
Funded under the National Estate Financial Assistance Programme 1982/83 and 1983/84.
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE MURRAY RIVER

(REGION 5 - SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

PART TWO

1. D.C. BARMERA

ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEETS


Funded under the National Estate Financial Assistance Programme.
**HERITAGE SURVEY**

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

**ITEM NAME:** Graveyard

**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

This small graveyard is located on the cliff top near the Overland Corner Hotel. It is associated with the early European settlement of the area, and indeed contains the remains of Walter Brand, the younger son of William Brand, the first licensee of the Overland Corner Hotel, and a well-known early identity of the area. Three headstones mark the graveyard.

**LOCATION**

- **Town:** Overland Corner
- **Postcode:** 75
- **Section:** Parooela
- **Hundred:** Parooela
- **County:** L.G.A.
- **L.G.A.:** Barmera
- **S.H.P. Region:** 5
- **A.M.G. Ref.:** 6929-I
- **Postal Code:** 5443890 622060

**SUBJECT**

2.1

**PERIOD**

- **State Study Area:** 1853-1980

**REFERENCES**

- **Verbal:** Georgs Woolmer, 1983
- **Archival photographs**

**PHOTOGRAPH**

- **Film No.:** 808
- **Negative No.:** 9
- **Direction of view:** to E

**TYPE OF ITEM**

- **LAND**
  - Natural feature
  - Historical site
  - Historical Gdn.
- **BUILDING**
- **STRUCTURE**
- **PHYSICAL CONDITION**

**STATUS**

- Reg. of State Her. Items
- Reg. Interim L.
- Nominated
- National Estate
- Reg. Proposed L.
- National Trust
- CL
- RL
- File
- Other

**RECOMMENDATION**

- (A) State
- (B) Local

**PREPARED BY**

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

**Date:** 1983
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Overland Corner Hotel is the oldest and most original of the several inns which were built along the early overland route between Adelaide and Sydney. It was built by John Chambers in 1859 and first licensed by William Brand. The licence changed hands several times until 1897, when it lapsed though it continued to act as a comfort stop for travellers until the highway between Morgan and Barmera was re-aligned and sealed in the mid-nineteen sixties.

William Napper was the licensee for a time after 1876. The former hotel passed to the National Trust of South Australia in December 1965. The Hotel is of additional interest because of its construction from the local limestone. The south and east wings were the first parts of the hotel to be built. One of the Brand children - Walter - is buried in the small graveyard which is near the hotel.

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**REFERENCES**

National Trust of S.A., 105
Woolner, The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District, pp 11-13
Cooper (ed) A History of the Overland Corner Hotel

Verbal George Woolner, 1983
Archival photographs
### HERITAGE SURVEY

#### ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

**ITEM NAME:** Lock 3

**Former or other**

**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

Work on the construction of the lock commenced in 1921 and was completed in 1925. It is one of several locks which were built on the Murray during the interwar period to help control the River and is historically significant because of this. This grand scheme for the Murray was agreed upon in 1915 with the formation of the River Murray Commission - the last of the works was the completion of the Barrages at the Murray Mouth in 1940. The construction of Lock 3, was one of several major works which were undertaken during this period to augment and to control the water resources of the State. Granite for the concrete aggregate was obtained from the quarry at Mannum.

### REFERENCES

- Woolmer, *The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District*, p. 50

### PHOTOGRAPH

- **Film No.** 808
- **Negative No.** 7
- **Direction of view** to S

### LOCATION

- **Address** nr Overland Corner
- **Town**
- **Postcode**
- **Section** 2
- **Hundred** Parcoola
- **County**
- **L.G.A.** Barcoola
- **S.H.P. Region** 5
- **A.M.G. Ref.** 6929-1
- **54 44070 621660**

### PERIOD

**State**

- **Study Area** 1906-1940

### TYPE OF ITEM

- **LAND** Natural feature
- **Historical site**
- **Historical Gdn.**

### BUILDING

- **STRUCTURE**

### PHYSICAL CONDITION

- **STATUS**
  - Reg. of State Her. Items
  - Reg. Interim
  - Nominated
  - National Estate
  - Reg. Proposed L
  - National Trust
  - CL
  - RL
  - File
  - Other

