

SA Heritage Register

Nomination form

South Australian HERITAGE COUNCIL

To help your nomination be successful, please fill out this form with as much information as possible.
Feel free to expand the answer fields as much as you require or append information to the form.

Please note that places which have been nominated during past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council unless you can provide significant new information not provided through the previous nomination and assessment.

For assistance with this form you may contact:

Your local historical society or heritage adviser may be of assistance OR you may telephone an assessment officer in Heritage South Australia on (08) 8124 4960.

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of Place / Object:	Buckland Park Station site including, but not limited to, the following buildings and structures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worker's Cottage • Gawler River Homestead [Manager's Homestead] • Implement and Cattle Shed • Blacksmith's Shop • Bridge over Gawler River • Buckland Park Homestead • Shearer's Quarters and outbuilding • Guest House • Shearing Shed and outbuilding • Overseer's House
Any other or former name(s):	Milner Estate / Port Gawler Estate
Is the place already on another heritage list?	No

2. Location					
Street Address:	631, 635, 635A, 635B, 661 and 675 Port Gawler Road				
	Suburb / Town: Port Gawler			Post Code: 5120	
Local Council Name:	Adelaide Plains				
Land Description: 631 (if known)	Title:	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:
	CT	6094	954	Allotment	D89299 A51
Land Description: 635 (if known)	Title:	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:
	CT	6094	955	Allotment	D89299 A52
Land Description: 635A (if known)	Title:	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:
	CT	5407	193	Allotment	D46318 A21
Land Description: 635B (if known)	Title:	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:
	CT	5552	782	Allotment	D46318 A22
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section:	Hundred:	
	Deposited	1671	16	Port Gawler	
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section:	Hundred:	
	Deposited	1671	16 & 7523	Port Gawler	
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section:	Hundred:	
	Deposited	1671	17	Port Gawler	

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Land Description: 661 (if known)	Title: CT	Volume: 5407	Folio: 192	Parcel Type: Allotment	Parcel No: D46318 A20
	Plan Type: Deposited	Plan No: 1671	Section: 17	Hundred: Port Gawler	
Land Description: 675 (if known)	Title: CT	Volume: 5869	Folio: 661	Parcel Type: Allotment	Parcel No: D49346 A28
	Plan Type: Deposited	Plan No: 1671	Section: 16 & 17	Hundred: Port Gawler	
GPS Location/s: (If known)	Longitude / Easting / X		Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum =)		

3. Ownership	
Name of Owner(s):	[REDACTED]
Contact person: (if different from owner explain relationship)	[REDACTED]
Postal Address:	Street Address: [REDACTED]
	Suburb / Town: [REDACTED] Post Code: [REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Ownership History:	[REDACTED]

4. Nominator (your details)	
Your Name/s:	[REDACTED]
Organisation/Position:	[REDACTED]
Daytime Phone:	[REDACTED]
Postal Address:	Address: [REDACTED]
	Town: [REDACTED] Post Code: [REDACTED]
Email Address:	[REDACTED]

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B. Description

5. Description of nominated place or object	
Description of the nominated place or object and its current condition:	See Attachment 1 – Report by Hosking Willis Architecture
Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place or object? Can you provide dates for these changes?	See Attachment 1 – Report by Hosking Willis Architecture
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground? Should an archaeological investigation be considered?	Uncertain
Date you inspected the place or object:	20 September 2021
Have you had any contact with the Owner?	Yes, all owners have been contacted and are aware of the assessment
Current use of the place or object:	Various residential and agricultural uses. Some elements are vacant and/or ruinous
Original or former use(s):	Various residential, pastoral and agricultural uses
Are there any current or long term threats to the nominated place or object?	<p>Subdivision of the original property in the 1990s has distributed the heritage buildings and structures into multiple ownership, many of which now have no current farming use. This has resulted in some elements, such as the former Woolshed, becoming obsolete in use to the allotment on which it stands.</p> <p>A number of the farming structures including the Woolshed and bridge as well as one residence, the 'Gawler River Homestead', are vacant and becoming ruinous through lack of use and maintenance.</p>
Name of Builder:	Unknown
Any other information:	See Attachment 1 – Report by Hosking Willis Architecture

C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Start: c.1840 Finish: c.1925
Name of Designer / Architect:	Cannot be confirmed, however likely: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• John Naish• English and Soward

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History of the nominated place or object:

As part of the short-lived Government system of Special Surveys privately commissioned between 1839 and 1841 by determined land capitalists, a 4,000-acre area flanking both banks of the Gawler River was commissioned by George Milner Stephen, Colonial Secretary and son-in-law to Captain John Hindmarsh, Governor of South Australia. He had come across it on expedition with other government survey officials including his father-in-law, Governor Hindmarsh. This ninth special survey was referred to as the North Para (Gawler) Special Survey; it also encompassed the mouth of the river and its tributaries, and 'Strange Creek' (later Port Gawler) was included. One of the largest pastoral properties north of Adelaide at the time, the property was initially referred to as the 'Milner Estate'.

