2.2 Auburn
HERITAGE OF EIGHT LOWER NORTH TOWNS

INVENTORY OF PLACES OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE, INCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
THE REGISTER OF STATE HERITAGE ITEMS

S denotes State recommendation or listing on the Register of State Heritage Items

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HERITAGE OF EIGHT LOWER NORTH TOWNS

Auburn Survey Map

159
Register Assessment Report
South Australian Heritage Act 1978
Auburn Survey Item No.: 5

Roman Catholic (former Wesleyan Methodist) Church
Cnr Ford and Elder Sts
AUBURN

Statement of Cultural Significance

Built in 1866–7 as a Wesleyan Methodist church. The plans were designed by Rev. H. Bath for a Gothic Revival church. The finest feature of the church is the use of Meller quarry stone and the construction by the skilled masons and builders Meller and Scott. It shows the fine quality of the local stone and is a vital part of Auburn's unique heritage.

Relevant Criteria

A building important to the understanding of the evolution and pattern of South Australia's environmental, social or cultural heritage and possessed of aesthetic values or demonstrating outstanding creative and/or technical accomplishment.

Significant Interest

1. Architectural: A significant example of the skills of Joseph Meller as a mason and quarryman. Fine use of local stone on a standard design.
2. Historical: Auburn has a significant history, not just because of its origins on the Gulf Road from Burra, but also because of the building skill of the Meller family. Their use of stone from their own quarry in local buildings has given Auburn a unique character. This church, built in 1866–7, is an example of the spread of Methodism in the Lower North and the prosperity of the late 1860s–early 1870s.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items
Roman Catholic (former Wesleyan Methodist) Church
Cnr Ford and Elder Sts
AUBURN

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

Architectural

This church was built in 1866–7 in one section, although it appears that additions were intended to the northern facade as stone work has been extended to allow for this.

Its walls are built of stone from Meller’s quarry, as are quoin and surrounds to openings. It is of a rectangular floor plan approximately 19m x 14m. The western and eastern facades have four lancet windows placed symmetrically between five buttresses. The northern facade is unfinished with protrusions at walls for extensions. The southern entrance facade has a buttress at each corner that is raised above the eaves line and topped with a wrought iron finial. Central to this face is an ornate porch with a double lancet door. A lancet window sits either side of this entrance. Above the porch, the gables rise to a central spire–belfrey topped with a wrought iron finial. The roof is gabled and capped with corrugated galvanised iron.

The interior of the church is plain, but shows fine craftsmanship. Two rows of pews are set astride a central aisle, with narrow aisles to the sides. The altar is slightly raised. (Some changes were made in the transition from Wesleyan Methodist to Roman Catholic ritual). Roof trusses, beams and purlins are exposed.

Historical

Auburn began as a town to service the transport on the Gulf Road from Burra to Port Wakefield. Over the years it became an important local service town with a vibrant community, largely due to it being on the Main North Road from Adelaide. The town had a number of individuals who contributed greatly to its social and economic life, such as Joseph Bleechmore and Joseph Meller.

Meller came to live at Auburn in 1855. In 1874 he purchased a cottage and land from Henry Pollard on the eastern side of Eyre Creek. He was a Yorkshireman originally and his family were builders and masons who had worked on large London construction sites. In Auburn he began a partnership with James Scott as builders, stoncutters and masons. They worked a quarry near his home at Eyre Creek. They built many of Auburn’s finest buildings and their craftsmanship and the beauty of the stone itself have given the town a special quality.

The town had a number of churches. The Bible Christians were the dominant Methodist force in the area until the 1860s when the Wesleyans built their own church. At a meeting in November 1866, it was decided to purchase an allotment on the Saddleworth Road, nearby the ford. The issue was taken up with alacrity. The Rev. H. Bath drew up plans for a building and a foundation stone was laid on 30 December by Rev. John Watsford. Watsford also delivered a most edifying address on that occasion on the subject of courtship and marriage. Within another seven months Meller and Scott had completed the church and it was opened on 16 July 1867. Yet the cause never really took root and after Methodist union the building became redundant. It was sold to the Roman Catholic Church in 1915—an ecumenical step at a time of little love between the two denominations.
References