### RECOMMENDATION

- (A) State [x] (B) Local

### PREPARED BY

**HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS**

**Date:** 1983
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

This track was blazed by Harry Brand in 1879, to upgrade the overland communications between South Australia and New South Wales via Morgan and Wentworth. It was built at a time before there was significant European settlement along the Upper Murray. Though built to supersede the lengthy track which was close to the river, it remained a long stage between Overland Corner and Rail Rail, and there are many stories of distress and death suffered by travellers along this road. The track is significant because of its association with Brand, who was an important identity in the region, and for several years the licensee of the Overland Corner Hotel, which marked one end. It is particularly significant, however, as a well preserved largely original example of an early important overland route between Adelaide and Sydney. It became obsolete with the closer settlement near the river immediately to the south.

**REFERENCES**

The Murray Pioneer 8/8/1974  
National Trust 1906  
Woolmer, The Stony Pinch Track or Old Coach Road.

**Verbal** George Woolmer, 1983  
**Archival photographs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PHOTOGRAPH</th>
<th>Film No.</th>
<th>Negative No.</th>
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<td>765</td>
<td>4</td>
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**STATUS**

Reg. of State Her. Item:  
Reg. Interim  
Nominated  
National Estate:  
Reg. Proposed  
National Trust:  
CL  
RL  
File  
Other

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State  
(B) Local

**PREPARED BY**

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This site represents all that remains of the original Cobdogla homestead which was built during the early 1850s. Cobdogla station was taken up by John Chambers, one of South Australia’s foremost pastoralists, in 1846. By 1867 the station extended over 247 square miles. The station specialised in breeding horses and several of those which accompanied J. McDouall Stuart on his explorations into the interior were obtained from this station. The station remained under the control of the Chambers family for several generations. The nearby town takes its name from this station.

The ruin is also significant as the homestead was used by the Irrigation Department as its temporary headquarters when establishing the Cobdogla Irrigation Area.

REFERENCES


Verbal  Ian Pascoe, E&WS Berri, 1984

Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH  Film No.  807  Negative No.  15
Direction of view  to W
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

This pump is of international significance. It is one of only twelve pumps built to the design of H.A. Humphrey and which is significant because of the use of a column of water to fulfill the role of a piston in a normal pump. Only five of these pumps are known to survive, this is the only one in Australia. It was built by William Beardmore & Co. of England. This pump was installed in 1925, by the State's Irrigation Department, and was ready for irrigation purposes in 1927. The pump is also of immense State significance, because of its association with the settlement of the Murray during the inter-war period, and the extensive irrigation works which made this settlement possible. The pump continued in operation until it was superseded by an electric pump in 1965.

**REFERENCES**

National Trust, 1373
McLachlan "The Humphrey Pump" in Engineers Australia Transactions of the Institution Vol. XII
Woolmer, The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District, pp 57-58
Institution of Engineers Australia, S66

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 807 Negative No. 13
Direction of view to W

**STATUS**

Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. Interim
Nominated
National Estate
Reg. Proposed
National Trust
CL
RL
File
Other

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State (B) Local

**PREPARED BY**

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

This item is historically significant because of its association with the early irrigation of the area, and the foundation of the town of Cobdogla. It was built in 1922 when the system was built for the town. The tower was withdrawn from service in 1975, but remains structurally sound. It is one of few early water towers which remain in the Riverland and is of particular significance because of the rare open construction of its base. The capacity of the tower was 25,000 gallons—half that of the tower at Berri.

**REFERENCES**

Verbal
Mervyn Dunk, David Mack, 1983

Archival photographs

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 807 Negative No. 14

Direction of view to SE

**STATUS**

Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. Interim. Nominated
National Estate Reg. Proposed
National Trust

CL RL File Other

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State (B) Local

**PREPARED BY**

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The remains of this open earth channel is significant because of its association with some of the earliest of the irrigation works on this region of the Murray. It was dug by means of horse drawn scoops in about 1917. Its significance is enhanced because it is a rare example of one of the earliest of the irrigation channels.