In January 1840 the property was sold to Captains John Ellis and William Allen, both of whom had arrived in South Australia in 1839. At this point it was formerly renamed 'Port Gawler Estate'. Ellis and Allen apparently occupied homesteads on both sides of the river, however it cannot be confirmed if the northern homestead was the core of the main Buckland Park homestead or that closer to the river and referred to as the 'Gawler River Homestead'. Ellis and Allen were hugely successful in pastoral interests, not only on the Adelaide Plains but the mid-north, Eyre Peninsula and southeast. They ran livestock, including a large flock of sheep, but also pursued other business interests and politics and were partners in the lucrative Burra copper mine.

In 1856 the pastoral enterprise was sold to Drs William John and John Harris Browne of Booborowie. The Brownes enlarged the land holding to over 40,000 acres of freehold and leasehold land and renamed it 'Buckland Park Estate'. They were to become amongst the largest and most successful pastoralists in South Australia and the Northern Territory with interests in fifteen separate stations. The property was used to fatten stock from their drier, northern properties and as a breeding stud. W J Browne's son, L G Browne, acquired Buckland Park in 1885, and his cousin, Tom Landsdowne Browne, took over the property three years later.

A tender notice by Matheson, the Brownes' property manager, to produce 50,000 bricks in 1877 indicates that development on the property was occurring, however it cannot be determined conclusively which building(s) the bricks were being manufactured for. The exact date and details of alterations to the subject homestead are also not known, however tender notices by property manager S Matheson for production of bricks in 1895 and by architect FJ Naish for 'additions to Buckland Park Head Station' in 1896, suggest that one of the two original homesteads was being enlarged. A subsequent tender notice in 1903 by English & Soward also called for 'Additions to Buckland Park homestead'. These two dates align with the architectural style of the additions to the red brick homestead on the northern side of the river. The property was central to occasions of local and State significance including regular social, sporting, hunting and coursing events, including a Royal visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, future King and Queen of England, in 1901.

During the Browne's ownership the agricultural improvements were also notable and multiple artesian bores were sunk, some of the first in the area,

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	<p>providing immense supplies of fresh water. The stone tanks adjacent to the Homestead and the Implement and Cattle Shed may date from this era.</p> <p>George Brooks and his son, Edmund, graziers and enterprising pastoralists, purchased the property including both the northern and southern homesteads from the Brownes in 1911. Edmund Brooks realised the potential of the property for fattening stock so close to the Adelaide markets and abattoirs and developed a system of flood irrigation and pasture improvement by constructing flood gates along the Gawler River which passed through the property. He became a huge pastoral landowner and highly influential in the South Australian agricultural industry; he was also chairman of the District Council of Port Gawler from 1927-29 and 1935-1951. The Brooks family retained ownership of the property until 1996 when it was subdivided for sale in seven lots.</p> <hr/>
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Historical sources used to support your nomination:

Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate.

Adelaide Northern Districts Family History Group. *Newsletter #14*. September 2007.

Anderson, Sue. *European Heritage Assessment Report, Buckland Park for Walker Corporation*. Sash Consulting Services, Adelaide, October 2008.

Arrowsmith, John. *Map shewing the Special Surveys in South Australia to the Eastward of the Gulf of St Vincent, from Lat. 33 to 35 40S, from documents in the Survey Office London*. James & Luke J. Hansard Printer, 1841.

Australian Dictionary of Biography. 'Browne, William James (1815–1894)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/browne-william-james-3087/text4567>, published first in hardcopy 1969.

Australian Dictionary of Biography. 'Stephen, George Milner (1812–1894)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/stephen-george-milner-1294/text3771>, published first in hardcopy 1967.

Cockburn, R. *Pastoral pioneers of South Australia Adelaide*: Publishers Limited, 1925-1927 ("Reprinted from the Adelaide Stock and Station Journal.") vol. 1 p. 70.

Dallwitz, John & Marsden, Susan. Department of Environment and Planning, *Heritage Survey of the Lower North (Region 8, South Australia)*. Dept. of Environment and Planning, Adelaide, 1983.

Elder Smith Goldsborough Mort Limited, 'Historical Freehold Property, Buckland Park, Two Wells'. Auction catalogue, Adelaide, 1967.

Gross, F C., *District Agricultural Adviser*. 'Agriculture in South Australia' in *Journal of Agriculture, S.A.*

Hewett, Bronte. 'Buckland Park'. *The Plains Producer*. Wednesday May 5, 2010.

Lands Titles Office. Certificate of Title, Volume 876/Folio 82, 1911.
Lands Titles Office. Certificate of Title, Volume 876/Folio 83, 1911.

The Pastoral Review. 'Buckland Park, Two Wells, South Australia: the property of G. and E.A. Brooks Limited'. *The Pastoral Homes of Australia*. Originally published: Sydney; Melbourne, [1910-14].

Ray, W. 'Allen, William (1790–1856)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/allen-william-1697/text1833>, published first in hardcopy 1966.

