

increasing number of explorers, drovers and travellers. obtained a licence in 1858 for a hotel to cater for the need for accommodation at Overland Corner. He Chambers, who had pastoral interests here, recognised ford provided a crossing over the River Murray. John allowed stock and horses to rest and feed and a shallow South Wales and South Australia. The grassy flats Overland Corner lay on a strategic route between New

1 The Hotel
From the trailhead at Checkpoint (A) follow the trail beyond the stile to reach the top of the embankment.

HERITAGE WALK

you will enjoy your walk.
Read the information at the trailhead, take a leaflet from the dispenser or ask for information at the Hotel. We trust

HERONS BEND WALK FLOODPLAIN WALK HERITAGE WALK

combined walk of 8.2 km.
allow 1½ hours each or, if you have half a day, take the There are three walks, each about 2.8 km long so

issues pose to both the local and wider community and explore the challenges that current water management These walks provide geological and historical background parts of Australia, and not least in this particular region. Water management is a hugely important issue in many urban communities rely so heavily on the River Murray. European settlers to the present, when rural industries and Aborigines lived off the land and more recently, from early the landscape, in the times when small communities of years; in the times before vertebrate animals roamed made changes which have taken place over millions of Trust of South Australia, you can see natural and man- In this 300 ha nature reserve, managed by the National Welcome to Overland Corner.



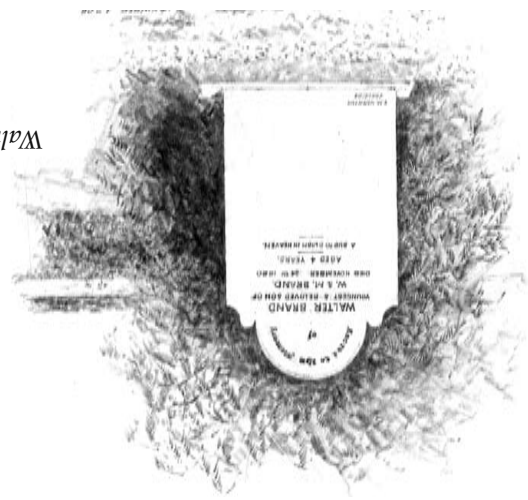
Overland Corner Reserve Walking Trails



Overland Corner Hotel

'Overland... under sea'

Walter died young



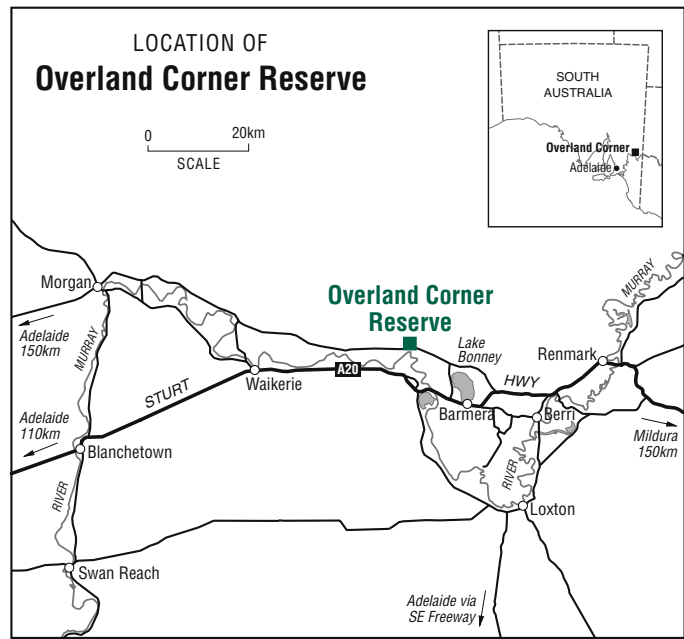
At the top of the quarry, cross the road — look out for traffic.

