



Help save South Australia's history from demolition.

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Every year the Australian Civic Trust performs a Civic Review, looking at architecture, design and heritage to see how we fared in the past year. This year they announced four Brickbats - the first two of which will be well known to many of our readers, and greatly mourned.

Moorfield House was a victim of a slapdash heritage system which prioritises development over retaining our historical housing. All buildings over 100 years old should be automatically listed, unless there is a strong reason why not.

The loss of Mt Gambier's roundhouse is solely down to Planning Minister Knoll, who ignored pleas from heritage and community organisations to demolish the heritage structure - simply because he can. Read more here:

BRICKBATS

DEMOLITION OF MOORFIELD MANSION

Inadequate Heritage Protection



Local heritage surveys had not been undertaken since the late 1990s. This 1860s house had not been identified for listing, and the council was unsure why, so demolition progressed unhindered.

That such a demolition was possible without any public discussion is an indictment of the council's lack of knowledge of its own backyard and apparently of any interest in such matters. In order to prevent such accidents in the future, it should be a matter of policy that all pre-1914 structures be automatically preserved until a final decision on their merits is made.

This brickbat shows the inadequacy of heritage protection in South Australia.

DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC MT GAMBIER RAILWAY ROUNDHOUSE



Aerial Photo of Mt Gambier Roundhouse (Image: FOTO SA)

On 11 June 2018, Weekend Notes (<https://www.weekendnotes.com/the-fight-for-the-roundhouse>) reported: "the Mount Gambier roundhouse was built in 1953 as part of the conversion of the line to broad gauge, allowing much larger trains to be run to Adelaide and Melbourne.

While the railway lines to Mount Gambier have now been removed, the roundhouse and turntable were a reminder of a momentous milestone in the history of Mt. Gambier and South Australia. They should have been repurposed usefully for a better future.

But in November 2018 it was demolished, despite a campaign to save it spearheaded by local heritage enthusiasts and a growing number of local people as one of the last remaining roundhouses in South Australia.

   Australian Civic Trust, Naomi Smallacombe, Kym Norley and 24 others

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