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D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State Significance - Why is the place or object important to South Australia?

Buckland Park Station is of State heritage significance because it is an early and expansive surviving complex of farming buildings and structures related to the associated pastoral operations of its owners, dating from c.1840 to c.1925.

Established and taken up by George Milner Stephen, Colonial Secretary and son-in-law to Captain John Hindmarsh, Governor of South Australia, 'Milner Estate', comprised 4,000 acres by Special Survey in 1839. The property is associated with this short-lived, highly controversial but powerful process of land settlement in South Australia from 1839. Later named Buckland Park Station, the property was added to and developed progressively throughout the second half of the nineteenth century by a string of highly notable South Australian pastoral families, Buckland Park Station, comprising 40,000 acres of freehold and leasehold land, became one of the largest and most successful properties on the Adelaide Plains and in proximity to Adelaide. For generations of owners the property was a key element in fattening and finishing livestock bought closer to market from distant South Australian stations in drier areas. The property was notable for the discovery and use of artesian water, surprisingly close to Adelaide, and for the management and redirection of Gawler River waters for flood irrigation.

The Buckland Park homestead is believed to have been one of two developed from the 1840s ownership on both sides of the Gawler River. Added to over multiple phases of development and likely reworked by notable architects, John Naish (1896) and English and Soward (1903), the sprawling brick homestead building demonstrates aesthetic value with features such as crenelated entrances and ridge-top viewing platform. The homestead demonstrates the scale of the operation and prosperity of generations of its owners. The importance of the homestead complex is supported by the numerous associated other buildings and structures which demonstrate pastoral life including the Woolshed and Shearing Shed, Shearer's Quarters, Blacksmith's Shop, Implement and Cattle Shed, Gawler River Homestead, Overseer's Residence, Guest House and Worker's Cottage.

Buckland Park Station is associated with successive generations of prominent Colonists and highly effective pastoral families including George Milner Stephen, John Ellis, Captain William Allen, Drs William James Browne and John Harris Browne, Leonard Gilbert Browne, Tom Landsdowne Browne, George and Edmund Brooks and Hector Brooks. Of added interest is the association with the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, future King and Queen of England who were hosted during their state visit to South Australia in 1901.

8. Significance Criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which places are assessed as 'State significant.' Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history. | Taken up in 1839, Buckland Park Station is associated with the short-lived and controversial process of land settlement by Special Survey in South Australia. The expansive acreage of prime farming land which grew from 4,000 to almost 40,000 acres of freehold and leasehold land remained virtually undivided for almost 130 years. The extensive complex of residential and farming buildings is able to demonstrate the prosperity of its owners and evolution of the property as key elements in their pastoral operations. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance. | Buckland Park Station includes an uncommon surviving and extensive complex of pastoral buildings in close proximity to Adelaide. While the property has been progressively subdivided, the surrounding agricultural land flanking the various buildings provides a rural setting and strengthens their understanding. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history. | |

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<input type="checkbox"/>	It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.	
<input type="checkbox"/>	It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.	Buckland Park Station is associated with successive generations of prominent Colonists including George Milner Stephen, John Ellis and Captain William Allen, and the pastoral families of Drs William James Browne and John Harris Browne, Leonard Gilbert Browne, Tom Landsdowne Browne, George and Edmund Brooks and Hector Brooks. Of additional value is the association with the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall who were hosted during their visit to Australia in 1901.

E. Additional Information

9. Images/Maps/Diagrams/Site Plans
<p>A full range of images including maps, site plans, and photographs will help your nomination.</p> <p>Please provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a clear outline of the place or object being nominated within any maps or plans provided• high quality images of the place or object (please list the total number of images being provided)• the subject of each image• the date each image was created• the author of each image, and• the copyright holder of each image (if known) <p>Paste images here:</p> <p>*Refer over for location maps and attachment for additional images of all buildings</p>

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Aerial image indicating relationship of three former Buckland Park homesteads. Note, southern homestead complex is not included in this assessment.

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Detailed aerial image indicating relationship of significant buildings within the northern homestead and farming complex. Refer image above for location of Gawler River Homestead and bridge.

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The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released.

I/ [REDACTED], nominate Buckland Park Station site to be heritage listed.

The information I/we have provided is correct to my/our knowledge.

Your Signature/s:



Date: 28 September 2022

Nomination Form Checklist

Please check that your nomination includes:

- A clear indication of the location of the place or object (including map/s). Where a number of features are nominated, show the location of each and/or a boundary surrounding the significant elements of the site.
- A history of the place or object explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination. This should generally help support arguments of cultural significance.
- A clear description of the nominated place or object/s.
- A statement of significance and indication on how the place or object satisfies one or more of the significance criteria.
- Have you taken the opportunity to discuss the nomination with a heritage assessment officer? It is strongly advised you to do so prior to submitting this nomination.

Email: DEWHeritage@sa.gov.au

Post: Executive Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Department for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide SA 5001