HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE MURRAY RIVERLANDS
(REGION 5 - SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

PART TWO
3. D.C. LOXTON
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEETS


Funded under the National Estate Financial Assistance Programme 1982/83 and 1983/84.
Kingston Village Settlement, named after the then Premier who had provided government support for the communalist village settlements, was proclaimed in 1894. Of the 13 village settlements established in South Australia, 11 were along the Upper Murray, and this hall appears to be the only original community building surviving intact in any of these settlements.

The construction of the village hall enabled organised schooling for the children and for the settlers as a whole "life took on a new phase". The stone mason was one of the settlers, Swain Petersen, who was helped by the other men. The building is a rough form of concrete, probably earth, lime and river gravel with brick quoins, chimney etc. and rendered. On the eastern wall is the datestone, "This stone was laid by Mrs. E. Cooper Sept. 1898". She was the storeman's wife. Regular dances were held there besides school (closed c.1933), voting, church services, school breakups and Christmas parties. It was still in use until the Institute was built in the 1960s. It is now privately owned.

REFERENCES
Jackson, History of Kingston-on-Murray, p.12

Verbal Mr. Gil Harrington, 1983
Archival photographs
PROJECT HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 4(a)
L.G.A. Loxton

Film No. 809
Negative No. 15
Direction of view Detail E Wall

Film No. 810
Negative No. 1
Direction of view to SE

Film No. 810
Negative No. 2
Direction of view Detail N Wall
**HERITAGE SURVEY**

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM NAME: Kingston Bridge</th>
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**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

Construction of the Kingston road bridge across the Murray commenced in November 1970 and the completed structure was opened by the Governor, Sir Mark Oliphant on 21st February 1973. The bridge is a pre-stressed and pre-cast concrete structure 240m in length and 10.5m wide. It was designed by the South Australian Highways Department and built by L.M. Robertson Constructions at a cost of $891,700. The cost of the bridge and associated road works exceeded $3.5m.

The bridge replaced the ferry service which had operated a little upstream since 1922. It was calculated that the bridge would save $44,000 annually on ferry maintenance and in the order of $183,000 annually due to time lost in waiting. It represents a considerable advance in transport technology.

The bridge is of high significance as an example of modern engineering. A great deal of effort was taken to ensure that it was aesthetically pleasing as well as functional.

**REFERENCES**

Dennis, "Kingston Bridge" in Highway April 1973
Highways Department, Kingston Bridge 1969

Verbal Bill Stacey, Highways Dept., 1983
Archival photographs

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 809 Negative No. 8
Direction of view to E

**STATUS**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State □ (B) Local □

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

Kingston Village Settlement was established in 1894.

The first pump which was used to supply the settlement was built on this site - it stood until the late 'fifties. The header tank which was built at the top of the cliff was associated with this pump and an extensive network of channels led from it. These have now been superseded. Some evidence remains of the original fluming which led up the cliff from the pumping station. The associated sites are now in ruins, but sufficient remains to enable the whole to be interpreted.

The site is an important relic of the Murray's communal village settlement.

**REFERENCES**

Verbal
Archival photographs

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 809 Negative No. 11
Direction of view to W

**LOCATION**

Address Sturt Highway Town Kingston on Murray
Postcode
Section
Hundred Moorook
County L.G.A. Loxton
S.H.P. Region 5
A.M.G. Ref. 6929-I
54 44140 621190

**SUBJECT**

4.9

**PERIOD**

State
Study Area
1881-1905

**TYPE OF ITEM**

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

**STATUS**

Reg. of State Her. Items Reg. InterimNominated
National Estate Reg. ProposedL National Trust CL RL File Other

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State (B) Local

**PREPARED BY**

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983
<table>
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<td>to E</td>
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**PROJECT**

**HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5**

**Item Ref. No.** 6(a)

**L.G.A.**

Loxton
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of few, and is perhaps the most original of the blockers' cottages which were built in this area. It was built for J. Swanbury in 1918 by a local builder, Schenscher. It is a four roomed cottage with a skillion roof built of local limestone with brick quoins. The "front" wall had no windows in anticipation of later additions. Unlike many similar cottages in the area, no additions have been made, nor have the walls been rendered or painted. The cottage is in the possession of the grandson of the original owner. It remains in good condition and is an excellent example of its type.

