

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Bon Accord Mine Buildings

Railway Terrace, Burra

SAHR 10023 – confirmed as a State Heritage Register 24 July 1980

Located on the northern boundary of Burra's 'Monster Mine', the Bon Accord Mine is representative of the speculative nature of early mining. The site contains industrial buildings of two different eras and functions – mining and town water supply – and is now a museum and accommodation venue for visitors.

The property was originally purchased in 1846 by speculators from Aberdeen, Scotland, who surmised that the Burra Mine's rich ore lode would run further north. Despite these high hopes, the Bon Accord Mine was a failure and mining operations were abandoned in 1849, after no ore was discovered.



Bon Accord Mine Complex, 2005



Workshops, 2005

Mining recommenced in 1858 however, and in 1859 mine offices, blacksmith's forge, carpenter's shop, and a manager's residence were constructed. These buildings still stand today, but a 50-inch Cornish pumping engine, erected in the same year, was demolished in 1887. This second venture also failed, and mining ceased in 1862.

JB Austin in *The Mines of South Australia* (Adelaide) 1863 wrote of the Bon Accord Mine:

It is situated so close to Burra, that from a short distance the buildings and workings of the two mines appear to belong to one establishment. The land on which the Bon Accord Mine is found was purchased by a Scottish company, now known as the Scottish Investment Company. A considerable amount of work has been done and a large sum expended on the mine.

The engine-shaft is sunk to a depth of 50 fathoms. Other shafts have also been sunk on the property, and a considerable length of drives has been opened underground, but without any very satisfactory result.

Between 1884 and 1905 the Burra Corporation used a shaft of the Bon Accord Mine as the town's water supply. (This shaft has now been filled in.) From 1905 the SA Government pumped water from the main shaft for Burra's use, erecting a galvanised iron and timber pump house over the mine shaft in 1908. This was the town's water supply until 1966, when Burra was connected with the Murray pipeline from Hansen, on the Morgan-Whyalla line.



Water supply buildings and spoils heaps, 2005

Since 1977 the Bon Accord Mine Site has been owned by the National Trust, who have repaired and restored the property. It now houses a mining display, and the Manager's Residence is available as visitor accommodation.

