



THE HERITAGE BRANCH AS A RESOURCE FOR RESEARCHERS

7th Edition November 2004

The role of the Heritage Branch (formerly Heritage South Australia) of the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) is to assist in conserving historically significant places throughout South Australia, and shipwrecks in both State and Commonwealth waters.

We hold files on buildings of all kinds, churches, hotels, railways, some towns and settlements, mines, bridges, cemeteries, lighthouses, archaeological sites on land, as well as shipwrecks and other underwater sites.

The files are not primarily concerned with the natural environment, or with Aboriginal culture, but other parts of the Department hold information on the former and the Department for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation on the latter.

There are files on each of the more than 2190 places entered in the State Heritage Register. Many other places are mentioned in our library of heritage surveys and conservation studies. However, these places are only about 1% of the buildings in South Australia, so a place has to be fairly notable historically before we are likely to have a file on it. The Register of South Australian Shipwrecks includes over 800 sites, of which approximately fifty per cent are protected under State and Commonwealth legislation.

Most of the research files are available for perusal between 9 and 5 on weekdays. They are in regular use, particularly by conservation architects and tertiary students. The agency is not equipped to function as a library or public research facility, and staff are not able to carry out research for enquirers. Generally the staff's assistance will be limited to assisting a researcher to find a file or a number of files which may be helpful. Fewer staff are involved in maritime heritage work, so for maritime enquiries it is best to ring for an appointment. If you are undertaking detailed or long-term research on a subject you should register your interest on the form provided at reception.

We have only a very small reading area and cannot cope with school groups or any party of more than two or three people. Photocopying from reports can be done on a self-serve basis.

We hold a large collection of recent (post 1979) photographs of places entered in the State Heritage Register. These are available for researchers to see, but access to them is a little more complicated, and it is best to make an appointment. The photographs are all under Crown copyright and permission is required to publish them. Prints can be ordered from our negatives.

Most of our resources are oriented toward the study of specific places and sites, and are not usually useful for the study of broad themes or topics. For example, if information is required on the *Admella* shipwreck, the Peake telegraph station or the Norwood Town Hall, then the files will be very helpful, but there are no files on 'Buildings owned by Sir Thomas Elder', or 'Bluestone Villas' or 'Lutheran churches of

the Barossa Valley'. For topics of this kind the State Library is far better equipped to assist researchers.

Family historians do not usually find our files of much help unless there is a specific property or shipwreck of historical significance connected with their family.

Our Information Leaflets 1.10, *South Australian Architecture: a reading list* and 1.12 *South Australian Maritime History: a reading list* are helpful. Lists of the built heritage surveys and conservation management plans that we hold are available on the Education and Research pages of our web site, along with a range of other research aids.

Another useful bibliographic tool is the Australian Heritage Bibliography (formerly HERA: Heritage Australia Information System), which is maintained by the Australian Department for the Environment and Heritage and found at <http://www.heritage.gov.au/heraindex.html>. It is also available at a cost via Informit Online (<http://www.informit.com.au>), or on the Heritage and Environment CD-ROM, produced bi-annually by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

Information on South Australian heritage sites can also be found on three databases accessible on the Internet. They are the Australian Heritage Database site (<http://www.deh.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl>) which allows you to search the Register of the National Estate, the National Heritage List, Commonwealth Heritage List and Australian sites inscribed on the World Heritage List; the Australian National Shipwreck Database (<http://eqd.ea.gov.au/nsd/public/welcome.cfm>) and the State Heritage Register, of which a select number of fields can be accessed via the Australian Heritage Places Inventory (<http://www.heritage.gov.au/ahpi/index.html>)

The Heritage Branch web site (<http://www.heritage.sa.gov.au>) contains links to kindred sites as well as general information about our work and copies of some publications. For other Australian heritage sites a good starting point is the Australian Heritage Directory (<http://www.heritage.gov.au>).

For further information on the Heritage Branch and its research facilities, contact the Register Clerks on (08) 8124 4960, FAX (08) 8124 4980 or email heritage@saugov.sa.gov.au. Our office is on the ground floor of ANR House, 1 Richmond Rd, Keswick (near the intersection of Anzac Highway and Greenhill Rd).

All of our publications (excluding those available from our website) should be ordered from the Department for Environment and Heritage, Ground Floor, ANR House, 1 Richmond Rd, Keswick. Phone (08) 8204 1910 or 8124 4854, FAX (08) 8124 4939.