



(8) MILLERS ARMS HOTEL

(painted by Helen Carman from photo circa 1890)

HISTORY: Constructed circa 1850's, The Millers Arms is close to, but not on the same site of the "New Hotel" which was established in 1848 and closed in 1851. Since James Shakes was the last licensee of the "New Hotel" and the first licensee of the "Millers Arms" in 1851, it is likely that the New Hotel made way for the present Millers Arms Hotel. In 1874 the Johnston family associated with the Johnston Brewing Company, purchased the property and it has remained in the family for over 140 years.

It displays aesthetic merit, design characteristics and construction techniques of significance to the local area.



(6) SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL

DESCRIPTION: A large stone hall of the late 19th century with an unsympathetic contemporary (1960's) brick front addition and other modifications apparently undertaken at the same time. An important community building both for its original use as a lodge and later as a Soldiers Memorial Hall (WW1)

HISTORY: Built in 1880 by the Oddfellows Lodge. Roman Catholics held services here by notice at the turn of the 20th century. Purchased in 1921 it became the town's public meeting place. Extensive alterations were carried out in the 1960's when the original detailing of the hall behind was built over.

On this property stood a pioneer residence which was until his death in 1874 the Nairne home of Richard Mills of "Millbrae", Native Valley. The Mills family used the home as a base for attending the Nairne School and then for retirement.



Old Gum Tree, Millers Arms and School: 1872

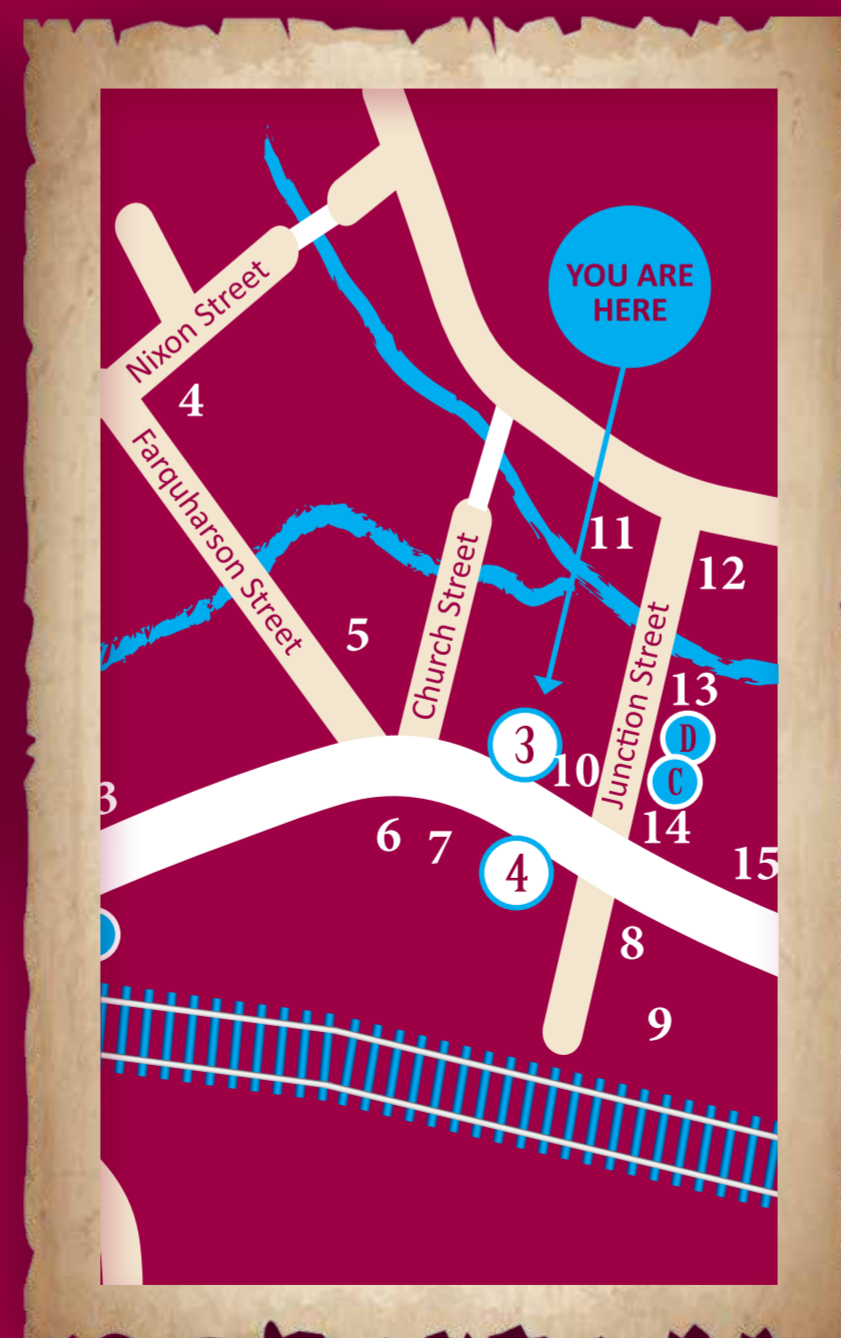
(4) CEMETERY (established 1839)

