HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

HERITAGE SURVEY OF THE LOWER NORTH

(REGION 8 - SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

PART TWO

15. D.C. ROBERTSTOWN

ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEETS


Funded by the South Australian Heritage Committee and the Australian Heritage Commission (National Estate Programme, 1981/2).
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Apoinga Hotel is the last substantial relic of the formerly thriving smelting township of Apoinga (see separate sheet - Apoinga smelter site).

Much of this building survives intact it seems, although the principal facade is obscured by creeper. In this facade are a number of French doors with half paneled glassing and there is a large cellar. Part of the walling is half timbered, the remainder being of sandstone rubble. Timber shingles/palings remain below the present corrugated galvanised iron cladding.

**REFERENCES**


**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 292  Negative No. 1
Direction of view to SE

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**STATUS**

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

(A) State ☑ (B) Local ☐

PREPARED BY

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1982
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

These remains consist of slag heaps, piles of fire bricks, numerous depressions in the ground and what would appear to be the base of the fluming stack. These are the relics of a highly significant industry; the first smelting of copper ore in the Lower North. Burra ore was at first carted to Adelaide and thence to overseas smelters. Messrs. Penny and Owen decided to establish a South Australian smelter. They were attracted to Tothill's Scrub (Apoinga) because of the forest of gums available for fuel. In 1848 the smelter was built, valued at £10,000. In 1849 the first copper was produced (some months before Burra's smelter) and the newspapers hailed "a new era in metallurgy".

By 1851 fifty tons of high quality copper per week were being produced, with four furnaces in constant use. The works by then supported a population of about 100, living in Apoinga. The town included an hotel (see separate sheet), shops and about thirty houses. Most of the workers were wood-cutters. When South Australian mines were first deserted for the Victorian goldfields, the Apoinga works continued, as there was ore enough to smelt and the men were under contract. But the men dumped much of the good copper so that receipts dropped, the works closed and they were free to leave. The smelter was re-used only for a short period some years later, and Apoinga has been long deserted.

**REFERENCES**

Noye, "Dictionary of local history", p.4;

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 291 Negative No. 15
Direction of view to E
**HERITAGE SURVEY**

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

**ITEM NAME:** Former Stony Gap School and Bible Christian Chapel
Former or other

**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

This building probably dates from the early 1860s (the *Gazetteer* describes a Government School of 30 pupils at Stony Gap). It was also used for Bible Christian services and was probably leased by the Government from the congregation.

**REFERENCES**

Bailliere's, *South Australian Gazetteer..., p.238*

Verbal Ian Auhl, 1982
Archival photographs

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<th>Negative No.</th>
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<td>Direction of view</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**LOCATION**

Address Turner's Road
Town Stony Gap
Postcode 92
Section
Hundred Apoinga
County Robertstown
L.G.A. Region 8
S.H.P. Region 8
A.M.G. Ref. 6630-II

<table>
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<th>SUBJECT</th>
<th>2.5</th>
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**PERIOD**

State

Study Area
1855-68

**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 RD File
Other

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State (B) Local

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1982
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

This small structure constructed of sandstone rubble has buttressed walling and a chimney topped in stone. Possibly initially a school, the first meeting of the District Council of Apoinga was held there in 1873. The building later became the Council offices, until the amalgamation with the District Council of Robertstown in 1932.

The building is a picturesque local landmark and one of the district's earliest surviving buildings.

**REFERENCES**

Robertstown centenary;
S.A. Archives, "Robertstown"

Verbal Dudley Ruediger, 1981
Archival photographs

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 292  Negative No. 2

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State X (B) Local

**PREPARED BY**

HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

Date: 1982
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE
A picturesque and well-known rocky gorge, this area has long been used as a picnic spot. Numerous photographs taken there by visitors since the late nineteenth century attest to its popularity.

REFERENCES
Archival photographs Auhl, Burra and district. A pictorial memoir, pp. 104, 205

PHOTOGRAPH Auhl, Burra..., p. 205 (1905)
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This is an extensive complex of ruins, including the homestead, men's quarters, underground tank and stone garden walling. World's End is typical of the large pastoral stations which were established in isolated parts of the Region during the first period of settlement. Donald McDonald had taken up the World's End Run by 1853, and the surviving ruins appear to date from this period.

The picturesque site has also long been associated with the popular picnic spot Burra Creek Gorge, which is overlooked by World's End.

