HERITAGE OF EIGHT LOWER NORTH TOWNS

2.7 SADDLEWORTH
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

1. Cottage, Saddleworth Rd
2. Quarry, Undalya & Saddleworth Rds
3. Cottage, 4 Crawford Ave
4. Cottage, 12 Crawford Ave
5. Cottage, 14 Crawford Ave
6. Cottage, 16 Crawford Ave
7. Saddleworth Railway Station
8. Former Station master's residence
9. Former Bee & Hill warehouse (Sporn)
10. Railway Bridge
11. House, cnr Saddleworth Rd & Bit St
12. Cottage, 15 Minden St
13. Cottage, 13 Minden St
14. Cottage, 6 Minden St
15. Cottage, 7 Minden St
16. Baptist Church, Newark St
17. Cottage, 31 Belvidere Rd
18. Single-fronted shop, 36 Belvidere Rd
19. Shop, 30 Belvidere Rd
20. Shops, 26 Belvidere Rd
21. Shop, 24 Belvidere Rd
22. Shop, 22 Belvidere Rd
23. Warehouse, Newark St
24. Servwell, RSL, Patches & Pieces, Belvidere Rd
25. House and former Bank, cnr. Belvidere & Saddleworth Rds
26. Uniting Church, Spur St
27. Cottage, 2 Stirrup St
28. Post Office, Saddleworth Rd
29. St Aidan's Anglican Church, Saddleworth Rd
30. Institute, Saddleworth Rd
31. Historical Museum, Saddleworth Rd
32. Gilbert Valley Hotel
33. Former Saddleworth Public School
34. Former shop & dwelling, Curb St
HERITAGE OF EIGHT LOWER NORTH TOWNS

Register Assessment Report
South Australian Heritage Act 1978
Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 7

Railway Station
SADDLEWORTH

Statement of Cultural Significance

Built in 1897–98 as the second, improved station on the northern extension line, Tarlee to Burra, that was first commenced in August 1868. It is of almost identical size and construction to other stations on the line, like Manoora, and is an example of the high point of railway building and design in the nineteenth century. Of immense importance to the studies of the geography of settlement and transport and the culture that encouraged them.

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 South Australia's finest railway buildings. Of extremely good design and construction.
2. Historical: The Tarlee to Burra extension line was first constructed at the high point of enthusiasm for railway building. Twenty years later, residents of the districts through which it ran demanded more refined facilities—a new stone railway station was built in 1897–8. The coming of this railway was the impetus for the town's and district's growth.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items
ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

Architectural

Built in 1897–8 as part of the consolidation of South Australia’s railways.

The station was designed in three sections: the ticket office; rest rooms and waiting area (including a porch area opening onto the platform that is flagged with slate); and a store room and toilet section. A verandah of cast iron posts and roofed with corrugated galvanised iron runs the length of the ticket office and waiting area. The overall dimensions of the structure are approximately 26m x 8.5m.

The ticket office section has a gabled roof capped with corrugated galvanised iron, verges with ornately scalloped barge boards ending in wooden finials at the ridge. Eaves have guttering attached. Other sections appear to have skillion roofs clad with corrugated galvanised iron.

The entire building is constructed of bluestone with brick quoins and surrounds to openings. A brick square chimney stack runs through the ticket office roof within the structure avoiding the ridge.

The interior of the building, as far as access would allow, is apparently in near original condition. The ticket office has all cupboards, counters and woodwork in place. There are few signs of vandalism at this time unlike so many other railway properties in the Lower North. Moreover, this station is of similar design to other stations on the Burra line, like Manoora.

Historical

The Burra line was the first constructed during the railway boom of the 1870s–80s. Prior to this expansionist period there had only been the Port Adelaide and Kapunda lines, a small branch line from Port Adelaide and a tramway from Goolwa to Victor Harbor. Naturally the first thoughts for the creation of this line grew from the mighty success of the Monster Mine. It would be a railway to transport ore, smelted copper and supplies. However, by the time that construction was agreed, in 1866–7, the mines themselves were working at a fast diminishing output. The construction of the line, therefore, was stimulated by the knowledge that the district around it was becoming of prime agricultural importance.

In December 1869, seventeen months after construction began, the public were ‘respectfully informed that the Northern Extension Railway will be temporarily opened . . . to Riverton, Saddlworth, and Manoora Stations for the carriage of wheat and agricultural produce only’. The Engineer in Chief seemed pleased with both the quality and cost of construction and felt that goods sheds were substantial and ‘well executed’. At this time, the stations were of basic design and built of weatherboard with skillion roof. The whole project was a triumph of economy.

While the bare essentials served the needs of agricultural transport, few of the passengers who used the line enjoyed the Spartan conditions. In August 1885, Saddlworth residents met to consider the unsatisfactory accommodation for passengers going to and returning from the railway station and to take steps to try to have a more convenient and direct road to
the station. These folk also asked for a verandah to be erected in front of the passenger station. While they may not have gained immediate satisfaction, by 1897–8 a number of new stations were being erected along the line and Saddleworth gained a fine building. The Railways Commissioner noted in 1899 that ‘during the year new stations have been built at Saddleworth, Manoora, Mintaro and Farrell’s Flat out of loan funds, the original cost of the old structures having been charged to working expenses and credited to the capital account’.

