

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Shop and Residence – Clark's General Store

13 Townsend Street, Mount Torrens

SHR 14706 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 9 February 1995

This combination shop and residence is representative of Mount Torrens' earliest buildings, constructed during the prosperous years when the town's economy was influenced by the River Murray trade.

The exact date of construction is unclear, but the single-storey shop seems to have been built in the late 1850s, with the extension (the two-storey residence) added two years later.

James Henry Crowe initially used the building as a store and post office from 1860, but whether the building was constructed by him, or bought from another owner, is also unclear. The building remained in the Crowe family for much of the nineteenth century, although it was leased to other storekeepers at various times. Ownership then passed through several hands, before being purchased by the Clarke family.



Residence and store, March 2005

The questions of who constructed the building, or who first operated the general store once it was built, do not alter the significance of this quite early building, constructed within a few years of the subdivision of Mount Torrens (1852). This is a noteworthy example of a combination single-storey shop with two-storey attached residence – an unusual architectural solution to the building's mixed commercial and residential use.



Side view of residence, March 2005

The shop, which predates the double-storey house, is freestone with a gabled roof. The residence is also freestone, but has a slate-clad, hipped roof.

The verandah of both buildings was probably added in about 1900. There have also been additions and alterations to the rear.