In addition to its high technological significance the willow-lined channel is an attractive landscape feature.

**REFERENCES**

Woolmer, The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District, pp 24-25

Verbal George Woolmar, 1983

Archival photographs

**PHOTOGRAF**

Film No. 808 Negative No. 3

Direction of view to N

**PROJECT**

HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5

Item Ref. No. 19

Office Use

ITEM No.

DOCKET No.

LOCATION

Address

Town Cobdogla

Postcode

Section

Hundred Out of Hundreds

County

L.G.A. Barmera

S.H.P. Region 5

A.M.G. Ref. 6929-I

54 44540 621140

SUBJECT

4.9

PERIOD

State

Study Area

1906-1940

TYPE OF ITEM

LAND Natural feature

Historical site

Historical Gd.

BUILDING

STRUCTURE

PHYSICAL CONDITION

**STATUTE**

Reg. of State Her. Items

Reg. Interim L

Proposed L

National Estate

Reg. National Trust

CL RL File

Other

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State (B) Local

PREPARED BY

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This item highlights the essential feature of European settlement of the upper Murray region - its dependence upon irrigation. This pumping station was the raison d'être for the township which grew nearby. It was part of the endeavour of the government to settle ex-soldiers on agricultural land, in the period after the first world war. The first pump was a small steam plant, which commenced operations in 1920. It was superseded by a larger unit in 1924, when the main steam plant began operating. Capacity was increased from time to time and in 1927 this plant was used to supply water to Barmera. The station was converted to electrically driven pumps in 1952. Of particular interest is the square brick chimney and the superseded steam equipment remaining at the site.

REFERENCES

Institution of Engineers, S595
Woolner, The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District, pp 31-32

Verbal
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 806 Negative No. 15
Direction of view to W

STATUS
Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. Interim L
Nominated
National Estate
Reg. Proposed L
National Trust
CL RL File
Other
Inst. of Engineers

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State (B) Local

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
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HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The land on which the inn was built was alienated in December 1862 and transferred to William Napper, a licensed victualler, in February 1863. It was presumably built soon thereafter. The hotel was built of local limestone, but has long since fallen into disrepair, and is now but a ruin. However, it remains of considerable historical significance because of its association with the early European settlement of the area. Napper first came to the area as a timber-cutter in 1855. He is buried, with his wife, in a paddock near the remains of the inn. The ruins were dedicated as a historic site in December 1963 - the centenary year of the inn.

REFERENCES

National Trust 1602
Woolmer, The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District, p. 10

Verbal George Woolmer, 1983
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 808 Negative No. 4
Direction of view to S

STATUS

Reg. of State Her. Items Reg. X Interim L
Nominated
National Estate Reg. X Proposed L
National Trust CL X RL File
Other

RECOMMENDATION

(A) State X (B) Local
PREPARED X
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This row of date palms is of considerable significance, and is similar to those planted at Berri and Renmark. Those which were originally planted at Berri were the idea of the Chaffey Brothers, in an attempt to improve the amenity of the area - those at Barmera were planted as a result of government initiative. They are particularly interesting because they were brought from a now deserted pastoral station - Lake Harry Station - situated 32 kilometres north-east of Maree. This station had, for a time, been used as a government experimental date plantation, and camel breeding station. This row of palms is a rare illustration of this earlier government initiative.

The open concrete irrigation channel is a good example of the types of channels which were once common throughout the region, but which are currently being replaced by underground pipes.

This channel and palms are situated beside the main highway at the entrance to Barmera and have significant character and landmark value.

REFERENCES

Litchfield, Marree .... , p. 95

Verbal George Woolmer, 1983
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH
Film No. 807 Negative No. 6
Direction of view to W

STATUS
Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. Interim
Nominated
National Estate
Reg. Proposed
National Trust
CL RL File Other

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State (B) Local

PREPARED BY:
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
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| Film No.  | 807 |
| Negative No.| 7   |
| Direction of view | to E |

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| Film No.  |     |
| Negative No.|     |
| Direction of view |     |

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| Film No.  |     |
| Negative No.|     |
| Direction of view |     |
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This hall was built soon after June 1942 when prisoners of war occupied the main camp at Loveday. It was built as a recreation hall for the inmates of the camp. It is of particular significance because of its identification with the Loveday Internment Group Camp which was the major camp in South Australia. This is the most integral of the remains of this camp. It has been preserved intact, because it was taken over by settlers of the area for use as a community hall.