Auburn Survey Item No.: 5

Site Record

Roman Catholic (former Wesleyan Methodist) Church
Cnr Ford and Elder Sts
AUBURN

Location
Cnr Ford and Elder Sts, Auburn

Mapsheet
6629-02

AMG Reference
286490  6232125

Description
Stone church

Land Description
Lot 101, Section 260, Hd Upper Wakefield
CT 2336/62

LGA
DC Saddleworth & Auburn

Owner
The Catholic Church Endowment Society Inc.
Diocesan Centre, 39 Wakefield St
ADELAIDE 5000

Other Assessments

Heritage Status

Photographs
Film 1630, 24.8.89; Film 1654, 1.6.90
Auburn Survey Item No.: 5

Site Plan

Roman Catholic (former Wesleyan Methodist) Church
Cnr Ford and Elder Sts
AUBURN
Auburn Survey Item No.: 5

Roman Catholic (former Wesleyan Methodist Church) Cnr Ford and Elder Sts, AUBURN

Photographs Upper: Exterior looking to north-west...Lower: Exterior looking to south-east
Auburn Survey Item No.: 5
Ford and Elder Sts, AUBURN

Roman Catholic (former Wesleyan Methodist Church) Cnr

Photographs: Upper: Interior looking south  Lower: Interior trusses
HERITAGE OF EIGHT LOWER NORTH TOWNS

Register Assessment Report
South Australian Heritage Act 1978 Auburn Survey item No.: 16

Auburn Institute
Main North Rd
AUBURN

Statement of Cultural Significance

Built in 1866 as a Town Hall by a private company formed by local individuals. It exhibits the high standard of civic pride and architecture at the time. The building was designed by James Macgeorge and built by James Scott, Joseph Meller and William Threadgold from stone cut at Meller’s quarry. Significant because of the fine quality of the local stone and masonry work. It is an integral part of Auburn's unique heritage.

Relevant Criteria

A building important to the understanding of the evolution and pattern of South Australia’s environmental, social or cultural heritage and possessed of aesthetic values or demonstrating outstanding creative and/or technical accomplishment.

Significant Interest

1. Architectural: A significant example of the skills of Joseph Meller as a mason and quarryman. Fine use of local stone on an unusual original design of Georgian style.
2. Historical: Auburn has a significant history, not just because of its origins on the Gulf Road from Burra, but also because of the building skill of the Meller family. Their use of stone from their own quarry in local buildings has given Auburn a unique feel. This Institute was built by Meller and his partners from local stone. It is an important example of the civic pride manifested in the mid-nineteenth century buildings.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items.
Auburn Institute
Main North Rd
AUBURN

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

Architectural

This Institute—Town Hall was built in a number of sections at different times. The main body of the hall was constructed in 1866, while an additional section on its southern face was completed in 1884. Modern changes have taken place too. A massive concrete porch was added to the main entrance. A corner store was demolished in the 1970s and replaced with a red brick structure which is out of character with the building. Recently, a stone addition was added to the eastern facade.

The original and 1884 sections are constructed of Meller quarry stone. The 1866 Town Hall was designed around a floor plan of approximately 10m X 20m and with an additional corner store extended to 30m on the main facade. It was constructed of stone walling, cut, faced, coursed and pointed. Decorative stone work has been used on quoins. Upper level windows and ornamentations below the ridge of the main facade are of carved stone. The main facade has a central, double-door, entrance with two long rectangular windows placed symmetrically on either side. On the upper level three slightly arched windows are spaced evenly. They are fitted with fixed windows of small panes in a wooden frame. Roof is gabled to the west and gabled to the east and is clad with corrugated galvanised iron.

Internally, a false ceiling has been installed and modifications made to the stage.

The 1884 addition to the southern facade has a bay window to the west of a double entrance door. It is single storey with an ornate parapet. Inside is a kitchen and former reading rooms. Interior wood and plaster work is of excellent quality. Mantelpieces are of moulded timber and ceiling cornices and roses are ornate plaster.

