

HISTORY OF MOCULTA

The township was created in 1865 when wealthy landowner, Abraham Shannon, saw the need for tradesmen to serve the surrounding farming community.

The first 32 town allotments were all along the eastern side of the main street, being situated on Parrot Hill Creek and to the junction of Duckponds Creek.

Prior to 1865, the district had been predominantly settled by German speaking Lutherans in three areas - Duckponds, Gruenberg and Parrot Hill (the site of the first post office and store).

Abraham Shannon named the town Moculta after the Aboriginal name for Parrot Hill, which rises prominently to the south east of the town. Side streets were named after the Shannon children, Elizabeth, Jane, Sarah, William and David.

Moculta was originally headquarters of a large tribe of Aborigines, with whom early settlers had some interaction, up until about the 1880s.

August Altmann subdivided the western side of the main street between 1878 and 1886.

Many small industries flourished in Moculta, before the days of rapid transport encouraged growth of larger regional centres.

There are two Lutheran churches in the Moculta region. Gnadenberg (Hill of Grace) is situated south east of the town and Gruenberg (Green Hill) is located to the southwest.

1. RECREATION PARK (Opened 1937)
At a public meeting in 1936, it was decided to purchase land to provide a permanent park and recreation ground. As a South Australian centenary celebration project, it was dedicated to the district’s pioneers.
It was formerly the site of the Linkes Factory paint shop and new equipment storage shed (Item 4).

2. LINKE STRIPPER SHELTER (2020)
Home to a restored Linke Stripper donated by the Rudiger Family and a double furrow Linke Plough on loan from the Schliebs Family. Both built at the Linke Agricultural Implement Factory (Item 4).

3. OLD BARN (c. 1880s) (private)
Built by the Linke family for storage of fodder for milking cows. Hay was stored on the timber-floored loft, with ‘cocky’ chaff below.
A partition wall in the building consisted of red gum slabs, which were 2 ½ feet wide, 7-8 feet high and 3 inches thick.

4. SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL
Opened in 1957 by the then SA premier Sir Thomas Playford. Was built by mainly volunteer labour and community donations. Flagpole was originally located in front of Hentschkes Store (Item 22) during early 1900s. The Moreton Bay fig and pepper trees are c.1880 plantings.
The site was formerly an implement factory. Johann August Linke, blacksmith and wheelwright, began the business in 1873. At its peak the factory had 50 men making ploughs, strippers (harvesters) and wagons. These were sold all over the state via railway at Freeling, prior to railway extension to Angaston in 1911. The factory continued to operate under various names including C&B Linke until closure due to hardship in 1933.



Linkes Blacksmith & Implement Works

5. HOUSE, 6 Truro Road (c.1870) (private)
Original owner, Simon Wallent, was Moculta’s first wheelwright. He was also a carpenter by trade. Another resident, Benno Linke, learnt his trade of carpentry at his fathers implement factory (Item 4) until its closure in 1933.

6. HOUSE, 8 Truro Rd (c.1870) (private)
Childhood home for 5 years of Max Schubert (Penfolds Grange wine pioneer). His father, Carl, was blacksmith at Linkes factory, 1910-1919. Other Linke employees also lived here before 1910.

7. PRIMARY SCHOOL (1882) (private)
This was a Lutheran School from 1882-1917. It changed to a government school during World War 1. It was also used for public functions before the present Hall was opened in 1957. Peak enrolment was 93 students in 1884. The Moreton Bay fig at the front of the school was planted c.1880. Closed in 2010.