REFERENCES

Ngaiawang Folk Province, p.89

Verbal
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 265  Negative No. 13
Direction of view to N
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The wrought iron swing suspension bridge with timber deck, hangs between two large red gums. Unusual features are the cantilevered walkways, circumnavigating the large gum trunks at each end of the bridge.

The bridge was erected by the Apoinga Council c. 1892, for use by children to reach the Wesleyan Methodist Church and the World's End School (1889) north of the Burra Creek.

Although the original approach steps and a simple cable hung section to the north are missing, the original wrought iron structure of the main span remains and is a rare if not unique heritage item.

**REFERENCES**

Auhl, Burra and district..., p.77

Verbal Mrs. J. Rooke, 1982
Archival photographs Mrs. J. Rooke; Film 266, Neg. 5

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Direction of view to W

Film No. 266 Negative No. 1
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Robert James Martin McBride began his career as a pastoralist by purchasing the leasehold of 200 square miles, called the Burra Creek Run, in 1859. Situated on the Murray Flats and adjoining the North West Bend Station, McBride renamed the property "The Gums" (large, now dead, gums mark the wide extent of Burra Creek floodwaters). McBride fenced, sank wells and erected buildings and settled there for about 20 years: it is likely that the substantial homestead and the outbuildings date from his occupation, c.1859, or the early 1860s.

The property was bought by Thomas Henry Pearse in 1895, and continued to be held by the Pearse family.

REFERENCES

Auhl, Burra and district..., p.50;
Bailliere's South Australian Gazetteer..., p.290;
Cyclopedia of S.A., pp.460, 462.

Ian Auhl, 1982 (Pearse family will be writing
Verbal history)
Archival photographs Auhl, p.50 (homestead, c.1910)

PHOTOGRAPH Auhl, Burra and district..., p.50
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The foundation stone of this building was laid on 30th August 1871. It was built as a Bible Christian Chapel on land previously owned by Malcolm Spence and was used as a church only until 1880 although remaining in Bible Christian use until 1886.

While in the ownership of John and James Farley, it was rented as a school by the Education Department from 1890 for approximately four years, after which the enrolment moved to West Robertstown School.

REFERENCES

Verbal Dudley Ruediger, 1983
Archival photographs
**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

This is a well-preserved example of an early twentieth century shop front. The building is constructed of stone and brick.

**REFERENCES**

Verbal
Archival photographs

**PHOTOGRAPH**

Film No. 295
Negative No. 5

Direction of view to N

**STATUS**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

(A) State (B) Local

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1982
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The hotel is of typical low-set simple construction with parapet. It appears to date from the 1870s, which was the period of closer settlement in this district.

The hotel also forms part of an historical streetscape, lying alongside the attached shops (item no. 18) and in turn, the half-round storage shed (no. 19).

REFERENCES

Verbal
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 295  Negative No. 3
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: 1982
**HERITAGE SURVEY**
**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

**ITEM NAME:** Storage Shed
Former or other

**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

Despite having been unsympathetically enlarged, this shed retains its distinctive half round galvanised iron roof. Such buildings are now scarce in the Region.

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**LOCATION**
Address
Town Point Pass
Postcode 182
Section 182
Hundred English
County
L.G.A. Robertstown
S.H.P. Region 8
A.M.G. Ref. 6729-IV

**SUBJECT**
4.10

**PERIOD**
State
Study Area

**REFERENCES**

Verbal
Archival photographs

**PHOTOGRAPH**
Film No. 295  Negative No. 4
Direction of view to E

**TYPE OF ITEM**

- Natural feature
- Historical site
- Historical Gdn. [X]
- BUILDING
- STRUCTURE
- PHYSICAL CONDITION

**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 [ ] (B) Local [X]

**PREPARED BY**
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS

**Date:** 1982
Illustration also shows Item No. 18.

Film No. 295
Negative No. 15
Direction of view to S

Film No.
Negative No.
Direction of view
HERITAGE SURVEY
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

ITEM NAME: Former Point Pass School
Former or other

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This building appears to date from the 1870s. It has been well-maintained and with St. Peters Church (item no. 21) forms part of an interesting historical group.