REFERENCES

Verbal Harley Swanbury, 1983
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 811 Negative No. 5
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

RECOMMENDATION

(A) State
(B) Local

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 8(a)
L.G.A. Loxton

Film No. 811
Negative No. 6
Direction of view to S

Film No. 811
Negative No. 7
Direction of view to SE

Film No. 811
Negative No. 8
Direction of view to W
# Heritage Survey

**Item Identification Sheet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80</th>
<th>HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5 Item Ref. No. 14</th>
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<tr>
<td>ITEM NAME: Moorook Hall and Former School</td>
<td>Office Use</td>
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<td>Former or other</td>
<td>ITEM No.</td>
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<td>DOCKET No.</td>
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## Heritage Significance

This complex is perhaps the most socially significant in the township. The original portion was built as a schoolroom in 1896. Thus, it is identified with the early village settlement of the Murray and the education of the children of the settlers. It certainly fulfilled an important function as a school, but was also important as a meeting place for towns folk. The building was vacated by the school in 1923, when it was used extensively as a community hall.

Major extensions were built to the original schoolhouse in 1933 by Messrs. Stacy and Fiebiger.

The schoolhouse and extensions were built of limestone – the typical building material of the Murray.

## References

- Wachtel, Moorook: Bend in the River pp 76, 82 & 85
- Verbal Archival photographs Wachtel, Moorook ..., p.84 (1933)

## Photograph

- Film No. 810 Negative No. 13
- Direction of view to NW

## Photograph Details

- Reference: 1983

## Status

- Reg. of State Her. Items
- Nominated
- National Estate
- Proposed L
- National Trust
- Other

## Recommendation

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

## Prepared by

- HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
- Date: 1983
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This is a farming complex which is typical of those which were built in the region by the German immigrants in the latter part of the nineteenth century.

The complex illustrates well the sparing architectural details and the functional arrangement of the buildings. Of particular interest is the semi underground coolroom at the rear of the dwelling.

This farm was bought by the Zadow family in 1906/7, by which time the main buildings had already been built. The complex is built from local materials and is particularly significant because of its integrity and originality.

REFERENCES

Verbal Mrs. A. Zadow, 1983
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 810 Negative No. 5
Direction of view to W

RECOMMENDATION

(A) State X (B) Local

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
PROJECT HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 18(a)
L.C.A. Loxton

Film No. 810
Negative No. 6
Direction of view to SW

Film No. 810
Negative No. 7
Direction of view to SE

Film No. 810
Negative No. 8
Direction of view to SW
The communalist village settlement of New Residence was established in a district which was already partly taken up by German farmers.

In 1901 a small number of Lutherans settled in New Residence after it had been closed as a communal settlement. With a few families from near Moorook, they organised the Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Congregation, which built this small stone church in 1905 for £39. It was also used as a Lutheran school until this was closed in 1916, as were all Lutheran schools during World War I.

Anne McLean opened the school as a State school in 1918 with 20 pupils. It was closed in 1941 and reverted to Lutheran ownership.

The building is a typical and attractive example of the small stone schools which were built in isolated country districts.

**REFERENCES**

Wachtel, Moorook: Bend in the River, p. 80;
50th Anniversary of Trinity Lutheran Church, New Residence (1975) (in possession of Mrs. Wachtel).

**PHOTOGRAPH**

![Photo of the church](image-url)

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 [x] (B) Local [ ]

**PREPARED BY**

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

This house was built as the Engineer's residence c. 1914, after C.J. De Garis established the Pyap Estate (see I.D. Sheet No. 27). It is characteristic of De Garis' activities there.

When World War I started, De Garis offered inducements to single men to enlist and replaced them with married men or men over military age. This meant building houses as the single employees had "batched" in tents or sheds. These houses cost £3,000 (built by Gustav Schier) and were let at a rent equal to 8% on actual cost "with a reduction according to quality of garden improvements and home comforts, added by the occupier, with a guarantee against any increase of rent during occupancy." A store was started, free firewood and grazing allowed, with a £3/3 bonus for each addition to the family.

