
NAME: Former Butter Factory, 133 Little Road, WHITES VALLEY

CURRENT USE:	Dwelling
FORMER USE:	Butter factory, operating from 1890 to 1901.
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION:	C.1890 with later additions and alterations
LOCATION:	133 Little Road, WHITES VALLEY
LAND DESCRIPTION:	CT 5881/773, Section 219, Hundred of Willunga
OWNER:	Private ownership
RECOMMENDATION:	Local Heritage Place



Former butter factory at 133 Little Road, Whites Valley (GGA, 2022)

NAME: Former Butter Factory, 133 Little Road, WHITES VALLEY

DESCRIPTION:

C.1890 former butter factory constructed of rendered masonry with early door and window openings. Early timber and window elements with original timber gable ventilators. Early rendered masonry chimney with early gabled roof form with later corrugated steel cladding extending to verandah and lean to additions to the north, east and west elevations. Early timber verandah structure to east elevation. Later 20th century additions to north elevation.

It is recommended that the former butter factory at 133 Little Road, Whites Valley be included on the South Australian Heritage Register as a Local Heritage place.

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

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

133 Little Road, Whites Valley is of local significance as a former butter factory, now converted to a residence, constructed in 1890 and closed in 1901. The former butter factory processed milk and cream from local producers primarily for sale in the local district, a prominent local industry at the time. The former factory retains a high degree of external fabric relating to its original purpose.

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; constructed in 1890 the former butter factory, now a residence, represents a significant late 19th century local industry for the Whites Valley district, operating as a co-operative butter-making facility for local milk and cream producers within the local district.

b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; being constructed as in 1890 as a butter factory for processing the milk and cream of the district's dairy producers, a significant late 19th century industry for the Whites Valley district.

RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:

Theme 2: Regional Life in the Southern Vales

2.5 Small town commercial enterprise

Theme 5: Food Production in the Southern Vales

5.3 Agricultural infrastructure

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The former butter factory at 133 Little Road, Whites Valley was first assessed as part of the 1997 Willunga District Heritage Survey.

The 1997 Survey identified that the former butter factory was erected in the early 1890s and was operated as a cooperative dairy factory, processing cream from the surrounding district. The 1997 Survey also identified that by 1901 the factory had closed due to district suppliers sending their produce to city factories for processing. The 1997 Survey noted that the former factory was

converted to residential usage shortly after closure and was owned by members of the McKenzie and Culley families since that time.

Current research has largely confirmed historical findings. Earliest identified Lands Title records date to June 1890 when the site was acquired by the Southern Cooperative Produce Factory Company Limited. As noted in the 1997 Survey, the factory was constructed to process milk and cream from the creameries of the surrounding districts into butter. A foundation stone was laid on the 30th May with an official opening ceremony occurring on 22nd September 1890.

Described as the best butter factory in the Colony, the factory was designed by Mr. E. Learoyd and constructed by Willunga builder Harry Richards, a detailed description of the factory was provided in a newspaper article, given as follows:

The factory consists of a machine-room, in which are situated two Laval separators, capable of putting through 150 gallons of milk each per hours; a 400-gallon jacketed milk tank to feed the separators, connected with the boiler, so that milk may be heated to any required degree. In this room is also a large churn and butter-worker. The whole machinery is so placed that it can be worked at once from the main shaft, which extends the whole length of the room. Opening from the above room is the butter-room, a lofty cool room of about 20 ft. x 17 ft., with a large table of Willunga slate, on which was displayed the first butter produced by the factory. Under the butter-room is place the cellar. In addition to the above there is a room intended as an office and meeting-room for the Directors.

On the west side is a verandah 15 ft. wide, extending the whole length of the building, a distance of 70 ft. This is enclosed on all sides with galvanised-iron, forming a very large room. This is utilised as an engine-room, washup-room, &c. The boiler and engine used are of the Tangye type, and of eight and six horsepower respectively. The water is laid on very conveniently from the supply tanks for the purpose of washing up, and is connected with the boiler, so that steam can be turned on and a quantity of water heated in a few minutes. Adjoining the hot-water tank is the table for steaming the milk-cans, an operation which each can has to go through before being returned to the customer supplying milk.

The whole of the building is ceiled with a small corrugated iron, above which is the false roof of wood, above the false roof, leaving a space of about a foot, is the ordinary roof of galvanised iron, thus forming an air-chamber, which will tend to greatly lower the temperature during the summer. The whole is situated on the side of a hill, giving good facilities for getting away the water used and also the skim-milk by gravitation alone. This will economise labour greatly. The estimated cost of land, building and plant is about 1,200 pounds. The quantity of milk put through yesterday was 240 gallons. This quantity will be greatly exceeded as soon as cans are obtainable.