The galvanised iron structure is in largely original condition and is of very high historical significance.

The hall also acted as the General Headquarters. Adjoining the hall was No. 10 compound, which housed a mixed group of British Government internees, Germans and Italians, including Italian workers from Scottish dockyards. Many of these internees were described as a "rough lot", and there were one or two murders and some attempted escapes.

REFERENCES

Woolmer, The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District, pp 69-71

Verbal Daniel Manning, 1984
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRA PH: Film No. 806 Negative No. 8
Direction of view to NW

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 27

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

LOCATION
Address Thiele Rd.
Town Loveday
Postcode
Section
Hundred Loveday
County
L.G.A. Barmera
S.H.P. Region 5
A.M.G. Ref. 6929-II
54 44970 620570

SUBJECT
3.4

PERIOD
State
Study Area
1941-present

TYPE OF ITEM
LAND Natural feature
Historical site
Historical Gdn.
BUILDING STRUCTURE
PHYSICAL CONDITION

STATUS
Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. Interim L.
Nominated L
National Estate
Reg. Proposed L
National Trust
CL RL File Other

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State (B) Local

PREPARED BY HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This site includes the most extensive collection of ruins of the large Loveday Internment Group Camp. This was a large camp which was divided into four compounds each of which was designed to hold 1,000 prisoners. The first prisoners took up residence here in June 1942. By May 1943 there were 5,382 prisoners at the camp being supervised by 1,174 army personnel. The site is now derelict, with only the concrete foundations of many of the huts remaining. It is particularly significant because it is that of the major War Internnee's Camp in South Australia, and is thus a rare memorial of the Second World War. The several buildings associated with the camp were auctioned soon after the war and many were spread throughout the district. Some materials were purchased for use at the Gerard Mission. Though the site is now derelict, it is of considerable archaeological interest.

This site included Compound 9, which housed internees who were Italians from the Middle East, who included an Italian Prince and his retinue. They were British Government internees.

REFERENCES

Woolmer, The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District, pp 69-71
Lamshed, The River's Bounty: A History of Barmera and its People
United Aborigines' Mission, God Cares for the Aborigines, pp 5-6

Verbal Daniel Manning, former Aust. Army Sapper (at Archival photographs Loveday, 1942-1944)

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 806 Negative No. 2
Direction of view to SE

STATUS

Reg. of State Her. Items Reg. Interim L
Nominated
National Estate Reg. Proposed L
National Trust CL RL File
Other

RECOMMENDATION

(A) State (B) Local

PREPARED BY

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983
PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 28(a)
L.G.A. Barmera

Film No. 806
Negative No. 1
Direction of view to SE

Film No. 806
Negative No. 3
Direction of view to S

Film No. 806
Negative No. 4
Direction of view to W
SURVEY REGION

Item Ref. No.  28(b)

L.G.A.  Barmera

Film No.  806
Negative No.  5
Direction of view  to W

Film No.  806
Negative No.  6
Direction of view  to W

Film No.  806
Negative No.  7
Direction of view  to W
ITEM NAME: Barmera Memorial Hall
Former or other: Soldiers Memorial Hall

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE
The Barmera Memorial Hall is one of the most significant buildings within the township. It was designed by H.E. Fuller, with the foundation stone being laid by F. McMillan, in 1924. It is of particular interest because it was built as a memorial to those who served in the first world war, and it's thus closely identified with the soldier settlers who were largely responsible for the foundation of the town and the settlement of the surrounding area.

The front suite of offices became the headquarters of the Barmera local government, which in 1938 also took over control of the hall. The building was originally single storied. The architect for the remodelling was William Lucas and the project included the building of the modern Bonney Theatre. (See separate sheet).

