

Collingwood Historical Society Annual Walk 11 November 2023 A Collingwood Corner

An expanded version of these notes will be put on the website: www.collingwoodhs.org.au



Introduction

This area was home to the Wurundjeri-Willam people long before it was colonised by the British in the 1830s. We will be looking at two sites described on the [The Aboriginal History of Yarra](#) and you might like to follow up the others on council's website.

In 1838-39 land was sold by the government in Sydney in Portions of about 25 acres each. The section we will cover today includes Portions 52 and 53 and 68 originally purchased by [Stuart Alexander Donaldson](#) who before long sold the 74 acres to [Charles Hutton](#). Hutton went on to build himself a mansion called *Walmer* in Victoria Parade, and in 1840 began subdividing the surrounding land as the 'Walmer Estate'. In 1849 he created the southern end of Wellington Street as part of further land sales. He retained many blocks of land on which he built small timber rental houses.

Victoria Parade and Smith Street had been created as government roads. Smith Street was originally known as Heidelberg Road as it led to Heidelberg. Later it became a very popular shopping strip, at first lined with timber single storey shops and houses which were replaced in the later decades of the 19th century with more substantial buildings many of which remain today. There were many drapery and furniture stores, and a major attraction was Foy and Gibson's emporium.

If you want to know more about the creation and naming of streets, you can read [Streets, Parks & Lanes of Collingwood](#)

- 1 Starting point Grace Darling Hotel, corner Smith Street and Peel Street Collingwood

114 Smith Street Grace Darling Hotel, built 1854. Collingwood's oldest public building and one of Melbourne's oldest remaining hotels, it was one of the few substantial Collingwood buildings of the early 1850s. The first owner and publican was Charles Risby who had arrived from Tasmania in 1852. He died in 1859 but the hotel remained in the hands of the family for some years.

➤ *Walk south along Smith Street.*

- 2 108 Smith Street

108 Smith Street VAC plaque. Site of Victorian Aboriginal Co-operative Limited. Established in 1976, it provided local housing and welfare services to the Aboriginal community of Melbourne.

➤ *Cross street to the Fitzroy side to get a view of buildings on the Collingwood side as we walk south.*

84 Smith Street Former [Brandon Hotel](#) This was the site of a hotel from 1865 until 1914. It operated under a variety of names including the Flying Squadron.

82 Smith Street Former [Tartakover pawnbrokers](#) which operated from 1859 until the mid 1920s. This building dates from the 1870s and replaced their first shop.

- 3 Southwest corner Smith and Gertrude

64 Smith Street The foundation stone of Foresters Hall was laid in March 1868. The architect was F H Thomas and the builder Mr Delbridge. It became home to the Ancient Order of Foresters, Court Perseverance 2727, who had been meeting at the Freemasons Hotel on the northwest corner. Friendly Societies such as these played a very important role in the nineteenth century. It included two shops at the front, one of which was let as the estate agency of a very notable Collingwoodian, [George Langridge](#).



62 Smith Street Former [Commercial Hotel](#), first licensed 1869, delicensed 1919. The date on the pediment is mistaken! From 1930 until the 1970s the building housed the office of G.D. Langridge & Son, estate agents.

52-46 Smith Street – this corner site has a permit for a 6-storey development.

40-44 Smith Street – this site has a proposed multistorey development (8 storey?) approved.

➤ *Continue south.*

59-61, 51-53 Smith Street Fitzroy. Note the shop interiors which have heritage protection.

- 4 Corner Smith Street and Little Victoria Street, outside 3CR

21 Smith Street 3CR community radio.

14-18 Smith Street former [British Crown Hotel](#). Dates from 1860. Planned multi-storey development has been approved.

Note the vista down Mason Street of St Saviour's, Cambridge Street school and new developments.

➤ *Walk down Smith Street to Victoria Parade. Cross Smith Street and walk east.*

15-17 Victoria Parade *Portia* built around 1890 for James Yates, a Smith Street hairdresser and property-owner who left large bequests to charities at his death in 1902.

19-21 Victoria Parade *Irwell Terrace* 1868.

23 Victoria Parade *Irwell* Purchased in the 1880s by John Mason who had also acquired a number of properties in Mason Street immediately behind here.

CHS acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional custodians of this area.

27 to 37 Victoria Parade Group of 6 two-storey shop/dwellings. Numbers 33 to 37 are an example of unsympathetic development, which also involved the removal of a magnificent gum tree in a rear garden.

39 Victoria Parade *Floraston*, designed by Terry and Oakden and built by local builders James Nation and Co around 1875 for [Isaac and Flora Barnett](#). It became a private hospital and from 1914 a home for Melbourne District Nursing Society nurses. The Society was established to care for the sick poor in their own houses in inner Melbourne.