The railway was without doubt the catalyst for the growth of Saddleworth.

References


*South Australian Government Gazette*, 9 December 1869, pp. 1748–9;


*South Australian Parliamentary Papers*, No. 47 of 1898–9, p. 5, No. 47 of 1899, p. 5.

*Observer*, 22 August 1885.
Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 7

Site Record

Railway Station  
SADDLEWORTH

Location: Saddleworth

Mapsheet: 6629-08

AMG Reference: 295300 6225730

Description: Stone railway station building

Land Description: Section 395, Hd Saddleworth  
CT [not registered]

LGA: DC Saddleworth & Auburn

Owner: Australian National Railways  
KESWICK TERMINAL 5035

Other Assessments

Heritage Status

Photographs: Film 1632, 30.8.89; Film 1655, 1.6.90
Saddleworth: Survey Item No.: 7

Site Plan

Railway Station
SADDLEWORTH
Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 7  Railway Station SADDLEWORTH

Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 7  
Railway Station SADDLEWORTH  

HERITAGE OF EIGHT LOWER NORTH TOWNS

Register Assessment Report
South Australian Heritage Act 1978
Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 9

Former Bee & Hill Warehouse—
Bacon and ham factory
SADDLEWORTH

Statement of Cultural Significance

Built c. 1880, for use as a ham and bacon factory and later a warehouse, this is one of the few industrial sites, of its type, left in South Australia. The manufacturing plant is still in reasonable condition. It also shows the growth of a country town economy after the coming of the railway.

Relevant Criteria

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

Significant Interest

1. Architectural: A significant example of one of the State's best-preserved nineteenth century rural warehouses and manufacturing sites.

2. Historical: The coming of the railway to Saddleworth encouraged a growth in local industry. This former warehouse and ham and bacon factory was constructed c. 1880 to serve the local district. One of its most important owners was the storekeeping-merchant firm of Bee & Hill.

Recommendation

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items
ARCHITECTURAL

Built c. 1880, either for use as a warehouse or as a factory for making ham and bacon products.

The site has two buildings: one is a small brick smokehouse approximately 3m x 2m; the other is a building of rectangular floor plan, approximately 9m x 18m, on two levels.

This latter building is constructed of random bluestone walling with large scribed and tooled quoins and surrounds to openings. The masonry work is similar to that constructed by Joseph Meller of Auburn and could probably be attributed to him. The front facade, facing the railway, has a central double doorway with a rectangular window placed symmetrically on either side and is finished with a rectangular parapet, used for signage. The opposite end of the building has a doorway leading to an in-ground level.

The interior of the upper level has had a false ceiling added, but the walls are original and unplastered. The lower level has large concrete pickling vats—for ham and bacon manufacture—around its extremities. Some alterations have been made on this level, but original beams have been retained.

The roof of the building is hipped and clad with corrugated galvanised iron. Eaves have guttering attached.

Generally the building is sound, although there are areas of moisture damage to the masonry.

HISTORICAL

The railway was without doubt the catalyst for the growth of Saddleworth. Its coming saw the increase of trade and buildings were erected as a result—stores, warehouses, civic and private buildings. This warehouse building—factory was one of those. It was constructed near the railway station, adjacent to the line.

In 1885, the land on which the building stands was owned by Frederick Gray, a carrier from Clare. It is quite possible that when the land was transferred to Gray and brought under the Torrens title system, that this building was in existence and had been functioning as a ham and bacon factory. This was also the time of the rapid rise of dairy co-operatives in the district and any ham and bacon industry would have been a direct offshoot of the establishment of a creamery or dairy factory. While much of the origins of this building are shrouded in mystery there are some clues available. The building was well constructed of regional bluestone and in the underground rooms are numbers of large concrete pickling baths—used in the process for manufacturing ham and bacon. Outside is a brick smokehouse used for curing the product. A brand hangs on a raft—Murmac Ham & Bacon Factory.

So, if Gray purchased the site with the building already in place he could either have used it as a warehouse or leased it as a factory in the 1880s. In 1899 Walter Henry Bee and Christopher Columbus Hill, partners in a Saddleworth trading, storekeeping and wheat buying business, took the building over to be used as a warehouse and store. Their trading name was painted
HERITAGE OF EIGHT LOWER NORTH TOWNS

on the railway-facing wall in bold letters. They had a large business as merchants supplying many northern pastoral and agricultural properties.

