

NAME: Cottage and Moreton Bay Fig Trees, 128 Main Road, WILLUNGA

PLACE NO.: Local, HID 5430

CURRENT USE:	Dwelling
FORMER USE:	Former farmhouse and associated Moreton Bay fig trees
DATE(S) OF CONSTRUCTION:	c.mid-19 th century with later additions and alterations
LOCATION:	128 Main Road, WILLUNGA
LAND DESCRIPTION:	CT Vol. 5033, Fol. 642; Section 222, Hundred of Willunga
OWNER:	Private ownership
REGISTER STATUS:	Local, HID 5430



Former cottage ruin (now reconstructed) at 128 Main Road, Willunga (GGA, 2021)

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DESCRIPTION:

Mid-19th century former farmhouse constructed of masonry with brick quoins and surrounds. C.2000 reconstruction works including reconstructed masonry elements and timber-framed, corrugated steel-clad additions. Slate window sills and lintels with timber lintel to north elevation. Replacement single-casement window to early window form to north elevation.

It is recommended that the former farmhouse and two Moreton Bay fig trees at 128 Main Road, Willunga retained on the SA Heritage Register as a Local Heritage place.

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

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE:

The former farmhouse at 128 Main Road, Willunga is of significance as a mid-19th century former farmhouse dating to Willunga's initial development, representing the form of dwelling and lifestyle of Willunga's early settlers. It is associated with the Culley family, prominent early settlers for the district, and with the Ayliffe and Hamilton families who have been prominent local citizens since the mid-20th century. Two substantial Moreton Bay fig trees to the property's southern entrance date to the site's initial development and are prominent local landmarks.

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; being a mid-19th century former farmhouse dating to Willunga's initial settlement, representing the history of farming and settlement in the Willunga district.
 - b) it represents customs or ways of life that are characteristic of the local area; being an indicative example of a local farming residence and an associated lifestyle for many Willunga settlers during the mid-19th century.
 - e) it is associated with a notable local personality or event; being primarily associated with the Culley family, significant early settlers for the district; and with the Ayliffe and Hamilton families who have been prominent local residents of the district since the mid-20th century.
 - f) in the case of a tree, it is of special historical or social significance or importance within the local area; the two substantial Moreton Bay fig trees located to the property's southern entrance date from the mid-19th century and are notable local Willunga landmarks.
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RELEVANT HISTORIC THEMES:

Theme 2: Regional Life in the Southern Vales

2.1 Cottages and small dwellings

2.8 Significant local trees and plantings

BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The former cottage ruins and associated fig trees at 128 Main Road, Willunga were first assessed as part of the 1997 Willunga District Heritage Survey. The 1997 Survey noted that the former ruins were of a farmhouse known as 'Rose Cottage', then exhibiting early pise, render walls and slate roofs as well as some stone construction. The 1997 Survey noted this section was owned by Thomas Henry Culley of Aldinga before 1869 and farmed by lease-holders. The 1997 Survey noted other significant 20th century ownerships including the Ayliffe and Hamilton families, noting that the Moreton Bay fig trees in the property gateway dated from the Culley ownership and formed an important part of the history of the site.

Current research largely supports these findings; identified Lands Title records date to 1879 when the property was owned Thomas Culley of Willunga, farmer. Following Culley's death in 1884, the property was transferred to Gabriel Cox of Aldinga, gentleman, who leased the land back to members of the Culley family. Lease records on the Certificate of Title show historical associations with a number of prominent Southern Vales farming and business identities, including Lewis Fidge, William Goode, Thomas Pengilly and members of the Aldam, Pengilly and Moulden families. Subsequent owners have included James Burton Ayliffe (1936-1957, responsible for the adjoining residence to the site's north-east), Osborn Kenneth Withall (1957-1962) and members of the Hamilton family.

As noted in the 1997 Survey, the former farmhouse had a long rental history dating from the mid-19th century; while an exact construction date has not been identified, the former farmhouse is understood to date from the mid-19th century and was constructed by Thomas Culley; the Culley family numbering among the earliest settlers of the Southern Vales district.

The 1997 survey noted the current owners at that time expressed an interest in 'salvaging' the ruin; extensive and high-quality architecturally-designed reconstruction works were undertaken in approximately c.2000. It is understood that extensive portions of existing masonry, then in ruinous form, were reconstructed around this time to form the current building. These c2000 reconstruction works are highly-sympathetic in nature and can be difficult to identify. Surviving early portions with minimal areas of reconstructed stonework are identified as including the brick chimney, masonry walls to the east elevation and the eastern 'half' of all masonry walls orientated on an 'east-west' axis.

The form of the early building can be easily seen in a watercolour illustration dating to 1994 (see Historical Images). Following an inspection, no early pise or rendered masonry elements discussed by the 1997 Survey were identified.

As noted in the 1997 Survey, the two substantial Moreton Bay fig trees located on the property's southern entrance date to the site's early history during the ownership of Thomas Culley, suggestive of planting in the mid-19th century.

A number of errors have been identified in the current listing for 128 Main Road, Willunga on the SA Heritage Register. The property, described as 'Cottage Ruin, 7 Moreton Bay Fig Trees', is erroneously identified as 130 Main Road, Willunga. Following advice from the City of Onkaparinga, it is understood that this listing error will be amended as part of a future Code Amendment.

The current listing also identifies 'seven' Moreton Bay fig trees; following a site inspection and information from the current owners, it is understood that only the two examples located on the property's southern entrance are in existence.

EXTENT OF LISTING:

The form and materials of surviving early masonry elements, including all early stonework with brick quoins and surrounds, brick chimney and early door and window openings. While difficult to identify on the current building, historical images clearly demonstrate original portions before the c.2000 reconstruction works. Roof forms and the form and use of slate cladding are of significance and are included in the listing, though the current cladding materials are not included in the listing.

All later additions, including the timber-framed, corrugated steel-clad c.2000 additions are not included in the listing.

REFERENCES:

McDougall & Vines, 1997, Willunga District Heritage Survey, pp. 248-249.
Historical CTs 309/72; 1396/95; 2530/121; 3844/31; etc.

SITE MAPPING:

Site of 128 Main Road, Willunga; (1) former cottage; (2) site of two Moreton Bay figs (Planning SA SAPPa)

HISTORICAL IMAGES:



1994 watercolour of former cottage ruins at 128 Main Road, Willunga, retained by current owners (GGA, 2021)



1997 photograph of former cottage ruins at 128 Main Road, Willunga (1997 Willunga District Heritage Survey)



1997 photograph of Moreton Bay Fig trees at Gaffney Road at entrance to former farmhouse ruins (1997 Willunga District Heritage Survey)

OTHER IMAGES:



North elevation of former farmhouse, having been extensively reconstructed with additions in c.2000 (GGA, 2021)



Reconstructed masonry fabric to west elevation with c.2000 additions (GGA, 2021)



Reconstructed masonry fabric to west elevation with c.2000 additions (GGA, 2021)



Two notable Moreton Bay fig trees to southern entrance to 128 Main Road, Willunga (GGA, 2021)