□ 5 Former After Care Hospital, 45 Victoria Parade

45 Victoria Parade former After Care Hospital on the site of Charles Hutton's mansion *Walmer*, later owned by [Isaac Hart](#). The After Care Home was established on this site in 1926 by the Melbourne District Nursing Society and the current clinker-brick building which dates from 1936 became known as the After Care Hospital. It served clients unsuited to nursing in their homes and for those recently discharged from hospital. **HO336**



61 Victoria Parade [Baden Powell Hotel](#) and **65-69** associated shops. The original New Bendigo Hotel opened in 1872, had a name change in 1900 to commemorate Robert Baden-Powell, hero of the Siege of Mafeking and founder of the Scouting Movement, and was remodelled in the 1920s to give it an Art Deco façade. A multistorey development has been proposed for the site.

77 Victoria Parade former [Sir John Franklin Hotel](#). John and Elizabeth Davison were the licensees from 1853 to 1899, probably the longest licence-holding in a Collingwood hotel.

1-57 Wellington Street. The large-scale *Victoria and Vine* development by Tim Gurner has recently been completed.

➤ *Walk east to Wellington Street and north up Wellington Street to Derby Street*

□ 6 The Vine Hotel, corner Wellington and Derby Streets

59 Wellington St [Vine Hotel](#), built 1868, rebuilt early 20th century for CUB to the design of Sydney Smith & Ogg.

Across the road note:

32-34 Wellington Street former [Sherrin](#) factory. Sherrin developed the distinctively shaped AFL football.

21 Northumberland Street the former landmark Victoria distillery was opened in 1862 with additions in 1880. Now dwarfed by new buildings.

36-52 Wellington Street A 15 storey development has replaced the Brewers Grain Stores.

54 Wellington Street A new development, The Commons, incorporates the Collingwood Telephone Exchange which dates from 1925 and is still functioning.

64 Wellington Street and 59 Langridge Street [Peatt](#) boot factory. Collingwood was a major centre of boot manufacturing in the 19th and 20th centuries.

□ 7 opposite 42 Cambridge Street

42 Cambridge Street former Koori Kollij (1984-1990) former Laver Brothers vegetable canning business.

Corner Cambridge Street and Mason Street Cambridge St School. Built 1877, it opened with 1300 pupils. By 1858 Cambridge Street was almost completely built up, mostly with wooden cottages which would be replaced in the second stage of development. Note the following houses:

14-18, 24-26 Cambridge Street, 1870s. Two storey brick houses replaced timber dwellings.

20 Cambridge Street. Tyrone House, 1891.

22 Cambridge Street, single storey brick house. May be earlier than neighbouring houses.

28-32 Cambridge Street. Clyde Terrace. Date to be established, between 1865 & 1877.

50-64 Cambridge Street. Cambridge Terrace, 1892.

➤ *Walk south on Cambridge St to Mason St and west along Mason St*

□ 8 Mason Street

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Corner Mason and Oxford Streets former St Saviour's Church, built in 1874-1875, first minister was [Charles Yelland](#). Architect [Leonard Terry](#). Later a Russian Orthodox Church, now a residence.

Mason Street houses: this street was subdivided and settled early but the original timber houses were replaced by brick houses built later in the nineteenth century on the south side.

➤ *Walk north along Oxford Street to Derby Street*

□ 9 Oxford St pocket park

Derby St has some houses which survive from the late 1860s and 1870s:

1 Derby St. 1876. *Derby House*. Double-fronted two storey rendered house. Yelland residence.

3-7 Derby St. 1876. *Sophia Terrace*, three attached double storey rendered houses with arcaded loggias.

2 Derby St. 1875. Block-fronted single-storey timber house.

8 Derby St. 1871. Small (one room deep) two-storey house.

10-16 Derby St. 1868-69. Four two-storey bi-chrome houses.

➤ *Continue along Oxford Street.*

□ 10 Outside 48 Oxford Street

On the west side of the street:

39-41 Oxford St pre-1858 – a very rare survivor from the 1850s, single story with recent addition.

51-55 Oxford St Bi-chrome brick. Date uncertain.

57-63 Oxford St 1870s Bi-chrome brick built by [Richard Kefford](#).

On the east side

44 Oxford Street. Former [Dyason](#) cordial, preserves and sauce factory now incorporated in a modern residential development. Built in 1889 with additions in Cambridge St in 1903.



46 Oxford Street site of *Ayrshire*

Cottage, now South of Johnston café established in a former factory. These sites illustrate changes over the years in this area. The house was owned by William Dickie and Jessie Mitchell. After Jessie died in the 1930s, their daughter and her family lived there with her father until he died. They recalled it as 'a lovely big house with generous sized rooms.' The looming wall of the factory next door (Dyason's) was a feature of the backyard along with outhouse bungalows for the two growing boys.

50 Oxford St 1877? Owned by William Randle.

52 Oxford St 1864? Owned by William Randle.

58-62 Oxford St 1858. Bluestone cottages built by three Scottish settlers.

➤ *From Oxford St turn west into Peel St towards the Grace Darling*

Note bi-chrome brick buildings, former Star Hotel, and Victorian shops.

*Intersection Peel Street and Smith Street.
Coffee, wine or beer at the Grace Darling Hotel.*