

State Heritage Areas of South Australia



Goolwa Wharf Complex (including wharf and shed) Harbours Board Reserve, Goolwa SHR 13860 – confirmed as a State Heritage Place 29 June 1989

information below is adapted from the Heritage Survey Identification Sheet (Heritage Branch files):



Wharf shed, 1981

The first wharf was built on this site in 1852 on the recommendation of Governor Sir Henry Fox Young, following his inspection of the South Coast area in 1850. The original structure cost £300, with the construction supervised by Thomas Jones. The rail tracks from Port Elliot entered the wharf at right angles, and the turntables on the wharf were used to swing the wagons parallel to the moored steamers and barges.

The wharf was extended in 1866, following the completion of a new access road for bullock wagons. The extensions, costing £2,430, were erected by Mr Thomas Tapson and in 1868 decking was installed by Mr James Shaw Harding of Port Elliot.

In 1874 the original wharf was demolished and a new wharf was built. Further extensions comprising 359 feet in length were made to the wharf in 1878, being built by William Wishart at a cost of £3,552. This extension made the overall structure 700 feet in length.

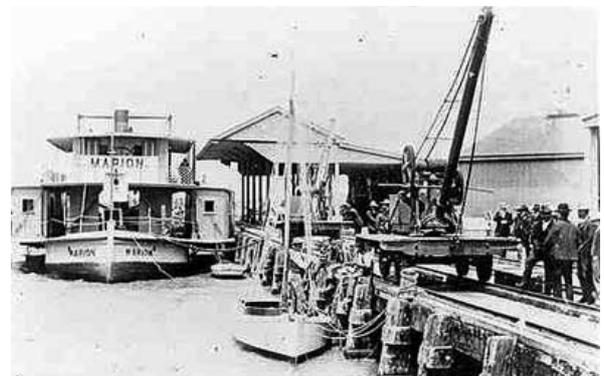
The present wharf shed (length 150 feet, width 50 feet and height 17 feet) was erected in 1878, and clearly shows on photographs of the wharf area taken about 1880. The shed has a timber frame with corrugated iron walls and roof. A brick and cement water tank of 20 000 gallons capacity was also erected near the wharf to provide a fresh water supply to steamers. The years 1878 to 1884 saw the peak use of the wharf for cargo handling.



Goolwa Wharf complex with paddle steamer Oscar W
March 2005



Goolwa Wharf 1905
Photo B 11620: State Library of SA



P.S. Marion at Goolwa Wharf 1912
Photo PRG 1258/1/2065: State Library of SA