"Never had there been such a contented community as was to be seen at Pyap in 1914, and right along until 1921". When he sold the Estate in 1921 there were 12 stone and brick dwellings, a general purpose hall and store.

**REFERENCES**

C.J. De Garis, The Victories of Failure (Melbourne, 1925), pp 185-6, 189, 202, 224-5, 226 (quote, p.225)

Verbal Ron Dowley, 1983
Archival photographs Dowley, panoramic view, 1918

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 770 Negative No. 8
Direction of view to SW
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

When Pyap, together with the other village settlements, was closed by the Government, it was bought by private interests - a Melbourne syndicate. In 1913 C.J. De Garis bought the site as the Pyap Estate "and its record thereafter was one of steady progress". This house was built as his manager's residence in c.1914, constructed by Gustav Schier, who was also the stone-mason for the other buildings in the Estate.

De Garis was fortunate to have a "wonderful manager", and the settlement, with its replanted fruit trees and its paternalist care of employees, thrived. De Garis sold the estate in 1921.

This building appears to be in largely original condition and is illustrated in early photographs of the settlement.

REFERENCES

C.J. De Garis, The Victories of Failure, pp 224-5
Margaret Dowley, "Landscape changes in the Hundred of Pyap since 1850", p. 50

Verbal Ron Dowley, 1983
Archival photographs Dowley, panoramic view, 1918

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 770 Negative No. 3
Direction of view to S

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 27

LOCATION
Address
Town Pyap
Postcode
Section 119
Hundred Pyap
County L.G.A. Loxton
S.H.P. Region 5
A.M.G. Ref. 6929-II
54 45340 618970

SUBJECT
2.2

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 RL File
Other

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State X (B) Local

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
Pyap was one of the 11 village settlements along the Upper Murray, and was established in 1894. This chimney was erected for the settlement to assist with its irrigation in the same year. It is one of the most complete relics of that era and is a particularly interesting structure of limestone and brick, set on a prominent site above the river.

Remains of the flume run downhill to the site of the steam engine. The nearby large underground water tank appears intact, with its domed roof.

REFERENCES
National Trust 2052;
Institution of Engineers Australia, S151

Verbal
Archival photographs R. Dowley (panoramic view) c.1915

PHOTOGRAPH
Film No. 770 Negative No. 4
Direction of view to S

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 28

LOCATION
Address
Town Pyap
Postcode
Section 119
Hundred Pyap
County L.G.A. Loxton
S.H.P. Region 5
A.M.G. Ref. 6929-II
54 45350 618960

SUBJECT
4.9

PERIOD
State
Study Area
1881-1905

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 [X] RL [ ] File [ ]
Other
Inst. of Engineers

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State [X] (B) Local [ ]
PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 28(a)
L.G.A. Loxton

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<th>Film No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>770</td>
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<td>to S</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>770</td>
<td>to SE</td>
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Rudolph and his brother Edward Thiele took up Blocks 1 and 3 with their father, Johann in c. 1894 and so were amongst the district's pioneer German farming families. Like the other families they grew wheat, and together built the family's first pug and pine house on this block, later rebuilding in stone.

The homestead "Rilli Bend" was built for Rudolph Thiele in 1907 by Charles Bannear of Morgan. The history of German settlement near Loxton's Hut at the turn of the century is clearly displayed at this typical homestead. There are two stone houses side by side (one with a 1907 datestone) set in a bright, neat garden, with a detached semi-underground room, an aviary and a picket fence around.

The original interior fittings survive, and in the farmyard two of the open-sided German wagons the family arrived in. There are also various outbuildings including an unusual circular red brick water tank.