Historical

Auburn was begun as a town to service the transport on the Gulf Road from Burra to Port Wakefield. Over the years it became an important local service town with a vibrant community, largely due to it being on the Main North Road from Adelaide. The town had a number of individuals who contributed greatly to its social and economic life. Joseph Bleechmore and Joseph Meller were two of these.

Meller came to live at Auburn in 1855. In 1874 he purchased a cottage and land from Henry Pollard on the eastern side of Eyre Creek. He was a Yorkshireman originally and his family were builders and masons who had worked on large London construction sites. In Auburn he began a partnership with James Scott as builders, stonecutters and masons. They worked a quarry near his home at Eyre Creek. They built many of Auburn’s finest buildings and their craftsmanship and the beauty of the stone itself have given the town a special quality.

The first Auburn Institute was built in St Vincent Street. A committee had been elected in 1859 to oversee this work. It was the twenty-fifth Institute founded in South Australia. In 1865 the Auburn Town Hall Company was floated for the purposes of building a good local civic centre. By February 1866 an Adelaide newspaper report stated that:
Some of the enterprising inhabitants of Auburn and its vicinity, feeling the want of a room of suitable size for public meetings, resolved to supply the desideratum, and have formed a company and accepted tenders for the erection of a Town Hall and offices at a cost of upwards of £2,000...

The arrangement of the plan, which had to be accommodated to an irregular corner site, combines every convenience, with a front elevation of considerable dignity and beauty.

In 1884 an additional section to house the Institute was added. This incurred a large debt but this was recovered by 1890. The Institute hall and library still service the town and have been described as the 'social and cultural centre'.

References


*Register*, 24 February 1866.

*National Trust Walk, Auburn S.A.*, n.d.
Heritage of Eight Lower North Towns

Auburn Survey Item No.: 16

Site Record

Auburn Institute
Main North Rd
AUBURN

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<td>LGA</td>
<td>DC Saddleworth &amp; Auburn</td>
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| Owner             | DC Saddleworth & Auburn
|                   | 23 Belvidere Rd SADDLEWORTH 5413 |
| Other Assessments |                       |
| Heritage Status   |                       |
| Photographs       | Film 1630, 24.8.89; Film 1654, 1.6.90 |
Auburn Survey Item No.: 16

Site Plan

Auburn Institute
Main North Rd
AUBURN
Auburn Survey Item No.: 16

Auburn Institute, Main North Rd, AUBURN

Auburn Survey Item No.: 16  Auburn Institute, Main North Rd, AUBURN

Photographs: Upper: Interior passage in southern addition; Lower: Interior main auditorium
HERITAGE OF EIGHT LOWER NORTH TOWNS

Register Assessment Report
South Australian Heritage Act 1978

St John's Anglican church
St Vincent St
AUBURN

Statement of Cultural Significance

Built in 1862 from stone quarried and cut by Joseph Meller who considered this church to be his finest work. It is of Gothic Revival design and is among South Australia's most important rural churches—it was deemed to be the most elegant church in South Australia's north. It shows the fine quality of the local stone and is a vital part of Auburn's unique heritage.

Relevant Criteria

A building important to the understanding of the evolution and pattern of South Australia's environmental, social or cultural heritage and possessed of aesthetic values or demonstrating outstanding creative and/or technical accomplishment.

Significant Interest

1. Architectural: A significant example of the skills of local builders and masons. Both its interior and exterior are of exceptional construction.

2. Historical: Auburn has a significant history, not just because of its origins on the Gulf Road from Burra, but also because of the building skill of local tradesmen. Their use of stone from their own quarry in local buildings has given Auburn a unique feel. This church was built in 1862 by Joseph Meller and shows the height of his mason's craft. It is an important part of the town's major buildings.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items.
Auburn Survey Item No.: 17

St John's Anglican church
St Vincent St
AUBURN

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

Architectural

This Gothic Revival Church was built in 1862.

It is constructed of Meller quarry stone, cut, faced and jointed, around a basic rectangular floor plan of approximately 13m x 9m. A porch is set into the south-western corner and measures approximately 2m x 4m. A transept on the northern facade is approximately 5m x 2.5m.

