

NAME: Slate retaining wall & culvert, Martin's & Bastian's Quarries, 81 Quarry Road, WILLUNGA SOUTH

PLACE NO.: Local, HID 5442

CURRENT USE:	Slate retaining wall and culvert, associated with commercial slate quarries
FORMER USE:	Slate retaining wall and culvert, associated with commercial slate quarries
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION:	c.1840s
LOCATION:	81 Quarry Road, WILLUNGA SOUTH
LAND DESCRIPTION:	CT 5114/702, Portions of Sections 1007, 1008 & 1242, Hundred of Willunga
OWNER:	Private ownership
REGISTER STATUS:	Local, HID 5442



Slate retaining wall and culvert to Martin's & Bastian's Quarry, 81 Quarry Road, Willunga South (GGA, 2022).

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PLACE NO.: Local, HID 5442

DESCRIPTION:

C.mid-19th century slate constructed retaining wall and culvert, located to the north-west portion of the site of Martin's & Bastian's Quarries at 81 Quarry Road, Willunga South.

An assessment of this site was undertaken as part of Stage 2 investigations (see relevant Stage 2 datasheet). The Stage 2 assessment included a new recommended extent of listing.

The site was again nominated by the current owner for Stage 3 investigations, describing newly-identified heritage fabric on the site for further investigation, now understood to comprise the slate retaining wall & culvert (subject of this assessment).

It is recommended that slate retaining wall & culvert, in addition to the Stage 2 recommended extent of listing, be included scope of the current Local Heritage listing that applies to Martin's & Bastian's Quarries, 81 Quarry Road, Willunga South (Local, HID 5442).

A delineation of significant historic fabric is provided in the Extent of Listing.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The Slate retaining wall & culvert at Martin's & Bastian's Quarries, 81 Quarry Road, Willunga South are of significance as early surviving examples of slate-constructed infrastructure directly associated with the functionality of the two quarries, established in the early 1840s. It is presumed that these infrastructural elements most likely date to the early history of the site. Now comprising the site's sole surviving mid-19th century constructed elements, the retaining wall and culvert are important surviving examples of the early use of Willunga slate for local construction, a major historic theme for the district.

RELEVANT CRITERIA (As defined in Section 67(1) of the PDI Act 2016):

a) it displays historical, economic or social themes that are of importance to the local area, the slate retaining wall and culvert being surviving mid-19th century slate-constructed elements associated with the function of two of Willunga's earliest slate mining quarries, operated by Sampson Bastian and Thomas Martin, two prominent local citizens and business owners of the Willunga district during the mid-19th century onwards.

b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area, comprising two surviving examples of mid-19th century slate-constructed infrastructural fabric associated the functionality of the mid-19th century slate quarries on the site. The two c.1840s slate quarries date to the early development of the Willunga district and the discovery of Willunga slate around this time; now a material strongly associated with the development and history of the district.

d) it displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics or construction techniques of significance to the local area; the slate-constructed retaining wall and culvert, likely dating to the early history of Martin's & Bastian's quarries founded in the early 1840s, are early surviving examples of Willunga slate-constructed infrastructure, likely sourced from the site.

RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES (Historic Themes for South Australia):

Theme 4: Local Settlers and Local Entrepreneurship

4.3 Early Willunga slate mining identities

Theme 7: Mining

7.1 Willunga Slate Mines

Theme 8: Transportation and Human Movement

8.4 Early road and drainage infrastructure

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The slate-constructed retaining wall and culvert, located to the north-west portion of Martin's & Bastian's Quarries, 81 Quarry Road, Willunga South do not appear to have been identified or assessed within the scope of previous heritage surveys of the site.

The heritage significance of Martin's & Bastian's Quarries at 81 Quarry Road, Willunga South was first assessed as part of the 1985 Fleurieu Peninsula Heritage Survey (D.C. Willunga). The 1985 Survey identified that the site of 81 Quarry Road, Willunga South held two of the state's earliest slate quarries, both of which held important historical significance and value for their role in the growth and development of Willunga, occupying a central role in the quarrying history of the region.

