaling operations adjacent Franklin Parade

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c.1837

REGISTER STATUS: Assessment undertaken as part of Register Correction project and enhanced by discovery of well during archaeological excavations.

CURRENT USE: Carpark and interpretative site for whaling history

PREVIOUS USE(S): Whaling Station processing works

1837-1851

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Victor Harbor Council

LOCATION:

Street Name:	Franklin Parade
Town/Suburb:	Encounter Bay
Post Code:	5211

LAND DESCRIPTION: **Title Reference:** No title number for this council-owned land.

| **NAME:** | Rosetta Head Whaling Station Site | **PLACE NO.:** | 26454 |

Well site during its discovery and archaeological survey.
Note well location directly in front of the Whaler's Inn Restaurant
17 March 2017 Source DEW

Franklin Parade prior to completion of the carpark
Note location of the fenced well area towards the end of the carparking area.
17 March 2017 Source DEW

NAME:	Rosetta Head Whaling Station Site	**PLACE NO.:**	26454

Close-up of the well shortly after its discovery
17 March 2017 Source DEW

Close-up of brick lining of the well
17 March 2017 Source DEW

| NAME: | Rosetta Head Whaling Station Site | PLACE NO.: | 26454 |

Close-up of the metal bolt discovered during the archaeological survey
17 March 2017 Source DEW

Trenches used for archaeological survey
17 March 2017 Source DEW

| **NAME:** | Rosetta Head Whaling Station Site | **PLACE NO.:** | 26454 |

Well and carpark area after well covered over by modern surrounds
17 September 2019 Source DEW

Inside the well
17 September 2019 Source DEW

SITE PLAN

NAME:	Rosetta Head Whaling Station Site	**PLACE NO.:**	26454

N ↑

LEGEND

▭ Boundary of proposed State Heritage Place (extent of Listing extends along the coast from Solway Crescent and the boundary of The Bluff (Rosetta Head) Historic Site, including the Jetty & Whaling Station Site). The boundary covers part of the whaling station site and aims to encompass the well area and site of the archaeological discovery and estimated location of the whaling station buildings. This land lies within an existing road reserve and is owned by the Victor Harbor Council.

▭ Existing State Heritage Place boundary

▭ Land title curtilages

● Outline of location of the well

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