There are stone buttresses to walls and corners. Windows are lancets with a feature window on the eastern side above the altar. The stone detailing around this window was said by Joseph Meller to be his finest stone work. The original front of the church is on the western facade and has a small belfrey at the ridge. Roof is gabled and clad with slate. Verges are of stone and eaves have guttering. The porch has a short staircase leading to main double door that is of lancet shape.

Stained glass windows and tablets on interior walls commemorate townspeople. Ceiling is plastered with exposed beams and trusses. Pews are original and of primitive form. Sides are of lancet shape and angled, with plank seats.

Historical

Auburn was begun as a town to service the transport on the Gulf Road from Burra to Port Wakefield. Over the years it became an important local service town with a vibrant community, largely due to it being on the Main North Road from Adelaide. The town had a number of individuals who contributed greatly to its social and economic life.

St John's Anglican Church was opened for worship on 21 November 1862. There had been a strong Church of England cause in the area for many years before this structure eventuated. Vestry meetings were being held at 'St. John's, Auburn' as early as 1852. On that occasion the Rev. C. W. Hawkins presided and officers appointed for the year included one J. E. Bleechmore, the host of the 'Rising Sun' Inn, as a sidesman. At the vestry meeting for 1856, it was reported that a manse had been built for the incumbent and that the church 'building had been thoroughly repaired'.

This building could not match the demands of the local community and on one Friday in June 1861 it was reported that Auburn 'village presented quite a gay and animated appearance, it being the day appointed for laying the foundation-stone of a place of worship for the Church of England by the Bishop of Adelaide'. This ceremony attracted a large crowd of all denominations. As the correspondent wrote, it was the commencement of the new church 'that brought so many persons from the surrounding district and neighbourhood'. On the Sunday, Bishop Short preached in the Bible Christian Chapel 'to a crowded congregation, in a most impressive manner, encouraging humility and Christian love one to another'.
By 6 May 1862, the walls of the church were constructed and members of the St John’s congregation met to discuss the practicality of roofing the structure. After they had agreed to do this, it was explained that the ‘church when completed will be a very handsome building—by far the most elegant in the north’.

References


Lands Titles Office searches.

*National Trust Walk, Auburn S.A.*, n.d.


*Thrice bought: 125 years of life and worship of St John’s church, Auburn, South Australia*, St John’s Church 125 Committee, Auburn S.A., 1988.


*Souvenir of Auburn, published in connection with the Diamond Jubilee of St John’s Church*, 1922.
Auburn Survey Item No.: 17

Site Record

St John’s Anglican church
St Vincent St
AUBURN

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Other Assessments

Heritage Status

Photographs

Film 1630, 24.8.89
St John's Anglican church
St Vincent St
AUBURN
Auburn Survey Item No.: 17  St John's Anglican church, St Vincent St, AUBURN

Photographs Upper: Exterior looking north  Lower: Exterior looking north-north-west
Auburn Survey Item No.: 17  
St John's Anglican church, St Vincent St, AUBURN

Photographs Upper: Interior eastern window  Lower: Interior eastern window and altar
**Register Assessment Report**

**South Australian Heritage Act 1978**

**Auburn Survey Item No.: 19**

**Former Shoe Factory**

**Main North Rd**

**AUBURN**

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**Statement of Cultural Significance**

Built c. 1880 to house Daniel Smith's boot factory and store. It is important as an example of a late nineteenth century industrial and commercial site. It is the only former industrial site in Auburn still existing. Significant because of the fine quality of the local stone and masonry work and as one of the very important group of buildings on Main North Road and St Vincent St that provide the character of Auburn's heritage.

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**Relevant Criteria**

A building important to the understanding of the evolution and pattern of South Australia's environmental, social or cultural heritage and possessed of aesthetic values or demonstrating outstanding creative and/or technical accomplishment.

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**Significant Interest**

1. Architectural: A significant example of the skills of local builders and masons. Of standard design for the period, but of exceptional construction.

2. Historical: Auburn has a significant history, not just because of its origins on the Gulf Road from Burra, but also because of the building skill of local tradesmen. Their use of stone from their own quarry in local buildings has given Auburn a unique character. This former store and factory was an indication of the role of Auburn as a service town. It is an essential part of Auburn's late nineteenth century history.

