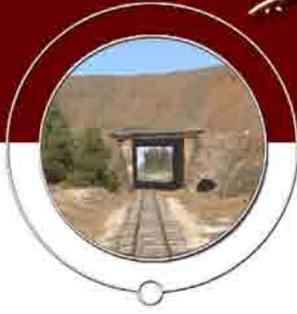


State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Burra State Heritage Area Private Dwellings

State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register

Of the many privately built and owned dwellings in Burra, four are State heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register. These are the former home of both John and Essington Lewis, the Victorian residence known as 'Heathmont', the former doctor's residence on Market Street and an 1840s timber dwelling.

Dwelling & Coach House - former home of John & Essington Lewis

**Dwelling, 2 Kangaroo Street, Burra / Coach House, 1a Ware Street, Burra
SAHR 12634 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984**

This dwelling is significant for being the home of the Hon. John Lewis MLC who settled in Burra in 1876. A pastoralist, explorer and politician, he was also managing director of Bagot, Shakes & Lewis Ltd, one of the colony's largest pastoral companies

The residence was also the childhood home of John Lewis' son, [Essington Lewis](#) (1881-1961), who lived in Burra until he was sent to St Peter's College in 1894. His role in Australia's most influential mining company (Broken Hill Proprietary Ltd) and his importance to Australia's defence in World War Two (as Director-General of Munitions and Director-General of Aircraft Production), make Essington Lewis an important Australian historical figure.



Dwelling, Kangaroo Street, 2005

The Lewis residence was constructed before the family arrived in Burra, possibly by the South Australian Mining Association. Essington's boyhood home is aptly described by Geoffrey Blainey in *The Steel Master: a life of Essington Lewis*, Melbourne (1971):

The family property at Burra was several acres of grassland but the house stood right up against the rough public footpath; presumably it had been built by someone homesick for the terrace houses and gregarious life of an English city. The house resembled a single-storey roadside hotel. It had freestone walls, a roof of unpainted iron, and a front verandah edged by a balustrade of laced ironwork. Not many people walked along the footpath of Kangaroo Street past the Lewis house, so that the front rooms had reasonable privacy from eavesdroppers, even on hot nights when the front door facing the street was ajar. The rear rooms of the large house were secluded, for a grassy stretch ran back one hundred yards or more to the rear of the property where stood a solid coach-house, stables, and a disused Catholic church or school room in which some of the boys were allowed to sleep when they were older.



Coach House, Ware Street, 1994

The coach house was a substantial U-shaped stone building enclosing a courtyard, and would have been a necessary aspect of John Lewis' occupation.

It is now on a separate allotment of land (to that of the house) with its rear facing Ware Street.

Dwelling 'Heathmont'

Vineyard Terrace, Burra

SAHR 12661 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

'Heathmont', originally called 'Heath Mount', was built in 1882 for Charles Drew, one of the town's leading merchants. It is a large Victorian residence on the upper slopes of the hills overlooking the township. Built during Burra's post-mining period, 'Heathmont' is testament to the town's development as a prosperous service centre for the surrounding community.

Charles Drew and his three brothers opened a supply store in the South Australian Mining Association's township of Kooringa (Burra) in March 1848. The business grew rapidly during the Burra mine's hey-day, and further flourished with the advent of the railway in 1870. Following the mine's closure in 1877 the store continued to trade successfully, as rural areas were



'Heathmont', 1983

opened up and services developed in the town. (In 1889 the business was taken over by one brother, John, who entered into partnership with EW Crewes, trading as ['Drew & Crewes'](#).)

During 1882 Charles Drew called for tenders to build a 'fine residence' and, out of the five submitted, he selected Sara and Dunstan's tender of £1,400. The result, on the hill behind the hospital and overlooking Kooringa, is one of the largest and grandest 'Hill' houses in Burra. Charles Drew lived in 'Heathmont' for nine years until 1891, when he sold the house to Ellen Mary Sandland.



'Heathmont' and front drive, 2005

Former Doctor's Residence (Doctor Brummitt's Residence)

3 Market Street, Burra

SAHR 12246 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

This formal dwelling, in the commercial and civic precinct of Burra, was built for Doctor Robert Brummitt in 1882. Behind the main house is a three-roomed cottage, with cellar beneath, which was used as the consulting rooms. A side entrance leads to these rooms.



Former Doctor's Residence, 2005



Side entrance, 2005

Doctor Brummitt practised until 1900, when he sold the property to a father and son practice. Since then it has been taken over by a succession of doctors, and was in continuous medical use until 1970.

1840s Timber Dwelling

39 Commercial Street, Burra

SAHR 10434 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 29 September 1990

This dwelling, built in 1849, predates the goldrush years, and is therefore significant as a rare example of the very early years of mining in Burra. It is, in fact, a rare Australian example of early timber construction.

The cottage appears to have been built in three stages – the first in sawn timber, with subsequent extensions to the rear in round timber and mud, rubble and concrete. The original section was divided into two unequal rooms. All timber is softwood imported from the northern hemisphere, being spruce, yellow pine and Baltic pine from both Europe and North America.

The cottage was not prefabricated, with all joints cut by a carpenter on site. The building techniques are English in origin, and demonstrate what became standard practices in Australian timber construction up to the 1940s. While this type of structure was once common, examples are now quite rare. Very few South Australian timber-framed buildings date from earlier than the 1850s, and most that do are prefabricated system houses.



1840s Timber Dwelling, 1994



Rear extension, 1994

This cottage is a survivor of the large numbers of timber cottages erected early in Burra's development. Its construction has been dated with some certainty, from two illustrations showing the site. In 1847, when ST Gill recorded *The Burra Burra Township*, the site was empty. WA Cawthorne's *Kooringa, South Australia*, drawn in 1850, showed a cottage on the allotment. Similarly, a South Australian Mining Association list of rental properties shows that P Woodbury commenced paying rent (£3 per annum) on this allotment on 29 September 1849.

The cottage has been extended to more than twice its original floor area by the addition of the three rear rooms, but no date is known for these extensions. The cottage remained the property of the Mining Association until the Company's remaining assets were sold in 1914, long after the mine had closed. The cottage has since belonged to a succession of private owners.