('The Dairy, Southern Co-Operative Butter Factory', Adelaide Observer, Sat 27 Sep 1890, p.12).

Working in conjunction with the Myponga creamery and another creamery in McLaren Flat, by 1892 the factory was capable of treating approximately 4,500 litres of cream per day, butter was sold locally with surplus sold to Adelaide.

By February 1901 however, the factory was closed due to local suppliers acquiring their own separators or sending their cream to city factories for processing. The former factory was transferred to Colin McKenzie, laborer of Aldinga in April 1902, placing a mortgage at the time of acquisition, discharged by 1910; it is assumed that this mortgage relates to conversion of the former factory for residential usage. Residential works dating from this period likely included masonry infill works to the former galvanised-iron western verandah, now the 'lean-to' structure to the building's western elevation.

The property was owned by members of the McKenzie family until 1948 when the site was acquired by Harrold Culley, grazier of Aldinga. The property was subsequently purchased by Peter Holt in 1968.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials of all surviving early masonry fabric to the former butter factory including all walls, chimneys and window & door openings. Surviving early timber gable ventilators are considered of significance and included in the listing. The form of the hipped and gabled roof is considered of significance, as is the use of corrugated steel as the roof cladding material. Current replacements elements are considered stylistically appropriate but are not historic fabric and are not included in the listing.

All later additions and alterations are not included in the listing. Modified internal elements are not included in the listing.

REFERENCES:

Aldinga, The Advertiser, Wed 27 Feb 1901, p.11

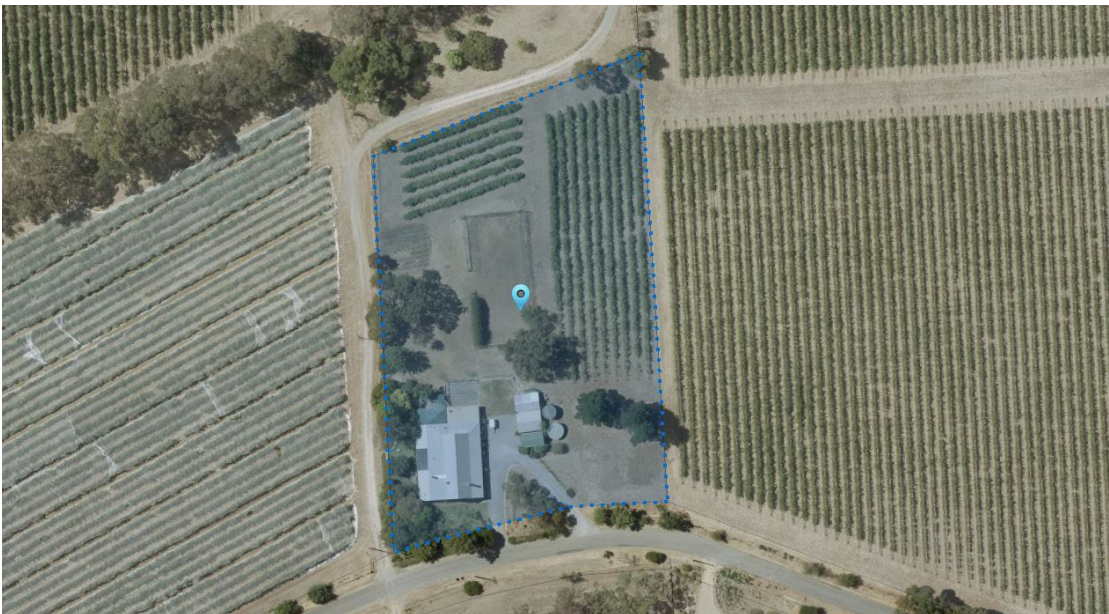
'The Dairy, Southern Co-Operative Butter Factory', Adelaide Observer, Sat 27 Sep 1890, p.12

Laura Butter Factory, The Laura Standard, Fri 16 Dec 1892, p.1.

CTs 539/9; 3858/21; etc.

McDougall & Vines, 1997, Willunga District Heritage Survey, pp. 64-65.

SITE MAPPING:



Site of 133 Little Road, Whites Valley (Planning SA SAPPA)

HISTORICAL IMAGES:



1936 aerial photograph of 133 Little Road, Whites Valley (ICSM Historical Aerial Photography, Film Number MAP1941, Run 1, Frame 6312, dated 3rd April, 1936. <https://imagery.aerialphotography.fsdf.org.au/>, accessed 19/04/2022).

OTHER IMAGES:



South elevation of 133 Little Road, Whites Valley (GGA, 2022)



East elevation of 133 Little Road, Whites Valley (GGA, 2022)



East elevation of 133 Little Road, Whites Valley, showing early fabric to the northern end of the elevation (GGA, 2022)