LOCATION
Address
Town Point Pass
Postcode
Section 181
Hundred English
County
L.G.A. Robertstown
S.H.P. Region 8
A.M.G. Ref. 6729-IV

SUBJECT
2.6

PERIOD
State
Study Area
1869-84

REFERENCES
Verbal
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH
Film No. 294
Negative No. 14
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

RECOMMENDATION
(A) State (B) Local X

PREPARED BY
HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS
Date: 1982
**HERITAGE SURVEY**

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

**ITEM NAME:** St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Manse

**PROJECT**
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 8
Item Ref. No. 21

**LOCATION**
Address
Town Point Pass
Postcode
Section 181
Hundred English
County
L.G.A. Robertstown
S.H.P. Region 8
A.M.G. Ref. 6729-IV

**SUBJECT**
2.5

**PERIOD**
State
Study Area
1869-84

**REFERENCES**

**PHOTOGRAPH**
Direction of view to E
Film No. 294
Negative No. 12

**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: 1982

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HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This is a good, well-maintained example of the small Lutheran Churches built by deeply religious local communities. It was probably built during the 1870s, about the same time as Immanuel Church (see separate sheet).

The Church is neatly constructed of local stone, and with its adjacent manse and cemetery, forms a significant heritage group.
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This building complex is a major feature both in the town and in the Lutheran heritage of S.A., as it was the foundation site of the well-known Immanuel College.

The substantial Church was built in 1876, replacing the first Church built by the congregation in 1871. The Church is of stone, with a spire which is unusual in this area. The manse was completed in 1878 (until then the pastor and his wife had lived in the vestry).

D.H. Lemke built the organ in 1876, this being one of the few Lemke organs in its original site.

A large school (demolished: the dormitory and boarding house building survives) was built to serve the congregation in 1883 and was established as Immanuel College by Pastor Leidig in 1895. This College also trained teachers for Lutheran Day Schools. The College was transferred to North Adelaide in 1922, and to its present site at Novar Gardens in 1957.

REFERENCES

Brief outline of the history of the Lutheran Church, Point Pass, 1869-1969;
National Trust, 837;
Ngaiawang Folk Province, pp.201-205;
Naylor, S.A. Pipe Organs, p.17

Verbal
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 294 Negative No. 6
Direction of view to E
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<td>Direction of view</td>
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**HERITAGE SURVEY**

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

**ITEM NAME:** House
Former or other Ruediger House

**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

This is one of the first houses built in Robertstown area, the "town" having grown about a store and residence from about 1874. Mining families moved into the surrounding area during the early 1870s, as the Burra mines began to produce less copper. Other settlers - mostly German - moved north from the Barossa.

This is a typical stone farmhouse of that early '70's period and for that district.

**REFERENCES**

- Ruediger family history;
- Robertstown Centenary;
- S.A. Archives notes on Robertstown

- Verbal Dudley Ruediger, 1981
- Archival photographs

**PHOTOGRAPH**

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<td>Direction of view</td>
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**PROJECT**

**HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 8**

**Item Ref. No. 24**

**Office Use**

**ITEM No.**

**DOCKET No.**

**LOCATION**

- Address
- Town Nr. Robertstown
- Postcode
- Section 125
- Hundred English
- County
- L.G.A. Robertstown
- S.H.P. Region 8
- A.M.G. Ref. 6730-III

**SUBJECT**

2.2

**PERIOD**

- State
- Study Area
- 1869-84

**TYPE OF ITEM**

- LAND Natural feature [ ]
- Historical site [X]
- Historical Gdn. [ ]

**BUILDING**

**STRUCTURE**

**PHYSICAL CONDITION**

**STATUS**

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

**RECOMMENDATION**

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

**PREPARED BY**

**HERITAGE INVESTIGATIONS**

Date: 1981
**HERITAGE SURVEY**

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET**

| ITEM NAME: House  
Former or other Rieschech Saddlery |

**HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

This building was established as a saddlery and bootmaker's workshop in 1882 by Rieschech. An experienced leatherworker named Maloney was employed there. The building was later run as a general store by Mr. Westphalen and then also by Mr. Westphalen as a butter factory. In 1908 an award was won at the London Trade Fair for his butter. The store closed in c.1914 and has been occupied as a residence since then.