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**Recommendation**

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items
Auburn Survey Item No.: 19

Former Shoe Factory
Main North Rd
AUBURN

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

Architectural

This former shoe factory and store is in three separate sections that relate to the slope of the ground on which it is situated.

The main shop and former factory frontage on Main North Rd is two storey, leading to another two sections on the downhill slope that are now a dwelling. The front wall is constructed of Meller quarry stone, coursed, faced and jointed facing the Main North Rd and other walls are calcrete with Meller stone quoins. Quoins and surrounds to openings are of a larger size stone. The main facade has a timber and corrugated galvanised iron verandah attached. The main shop front beneath this verandah has a central double doorway with fanlights above, and fixed windows of large panes on either side in wooden frames, with wooden moulding at their bases. This section is on a rectangular floor plan approximately 11m x 8m. The dwelling sections at the rear take up approximately 11m x 8m.

The building has had extensive renovations in the last few years and the upper storey of the main building functions as bed and breakfast accommodation. In this portion, rooms have been partitioned off and a bathroom added. The ground level, former store, is currently being renovated for future use as a commercial outlet, partition walling has been added to close off stairway to upper level.

Historical

Auburn was begun as a town to service the transport on the Gulf Road from Burra to Port Wakefield. Over the years it became an important local service town with a vibrant community, largely due to it being on the Main North Road from Adelaide. The town had a number of individuals who contributed greatly to its social and economic life.

The land on which the building stands was originally owned by Joseph Edwin Bleechmore, publican of the Rising Sun Hotel and one of the town's most prominent citizens in the nineteenth century. He sold it in 1867 and it was transferred a number of times before being purchased by John and Henry George Baker, local builders in 1874. In 1884 Daniel Smith of Auburn, bootmaker, purchased the site. It is unclear when the building was constructed but it was possibly in the period of the Bakers.

The building is best remembered as a shoe factory and store run by Daniel Smith and later by Henry Measday who had once been in trade at Glenelg. Smith came to Auburn in 1865 and opened a small bootmaker's shop and factory on the northern side of Church St. At one time he had eight employees there. For some years David Smith, his son, continued to operate the factory. It was moved to the two storey building on Main North Rd in about 1884. He was also a noted worker in the local community and served for a time as District Clerk.
References


Lands Titles Office searches.

*National Trust Walk, Auburn S.A.*, n.d.
Auburn Survey Item No.: 19

Site Record

Former Shoe Factory
Main North Rd
AUBURN

Location
Main North Rd, Auburn

Mapsheet
6629–02

AMG Reference
286210  6232380

Description
Two-storey stone building

Land Description
Section 260, Hd Upper Wakefield
CT 3921/196

LGA
DC Saddleworth & Auburn

Owner
George and Marie Popperwell
c/- P O
AUBURN 5451

Other Assessments

Heritage Status

Photographs
Film 1631, 24.8.89; Film 1654, 1.6.90
Auburn Survey Item No.: 19

Site Plan

Former Shoe Factory
Main North Rd
AUBURN
Auburn Survey Item No.: 19  Former Shoe Factory, Main North Rd, AUBURN

Photographs Upper: Exterior looking east  Lower: Exterior looking north-north-east
Auburn Survey Item No.: 19  Former Shoe Factory, Main North Rd, AUBURN

Photographs Upper: interior ground floor shop  Lower: interior ground floor shop
Register Assessment Report
South Australian Heritage Act 1978
Auburn Survey Item No.: 25

Riverview Pottery
Main North Rd
AUBURN

Statement of Cultural Significance

Built, possibly before 1863, for C.A. Bleechmore, storekeeper. It is of an unusual primitive vernacular form and construction that resembles religious rather than commercial architecture. It is one of Auburn's most prominent buildings on the Main North Rd frontage and is an integral part of the town's important commercial centre.

Relevant Criteria

A building important to the understanding of the evolution and pattern of South Australia's environmental, social or cultural heritage.

