

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Burra State Heritage Area Religious Buildings

State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register

Of the numerous places within Burra that either are, or have been, used as places of worship, the following have special significance as State Heritage Places entered in the South Australian Heritage Register:

former Masonic Hall (former Burra Primitive Methodist Church)

9 Thames Street, Burra

SAHR 10011 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

The former Primitive Methodist Church is significant as one of Koorunga's earliest churches, and an important aspect of the religious and social life of the predominantly Cornish population of Burra.

The church was built in 1848, on land leased from the South Australian Mining Association for a 999-year term. By 1856 the building was too small for the expanding congregation and, following successful fundraising efforts, a rebuilt chapel was opened on 24 August. At this time the new chapel and the adjacent parsonage were prominent buildings in Koorunga. The front façade dates from 1879-80 when the building was substantially remodelled at a cost of £500.



Masonic Hall, 1994

The Primitive Methodist Church was one of three branches of Methodism established in Burra. In 1900 the Primitive Methodists, the Wesleyans and the Bible Christian Methodists united to form the Methodist Church. At this time the allotment and the chapel were transferred to the Koorunga Masonic Lodge. The former chapel has since been used by various branches of the Masonic Lodge.

Office – former Burra Bible Christian Chapel

Kingston Street, Burra

SAHR 10013 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984



Office, Paxton Square Cottages, 2005

When this chapel opened in December 1849, for Burra's Bible Christian Methodists, it was the first Bible Christian Chapel in the colony (and possibly in Australia). Methodism in England had undergone a series of changes during the early 1800s, including the appearance of Bible Christian Methodists, predominantly in the villages of East Cornwall and North Devon. It is not surprising then, that many of the Cornish miners who came to Burra were of this faith, and that Bible Christian work in South Australia began in Burra.

The stone chapel, claimed to seat 200 people, was erected on land set aside by the South Australian Mining Association for the Bible Christians. During the 1851-52 Victorian goldrush, barely a man was left in the congregation and funds were scarce, but by 1853 many miners had returned to the town and the chapel was free of debt.

In 1859, when the Rev. James Way was appointed Superintendent, a religious revival resulted in 300 converts and over 5000 children attending Sunday School. To accommodate this growth, a new church, seating up to 600 people, was built on a corner of Bridge Street (demolished 1909). The chapel continued to be used for Bible meetings.

In 1900 Burra's three branches of Methodism amalgamated to become the Methodist Church. In the 1930s the former chapel was used as a shop by a Chinese greengrocer, and later as a saddlery and mechanics shop. During the mid-1900s it was used as a storehouse for a greengrocery business. To increase storage space, a doorway was knocked through the back wall of the chapel, and a large iron shed was attached to the rear.



Side view, former Chapel, 2005

During the 1980s restoration of the [Paxton Square Cottages](#) the chapel was also renovated and is now the reception area for the cottages.

former Burra Salvation Army Citadel

11 Kingston Street, Burra

SAHR 10160 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

This building was opened 16 April 1885 during Burra's post-mining period, when the town was developing as an important rural centre in the mid-north. The builder was Sara & Dunstan and the foundation stone had been laid by the Mayor, John Dunstan Jnr, on 11 February 1885. The austere stone building is a significant reminder of the Salvation Army's activities in country areas during the nineteenth century.



Former Citadel, 2005



Salvation Army Citadel, 1983



Anglican Hall bell

St Mary's Anglican Church

Market Street, Burra

SAHR 10018 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 24 July 1980

&

St Mary's Anglican Church Hall

Market Street, Burra

SAHR 10022 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 8 November 1984

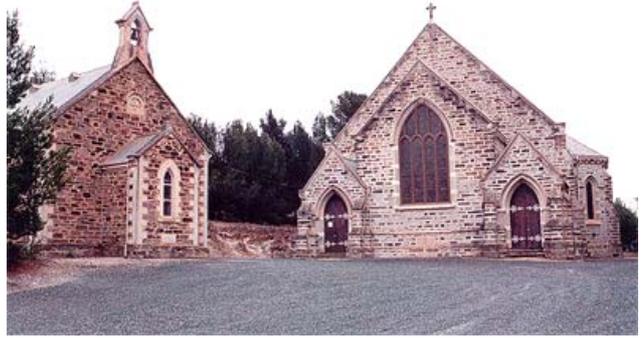
Amongst Burra's population Anglicans were a minority, as most miners were Cornish and of a Methodist faith. The first Anglican services in Burra were held at the junction of Ware and Church Streets in 1849. The Church site was donated by the copper mining company (SAMA).

The present St Mary's Church of England was completed in 1879 (two years after the mine's closure) at a cost of £4,000.

It was built by the Burra firm of Sara & Dunstan and designed by G.F. McLagan, who came to live in Burra from Melbourne.

The Gothic-style church contains many memorials to Burra's long-established families. It also has 12 stained glass memorial windows, two of which are from the original St Mary's Church.

The Church Hall was built in 1893 as a schoolroom. Its Gothic design complements that of the church.



Anglican Church and Hall, 2005

