

SUMMARY OF STATE HERITAGE OBJECT

REGISTER ENTRY

Object associated with a State Heritage Place in accordance with Section 16(2)(c) of the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

NAME: Burra Jinker **OBJECT NO.:** 10970-01
[Object associated with Burra Mines Historic Site] **PLACE NO.:** 10970

ADDRESS OF PLACE: Market Street, Burra
(CT5250/610 F1763 A2, CT5882/153 F186980 A468,
CT5562/624 D24484 Q102, CT6152/669 D95074 A603)

ADDRESS OF OBJECT: Market Street, Burra
(CT 5562/624 DP24484 A102)

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE (OBJECT)

The Burra Jinker (also known as the Woollacott Jinker) has significant associations with the early development and operations of the Burra Copper Mines. The Burra Mines were constructed on a huge scale at a time when copper formed a substantial part of South Australia's economy, and Burra remains one of Australia's most significant heritage places associated with copper mining.

The rare surviving 'Jinker' at Burra reflects both the scale of operations at Burra and it has close associations with the work that went on at the Burra mine. First used in the 1850s, the Jinker is known to have transported the large boilers needed for the Schneider and subsequently, the Morphett Engine House from Port Adelaide to Burra. The Schneider Engine was delivered by Bell Freeman and the Morphett engine by William Woollacott who reportedly led a team of 6 drovers and 40 oxen (including 32 spare oxen).

The Jinker is considered an important artefact from Burra's past and was displayed at Wayville showgrounds as part of the centenary celebrations in 1936 until it was moved to the main street of Burra in 1965. In 2014, a new shelter was constructed to help protect the Jinker from the elements.

The Jinker not only has important associations with the copper mines at Burra, but also demonstrates the evolution of early transport in South Australia, and in particular remarkable carting achievements. The Jinker was adapted for use and often repaired during some of these long and difficult journeys across harsh terrain, reflecting the early technical innovation of the new colonists. The determination and willpower of the men who drove this vehicle exemplifies the experiences of early South Australian settlers in overcoming the obstacles required to build the Burra Mines and the colony.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE (PLACE)

The following Statement of Heritage Significance dates from the time of entry of the Burra Historic Mine Site in the Register of State Heritage Items (now known as South Australian Heritage Register) in November 1984:

Historically, the Mines Historic site is important because the copper produced by it restored the colony's flagging economy during a crucial time in the mid 1840's. It is responsible for the establishment of the 'copper towns' surrounding the area, the mass influx of settlers who came from Cornwall and Wales to mine and smelt ore, and the provision of a transportation infrastructure that developed and established further settlement.

Physically, the Historic Site is important for containing the dramatic and spectacular remains of the State's most influential copper mining endeavour. The remains are as varied as they are beautiful and range from chimneys to huge areas of open cut.

Environmentally, the historic site is an exciting element in Burra's character and although its sheer size tends it to blend into the natural landscape, individual features are notable.

The Integrity, of the Historic Site has been compromised and most of it is left as ruins. But although not intact, the site does provide the evidence for its own appreciation.

SITE PLAN

Burra Jinker

Market Street, Burra

(Object associated with Burra Mines Historic Site, SHP 10970)



Location of the Burra Jinker, in relation to the Burra Mines Historic Site (SHP 10970)

[Generally indicating the important elements and features of the place (outlined in orange)]

N ↑

SITE PLAN

Burra Jinker

Market Street, Burra

(Object associated with Burra Mines Historic Site, SHP 10970)



Location of the Burra Jinker adjacent to Market Street, Burra, SA

[Generally indicating the location of important elements and features of the place (outlined in orange)]

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COMMENTARY ON THE LISTING

Description and notes with respect to a place entered in the South Australian Heritage Register in accordance with the *Heritage Places Act 1993*

Physical Description of Object

40ft long Jinker constructed of Bluegum, Ironbark and metal, with three wheels to each 'pelly' and 16" tyres.