Church at Paringa.
many buildings in the Riverland, including the Lutheran after the Second World War, when stone was supplied for hotel, this particular quarry was not fully developed until fossils. Although stone was cut from nearby cliffs for the Corner" if you would like to read more about the rocks and obtain a brochure of "The Geological History of Overland as would be found in coastal areas today. Ask in the hotel to limpets, the skeletons of lace coral, 'snails', corals, etc, much seen in the quarry walls. There are fossils of sea urchins, Remnants of the ancient life that occupied the ocean can be

millions of years.
gave rise to this 'Mannum Limestone' over the following in and beyond, and the remains of the life it supported About 15 million years ago the ocean extended this far

2 Quarry

by 3 metres of flood sediment.
revealed an Aboriginal burial site, which had been covered of an underground tank beneath the hotel around 1880 external wall shows the level of the 1956 flood. Excavation It was built on the edge of the flood plain and the eastern limestone blocks cut from the nearby cliffs and is the oldest in the Riverland.
It is believed that the Hotel was built by William junior and Harry Brand. The Hotel is solidly constructed from large



Since its formation in 1955 the National Trust of South Australia has established a network of nearly 30 conservation reserves which contain:
• a valuable diversity of plant communities
• significant wildlife habitat
• a number of rare and threatened species and
• sites of geological and Aboriginal significance.

The management of these reserves is overseen by the natural heritage section through a volunteer network and is funded by
• membership subscriptions to NTSA
• donations and bequests
• State and Federal Government Grants and
• sponsorship

Please do not remove any material from this conservation reserve.

For more information on the Overland Corner Reserve or on becoming a volunteer contact the National Trust of South Australia
Natural Heritage Manager
Level 2 27 Leigh Street Adelaide 5000
Telephone: (08) 8212 1133
Facsimile: (08) 8212 1141
E-mail: admin@nationaltrustsa.org.au
Website: www.nationaltrustsa.org.au



References
McHenry B 1986 Geological History of Overland Corner (NTSA leaflet)
McHenry B 1986 Report on the Geology and Palaeontology of the National Trust Overland Corner Reserve (unpublished)
Glossop High School 1988 – notes for The Overland Corner Walking Trail (lft)
Woolmer GR 1976 Riverland Aborigines of the past (self published, Barmera)
Woolmer GR 1986 A History of Overland Corner and its Hotel (self published, Barmera)



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The interpretation centre provides information on a walking trail through the wetlands. Some of the proceeds from the sale of their wine promote the conservation work here and projects worldwide, wherever Banrock wine is sold.
since 1998 the wetlands have been restored to enhance to new uses; it not only produces high quality wine but Banrock Station. This former sheep station has been put the Reserve, the lagoon and the river to the vineyards of From this high spot there is an extended view across

6 Banrock Viewpoint

valuable and traded widely between groups.
was obtained from burning limestone. Ochre was yellow are found in these small quarries. White powder was used to paint the body for ceremonies and red and for Aboriginal gatherings, including corroborees. Ochre The river flat at Overland Corner was an ideal location

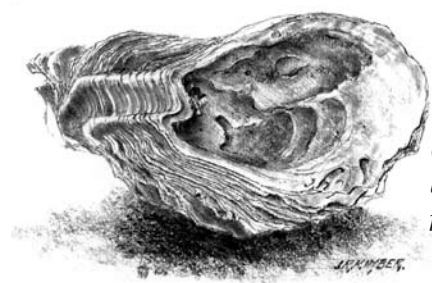
5 Ochre Mine — Checkpoint (B)

be worth continuing.
modules of ironstone did not contain enough minerals to might have been looking for copper and the encouraging There are no green ore fragments to suggest that they dug these tunnels in 1899 soon abandoned their efforts. gold, silver, lead, copper etc. The Cornish miners who Mineral traces have always encouraged prospecting for

4 Old mine

in unmarked graves.
Aborigines died from diseases brought in by Europeans and they would have been buried, as were some settlers, for the treatment of infections and accidents. Many untimely deaths reflect the remoteness from medical help Children occupy two of the three graves here. Their

3 Original Cemetery



Oysters were here before there were people to eat them

20 Oyster Beds

The climb to the top is worth the view. Herons Bend is revealed in all its glory, with Wigley Reach extending to the south-west. From his station with a similar view the policeman would have had ample opportunity to keep an eye on river traffic.

