
NAME: Slate channel and well, 6 Bayliss Road, WHITES VALLEY

CURRENT USE:	Slate channel & well
FORMER USE:	Slate channel & well
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION:	C.mid-19 th century
LOCATION:	6 Bayliss Road, WHITES VALLEY
LAND DESCRIPTION:	CTs 5441/964, Section 241, Hundred of Willunga
OWNER:	Private ownership
RECOMMENDATION:	Local Heritage Place (amended)



Slate channel (above) and well (below) at 6 Bayliss Road, Whites Valley (GGA, 2022)

NAME: Slate Channel, 6 Bayliss Road, WHITES VALLEY

DESCRIPTION:

C. mid-19th century slate channel, constructed in the 'book-leaf' manner from locally-sourced slate following the creekbed that runs to the south-west through the site. Approximately five metres of the channel have been currently excavated, further possible fabric may lie buried beneath foliage to the south-west.

C. mid-19th century (possibly late-19th century) well constructed of brick, currently partially excavated to an approximate depth of four metres.

It is recommended that slate channel at 6 Bayliss Road, Whites Valley be included within the scope of the current Local Heritage listing that applies to Duncan Stewart's House ruins at 6 Bayliss Road, Whites Valley (Local, HID 5558)

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

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The recently identified and excavated slate channel and well at 6 Bayliss Road, Whites Valley are of significance as surviving heritage elements that relate to the agricultural activities of Duncan Stewart's 'Stewarton Farm', an early farming complex for the Whites Valley district established in 1846, now largely demolished or in ruinous condition. The site is strongly associated with Duncan Stewart (1819-1907), an early settler and prominent mid-19th century figure in the Aldinga and Whites Valley districts.

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

- a) it displays historical, economical or social themes that are of importance to the local area, being historical fabric relating to a slate channel and well associated with the agricultural activities of Duncan Stewart's 'Stewarton Farm', an early farm complex for the Whites Valley district, now largely demolished or in ruinous form.
 - b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; the historic fabric of the slate channel and well being strongly associated with the agricultural activities of Duncan Stewart's 'Stewarton Farm', an early farming complex for the Whites Valley district now largely demolished or in ruinous condition.
 - e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event, being strongly associated with Duncan Stewart (1819-1907), an early settler and prominent figure of the Aldinga and Whites Valley districts from the mid-19th century onwards.
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RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:

Theme 5: Food Production in the Southern Vales

5.1 Self-contained and self-reliant farming complexes

5.2 Farming infrastructure

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The heritage values of the recently identified slate channel and well at 6 Bayliss Road, Whites Valley (formerly known as 'Stewarton Farm') have not been identified or assessed as part of any previous heritage survey, though an assessment of ruins at 6 Bayliss Road, Whites Valley have been undertaken.

Ruins at 6 Bayliss Road, Whites Valley were initially assessed as part of the 1997 Willunga District Heritage Survey. The 1997 Survey identified that ruins on this property and Section 241 are the remains of Duncan Stewart's first home, Stewart emigrating from Scotland to South Australia in the early 1840s and settling in the Aldinga district during this time. Stewart purchased Section 241 from George Fife Angus in 1846, likely building the earliest portions of the ruined house shortly after this time. The 1997 Survey identified that Stewart died in 1907; his son is attributed as having constructed other residences on the site, including a second house which was demolished to built the current late 20th century residence located to the immediate north of the ruins. As the slate channel and well were not identified at the time, no attributed history relating to these elements was provided.

Current research relating to the site largely supports existing information. Available Lands Title information dates to 1921 when a number of new roads were implemented over the Stewart family's Section 241, no earlier title dating to 19th century developments on the site have been identified. An obituary relating to Stewart's death in 1907 provides further historical context for the site and reads as follows:

Mr. Duncan Stewart, who died on October 14 at Aldinga, was born in Scotland in 1819, and arrived in South Australia in the Ariadne in August 1839. He was one of the pioneers of the south. He obtained a section of land at Aldinga in 1846, built a house, married and raised a family there; and lived on the one property until the day of his death. He did not take any active part in political life, but was a councillor and afterwards chairman of the Aldinga District Council. He held a seat in the council for a period of 50 years (1854 to 1904) without a break. He was often a judge of draught stock at ploughing matches and agricultural shows, and among the mementoes his family possess is a medal inscribed on one side, "Best ploughman" around an engraving of a plough and on the other side, "First medal, August 1852, Willunga." Mr Stewart was a justice of the peace for many years. His wife died in 1896, and the family now living are Mr. Brant Butterworth, Port Willunga, Miss Stewart, Stewarton, Aldinga, Mrs. William Wood, Port Pirie; Mr Robert Stewart, Aldinga; and Mr Duncan Stewart, North Adelaide. (Obituary, Chronicle, Sat 26 Oct 1907, p.45).

No history specifically relating to the creation of the slate channel or well have been identified. Constructed from 'book-leaf' slate, the slate channel, following the former creekbed to the south-west of the residence ruins, likely dates to the mid-19th century and was likely formed to assist the Duncan family's agricultural farming activities on the site. The former well possibly dates to a later period and was evidently used as a water source for the Stewart family. The slate channel was identified in recent years following partial clearing of foliage in the creekbed; the former well has been partially excavated very recently following its re-discovery after 2018.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials of all historic fabric relating to the slate channel and well, including all masonry fabric and associated elements.

It is recommended that further excavation works should occur to the slate channel to identify the full scope of material relating to the channel.

It is recommended that further excavation works should occur to the well to identify the full scope of material relating to the well. It is also recommended that a suitable permanent cover to the well should be implemented to avoid possible injury while allowing for an interpretation and understanding of the fabric and its relationship to the site's history.

REFERENCES:

CTs 1207/41; 2346/161; 2559/46; 3823/173; etc.

McDougall & Vines, 1997, Willunga District Heritage Survey, pp. 47-49.

SITE MAPPING:



Site of 6 Bayliss Road, Whites Valley; slate channel located within red rectangle, well within red circle (SAPPA, Planning SA).

HISTORICAL IMAGES:



1936 aerial photograph of 6 Bayliss Road, Whites Valley; approximate locations of slate channel (red rectangle) and well (red circle) illustrated (ICSM Historical Aerial Photography, Film Number MAP1941, Run 2, Frame 6266, dated 3rd April, 1936. <https://imagery.aerialphotography.fsdf.org.au/>, accessed 19/04/2022).

OTHER IMAGES:



Primary identified fabric of slate channel, looking east. Note recess to central portion, suggesting perpendicular drainage channel from nearby paddock to main creekbed (GGA, 2022).



Slate fabric associated with slate channel, looking south. Purpose of larger vertical slate element unknown, more slate fabric likely remains buried beneath foliage to the south-west (GGA, 2022).



Excavated well fabric constructed of brick, extending to approximately 4 metres in depth (GGA, 2022).



Mid-19th century ruins of 'Stewarton Farm', looking north (GGA, 2022).



Mid-19th century ruins of 'Stewarton Farm', looking west (GGA, 2022).