References

Observer, 4 January 1879, p. 5.
Site visits, Saddleworth, 30, 31 August 1989, 1 June 1990.
Interview with Mr Dick Sporn, Saddleworth, 30 August 1989.
LTO references.
HERITAGE OF EIGHT LOWER NORTH TOWNS

Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 9

Site Record

Former Bee & Hill Warehouse—
Bacon and ham factory
SADDLEWORTH

Location

Saddleworth

Mapsheet

6629-08

AMG Reference

295320  6225820

Description

Stone warehouse building and former brick smokehouse

Land Description

Lots 11, 12, 13, 14 (plan 281) Section 2300,
Hd Saddleworth
CT 3291/28

LGA

DC Saddleworth & Auburn

Owner

Rodney Richard Sporn

C/- Richard Alwin Sporn

SADDLEWORTH 5413

Other Assessments

Heritage Status

Photographs

Film 1632, 30.8.89; Film 1655, 1.6.90
Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 9

Site Plan

Former Bee & Hill Warehouse—
Bacon and ham factory
SADDLEWORTH
Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 9  
Former Bee & Hill Warehouse—Bacon and ham factory SADDLEWORTH

Photographs Upper: Exterior, south-east facade  
Lower: Exterior, north-west facade
Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 9

**Former Bee & Hill Warehouse—Bacon and ham factory**

**Photographs**
Upper: Interior, upper level store
Lower: Interior, basement, pickling area
St Aidan's Anglican Church
Saddleworth Rd
SADDLEWORTH

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Statement of Cultural Significance

The building of this church commenced in 1894. It was designed by the prolific ecclesiastical architect, W.K. Mallyon, a Port Pirie bank manager, who considered it to be the finest example of his work. It is probably one of the finest Gothic Revival churches outside of Adelaide.

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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 Gothic Revival architecture and the finest piece of W.K. Mallyon's work.

2. Historical: Constructed in 1894 by James and Monroe of Kapunda to Mallyon's design at the height of Saddleworth's importance as a service town to the Lower North. An important example of the growth and sophistication of religion in South Australia.

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Recommendation

It is recommended that this item be included on the Register of State Heritage Items
Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 29

St Aidan's Anglican Church
Saddleworth Rd
SADDLEWORTH

ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST

Architectural

Built in 1894 and designed by W.K. Mallyon of Port Pirie in the Gothic Revival style.

Mallyon's design incorporates two transepts—the nave runs east-west and is crossed north-south at the vestry and tower, and at immediately west of the sanctuary. West to east the floor plan is 17m. and the nave is 6.5m. wide and the transepts 10m. wide. The tower is on the south-west corner and is approximately 2.2m. square. The main double door is in the tower and the vestry also has another entrance.

The wailing is constructed of stone with brick quoin's and surrounds to openings and the uppermost section of the tower is of brick. Brick is also used above the level of the wall height running to the top of the gables. Roof is gabled and clad with corrugated galvanised iron. Windows are lancet shaped and above the western feature window and the entrance door in the tower, the architect has used alternative red and white bricks in pattern.

The interior of the church is largely original—even gasoliers, with rose glass, have been retained and converted to electric light. Aisle is central from east to west. Western and eastern windows feature stained glass. The ceiling shows exposed beams and trusses.

Historical

There had been an Anglican cause at Saddleworth virtually since the foundation of the town by James Masters in 1853. It was not, however, until a vestry meeting in August 1890 that the general meeting of the congregation decided to devise means for purchasing land and erecting a church. A piece of land was found in 1893 and W. K. Mallyon was commissioned to prepare sketches for a suitable building.

William Mallyon was an immensely versatile man. He entered the National Bank in 1874 and was appointed the Manager of Port Pirie branch in 1882. He retained that position for 34 years. His hobby was architecture and he designed 23 buildings—including churches, schools and halls in places as far distant as Streaky Bay and Saddleworth and Quorn and Edithburgh. He was also a synodsmen for many years.

In February 1894 the church committee at Saddleworth believed that if they found the stone, bricks, lime and sand that they could build their church for £400. Consequently, they went ahead with its construction.

On 10 April 1894 the Bishop of Adelaide, Archdeacon Dove and the incumbent Rev. E. K. Yeatman, laid the foundation stone of a church to be called St Aidan's, designed by Mallyon, 'the hon. architect to the Anglican Church in South Australia' and built by James & Monroe of Kapunda. Mallyon waxed lyrical to the Clerk of Works about St Aidan's and called it 'my greatest triumph in Church Architecture'. On 23 August 1894 St Aidan's Church was opened and dedicated.

St Aidan's was the last major public building constructed in Saddleworth in the nineteenth century.
References

Supplement to the Review, Adelaide, 1 May 1894

The Review, 1 September 1894.

From the letters of W.K. Mallyon to the Clerk of Works, National Trust File Notes no. 245.

LTO references.

L.S. Burton, Gawler, to E.G. Richardson, Saddleworth, 4 March 1893, Mortlock Library, D4770(L), from copy made by R.J. Noye.
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Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 29

Site Plan

St Aidan’s Anglican Church
Saddleworth Rd
SADDLEWORTH
Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 29

St Aidan's Anglican Church, Saddleworth Rd

Photographs: Upper: Exterior, north-west facade
Lower: Exterior, north-east facade
Saddleworth Survey Item No.: 29
SADDLEWORTH

SADDLEWORTH

St Aidan's Anglican Church, Saddleworth Rd

Photographs Upper: interior, windows above altar, gasoliers Lower: interior northern window