

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Burra State Heritage Area Memorials and Monuments

State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register

Market Square, in reality a triangle, has provided a focus for Burra's traffic for many years. Its development from a watering point for horses to an area of lawn, dissected by bitumen roads and decorated with civic structures, reflects the town's transition from a mining town to a modern rural centre.

The first public amenity in Market Square was a pump and trough which, in 1879, tapped a bore sunk to a depth of 300 feet. The square was also the focus for community activities such as horse markets, Cornish wrestling, revival meetings and brass bands. As a pivotal location along Burra's main road, Market Square was the obvious site for the erection of two civic monuments, which are State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register.

Market Square Rotunda

Market Square, Burra

SAHR 10405 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 14 February 1985

The rotunda on Market Square was built in 1910 to commemorate King Edward VII, and is an example of the loyalty to King and Empire that was prevalent in South Australia during the early years of the twentieth century (pre World War I).

Following the King's death, on 6 May 1910, the Burra Corporation instigated a public fund to raise money for the rotunda. The *Burra Record* recorded its opening on 8 February 1911, under the heading 'A Red Letter Day at Burra'. After a lunch at the nearby Burra Hotel, local and State dignitaries opened the memorial before a large crowd of residents from both the town and district.

A bronze plaque on the rotunda reads:

*Erected in memory of our late beloved King Edward VII,
by the inhabitants of the town and district, Jan. 1911; John
McLaren Mayor.*



Rotunda, Market Square, 2005

Built at a cost of £160, the rotunda provided shelter for local bands. A circular wrought iron fence that defined the structure's outer perimeter has since been removed.



*A WW1 fundraising event, Kooringa c1915
Photo B 27685: State Library of SA*



*Market Square Rotunda, late 1910
Photo B 27700: State Library of SA
(rotunda is unpainted - the weather vane and ball were
not added until June 1911)*

Burra War Memorial

Market Square, Burra

SAHR 10409 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 14 February 1985

The Burra War Memorial, erected in Market Square in 1922, reflects South Australia's response to the First World War, and in particular Burra's commemoration of local soldiers. At the time it was noted as the largest piece of statuary attempted in the State.

The memorial was unveiled on 29 March 1922 by the Prime Minister, the Hon. W.M. (Billy) Hughes. Like countless similar memorials in towns and cities throughout Australia, the War Memorial symbolised the relevance to the local population of the country's involvement in World War I.

According to the Prime Minister, in his speech on the day, Burra's contribution to the war effort had been an outstanding one. Of a total population of 3 000 men, women and children, 600 men had volunteered for service. As well, over £60,000 was contributed to the Patriotic Fund, £136,000 to War and Peace loans, and other monies contributed towards soldiers' facilities and rehabilitation.



Burra War Memorial, 2005



War Memorial, Burra 1922

Photo B 27693: State Library of SA

The monument, which comprises the figure of an Australian soldier with fixed bayonet, atop a circular granite pedestal, is the work of Mr Tillett. He was assisted by Guy Makin, an 'honorary architect', who advised on the design and the construction. Mr Willmet, of Messrs Pitt Ltd, modelled the figure of the soldier.

The statue was cast in five sections by A.W. Dobbie & Co of Adelaide. Weighing 10.5 cwt (500 kilograms) it was 'scratch finished' on the surface to withstand colour change through weathering. Five bronze plaques attached to the granite base commemorate the names of the 102 soldiers from Burra and District who were killed during the war.