The 1985 Survey noted Bastian's Quarry was opened by S. Bastian in the early 1840s shortly after the nearby 'Delabole' quarry was discovered. Thomas Martin became a partner in the late 1840s and the quarry employed about a dozen men for the next forty years. The 1985 Survey identified that Martin later withdrew from the partnership when he bought out Williams' and Polkinghorne's early quarry close by and established the successful Martin's Quarry. Working with steam boiler, cranes, saws and other equipment which Martin installed, he traded with the eastern Colonies in roofing slates for approximately 30 years, winning medals and certificates at the Sydney Exhibition of 1879. The 1985 Survey noted that the Martin family worked the quarry until 1912.

The site was subsequently assessed as part of McDougall & Vines' 1997 Willunga District Heritage Survey. The 1997 Survey largely amalgamated historical information discussed in the 1985 Survey, identifying the establishment of the quarry by Samson Bastian in the 1840s; Thomas Martin -becoming partner and later establishing his own quarry a short distance to the north-east, based on the quarrying site of Dawe & Polkinghorne (and James Gregor & Co.). The 1997 Survey also identified the Martin family worked the site until 1912.

Current research has identified further historical information that provides further clarity to the site's history. As indicated by its name, the current site comprises two primary quarries; namely Bastian's quarry to the south and Martin's quarry to the north-east. Both quarries were opened in the early 1840s.

Bastian's quarry was established in the early 1840s by Sampson Bastian senior (1791-1846) and his son Sampson Bastian junior (1820-1897). The Bastian family arrived in South Australia in 1840

aboard the ship *Java*, quickly acquiring land known as Beltunga, approximately one and a half miles from Willunga. The 'Willunga Now and Then' biography relating to Sampson Bastian senior notes that Bastian senior was employed in the slate quarries which, when relinquished by Mr. Loud, Bastian worked in conjunction with his eldest son, Sampson Bastian junior. Bastian senior died in November 1846 and is buried at the Willunga Uniting Church cemetery. Thomas Martin, a Cornish emigrant miner who arrived in South Australia in 1847, quickly established himself at Willunga and appears to have formed a partnership with Bastian junior shortly afterwards.

It is understood that Martin & Bastian together worked the initial quarry until the 1850s, when Martin acquired the adjacent quarry to the immediate north-east, founded by Thomas Williams and Thomas Polkinghorne in the early 1840s. Though the exact date of Martin's acquisition is unknown, this quarry, now known as Martin's Quarry, was identified as Martin's property by 1855; when fellow Willunga quarrymen Kernick, Cobbledick and Male all had tributes on the site at this time. (*The Willunga Slate Quarries*, 1927, p.5).

The exact date of the dissolution of Bastian and Martin's partnership is currently unknown, though Bastian's quarry was described as "Messrs. Bastian & Martin's quarry" as late as 1862 (Willunga, 1862, p.3); Bastian and Martin were described as individual employers by 1873 (*The Willunga Slate Quarries*, 1873, p.5). Following the partnership dissolution, Bastian is recorded as having continued operations at the southern quarry. Bastian retired in approximately 1883 and died at Goodwood in 1897; it is understood that Bastian's Quarry was operated by Martin after 1883.

Martin's Quarry, north-east of Bastian's Quarry (previously Williams & Polkinghorne's quarry), is reputed to have produced the better-quality slate of the two sites. Martin built up an extensive slate trade to Sydney, Melbourne and Perth from the mid-19th century onwards; the success of which required installation of a steam sawing plant in c.1881 where 20 saws were reputedly in continuously operation at that time (*Willunga Slate Quarries*, 1910, p.2). A preference for the use of galvanised iron for roofing and asphalt for paving in the late 19th/early 20th centuries saw a decline in the prosperity of the Willunga slate quarries. Following Thomas Martin's death in 1900, both sites were operated by Martin's son Thomas Martin junior until operations were suspended by 1912.