Located on land donated by Matthew Smillie (Nairne's founder) when the town was first surveyed. Contains the Smillie family vault. (Note the broken monument which usually means "life cut short") Many names here are associated with Nairne's development: Gale, Sloggett, Watts, Timmins, Day, King, Shakes, Chapman, Preiss and Clezy to name a few.



(5) FIRST CHURCH SITE (established circa 1851)

From a map of the original survey the church site was at the corner of Church St and Farquharson St. It was a very primitive building – a "slab building" – on a swamp near the edge of the creek close to the cemetery. The water came up through the floor and sometimes ran through the church, while the roof was anything but secure. When it rained ladies sometimes had to put up their umbrellas to save their clothes. By 1854 two other churches had been constructed on higher ground.



(9) CROOKED BILLET (photo c 1890's)

Located behind the Millers Arms Hotel

DESCRIPTION: An early Victorian stone residence used as an Inn. Hipped corrugated iron roof, with broad verandah. No eaves. French doors. Typical colonial era detailing.

HISTORY: This building was erected by James Shakes in 1845. Shakes was a hotelier, builder and farmer who originally settled in Blakiston and then owned and developed various properties in Nairne. He built a large residence and applied for a hotel licence, which was granted as the "Crooked Billet". It was licensed as an Inn from 1851 – 1860. It is said that the name "Crooked Billet" was derived from the beds in the Inn which were constructed from trees taken from the surrounding area. John William King purchased the property in 1889, used the house as a residence and renamed it "Kings Lynn". King was a leading citizen in Nairne, acted as a Councillor for Nairne District Council and lived in the house until his death in 1918. Near the Billet was also the site of a bank and some say at one time it was used as a holding station for criminals awaiting collection from Adelaide. The Crooked Billet Assembly Room was

(7) OLD SCHOOL

DESCRIPTION: A coarse bluestone building with projecting, dressed stone pilasters, with emphasised caps and a gabled front. Triptych windows and louvered roundel in gable. The porch with its brick quoins completes the building. This is a strong, mid-Victorian building of unusual detailing, and a good representative example of a 19th Century Public School.

HISTORY: Mrs John Dunn laid the foundation stone for this building in 1875. It was built by the Education Department and was used as a school from 1876 – 1956. In the 1870's, Nairne received its public school status instructing 112 students in its inaugural year and peaking at 174 in 1884.

In October 1958 it was transferred to the Catholic Church and became St Joseph's Catholic Church until 7th April 2000. The building is enhanced by its long, unbroken use as an Education Centre until its conversion to a Catholic Church. It is presently under private ownership.



used as a place for public meetings, and was also the chief site of the Nairne Council Office until the Council was amalgamated with Mount Barker in 1935.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE

Perhaps its crowning glory was a day in 1859 when the popular politician R.R. Torrens (later Sir Robert Torrens) was given a grand dinner in the Crooked Billet. He addressed the crowded room on the benefits of his reformed Land Titles. The people of Nairne appreciated his efforts in establishing the Real Property Act (Torrens Title)