

THE PATH OF HISTORY:

Number Two **A Walk Through Perth**



5. "Tralee", Scone Street

As a sequel to its first brochure, which introduced Longford's historic precinct, the Norfolk Plains Group of the National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) welcomes you to a walk through the village of Perth.

Perth's history began in 1821 when Governor Macquarie, on a visit from Sydney, stayed with David Gibson of 'Pleasant Banks' across the river, and selected the site for a township, naming it after his host's native town in Scotland. In 1816 the site had been granted to Thomas Massey, for a time Chief Constable of early Launceston and described by Lt. Governor Sorrell as a 'turbulent and troublesome man', but Massey moved to land at Ellerslie near Ben Lomond, and so made way for the growth of the new settlement.

By 1834 there were two hotels and eight houses in the village. There were also two flour mills nearby, a punt across the river, a through road of sorts between Hobart and Launceston, and the first school was under construction.

The three kilometre walk this brochure details passes twenty nine places Classified and fifteen places recorded by the National Trust as of significant historical and architectural interest. It travels the fascinating precinct fronting Scone street where cottages dating from very early occupancy by the mounted police force still stand. It leads to Punt Lane, so named as the embarkation and discharge point for travellers and freight crossing the river by punt before the bridge was built. It passes along the

Reserve Esplanade with its lovely tree-framed vistas of the South Esk River and Forestry plantations on the south bank, where once stood quarters for the 73rd Regiment and a convict station from which labour was drawn for building the first bridge. Completed in 1839, the beautiful stone bridge with its impressive arches survived a number of minor disasters until finally swept away by the record floods of 1929. It goes on to Perth's first cemetery, where the old St. Augustine's Church once stood, and where lie many of the district's early pioneers.

Near the end of the walk along Frederick Street there is a small street to the right still known locally as 'Bloodshed Lane', scene of many a fight and scrimmage when Perth was young.

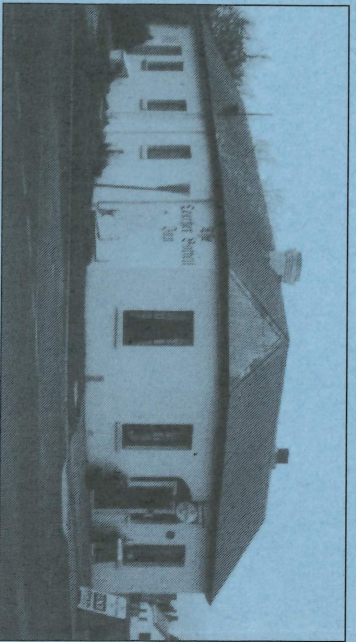
It is, indeed, a walk along the Path of History.

The Norfolk Plains Group of the National Trust would like to thank the following for their generous donations towards the cost of the brochure.

- Perth Newsagency
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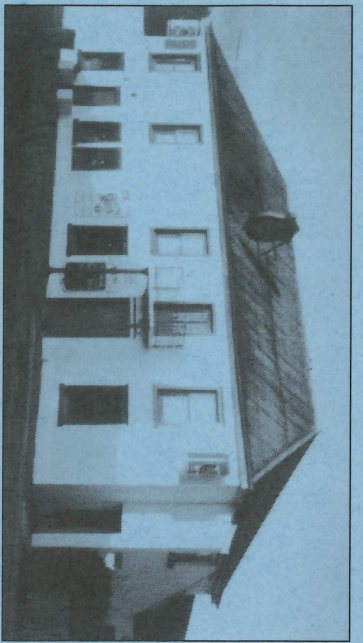


1. The Leather Bottell Inn

1. The Leather Bottell Inn. Named for an old inn at Cobham, Kent, England, frequented by Charles Dickens. Of bluestone and rendered brick construction with cedar door jambs and other internal fittings. Originally a small stone cottage, circa 1830, it was extended to a two-storey building, the cottage becoming the bar. It was bought in 1839 by Thomas Gee, held by a number of lessees and earned a dubious reputation. It was later the Post Office, a men's shop, later still a private boarding house when the top storey was removed, then a residence. Now after careful restoration it is run as a licensed restaurant under its original name. An old police cell from Scone Street has been restored and re-erected at the rear.
2. The Perth War Memorial. Unveiled 30th October 1920 by Captain J. Newland. It commemorates those Perth servicemen who lost their lives in World War One also World War Two, added later to the same memorial.
3. 82 Main Road. Nicely proportioned weatherboard building which housed the police in the late 19th century.
4. 76 and 78 Main Road. Old brick and weatherboard shop with connecting residence, circa 1870, earlier an antique shop.
5. 'Tralee'. Some of Perth's oldest and most interesting Georgian style cottages are to be seen in Scone Street. 'Tralee' is of brick construction with dormer windows, concave iron-roofed verandah, with an old oast house and other outbuildings. Thought to be amongst those built in Scone Street about the middle of the 19th century to house mounted police, and that it later became a bakery.
6. 20 Scone Street. Brick cottage with weatherboard additions and interesting chimney pots. Thought to have been the first police sergeant's house and first police station.
7. 22 Scone Street. Old rendered brick cottage with barn-like wing and concave iron-roofed verandah, probably dating from first police occupation of Scone Street.
8. 9 and 11 Drummond Street. Typical early weatherboard cottages with wooden tracery to No. 9 and iron to No. 11 (Googee) No. 9 was originally constructed by William Gibson for the Baptist Union.
9. Punt Road. Old rendered brick cottage. Georgian style, with full front verandah flush to footpath and wooden tracery. Circa 1850.
10. Dryden Park. Modern rendered brick residence reproducing the characteristics of the old 'Crown Inn' which occupied the site until quite recently demolished. Built in the 1830's the 'Crown' was kept for many years by John Dryden. (See 29.)
11. 98 Main Road. Old two-storey brick building, well proportioned, similar in appearance to the Railway Tavern (41), in good original condition. Once a shop and earlier, possibly, a Perth tavern.
12. 90 Main Road. Stuccoed brick cottage with projecting bay window, part verandah, and iron tracery, characteristically late Victorian but with Georgian elements, brick stables at the rear.
13. 'Glenavon'. Timber cottage displaying Georgian elements with projecting bay window, part front verandah, attractive iron tracery, and cornices. Circa 1900.
14. The Queen's Head Hotel. Original name restored after being known for many years as 'The Perth Hotel'. Built in 1840 by Simon Scrivener it became a staging inn for the coaching service between Hobart and Launceston run by Samuel Page (1810-1878). The innkeeper in 1875, William Russell, maintained a fine garden. An old magnolia tree in the yard to the left of the hotel still survives. Counter meals are available at the hotel.
15. 73 Main Road. Stuccoed brick cottage. Georgian style with attractive fan light. The roof has been altered to improve natural light.