The ocean responsible for the Mannum Limestone withdrew about 15 million years ago. Another incursion of the sea 2 – 3 million years ago provided habitat for the oysters (*Ostrea sturtiana*). They were commented on by explorer Charles Sturt in 1830 "...summits were covered in oyster shells, in such abundance as to entirely preclude the idea of their having been brought to such a position by natives."

These fossil oyster beds lie in the Norwest Bend Formation. Look at the brochure *The Geological History of Overland Corner*.

The patch of young mallee trees to the north are a rare local species, the Blue-leaved Mallee (*Eucalyptus cyanophylla*). These have been propagated from local seed and planted by the volunteers.

21 Old Quarry

We can only speculate that this rough cliff face is where the blocks for the police station may have come from. They seem older and smaller than the large regular blocks further along the track, which were probably quarried in the 1940s.

Continue on to the trailhead Checkpoint (A) and Hotel for refreshment.

The walking trails, brochure and panels have been developed with the generous sponsorship of SA Water. Berri-Barmera Local Action Planning Committee and the Berri and Barmera Council have also assisted.



This brochure has been produced by the National Trust of South Australia and the Friends of Overland Corner Reserve. Text by the Walking Trails Support Group. Illustrations by John Kimber. Designed by Lofty Designs.

7 Overland Corner Cemetery

This cemetery has been in use for over 100 years. Three members of the Brand family are buried here, William, his wife Martha and a daughter Lucy aged 6 years. Walter Brand, 4 years old, was buried in the old cemetery. The Brand family had a long association with this area. Over time, William managed the hotel and Harry was a driver with Cobb and Co. coaches.

8 Old River Box — Checkpoint (C)

River Box (*Eucalyptus largiflorens*) may grow some distance from water and this one, well above the flood level, will have its roots deep into the ground seeking water. It is estimated this tree could be over 200 years old.

The fibrous roots of River Box were chewed by Aboriginal women to make nets for snaring animals including fish. Large nets could take a year to make.

Return to the hotel via the Canoe Tree. If you wish to continue on the FLOODPLAIN WALK, turn around when you have had a look at the tree. Cross the road opposite the old River Box and follow the markers. Look out for traffic.

FLOODPLAIN WALK

As you leave the car park at Checkpoint (A) cross the road—look out for traffic—and walk along the track at the foot of the cliff.

9 Canoe Tree

From the marker, looking in the direction of the hotel, you can see a long scar on the old tree on the left. Aboriginals would have scaled the tree and carefully peeled off the bark to make a small canoe. This gave them better access to the water for spearing fish. Many River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) along the river were used to make canoes but few of these old trees remain. Footholds were often cut into the trees to make it easier peel away the bark, but they also made it easier to find bird nests and possums in the hollows for food and fur.

Have a look at the River Box at Checkpoint (C) and then cross the road. Look out for traffic.

10 Swamp

The trail follows the edge of a Lignum (*Muehlenbeckia florulenta*) swamp which lies on your right. With flooding, dry sticks will be replaced by an impenetrable thicket of interlocking almost leafless green canes. Lignum prefers areas which are intermittently flooded. Its tangled branches provide shelter for both native and feral animals, including echidnas, kangaroos, foxes, pigs and small birds. Before settlement the Banded Hare Wallaby, which inhabited small hollows in the cliffs, may have foraged here.

11 Lagoon

This low lying area used to fill with water 3 in every 4 years before the river was regulated by locks and water was allocated for irrigation in the 1920s – 30s. Now it rarely fills naturally. The Overland Corner wetlands extend into backwaters upstream of this lagoon as far as Lock 3, built in 1925. With the assistance of neighbouring property owners water has been pumped into the lagoon and backwaters when possible. You can detour to visit Lock 3 on your way to Barmera.

Scar of the canoe



Walk Safely

- These walks conform to AS2156 Class 3,
- There are natural hazards – loose stones, slippery surfaces, cliffs, water and perhaps snakes,
- Children should be supervised at all times,
- Keep to the marked tracks and take care with the road crossings,
- During periods of high river or wetland flooding avoid the Flood Plain and Herons Bend walks,
- Carry adequate drinking water and protect yourself from the sun in summer, wear closed shoes or boots,
- If you are walking alone, let someone know when you will return,
- The Emergency Services mobile number is 112.