Significant Interest

1. Architectural: Important for its primitive design and construction that incorporates vernacular religious elements.
2. Historical: Auburn has a significant history, not just because of its origins on the Gulf Road from Burra, but also because of the building skill of local tradesmen. This is an example of an early Auburn building, possibly constructed by Robert Whitehead who specialised in calcrete buildings in the area. Also important as part of the commercial life of Auburn.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items.
Heritage of Eight Lower North Towns

Auburn Survey Item No.: 25

Riverview Pottery
Main North Rd
AUBURN

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

Architectural

This former wheat store is of an interesting vernacular design.
It is constructed of calcrete and local stone around a rectangular floor plan approximately 18m x 7m. The main facade facing Main North Rd features what appears to be local sandstone, possibly from Watervale. This facade has a central double doorway of lancet shape with a single lancet window of a number of small panes in a wooden frame placed symmetrically on either side. The northern and southern walls are of calcrete. The northern wall has had a doorway added. The roof is gabled and capped with corrugated galvanised iron. Verges have some moulding and eaves have guttering attached.
The interior of the building has rough unplastered walls. Wooden boards are on the floor. Part of the area is sectioned off with partition walling. One small section has a new ceiling, but mostly beams and trusses are exposed. At some recent stage a fire gutted the interior of the structure and the trusses and beams have been much affected.
There is a wooden lean-to at the rear that serves as a kitchen for the store.

Historical

Auburn was begun as a town to service the transport on the Gulf Road from Burra to Port Wakefield. Over the years it became an important local service town with a vibrant community, largely due to it being on the Main North Road from Adelaide. The town had a number of individuals who contributed greatly to its social and economic life.
One local source claims that Robert Whitehead, a well known Auburn builder, lived in a tent on the site of this building. The structure itself might well have been built by him, for he was renowned for his work with calcrete. It is thought to have been built before 1863 as a store for Charles A. Bleechmore, who purchased land in the town from Edmond Bowman in 1855. Bleechmore conveyed part of his land to George Field, a miller, in 1858. Field held title to this property in 1873 when it was brought under the Torrens system. So it is possible that the building began its life as a general store-cum-wheat and flour store.
In 1882 Paul Overton, the Auburn butcher, purchased the property and it remained in his family until about 1980.
References


Lands Titles Office searches.

National Trust Walk, Auburn S.A., n.d.
Heritage of Eight Lower North Towns

Auburn Survey Item No.: 25

Site Record

Riverview Pottery
Main North Rd
AUBURN

| Location | Main North Rd, Auburn |
| Mapsheet | 6629–02 |
| AMG Reference | 286190 6232200 |
| Description | Stone building |
| Land Description | Portion lot 18, Block 2, Sections 261 & 262, Hd Upper Wakefield, CT 2403/137 |
| LGA | DC Saddleworth & Auburn |
| Owner | Kathleen Mary Alty |

| Other Assessments | |
| Heritage Status | |
| Photographs | Film 1631, 24.8.89; Film 1654, 1.6.90 |
Auburn Survey Item No.: 25

Site Plan

Riverview Pottery
Main North Rd
AUBURN
HERITAGE OF EIGHT LOWER NORTH TOWNS

Auburn Survey Item No.: 25 Riverview Pottery, Main North Rd, AUBURN

Photographs Upper: Exterior looking west-north-west Lower: Exterior looking south
Auburn Survey Item No.: 25  Riverview Pottery, Main North Rd, AUBURN

Photographs Upper: Interior doorway and wall  Lower: Interior lancet window and wall
Register Assessment Report
South Australian Heritage Act 1978

Tateham’s Heritage Accommodation
Main North Rd
AUBURN

Statement of Cultural Significance

Built c.1860s as a general store and dwelling and wheat and grain mart. It is one of Auburn’s most important commercial buildings situated as a landmark in the proposed Main North–St Vincent St State Heritage Area.

Relevant Criteria

A building important to the understanding of the evolution and pattern of South Australia’s environmental, social or cultural heritage and possessed of aesthetic values or demonstrating outstanding creative and/or technical accomplishment.

Significant Interest

1. Architectural: A significant example of the skills of, probably, Joseph Meller as a mason and quarryman. Fine use of local stone on a commercial premises.

