

protected by law in South Australia. 

All Aboriginal cultural places are Aboriginal people today with an important link to their past. Europeans arrived, with steel axes. The axe marks shelters. The bark was removed with stone axes, or Mer plains in winter. Aboriginal people removed bark from waterholes would have provided water in the dry to the hills where they stayed. Spring and summer were times known as Dreaming. The place is looking north towards the townsite, Port Adelaide. The place is looking west towards the hill to Pine Park. 

The Public Pound was in this vicinity, with charges levied for straying hill in Pine Park looking east. Note the stockyard fences under the trees on village when it was called. The photo above of Tea Tree Gully was taken before 1880 and shows the stockyard fences under the trees on the reserve when it was called. The photo to the right shows men working in a Tea Tree Gully quarry. 

Kaurna people lived in an area that stretched from the coast to the Barossa Valley and Rowland Flat in the north. The Pinetum in the Pine Park Reserve is representative of early European cultural practices, an early European quarry which provided the best quality stone in the colony, and the first South Australian Council Chambers for one of the earliest aboriginal groups. There are also water tanks built in 1800 at the foot of the quarry and a well from the same period. These were the first waterworks of the new town of Adelaide. The Reserve formerly operated a public pound for stray animals, and still contains a public picnic ground along the creek and a Pine Park Reserve planted to commemorate a centenary of European settlement. The road was the only northern route through the Mt. Lofty Ranges and a site for early European settlement. The Reserve exhibits a historic township. So much early activity and industry is in such a small place!

What’s In Pine Park? 
State heritage and local history in one small corner of Tea Tree Gully. A survey conducted by Flinders University Archaeology students for the Flinders Reconciliation Task Force.

The Highbank Road Chambers were built in 1853, largely after Parliament passed the Act to appoint District Councils in 1852. The Pine Park Reserve was on of the earliest reserves in South Australia. Today, the Chambers are a State Heritage Place for their architectural and historical value. The Chambers were designed by William Weir, a significant colonial architect and designer of several colonial buildings in the early years including the Royal Botanic Gardens and many of the early churches off-laid buildings, as well as many other religious and public buildings in St Peters and then built into Pine Park Reserve, and for a time owned the land west of Pine Park Reserve. Pine trees were planted in 1852 behind the Council Chambers in commemoration of settlement in the South Australian Colony. The district of Highbank Road and Tea Tree Gully, established in 1874, had been cleared of its forest before 1870. Settlement was weak in North Adelaide until just beginning to move from the Great Depression. The Pine Park Reserve is registered as a State Heritage Place, with its past to today.”

The quarry in the Pine Park Reserve opened residuals to the 1850's and closed in 1910. The quarry is a source of good quality freestone. Tea Tree Gully stone was considered to be the best in the colony, and was used as the main building stone for the Adelaide Town Hall, Memorial Drive and the Roman Catholic. It was also used for the bridges of many other significant buildings and monuments. Teak was also cut for the bridges of many other significant buildings and monuments. The Pine Park Reserve was surrounded by the original settlement. The photo to the right shows men working in a Tea Tree Gully quarry.

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