The dead River Red Gums here are a testimony to the drying out of the river environment as natural floods have become rarer. It is hoped that, in future, water from the pool above Lock 3 will be made available for periodic environmental flows for the lagoon. The health of the River Murray and how its water is used is now under intense scrutiny by concerned communities and governments.

Keep the lagoon on your near left.

12 Old Footbridge

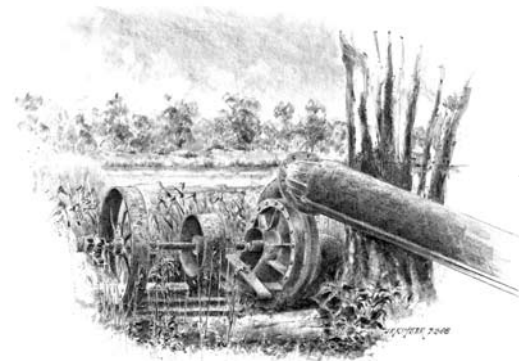
Two solid timber posts on either side of the creek are all that remains of a suspension footbridge originally made with timber boards secured by steel cables. This enabled stockmen to move their sheep from one side of the creek and lagoon to the other depending on water levels.

13 Regulating Weir (2003)

The five box culverts block the natural channel allowing water to be held in the lagoon after it has been filled by pumping or flooding. The weir can also be used to help in the control of carp and the conservation of native fish. The lagoon water is managed by the volunteers of the Overland Corner Branch in consultation with the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Committee and other River regulatory bodies.

14 Old pump

By the windmill are the remains of a centrifugal pump similar to that now used to fill the lagoon. It was probably used to flood at least part of the plain between here and the hotel in order to provide pasture for stock before the Reserve was established.



Old pump once used for flood irrigation

15 Moorings

This is a popular recreation area where recreation and house boats can be moored by visitors who wish to camp, fish nearby or visit the hotel for refreshments.

Return to the hotel by turning right at Checkpoint (D) or go straight on if continuing to HERONS BEND.

HERONS BEND WALK

Leave the trailhead Checkpoint (A) and walk through the gate, following the track to the river through the Lignum swamp (see Lignum comment at (10)) to Checkpoint (D). Turn right.

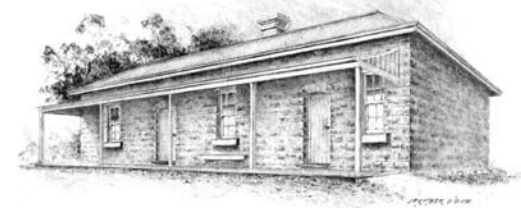
16 Boat ramp

People can launch boats into the river here. Information about fish and size regulations is provided on a sign.

17 Police Station (1877)

At the top of the cliff ahead is an old stone house. This was the Police Station and residence but it is now privately owned. The need for police at Overland Corner was recognised in the 1840s with the increase in gold rush traffic, brawling fishermen, bush rangers, displaced Aboriginals and cattle duffers. The first police station was built from slab and pug, probably in 1855, with stone-built cells alongside, but it was many years before this Police Station was built. Better cells and stables for the police horses were built first! The Police Station closed in 1894.