2. Historical: Auburn has a significant history, not just because of its origins on the Gulf Road from Burra, but also because of the building skill of the Meller family. Their use of stone from their own quarry in local buildings has given Auburn a unique character. This store, probably built in the 1860s, was the town’s major retail outlet for many years.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items
Heritage of Eight Lower North Towns

Auburn Survey Item No.: 35

Tateham’s Heritage Accommodation
Main North Rd
AUBURN

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ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

Architectural

This store is constructed in three distinct sections. The southernmost was a dwelling that was in turn connected to the retailing premises that are the most dominant externally and, thirdly, was a warehouse. Overall this store is approximately 27m x 15m, of which the central retail section takes up about 14m.

The building is constructed from local Meller quarry stone. The warehouse section has a gabled roof with the verges facing west and east. The eastern facade has a central double door and on either side, symmetrically placed, windows of many small panes set in a wooden frame. Above the door, beneath the ridge, is a ventilation window.

The general store section has a doorway near the north-eastern corner and then a central double doorway with fixed windows of large panes on either side in wooden frames, with wooden moulding at their bases. The front facade of this store has a raised rectangular parapet above a timber and corrugated galvanised iron verandah. The cottage dwelling section to the south has a doorway and window on the eastern facade and windows along the southern wall. There is a small courtyard behind the store section and between the cottage and the warehouse. Extensive external modifications have taken place in the last decade.

The interior of the general store and cottage section have been greatly changed for the purposes of its current use as restaurant and accommodation. Partition walls have been placed in positions to provide small dining areas and a large kitchen has been added within the western section of the former store.

Historical

Auburn was begun as a town to service the transport on the Gulf Road from Burra to Port Wakefield. Over the years it became an important local service town with a vibrant community, largely due to it being on the Main North Road from Adelaide. The town had a number of individuals who contributed greatly to its social and economic life. Joseph Bleechmore and Joseph Meller were two of these.

Meller came to live at Auburn in 1855. In 1874 he purchased a cottage and land from Henry Pollard on the eastern side of Eyre Creek. He was a Yorkshireman originally and his family were builders and masons who had worked on large London construction sites. In Auburn he began a partnership with James Scott as builders, stonecutters and masons. They worked a quarry near his home at Eyre Creek. They built many of Auburn’s finest buildings and their craftsmanship and the beauty of the stone itself have given the town a special quality.

It appears that Meller probably built this store and grain warehouse for the Castine family in the 1870s. John Castine arrived in Auburn in 1862 and set up a storekeeping business with a friend, Francis Goss. They were successful in business and in the late 1880s moved into the building on the west side of the main road that had been occupied by S.F. Claridge for many years. Castine later became a Member of Parliament. His son Ernest, who took over the
storekeeping business, was said to be one of Auburn’s leading people and a promoter of the town’s commercial and social causes.

References
Lands Titles Office searches.
*National Trust Walk, Auburn S.A.*, n.d.
Tateham's Heritage Accommodation
Main North Rd
AUBURN

Location
Main North Rd, Auburn

Mapsheet
6629–02

AMG Reference
286180  6232420

Description
Stone building: former store, cottage and warehouse

Land Description
Lot 99, Section 261, Hd Upper Wakefield CT 4168/459+

LGA
DC Saddleworth & Auburn

Owner
George and Marie Popperwell
c/- P O
AUBURN 5451
(note: property sold June 1990 to new proprietors not yet shown on title)

Other Assessments

Heritage Status

Photographs
Film 1631, 25.8.89; Film 1654, 1.6.90
Auburn Survey Item No.: 35

Site Plan

Tateham's Heritage Accommodation
Main North Rd
AUBURN
Auburn Survey Item No.: 35
Tateham’s Heritage Accommodation Main North Rd,
AUBURN

Photographs: Upper: Exterior looking west-north-west
Lower: Exterior, west-south-west
Auburn Survey Item No.: 35

Tateham’s Heritage Accommodation Main North Rd,

Photographs Upper: Interior shopfront  Lower: Interior, passage into rear rooms
Register Assessment Report
South Australian Heritage Act 1978 Auburn Survey Item No.: 37