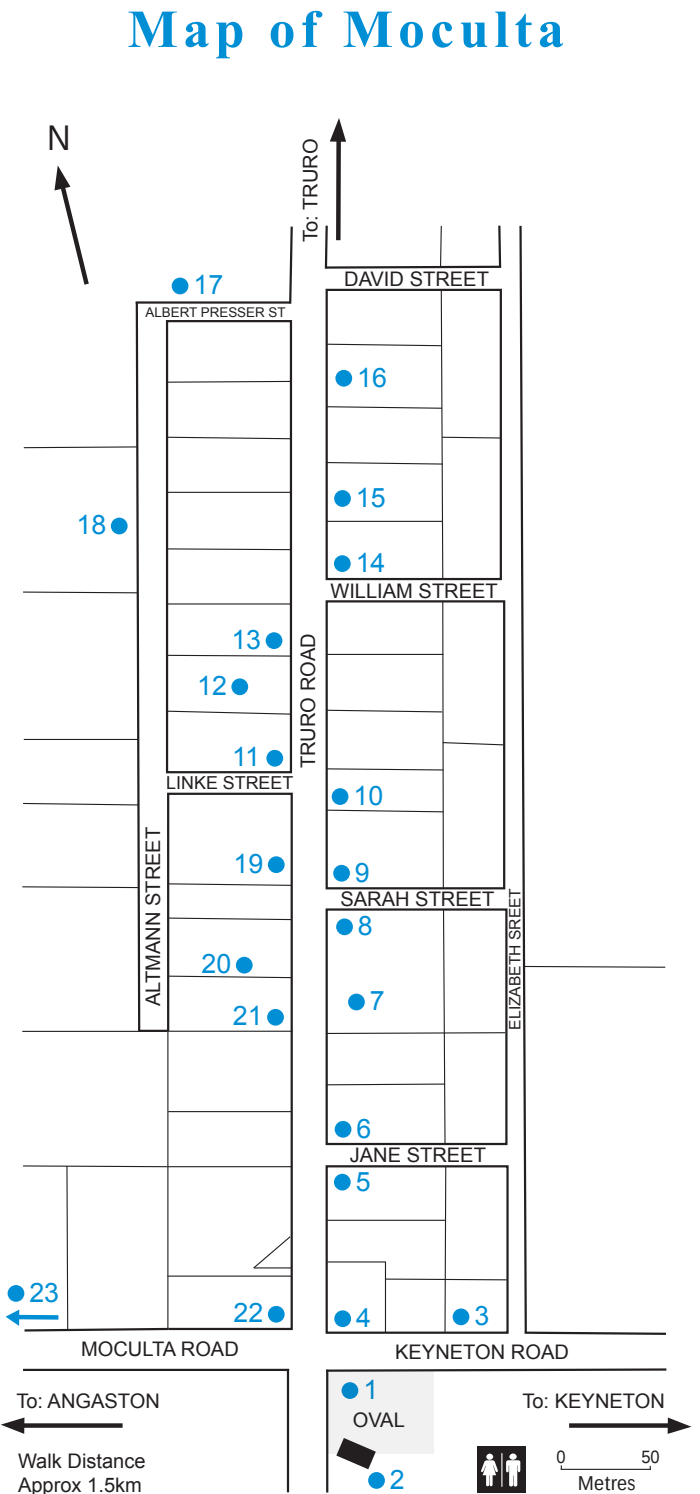
8. site of THE LEMKE SCHOOL (1875 , removed 1962)
In late 1875 teacher, Daniel Lemke, built a school and residence here. A total of 22 children were enrolled. In 1876 the Gruenberg and Gnadenberg churches bought the school. With enrolments at 79 in 1881 the building proved too small. A new school was then built by the community (Item 7). Lemke was also a renowned church organ builder, with one of his pipe organs still in use at Gruenberg today.



Former Lemke School

9. HOUSE (c. 1904) (private)
Originally built by Friedrich Kalisch who lived here until 1910. He worked for Abraham Shannon.
Friedrich Matschoss retired here from 1925-1939. He had also been a Shannon employee for 32 years, helping build the 28 km long stone wall boundary fence, on the Shannon property.

10. site of GROCH HOUSE (c. 1866 removed in 1970s)
It would have been the oldest pug-walled, thatched roofed house in Moculta.



Original owner, Franz Xavier Brezinsky, was the town’s first boot and shoemaker. Second owner, Martin Groch, was also a bootmaker.



Former home of Mr Martin Groch. Photo taken 1966

11. HOUSE, 23 Truro Road, left (c. 1912) (private)
This house was originally built for widow, Anna Dorothea Kruschel (nee Altmann) of Stockwell. Was owned by the Arthur Henschke family in the early 1920s. Arthur worked for Hentschkes Store (Item 22) before starting his own store opposite the school (Item 21).

12. site of CREAMERY AND CHAFF MILL, 25 Truro Road (c. late 1880s removed 1982)
Wilhelm Altmann had a milk separator business next door to his house. (Item 13). He had his own cows and also bought milk from local farmers. In early 1900, he had the first power-driven separator in the district. Twice a week he sent cream to Adelaide via the Freeling railway. The chaff cutting business was located here until 1909.



