

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Burra State Heritage Area Bridges & Stone Walls

State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register

Engineering works and stone constructions (especially by Cornish masons) are prevalent within the Burra State Heritage Area. Three bridges and two stone walls have particular significance as State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

Mine Bridge

Market Street, Burra (opposite Peacock's Chimney & the Burra Mine Site entrance)

SAHR 10021 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

This single-arch stone bridge was completed in 1868, during Burra's prosperous mining period, and provided a link between the townships of Kooringa and Redruth. It also helped to channel the water produced by the copper mining operations, which entered Burra Creek via Mine Creek.

Mine Bridge was built under contract for the Central Road Board by Messrs Tiver and Woolcott. On 8 May 1868 the *Register* reported that the "*bridge is progressing favourably and the work certainly does great credit to the contractors*" This followed an observation that

The Burra Mine will soon wear a livelier aspect as the engine house to the new shaft is to be at once erected. From the fact that so expensive a piece of work has been ordered we infer that the mine will shortly resume underground operation.



Eastern parapet, Market Street, 2005

Earlier, in December 1867, the local correspondent had complained that the Central Road Board had "*not kept their promise to complete the road near the Mine Store and making the bridge. It was left off very abruptly and is in a very dangerous condition for anyone passing in a cart on a dark night.*"

With the widening of the main road, sections of Mine Bridge have been removed at various times and the creek bed has been backfilled on the western side. Only the eastern parapet and arch detailing now survive, with a concrete pipe channelling water from the mine site to the west.



Eastern arch and parapet, 1994



Creekbed and surviving stone arch, 2005

Kooringa Bridge

Commercial Street, Burra

SAHR10006 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place on 6 May 1982

The Kooringa Bridge was constructed during 1878-79 at the beginning of the post-mining period of Burra's development. It was one of five riveted, wrought iron, bow-string trusses built in the northern districts by the Midland Road Board – others were at Redruth (see below), Merriton, Balaklava and Undalya.

The bridge consists of two 18-metre arched spans, on two metal pillars sunk into the creek bed. It was originally finished with jarrah planking, but the Highways Department replaced this with concrete in the 1930s.

This bridge links the eastern and western areas of Kooringa, and replaced an earlier timber structure at Bridge Street (one street south) that had been carried during a flood in March 1877. The Kooringa Bridge originally cost £2,500 and was opened to traffic during May 1879, but there was no official ceremony.



*Burra Creek in flood at Kooringa 1915
Photo B 27686: State Library of SA*



Kooringa Bridge, 2005



*Across Kooringa Bridge to
Commercial Street, 2005*

Redruth Bridge including Stone Abutments & Walls

Ludgvan Street, Burra

SAHR 10413 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 24 March 1983

The Redruth Bridge, constructed at the same time as the Kooringa Bridge (see above) is an example of a riveted iron bow-string truss. It was officially opened at a ceremony on 12 December 1879 by the local representative of the Midland Road Board, Captain Killicoat, and a large party of civic dignitaries from the town and district councils.



Footpath, Redruth Bridge, 2005

The Redruth Bridge cost £1,400 to build, and replaced an earlier timber laminated arch bridge that had become quite rotten and unsafe. The bridge was designed as an iron bow-string truss with shaped stone abutments, and provided separate vehicular and pedestrian access. Like the bridge at Kooringa, the Redruth Bridge was originally finished with jarrah planking, which was replaced with reinforced concrete in the 1930s.



Redruth Bridge, 2005

**Stone Wall located on the east side of Commercial Street and Ware Street
cnr Commercial & Ware Streets, Burra**
SAHR 10435 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

&

**Stone Wall located on the west side of Commercial Street
Commercial Street, Burra**
SAHR 10436 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

Much of Burra's charm and interest is reflected in these well-constructed stone walls which, together with remaining miners' cottages and other buildings up to the late-1870s, signal the Cornish influence within the town. The construction dates for both walls are elusive, but early sketches of Burra suggest that they were built after 1870.



Corner Commercial (east) and Ware Streets, 2005



Wall on Commercial Street (west), 2005

The wall on Commercial Street's east side is an L-shaped one, on the corner of Ware Street. It stands near the remains of Burra's first Roman Catholic chapel and school (late 1840s).

The wall on the west side of Commercial Street stands near 'The Paddock', where the bullock teams were pastured, opposite the original Burra Hotel and by the main southern entrance to the town.

