

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Burra Mines Historic Site

Market Street, Burra

SAHR 10970 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

The Burra Mines Historic Site is a distinct region of the Burra State Heritage Area, and is a State heritage Place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register. It is west of Burra Creek, between Burra and North Burra (the old townships of Kooronga and Redruth & Aberdeen), and encompasses the site and remaining structures of the former Burra copper mine.

The copper produced at this site revived the colony's flagging economy during a crucial time in the 1840s. It was responsible for a mass influx of settlers, predominantly miners and smeltery workers from Cornwall and Wales, and for the establishment



Burra Mines Historic Site, 2005



*Panoramic view of the Burra Copper Mines
1870
Photo B 4150: State Library of SA*

of settlements along transport routes in South Australia's mid north. (View a more detailed [history](#) of Burra and the mine)

This important area retains much of Burra's significant mining heritage and includes both old underground workings and the open-cut mine that dominates the site. The barren landscape also contains the 'artificial hills' of mine spoilings, as well as abandoned buildings, various ruins and archaeological sites. Of particular interest are three chimneys, the remains of three traditional Cornish engine houses, and the Powder Magazine that is now one of the oldest surviving buildings in the area.

The Burra Mines Historic Site contains 11 sites that are especially significant in the Burra Mines' story, and which were confirmed as State Heritage Places on 24 July 1980:

Ore Sorting Floor (1870), used to treat low-grade ore from the open cut workings – ***SAHR 10055***

Mine Manager's Dwelling and Office (1849) – ***SAHR 10056***

Graves Pump House (1868) – ***SAHR 10054***

Winding House (1861) – ***SAHR 10052***

Cornish Crusher Chimney (1874), a round stone chimney with brick capping on a rectangular base – ***SAHR 10047***

Welsh Haulage Engine Chimney (1876), a square stone structure with cement capping – ***SAHR 10046***

Powder Magazine (1847), constructed to store gunpowder for blasting at the mine. This stone structure, with an arched roof and reinforced buttresses, is one of Australia's oldest remaining mine buildings. It was restored by the National Trust in 1976 – ***SAHR 10045***

Engine/Crusher House (1870) – ***SAHR 10445***

South Australian Mining Association Storeman's Residence, Yard and Walls (1847), erected at the entrance to the mine and used as a depot for building timber, iron, tools and mining machinery. The spacious yard had a high stone wall to discourage stealing – ***SAHR 10019***



Ore Sorting Floor, 2005



Mine Manager's Dwelling & Office, 2005



Graves Pump House, 2005



Winding House, 2005



Cornish Crusher Chimney, 2005



Welsh Haulage Engine Chimney, 2005



Powder Magazine, 2005



Engine/Crusher House, 2005



SAMA Storeman's Residence, Yard & Walls, 2005

The group of 11 State Heritage Places also includes two other stone structures that are the most dominant built features of the site.

The former **Morphett's Pump House** (1858) originally housed an 80-inch diameter Cornish beam pumping engine and a shaft plunging to 600 feet depth. It was erected by Cornish stonemasons Thomas Paynter and Ambose Harris. The engine commenced pumping in 1860 and ceased in 1877.

The engine house was reconstructed and the shaft retimbered in 1986, and the original bell reinstated at the top in 1988. The building now houses an interpretive display and museum, and provides access to a miners tunnel and to other ruins in the open-cut area. –

SAHR 10053



Morphett's Pump House, 2005



Peacock's Chimney, 2005

Peacock's Chimney (1857) was constructed of stone and bricks, on a site within the present open-cut area. It provided an updraught to the boilers at Peacock's Engine House, named after one of the SAMA directors. The re-opening of the open cut mine in the 1970s required the destruction of the chimney but instead, a group of dedicated National Trust volunteers removed and rebuilt the structure on its present site (at the Market Street entrance to the mines area) in 1972. 'Johnny Green', a mascot to miners since 1852, sits atop the relocated chimney, as a memorial to all the Burra miners. – **SAHR 10020**



Panorama, Burra Mines Historic Site, 1983