History of the Object

In c1850 Burra became one of the first 'copper towns' growing around the South Australian Mining Association's mining operations. The conveyancing of ore from the Burra Mines initially required the use of bullock teams who could negotiate the terrain between Burra and Port Wakefield. Of the early 'bullockies' (men who drove the large teams of bullocks) was Mr Bell (aka Joe) Freeman, who provided the conveyancing for parts of the first large engine (the Schneider Engine) from Port Adelaide to the Burra Mines in 1852. The Burra Mines required large engines to allow water to be pumped out of the mine shafts, thus allowing the workers to access the mine without the issue of flooding.

The conveyancing of such large boilers required a Jinker, which was purpose built in 1851 by Mr Couls in Hindley Street of Bluegum and Ironbark. Reportedly the largest engine at Burra operated on the Morphet Shaft c1858 and required a boiler that was designed and constructed in England. When the large boiler arrived at Port Adelaide the great task of conveying this piece of machinery to the Burra Mines had to be faced by the South Australian Mining Association's directors, the Jinker was again utilised and Mr William Woollacott was contracted for the fee of £500 to drive a team of 40 bullocks to pull the boiler on the Jinker to the Burra Mines.

To carry out the contract, two poles were fixed to the Jinker that carried the boiler. This allowed the bullocks to pull two-abreast. While 32 bullocks were initially used, it was found that 40 bullocks made the pulling far easier. A large herd of bullocks had to accompany the bullocks actually pulling the Jinker to share the work load. It took up to six drivers to drive the Jinker and herd, causing considerable comment as they passed by.

The many journeys required to deliver the boiler parts were always difficult, involving the crossing of harsh terrain and several rivers. The journey was often delayed for repairs to the Jinker, shoring up of bridges prior to crossing or covering roadways with sand to reduce vibrational damage. The trip would take up to three weeks each time. Reportedly upon completion of the job the whole town turned out to

celebrate and welcome the 'plucky' teamster, who received a bonus for his endeavours.

References

This Summary was prepared by Simon Carter and Anna Pope of the State Heritage Unit, DEWNR using the following references:

- Auhl, I 1986, *The story of the "monster mine": The Burra Burra mine and its townships, 1845-1877*, Investigator Press, Adelaide
- *Burra Record*, 12 May 1936, p 1
- *Burra Record*, 19 June 1929, p 4
- Heritage Conservation Branch, 1983, *Register Nomination Report: Burra Mines Historic Site- Burra 10970*
- Regional Council of Goyder, 12 January 2015, History of the Burra Jinker, Goyder Staff Newsletter Article, pp 4-5, available at:
www.goyder.sa.gov.au/webdata/resources/files/staff%20newsletter%20-%2012%20January%202015.pdf
- *South Australian Register*, 22 September 1852, p 3
- State Heritage Branch, *Burra State Heritage Area*, DENR Factsheet (undated)
- State Library of South Australia, *Woollacott Jinker*, Article from the *Chronicle* dated 1933, B8637/1
- *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 May 1851, p 2
- *The Adelaide Chronicle*, 9 February 1933, p 47
- *The Adelaide Chronicle*, 9 February 1933, p 47
- *The Mail*, 31 October 1925, p 14
- Treloar, F 1929, *The Burra mine : reminiscences of its rise and fall, 1845-1877*, Printed at the Burra Record Office, Burra, S. Aust, pp 26-27

PHOTOS

Burra Jinker

Market Street, Burra

(Object associated with Burra Mines Historic Site, SHP 10970)



Burra Jinker in shelter

Image Source: ABC News, 17 Sep 2015, *Historic Burra Jinker*, ABC News website, viewed 8 March 2016, <<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-09-17/historic-burra-jinker/6782590>>



Burra Jinker in shelter

Image Source: Lovejoy, N & J, *Can Go Around Australia*, Blog, viewed 8 March 2016, <<http://cangoaustralia.blogspot.com.au/2014/04/burra-sa.html>>