The expensive and difficulty of acquiring galvanised iron as a roofing material during and following the First World War led to a renewed interest in Willunga's dormant slate quarries; the former Bangor Quarry, also closed in approximately 1912, was re-opened by the Australian Slate Company Limited by the late 1910s. Martin's & Bastian's Quarries were leased in 1918 by Messrs. Davies and Roberts, though this enterprise does not appear to have been long lived as a 1927 article identifies that the Martin's Quarry entrance was at this time covered in rubbish (*The Willunga Slate Quarries*, 1927, p.5). Two men were killed at the disused Martin's Quarry site in 1936 following a major rockslide of approximately 600 tons. (*Quarry Fatality*, 1936, p.1).

It is believed that Martin's Quarry was re-opened in approximately 1948 and has been in operation since this time. Bastian's Quarry is believed to have remained out of operation since the 1912 closure.

The exact construction date of the slate retaining wall, located to the eastern embankment of the site's pool, and the substantial slate culvert, located to the entrance gate of the site, are unknown but are presumed to date to an early period for their 'book-leaf' construction method and infrastructural usage, ie. c.1840s. While no further information regarding their history has been identified, the slate retaining wall and culvert now comprise the only surviving examples of early masonry construction remaining on the site, most likely dating to the site's early history.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials of all slate-constructed masonry elements of the retaining wall and culvert, located to the pool's eastern embankment and the entrance gate respectively.

It is understood that a large portion of the slate retaining wall may be currently buried beneath foliage and soil. It is recommended that minor excavation works be undertaken to determine the exact size and extent of the retaining wall to ensure an understanding of its heritage significance.

In addition to the above extent of listing, the Stage 2 recommended extent of listing has been provided below for clarity in regards to the extent of the currently recommended heritage protection to the site:

Stage 2 recommended extent of listing:

As former commercial mining sites, it is acknowledged that the site's significant history is not tied specifically to the current forms of the existing rock formations; the result of various periods of quarrying activities since the 1840s.

The significant history of both Martin's and Bastian's Quarries should however be visually acknowledged and represented on the site with appropriate signage, etc.

While remaining in disuse, the current form and materials of Bastian's Quarry is included in the listing and should be retained and conserved where possible. Should quarrying activity recommence on the site, the extent of listing should be updated and/or modified with the assistance of a heritage professional as required.

Evidence of historical rock gouging for the insertion of explosives, demonstrating quarrying techniques associated with the site since the mid-19th century, have been identified as being located immediately north of the current commercial premises at Martin's Quarry. The form of these historical rock gouges are included in the listing and should be retained and conserved where possible.

REFERENCES:

- Historical Certificates of Title; 873/46; 1820/52; 4128/709; 4331/673; 4361/884; etc.
McDougall & Vines, 1997, *Willunga District Heritage Survey*, p. 268.
Heritage Investigations & Consultants, Department of Environment & Planning, 1985, *Heritage Survey of the Fleurieu Peninsula, Part Two, 4. D.C. Willunga*, Item Ref. No. 294.
Descriptive Tour Through Part of District 'C', Adelaide Observer, Sat 13 Ap 1844, p.7.
Commercial Intelligence, South Australian Register, Wed 21 Oct 1846, p.3.
The Willunga Slate Quarries, The Register, Wed 30 Nov 1927, p.5.
The Willunga Slate Quarries, Adelaide Observer, Sat 22 Mar 1873, p.5.
Willunga, South Australian Register, Fri 8 Aug 1862, p.3.
Willunga Slate Quarries, The Advertiser, Thu 26 May 1910, p.12.
Willunga, The Mount Barker Courier and Onkaparinga and Gumeracha Advertiser, Fri 16 Aug 1918, p.3.
Quarry Fatality, Border Watch, Tue 10 Nov 1936, p.1.
Plans to Open Slate Quarries, The Advertiser, Wed 14 Jul 1948, p.1.