J. E. Glover’s store, house and wall
Main North Rd
AUBURN

Statement of Cultural Significance

This is Auburn’s earliest remaining commercial building and one of the earliest in the Lower North. Built in 1855 by Henry Wylie as a store and dwelling. An important example of a mid-nineteenth century shop and dwelling of unique form. Significant because of the fine quality of the local stone and masonry work. It is an integral part of Auburn’s unique heritage

Relevant Criteria

A building important to the understanding of the evolution and pattern of South Australia’s environmental, social or cultural heritage.

Significant Interest

1. Architectural: A significant example of the skills of local builders and masons. An interesting example of a store and dwelling of vernacular form and construction, with much of both the interior and exterior in, virtually, original form.

2. Historical: Auburn has a significant history, not just because of its origins on the Gulf Road from Burra, but also because of the building skill of local tradesmen. It is a link to the founders of Auburn in its days when Burra transport was the town’s economic life-blood.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items
Auburn Survey Item No.: 37

J.E. Glover’s store, house and wall
Main North Rd
AUBURN

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

Architectural

This store and dwelling were constructed in a number of sections. These include a shop and a small adjoining room, that was used as an eating room, positioned on the corner of Main North Rd and St Vincent St. A dwelling is attached to the shop on St Vincent St and a celler is beneath. A partially underground store is attached to the southern wall of the shop. A masonry wall along St Vincent St is an integral part of the site.

The building is constructed of local stone and calcrete walling and has a hipped roof now clad with corrugated galvanised iron, but originally with timber shingles that are still evident beneath the iron and in exposed positions, such as beneath the verandah. This building originally consisted of four rooms: a shop, an adjacent room and two rooms to the west. These rooms had a further three dwelling rooms added to the west as well as a kitchen, bathroom and toilet. A low verandah runs around the shop front corner. There is a step down from street level into the shop. The shop has a corner doorway with windows, with a number of fixed large panes inside a wooden frame, on either corner. The Main North Rd frontage is approximately 24m. and the St Vincent St side 22m.

Historical

Auburn was begun as a town to service the transport on the Gulf Road from Burra to Port Wakefield. Over the years it became an important local service town with a vibrant community, largely due to it being on the Main North Road from Adelaide.

On the opposite corner of St Vincent Street to the Rising Sun Inn a shop and dwelling was built by Henry Wylie in 1855, the same year that local government, through the District Council of Upper Wakefield, formed in the area. This corner store had a number of owners over the years with different trades being followed at the premises, as diverse as bakers and carpenters. Certainly by 1888, the executors of Joseph Edwin Bleechmore's estate were administering the property. In 1915 Isaac Meller of Auburn, who described himself as a fruiterer and greengrocer, purchased the property. Meller was a renowned market gardener and due to his, and his family’s, skills, the store has been kept alive ever since; from 1945 by his daughter Mrs Jean Glover.

References


Lands Titles Office searches.

National Trust Walk, Auburn S.A., n.d.
Auburn Survey Item No.: 37

Site Record

J.E. Glover's store, house and wall
Main North Rd
AUBURN

Location
Main North Rd, Auburn

Mapsheet
6629–02

AMG Reference
286180 6232330

Description
Stone building, walls, store and cellar

Land Description
Block 4 Section 261, Hd Upper Wakefield
CT 1486/132

LGA
DC Saddleworth & Auburn

Owner
Mrs Jean Ellen Glover
Main North Rd
AUBURN 5451

Other Assessments

Heritage Status

Photographs
Film 1632, 25.8.89; Film 1654, 1.6.90
Auburn Survey Item No.: 37

Site Plan

J.E. Glover's store, house and wall
Main North Rd
AUBURN
Auburn Survey Item No.: 37  
Main North Rd, AUBURN

Photographs Upper: Exterior looking south-west  
Lower: Exterior house and cellar to north
Auburn Survey Item No.: 37
Main North Rd, AUBURN

Photographs: Upper: Interior: shop  Lower: Interior sitting room

J.E. Glover's store, house and wall,