**LOCATION**

- **Address:**
  - **Town:** Robertstown
  - **Postcode:** 110
  - **Section:** 1
  - **Hundred:** English
  - **County:** L.G.A. Robertstown
  - **S.H.P. Region:** 8
  - **A.M.G. Ref.:** 6730-III

**SUBJECT**

- 2.2
- 4.5

**PERIOD**

- **Study Area:** 1869-84

**REFERENCES**

- Verbal Dudley Ruediger, 1983
- Archival photographs

**PHOTOGRAPH**

- **Direction of view**
- **Film No.**
- **Negative No.**

**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

Situated on a prominent corner position, this store is an excellent example of early twentieth century country stores. It appears to have been built c.1912, at approximately the same time as the new section of the Roberts store. The two stores being features of the town streetscape.

REFERENCES

Verbal
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH
Direction of view to N
Film No. 294  Negative No. 9

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: 1982
HERITAGE SURVEY
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

ITEM NAME: Former Shop
Former or other

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This former bootmaker's shop was built c.1914 and is constructed of galvanised iron. It is a good example of such buildings erected in small country towns in the early years of the twentieth century. It forms an interesting contrast in scale and materials with the nearby Eudunda Farmers store of the same period.

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 8
Item Ref. No. 28

LOCATION
Address
Town Robertstown
Postcode
Section 122
Hundred English
County
L.G.A. Robertstown
S.H.P. Region B
A.M.G. Ref. 6730-III

SUBJECT
4.6
4.10

PERIOD
State
Study Area
1905-28

REFERENCES

Verbal Dudley Ruediger, 1983
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH
Film No. 294  Negative No. 10
Direction of view to W

TYPE OF ITEM
LAND Natural feature □
Historical site □
Historical Gdn. □
BUILDING X
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: 1982
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Roberts' store was the stimulus for and the focal point of Robertstown. As the surrounding Emu Flats area was increasingly populated during the 1860s and early 1870s, John Roberts, a store-keeper of Kooringa (Burra) carted supplies to the district. He eventually established the store and house in the "town" c.1874. Postal services were started there in 1874 and the town was gazetted as Roberts Town.

The shop is an excellent example of its type: the first store has a low verandah and a largely original interior. The house is connected. The store is attached to a larger 1912 shop in good original condition, forming an interesting contrasting pair. The store remained in the Roberts family until c.1974, when it was taken over by Merv Lehman.

REFERENCES

Robertstown, p.23;
S.A. Archives, Research notes on Robertstown

Verbal Dudley Ruediger, 1983
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH

Film No. 294  Negative No. 8
Direction of view to E

PROJECT

HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 8
Item Ref. No. 29
Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

LOCATION

Address
Town Robertstown
Postcode

Section 121
Hundred English
County
L.G.A. Robertstown
S.H.P. Region 8
A.M.G. Ref. 6730-III
54 32260 623710

SUBJECT

2.1
4.6

PERIOD

State

Study Area
1869-84
1905-28

TYPE OF ITEM

LAND Natural feature □
    Historical site □
    Historical Gdn. X

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: 1982
HERITAGE SURVEY
ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 8
Item Ref. No. 30

Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

LOCATION
Address
Town Robertstown
Postcode
Section 110
Hundred English
County
L.G.A. Robertstown
S.H.P. Region 8
A.M.G. Ref. 6730-III
54 32230 623710

SUBJECT
2.2
4.5

PERIOD
State
Study Area
1869-84

REFERENCES

Verbal Dudley Ruediger, 1983
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH
Direction of view
Film No.
Negative No.

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

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

This building was the home of Albert Day and was built in approximately 1870, being one of the first in Robertstown. Albert Day was a blacksmith and wheelwright with his workshop at the main road corner on Section 110. Part of this still stands behind a recently constructed house.

The old house is presently owned by Albert Reimann. It is a scarce surviving example of the early dwellings of Emu Plains (later Robertstown).
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE
This is an unusually complete 19th century farm group with extensive straw-roofed sheds, maintained by the present owner, who continues to live and farm in that tradition (using horses and without electricity).
The farm appears to date from the 1870s, when the district was first closely settled.

REFERENCES
Verbal Dudley Ruediger, 1982 (re owner, Harold Schmidt)
Archival photographs

PHOTOGRAPH
Direction of view

PROJECT
HERITAGE SURVEY REGION 8
Item Ref. No. 32
Office Use
ITEM No.
DOCKET No.

LOCATION
Address
Town
Postcode
Section 132
Hundred Bower
County
L.G.A. Robertstown
S.H.P. Region 8
A.M.G. Ref. 6730-III

SUBJECT
4.1
4.10

PERIOD
State
Study Area
1869-84

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: 1982