REFERENCES
National Trust 2065;
Loxton News, 20/4/67, "Our early settlers";
Ziegler, Souvenir of Loxton, p. 14

Verbal
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH
Film No. 768 Negative No. 9
Direction of view to SW

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

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State X (B) Local

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
PROJECT HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 33(a)
L.G.A. Loxton

Film No. 768
Negative No. 10
Direction of view to S

Film No. 768
Negative No. 11
Direction of view to NE

Film No. 768
Negative No. 12
Direction of view to E
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Loxton was the only Murray town of the twentieth century which was not established as an irrigation settlement. This simple memorial and Moorpark apricot tree symbolize the dramatic transformation of town and landscape from a marginal wheat farming community to one of the largest irrigated citrus deciduous and vine areas along the entire Murray, and one of the most rapidly developing towns.

During World War II irrigation for Loxton was proposed as a repatriation venture. Between 1946 and 1948 the scheme was developed, with State and Commonwealth Assistance, with 257 blocks being granted to ex-servicemen, the first in 1948.

At that stage it was expected that fruits like apricots, rather than citrus would be the mainstay, so the first tree planted was this Moorpark apricot, on 30th July 1948 by the Minister for Lands, Hon. C.S. Hincks. This was on Lionel Swanbury's block (364) in the north sector of the eight thousand acre area. The memorial, with a plaque commemorates the event. It is a white painted irrigation pipe with the bronze plaque inset in a concrete ring. An arrow on the plaque points to an eye hole which one peers through to see the first apricot - now the only one surviving, the rest replaced by citrus.

REFERENCES

Casson, Loxton, pp 101-108;
Johnson, "Loxton ..." Riverlander April, 1964

Verbal
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 768 Negative No. 13
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

RECOMMENDATION

(A) State (B) Local

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

"Palm Villa" was established on part of the old "Bookpurnong" run by the Stanitzki brothers, Charles and Arnold, in 1895. It is a large and impressive homestead constructed from the honey-coloured limestone brought down by sled from the nearby cliffs. The house was built in two sections some years apart. The stone meat-house and bake-oven, smoke-house stand at one end of the house and nearby the original stone workman's cottage and blacksmith's shop.

The Stanitzki's were amongst the pioneers of Loxton's farming community, their house one of the earliest of the fine stone homesteads which were built on the holdings along the river. Their property was described as "one of the showplaces of the district."

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**REFERENCES**

Ziegler, Souvenir of Loxton, pp 26, 27

Verbal Mrs. C. Stanitzki (owner) 1983

Archival photographs Loxton Souvenir, 1917

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**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 768 Negative No. 15

Direction of view to SE

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**STATUS**

Reg. of State Her. Items

Reg. Interim L Interim

Nominated L

National Estate

Reg. Proposed L

National Trust

CL RL File

Other

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**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State X (B) Local

PREPARED BY HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983
PROJECT HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5
Item Ref. No. 36(a)
L.G.A. Loxton

Film No. 769
Negative No. 1
Direction of view to NW

Film No. 769
Negative No. 2
Direction of view to W

Film No. 769
Negative No. 3
Direction of view to W
### HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Lock No. 4 was built in 1929. It is a Boule type lock, as are all the locks along the river. Apart from its engineering interest the lock is significant for its part in the national undertaking of locking the Murray to provide year-round navigation and water available for irrigation.

### REFERENCES

- Australian Heritage Engineering Record S692
- Institution of Engineers Australia, S692

- Verbal
- Archival photographs

### PHOTOGRAPH

- Film No. 769
- Negative No. 4
- Direction of view to S

### 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 X (B) Local

### PREPARED BY

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Bookpurnong Lutheran congregation started holding services in H.A. Schwarz' house in 1910, with the first Minister L.E. Kriss. This Evangelical Lutheran "Zions Pilger Kirche" was their first church building, the foundation stone being laid 27th February 1924 by Pastor C.W.J. Mlier. The church was dedicated 7th September, 1924. At that time there were 95 members of the congregation, the highest ever.

The foundation stone reads "Zur Ehre Gottes 1. Kor. 3, 11. den 17. februar 1924", and the stone on the tower "Ev. Luth. Zions Pilger Kirche. Bookpurnong 1924". J.C. Garrod of Berri was the builder, the total cost being £1,500. Members provided most of the materials, quarrying and carting many drayloads of stone, sand and rubble.

This is an attractive church with mostly original interior and exterior.