REFERENCES
Lamshed, The River's Bounty: A History of Barmera and its People
Woolmer, The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District, pp 45, 62

Verbal
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH
Film No. 804 Negative No. 15
Direction of view to S

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 39

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

LOCATION
Address Barwell Ave.
Town Barmera
Postcode
Section
Hundred Out of Hundreds
County L.G.A. Barmera
S.H.P. Region 5
A.M.G. Ref. 6929-II
54 45060 620960

SUBJECT
2.4

PERIOD
State
Study Area
1906-1940

TYPE OF ITEM
LAND Natural feature Historical site Historical Gdn.
BUILDING STRUCTURE

PHYSICAL CONDITION

STATUS
Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. Interim L Nominated
National Estate Reg. Proposed L
National Trust CL PL File Other

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State (B) Local
PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80

**HERITAGE SURVEY**

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

**ITEM NAME:** Bonney Theatre  
Former or other

**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The foundation stone for this theatre was laid in July 1938 by the Hon. T. Playford, then the Minister for Irrigation. It is one of the most imposing buildings in the town's main street, and is particularly interesting because of the architectural detailing which was typical of cinemas of the thirties and which underscored the role of cinema as the vehicle for the popularisation of contemporary design fashions.

The construction of the theatre was carried out by the Council as part of the remodelling of the Soldiers Memorial Hall complex. The architect for the project was William Lucas and the contractor R.L. Gambling.

**REFERENCES**

| Woolmer, The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District, p. 62 |
| Lamshed, The River's Bounty: A History of Barmera and its People |

| Verbal Archival photographs |

**PHOTOGRAPH**

| Film No. 804 Negative No. 11 Direction of view to S |

**PROJECT**

HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

**ITEM NAME:** Bonney Theatre  
Former or other

**LOCATION**

Address: Barwell Ave.  
Town: Barmera  
Postcode:  
Section:  
Hundred: Out of Hundreds  
County: L.G.A.: Barmera  
M.H.P. Region: 5  
W.M.G. Ref.: 6929-II  
54 45060 620960

**SUBJECT**

2.7

**PERIOD**

State  
Study Area  
1906-1940

**TYPE OF ITEM**

| LAND Natural feature Historical site Historical Gdn. |
| BUILDING STRUCTURE Physical condition |

**STATUS**

| Reg. of State Her. Items Reg. InterimL Nominated |
| National Estate Reg. Proposed L National Trust CL RL File |
| Other |

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State X (B) Local  
PREPARED BY  
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS  
Date: 1983
THIS FOUNDATION STONE
WAS LAID BY
THE HON. T. PLAYFORD
COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS
AND MINISTER FOR IRRIGATION
HERITAGE SURVEY
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80

ITEM NAME: Irrigation Office
Former or other

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE
This item is identified with closer settlement of the upper Murray region and the dependence of this on irrigation. It was built in 1938 as the regional office of the Irrigation Department by R.J. Munro, a local contractor. Though the interior has been upgraded to modern office standards, the exterior is original. It is still used as offices by the State Department which is responsible for local water resources.
The building is an outstanding example of Government design and construction of the 1930s and is a unique example in the upper riverland area.

REFERENCES
Woolmer, The Barmera Story: A History of Barmera and District, p. 22
Verbool, Mervyn Dunk, David Mack, 1983
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH
Film No. 805 Negative No. 3
Direction of view to NW

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 42

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

LOCATION
Address 4 Fowles St.
Town Barmera
Postcode
Section
Hundred Out of Hundreds
County L.G.A. Barmera
S.H.P. Region 5
A.M.G. Ref. 6929-II
54 45060 620940

SUBJECT
4.9
4.10

PERIOD
State
Study Area
1906-1940

TYPE OF ITEM
LAND Natural feature
Historical site
Historical Gdn.
BUILDING
STRUCTURE
PHYSICAL CONDITION

STATUS
Reg. of State Her. Items
Reg. Interim
Nominated
National Estate
Reg. Proposed L
National Trust
CL RL File
Other

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State X (B) Local

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983