'Willunga Now and Then', Bastian, Sampson (junior); biography, [https://willunga.nowandthen.net.au/Bastian_Sampson_\(junior\)](https://willunga.nowandthen.net.au/Bastian_Sampson_(junior)), accessed 4/11/2021.

'Willunga Now and Then', Bastian, Sampson (senior); biography, [https://willunga.nowandthen.net.au/Bastian_Sampson_\(senior\)](https://willunga.nowandthen.net.au/Bastian_Sampson_(senior)), accessed 4/11/2021.

Martin, Thomas (1825-1900), Obituaries Australia, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <https://oa.anu.edu.au/obituary/martin-thomas-22842>, accessed 4 November, 2021.

SITE MAPPING:



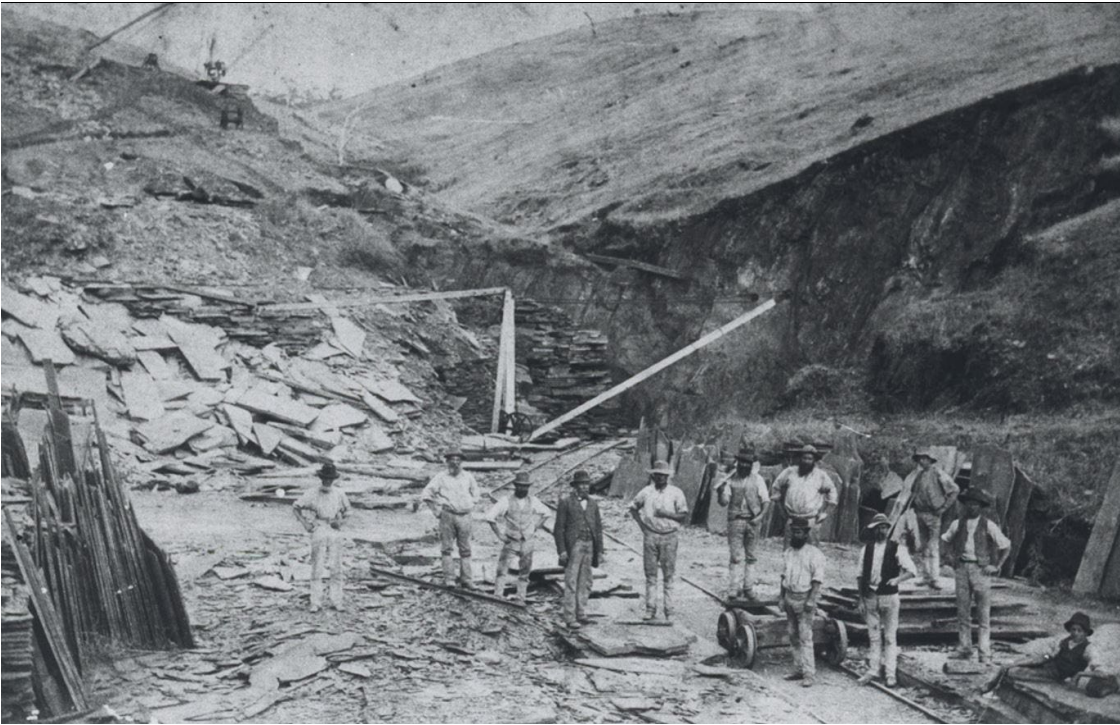
Site of retaining wall and culvert at Martin & Bastian Quarries, 81 Quarry Road, Willunga South; (1) site of culvert at quarry entrance; (2) site of retaining wall to the eastern embankment of the quarry pool (SAPPA, 2022).

HISTORICAL IMAGES:



Late 19th century photograph of Sampson Bastian junior (1820-1897)

(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/willunganowandthen/27432202145/>, accessed 4/11/2021).