**REFERENCES**

50th Anniversary Hymn Sheet, Sept. 1974 (information provided by Rev. P. Fielke, Loxton)

Verbal
Archival photographs

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 769  Negative No. 7
Direction of view to SW
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

"One of the most prominent figures in Loxton, and one of the most active too, is Mr. W.H. Mengersen ... As an auctioneer and wheat and commission agent, he has steadily, but surely, worked his way to the forefront in the township. He is at present Chairman of the District Council ... President of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of Loxton ... member of the Hospital Board ... his energy and advice in many public matters would be missed at Loxton."

Mengersen's ornate and substantial stone residence was built in 1911 when he was only in his mid twenties, and faithfully reflects the success he had made of his stock market and agencies, after starting in business at Loxton soon after the town was established.

**REFERENCES**

National Trust, 2059
Casson, Loxton, p. 80 (re Mengersen)
Ziegler, Souvenir of Loxton ..., p. 32 (quote)

Verbal
Archival photographs Souvenir of Loxton (1917)

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 767   Negative No. 7
Direction of view to S

**STATUS**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State  X  (B) Local
"William Charles Loxton was a boundary rider on 'Bookpurnong'. He and his wife lived in the slab hut in the years 1878-81. It had been previously occupied by his aunt Mrs. Howell and her husband ... its importance lies in the fact that it retained the name 'Loxton's Hut' long after William Loxton left it and that, years later, the slope of the land above it was site for a town. In the later 'nineties, as farms were established along that part of the river, the district came to be known as 'Loxton's Hut' .... When on 29 August 1907 the town was proclaimed, a majority vote of settlers decided to retain the name of Loxton."

Loxton's hut has long since been demolished, but this pepper tree grew nearby, having been grown from peppercorns brought by William Loxton and planted by Mrs. Howell while she was still living there. Its historical associations are widely known in the district.

REFERENCES
Casson, Loxton, pp 12, 13, 15 (quote, p. 12)

Verbal
Archival photographs

POHOTOGRAPH
Film No. 767 Negative No. 5
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

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

HERITAGE SURVEY
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

ITEM NAME: House
Former or other "Loxton Villa"; J.H.F. Drabsch' house

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

"Mr. Drabsch has seen Loxton through 'thick and thin' ... and his holding may be regarded as a sort of historic centre ... Mr. Drabsch is the squire of 'Loxton Villa' (and) was one of the '96'rs'. He goes back to the time when Loxton started her history. His holding was originally 2,400 acres but he disposed of 700 acres ..."

Several members of the Drabsch family were amongst the pioneers of the Loxton district in 1896. John Drabsch' holding encompassed part of the later township of Loxton and the family's house became almost inevitably its earliest social centre. The Drabsch' settled on the property in 1897. "Their beautifully built ironstone house, the first stone house in Loxton, was put up by Ewald Schier 'between ploughing and seeding' in the winter of 1908". The Drabsch house was also the post office from 1897-1908, courts were held there and police officers, prisoners and paddle-steamer visitors accommodated.

REFERENCES
National Trust, 2054;
Casson, Loxton, pp 26, 27, 34, 40, passim (quote, p.34);
Ziegler, Souvenir of Loxton, p. 24 (first quote).

Verbal
Archival photographs Souvenir of Loxton (1917)

PHOTOGRAPH
Film No. 767 Negative No. 6
Direction of view to S

LOCATION
Address Allot. 269,
Pflaum Tce.
Town Loxton
Postcode
Section
Hundred Bookpurnong
County L.G.A. Loxton
S.H.P. Region 5
A.M.G. Ref. 7029-III
54 46010 618760

SUBJECT
2.1
2.2
2.3

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
**HERITAGE SURVEY**

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

| ITEM NAME: | St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Hall |
| Former or other | St. Petri Church |

**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

As the majority of settlers who first took up farmland in the Loxton district were of German origin, the first churches constructed were Lutheran. The stone St. Peter's Lutheran Hall is the earliest of those surviving. It was constructed as the United Evangelical Lutheran Church between 1902 and 1904. The Church was erected at a cost of £180 on a block of land ceded by John Drabsch. It was dedicated by Pastor L. Kaibel.