The original Creamery and Chaff Mill building

13. ALTMANN HOUSE, 27 Truro Road (1858) (private)
Built by stone mason and farmer, August Altmann, before the town was established. He owned forty acres west of the main street, which he sold for building blocks between 1878-1886. His wife ,Johanne Eleonore, was a local midwife, skilled in homeopathic medicine. Heinrich Steinert lived here from 1914 to 1977. He was a blacksmith at the Linke factory until 1933. In later years he conducted a bike and clock repair shop.

14. former BLACKSMITH SHOP AND HOUSE, right (c.1867) (private)
First blacksmith premises in Moculta, owned by Ferdinand Benjamin Kraft. From 1870-1872, the second blacksmith Eduard Cowland leased the site, teaching the trade to J.A.Linke (Item 4) who then bought the business in 1872.

15. HOUSE (c.1866) (private)
First leased by Traugott Jaehne, from Abraham Shannon (until 1872) , on this site there has been a wheelwright, and Moculta’s first store and post office. A wine licence was granted to the Jaehne Store from 1867-1868. Ernst Hentschke began his store here in 1875. The town’s first school run by Daniel Lemke was also located here for a short time in 1875.

16. HOUSE (c.1867) (private)
First resident, Eduard Wuttke, had a listed occupation of winemaker. Other early residents were the Albert Weckert family from 1893-1926. Albert worked in the Hentschkes store (Item 22), as a mailman and general hand until 1915.

17. HOUSE, Albert Presser Street (c.1900) (private)
The original farmhouse of Gottfried Geister (c.1860s now removed) was situated to the rear of the current house. This second house was built by carpenter, Hermann Drescher, who worked at the Linke factory until 1891. Alfred Zinkler, also a factory employee, ran a small blacksmithing business here, from 1933-1941.

18. HOUSE, Altmann Street (c.1915) (private)
Paul Kurtzer began a small blacksmith business here after the Linke factory closed in 1933. During the depression years (1930s), his wife baked many delights such as *Deutsche Kuchen* (German Cake), bread and biscuits. Her sons travelled by horse and cart, selling the baked goods around the district. Later a Dodge Tourer car was used.

19. HOUSE, 19 Truro Road (c.1890) (private)
Berthold Linke, partner in the Linke Factory (Item 4), was the

first resident. A post office operated here from 1966-1982 with Mrs Audrey Steventon as post-mistress. This house was named *Happy Landings* for many years.

20. site of AIR RAID TRENCHES
Constructed for the school children in 1942, in a formerly open paddock opposite school’s main gate. It was claimed that up to 8 children could pack into a trench in 50 seconds. Trenches were removed in 1944. Such was the fear of war that in 1920 the Angaston Council requested a machine gun for Moculta. It remained on a wall at the school until 1939.

21. former GENERAL STORE, 11 Truro Road (1887) (private)
House with one room for a store was built by Gottlieb Bartsch. Saddlery and bootmaking occurred here in late 1800s. Hawking vans (door to door sales) worked from here until 1944, visiting outlying farms as far as Stonefield. A *Shell* petrol pump was installed here prior to 1950, the second pump in Moculta at that time. The store was operated by various owners until 1980s.

22. former GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE, 1 Truro Road (c.1885) (private)
Established by Ernst Hentschke, the store offered a wide variety of goods and services including bridal wear. Hawking vans also worked from here until 1942, selling goods to outlying farms as far as Truro, Stockwell and Keyneton. They also collected eggs and butter from farmers. A *Plume* petrol pump was installed in 1926, the first in town. The Hentschke Store continued for 49 years until it changed hands in 1934. The store also housed the post office and telephone exchange until 1965. The final storekeeper was Les Gabel.

23. former PICNIC GROUND (Located near town entrance) (private)
Marked by a stand of sugar gums, the original access was near large pepper tree on Moculta Rd. In the 1880s store keeper, Ernst Hentschke, decided to provide his land for annual community picnics. It was used until 1936, and was also the site of the first tennis court in 1920-1922.

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A HERITAGE WALK OF *Moculta*



General Store & Post Office c. 1920



Main Street c. 1920

Barossa
South Australia