

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Burra State Heritage Area Cottages and Homes

State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register

Burra's history as a mining settlement, and later as a service centre for the rural community, has contributed to the building of many small cottages and other simple dwellings. Some of these places were built as company housing, some were private investments and others were philanthropic gestures to accommodate the town's poor and needy.

Of the numerous places that were home to the early settlers, to the miners and their families, or to the later rural community, only a few have survived. Many of those that remain intact are particularly significant as State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

Paxton Square Cottages

Kingston Street, Burra

SAHR 10159 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 24 July 1980

This complex of 33 cottages, in three terraces around Paxton Square, is one of Australia's finest examples of company housing. The attached two-, three- and four-roomed cottages were constructed by Cornish masons for the South Australian Mining Association, to encourage the mining families to leave their [dugouts](#) along Burra Creek. The first group of 14 cottages was constructed in 1849, with all 33 completed by 1851.

By 1876, 161 people lived in the Paxton Square cottages.



Cottages along Paxton Street, 2005



View along Kingston Street, 2005

Paxton Square was named after William Paxton, a Hindley Street chemist and druggist, who was also one of the shareholders and Directors of the SA Mining Association. The architect was George Strickland Kingston, another SAMA Director, who surveyed and laid out the company township of Koorunga in 1846. His plan included walkways leading into a common reserve (Paxton Square) where children played and livestock was tethered. The square also became an assembly place for many miners' meetings.

The Mining Company auctioned the complex in 1912 (the mines had closed in 1877) and the successful bidder was the Hon. John Lewis. He and his family set up a trust to provide low rent housing to Burra's poor and because of this the area became known as 'Humanity Square' from 1914.

In 1980 the Lewis family presented the cottages to the District Council of Burra Burra. Between 1983 and 1988 the Paxton Square Cottages were restored for visitor accommodation. Missing now are the 33 'necessaries', more commonly referred to as 'Dunnican Row', and the backyards, once enclosed by picket fences.



Rear view of cottage No.23, 2005



Outhouse & garden in rear yard, 2005

Tiver's Row

8-18 Truro Street, Burra

SAHR 10203/10032/10446/10037/10038/10039 – confirmed as State Heritage Places 24 July 1980

This row of six stone cottages was built by James Tiver for the miners at Redruth, and has a typically Cornish plan and layout. Tiver, who arrived in South Australia in 1854 and was employed as a mason at the Burra Smelting Works, built the first of these cottages in 1856 for his family. He erected many other buildings in Burra, including the Railway Station and the Redruth Methodist Church. After the Burra Mine closed, Tiver became a pioneer grazier. The row of cottages has now been restored for bed and breakfast accommodation.



Tiver's Row, 2005

Attached Cottages

9-13 Truro Street, Burra

SAHR 10033/10034/10036 – confirmed as State Heritage Places 24 July 1980



Attached cottages in Truro Street, 2005

These c1850s cottages form part of a row of four early Cornish-style dwellings built in the Government township of Redruth. They were built during the same period as, and are of a similar style and scale to, the Tiver's Row Cottages on the opposite (northern) side of Truro Street. This small group of attached cottages was built in stages from available materials. Their size and appearance reflects the lower social and economic standing of the mine workers.

Thames Street Cottages

2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 & 16 Thames Street, Burra

SAHR 10040/10041/10028/10029/10030/10031/10447 – confirmed as State Heritage Places 24 July 1980

These cottages were constructed for the South Australian Mining Association from 1846 to 1847 and are some of the earliest domestic buildings, still occupied, in South Australia. The dwellings were maintained by the mining company, and rented to its miners.

Despite obvious differences in look and design today, these dwellings were originally all two-roomed double cottages with entrances on what are now side walls. They were roofed with wooden shingles (some still found under current iron roofs) and flagged with local slate slabs. One chimney served the two rooms of each pair of cottages.

Renovations and alterations have given these dwellings individual characteristics. Nos.2&4 have been lengthened, with two rooms added either end, and front entrances now on the street. No.16 Thames Street, across Bridge Street, also has the entry door adjacent to the footpath.

Nos.6,8,10&12 are currently freestanding residences on large blocks. Each of these (originally) double cottages was, at an unknown time, converted to a single dwelling of four rooms, with a corrugated iron lean-to (kitchen, laundry and bathroom) added on.



Attached cottages, Thames Street, 2005



Freestanding dwelling, Thames Street, 2005



16 Thames Street, 2005

Barker of Baldina Homes

5-11a Chapel Street, Burra

SAHR 12638 – confirmed as State Heritage Places 8 November 1984

This single row of four attached stone dwellings was built c1902 by a baker, Thomas Parks Snr. They were an investment during the period between the 1890s depression and World War One.

In 1978 the Barker family of Baldina Station, east of Burra, purchased the cottages for the Barker Family Trust. The four dwellings were converted to accommodate elderly Burra residents at a moderate rental.



Barker of Baldina Homes, 2005

McBride Cottage Homes

19-27 Chapel Street, Burra

SAHR 12637 – confirmed as State Heritage Places 8 November 1984



McBride Cottage Homes, 2005

R.J.M McBride built this row of attached cottages for elderly citizens in 1910. When the homes were officially opened, on 24 October, five to six elderly people were already in residence.

In 1913 the cottages were given to a Board of Trustees to provide low rental accommodation for Burra's poor and needy.

The McBride Cottage Homes are a significant example of the philanthropic activities of leading members of the Burra community. Robert James Martin McBride was a Trustee of the Methodist Church. He was a notable pastoralist and a pioneer in this field. He was also a pioneer in the development of both Broken Hill and

Western Australian mining ventures – he was one of the first investors in the BHP Company, and formed the first syndicate to mine the Golden Mile in Kalgoorlie.