The growing congregation made necessary the construction of the new St. Petri Church in 1926, the foundation stone being laid in 1925. This Church was designed by the Adelaide architects Cowell and Cowell, who also supervised construction. £9,000 was spent erecting and furnishing this fine large Church. The contractor was J.B. Traeger of Nuriootpa, the local stone mason to W. Bartsch. Stone was quarried from R.E. Thiele’s property. Altar, pulpit and pews were also designed by Cowell and Cowell and made by Traeger in blackwood. The marble font was sculptured by A.J. Henschke and the bell was made in Bochum, Germany. Seating was for 450 - the gallery and pipe organ were added in 1953.

**REFERENCES**

National Trust 2055, 2056;
Casson, Loxton, pp 43, 45, 46;
"Souvenir of the dedication of St. Petri" (1926)

Verbal
Archival photographs Casson, Loxton, p. 88 (1926).

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 767 Negative No. 9
Direction of view to NW
PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 5

Item Ref. No. 45(a)
L.G.A. Loxton

Film No. 767
Negative No. 8
Direction of view to N

Film No. 767
Negative No. 10
Direction of view to NW
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This typical and now scarce example of a river town general store was built for Landseers in 1912. Landseers were one of the major river traders and established a series of branches in the emerging towns (their headquarters were at Milang). Both the headquarters and some of the other branches have since been demolished. All Landseer shops were closed in 1955 and this building was for a time used as a citrus packing house.

Landseers' role in the development of new towns such as Loxton is apparent in Norman Jaffrey's recollections: "A.H. Landseer and Co. practically kept Loxton alive in the beginning by supplying the settlers with their needs from time to time. What a great man Mr. Landseer was. You could not question his integrity. He was by far too faithful to his customers, always out to do good and help them in their struggle to make good."

The store and warehouse is the oldest commercial building surviving intact in Loxton.

REFERENCES

Casson, Loxton, passim;
Reminiscences of Norman T. Jaffrey, collected by J.C. Tolley, 1963 (Tolley collection)

Verbal Doreen Dowley, 1983
Archival photographs
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This building was constructed for W. Kingsmill c.1914 as a Billiard Saloon. It was later used by Woodson Seary, dried fruit packers and agents, Farm Services, a garage and then by the Renmark Murray Pioneer, which produces and prints the Loxton News.

This is one of the oldest surviving commercial buildings in Loxton, with the nearby old Landseers Store forming a significant historical streetscape in an otherwise largely modernised town centre.

The billiard saloon was a popular form of entertainment in many of the river towns at the time, although relatively few survive. There were several in Loxton itself.

Part of the building is stone, part galvanised iron.

REFERENCES

Verbal Doreen Dowley, 1983
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 802 Negative No. 6
Direction of view to SE

LOCATION

Address East Tce.
Town Loxton
Postcode
Section Bookpurnong
Hundred
County
L.G.A. Loxton
S.H.P. Region 5
A.M.G. Ref. 7029-III
54 46030 618770

SUBJECT

2.7
4.6

PERIOD

State
Study Area 1906-1940

TYPE OF ITEM

BUILDING

PHYSICAL CONDITION

STATUS

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

RECOMMENDATION

(A) State X (B) Local

PREPARED BY

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1983
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The town of Loxton was only one year old when A.W.R. Drabsch, as Chairman of the Committee laid the foundation stone of Loxton's Institute on September 22nd, 1908. "Besides a Hall, they laid the foundation of the town's active and progressive spirit." The hall was built by C. Bannear for 600 of local stone and brick (now rendered). It was opened in 1909.

Additions to the hall - which form the present elegant facade - were made in 1912. These provided a District Council room (until 1937) and accommodation for a library.

The building is a landmark in the town's main street and one of its oldest surviving.

**REFERENCES**

Casson, Loxton, pp 57-58 (quote)

Verbal
Archival photographs film no. 815 neg. no. 11 (from W. Schick)

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 767  Negative No. 14

Direction of view to W

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State  (B) Local

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1983