C.1880 photograph of Martin's Slate Quarry, Willunga; Martin stands in the frock coat to the centre (SLSA, B 24133)



C.1880 enhanced photograph of Thomas Martin (centre figure in frock coat) (SLSA, B 24133)



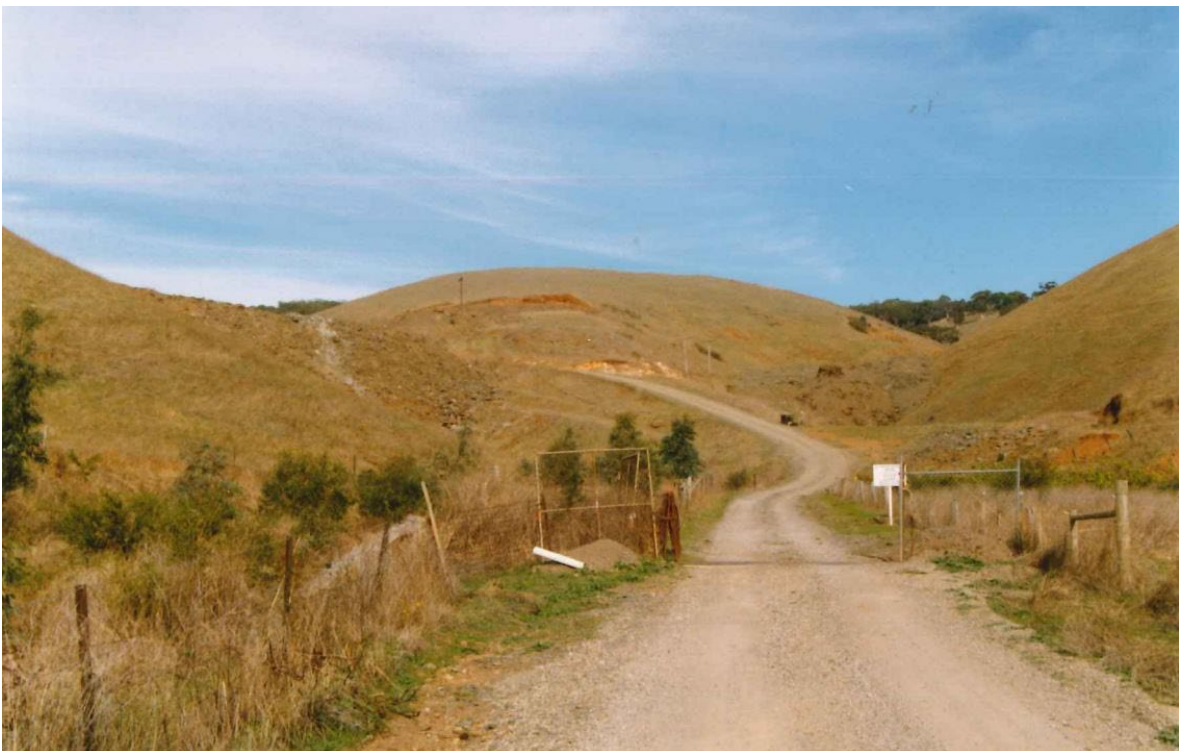
C.1891 photograph of workers at Martin's Slate Quarry, Willunga (SLSA, B 24134).



C.1908 photograph of Martin's Slate Quarry in Beltana (Beltunga?) Gully (SLSA, B 55417/90)



C.1985 photograph of Martin's & Bastian's Quarries, Quarry Road, Willunga South (1985 Fleurieu Peninsula Survey, D. C. Willunga)



C.1997 photograph of Martin's & Bastian's Quarries, Quarry Road, Willunga South (1997 Willunga District Heritage Survey).

OTHER IMAGES:



Site of quarry pool; retaining wall located to eastern embankment (shown within red box), looking east (GGA, 2022).



Additional partially-buried slate fabric to slate retaining wall, looking east (GGA, 2022).



Slate fabric to right-hand side of culvert, located immediately south of the quarry entrance from Quarry Road, looking west (GGA, 2022).



Slate fabric to left-hand side of culvert, located immediately south of the quarry entrance from Quarry Road, looking south-west (GGA, 2022).