Police station in 1890



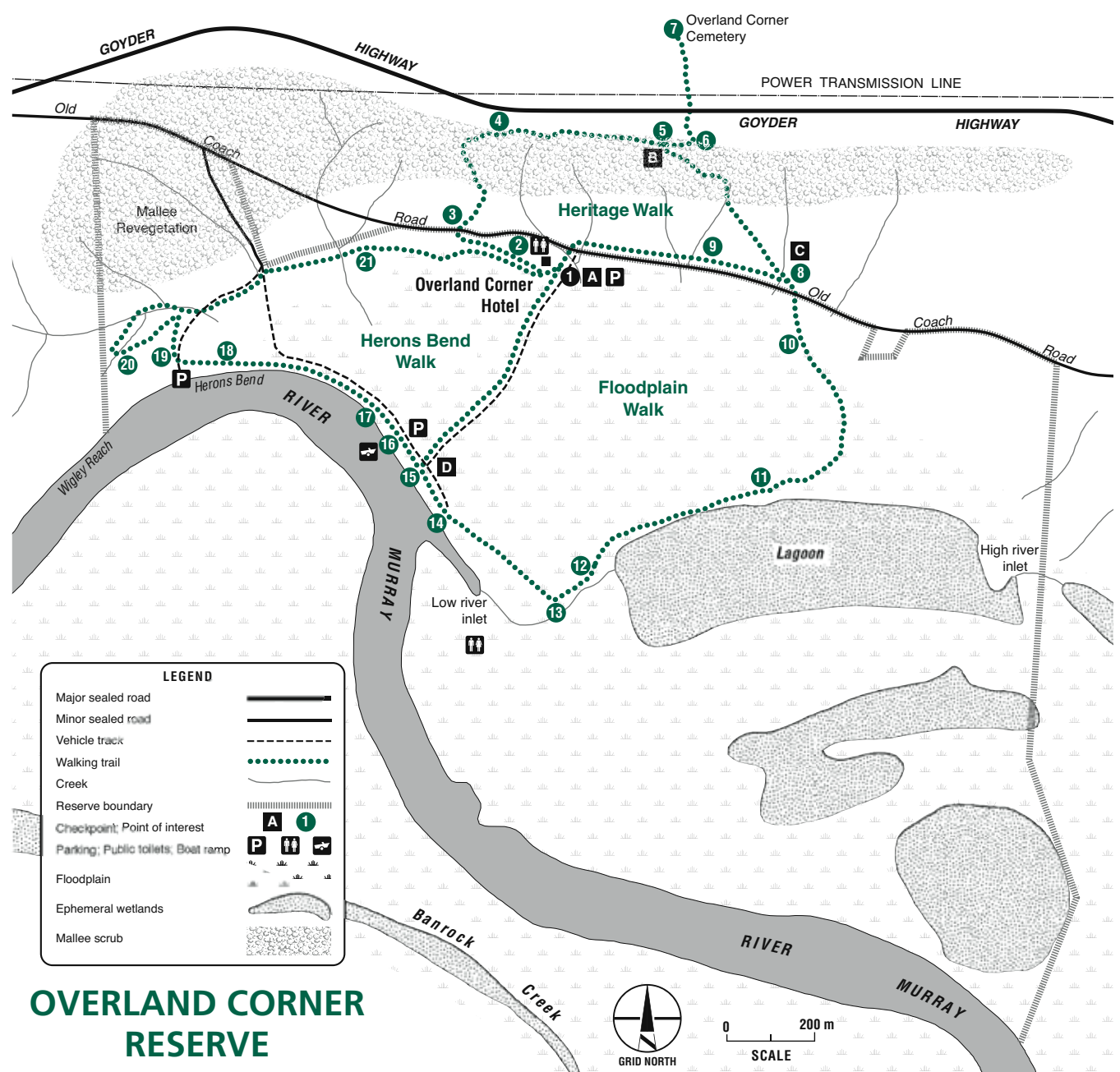
18 Police Stables (1869)

As suggested above the police horses and stables were considered very important. Perhaps the horses had grazed freely on the flat and needed more security. The horse stalls were probably on the ground floor with the hay above. The Stables are on the flood plain and have been flooded many times. Like the hotel the solid stone construction has ensured its survival. The Stables is owned by the National Trust but privately leased.

19 Herons Bend Fossils

Here the river cuts in close to the cliff – in Aboriginal mythology the giant spirit cod, Ponde, when speared by Ngurunderi created the bend as he thrashed his tail. The cliff is part of the same system as the quarry rocks (see Item (2)) and has most of the same fossils. The slight variations in fossil fauna reflect fluctuating environments during the millions of years that these communities existed. Geologists refer to the consolidated sediments as the Mannum Limestone.

Look for fossils in the stones at the foot of the cliff, but please don't remove them.



OVERLAND CORNER RESERVE