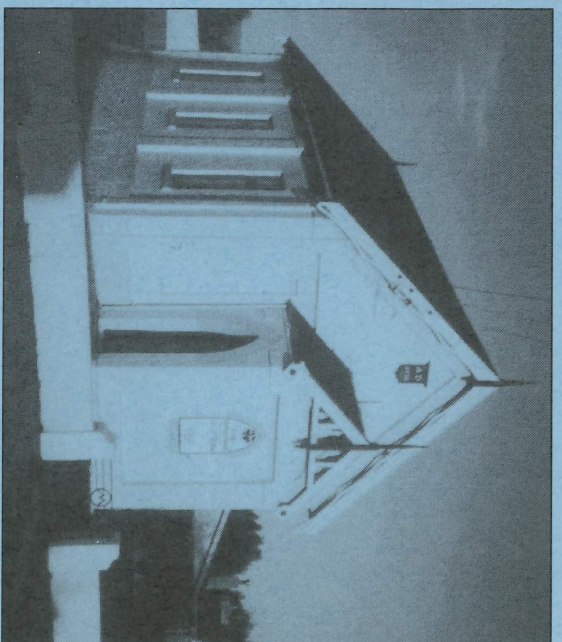


11. 98 Main Road



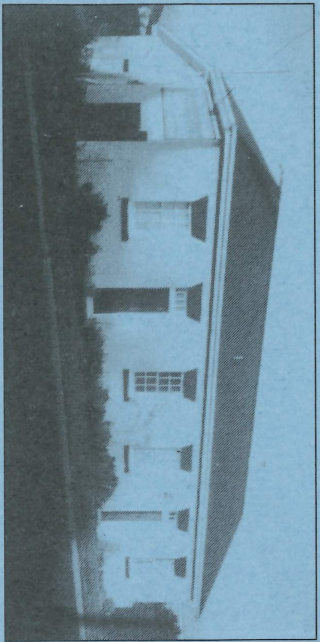
14. The Queen's Head Hotel

22. Clarence Street. Old rendered brick cottage, plain Georgian style with addition of modern shutters and entrance porch.
23. Baptist Manse. Constructed with the support of the Gibson family of 'Scone' in Gothic Revival style, circa 1880.
24. Baptist Union Hall. Built in 1853 of stone with smooth stucco additions it was used as the Baptist church until completion of the Tabernacle in 1889. Since then it has served as Church Hall and Sunday School.
25. Baptist Tabernacle. Erected in 1889 by William Gibson of 'Native Point', architected by George Fagg during a visit from England, basically of European style but with strong Indian influences introduced it is said, as a result of Mr. Gibson's travels in the East, or the visit to Perth of the Revd Black, Indian missionary. It contains an Italian marble tablet to 'Mr. and Mrs. Gibson of the Point'.
26. The Reserve Esplanade. Between William Street and the west bank of the South Esk River a substantial length of river bank has been reserved, planted with oaks, elms and other species, with willows fronting the river and makes a charming frontage to the South Esk and Forestry plantations on the east bank.
27. The Stone House. Of bluestone faced in places with stucco, it was built in the 1820's by the Reverend John Youl (1773-1827) first chaplain in the north of Tasmania. His widow, Jane, nee Loder, died 1877, and daughter Charlotte conducted Sunday School there for fifty years.
28. 'Beulah'. Previously 'Iona', was built as the Rectory for St. Andrew's Church which then stood nearby. It was home of the Revd. Alfred Stackhouse (1811-1876) and his family. Stackhouse became chaplain at Perth in 1843. In the same year he married Ellen (1824-1989) second daughter of Thomas Archer of 'Woolmers'.
16. Methodist (now Uniting) Church. Built in 1838 by G. Palmer Ball of Mountford it is the oldest church building in Perth, in plain Georgian style to which a porch was added later. The first Ministers were the Reverend James Manton and Henry Reed, who used to ride and sometimes walk from Launceston to conduct services.
17. 'The Flat Iron'. A brick building, so named after removal of the first floor from a two storey building about the turn of the century, was earlier the residence of Mr. C. W. Russell, later a store. Circa 1839.
18. 22 Talisker Street. Small weatherboard cottage, Georgian proportions with verandah and iron tracery.
19. 20 Talisker Street. Old rendered brick and weatherboard Georgian style cottage with additions.
20. Talisker Street. Unusual weatherboard cottage with front wall clad to give the impression of stone work, full front verandah with attractive iron tracery, two external brick chimneys mounted on one side, and very old outbuildings at the rear.
21. 1 and 3 Talisker Street. Painted brick semi-detached cottages, Georgian style, contributing to the character of the inner precinct of the village.



16. Methodist Church

29. The English Cemetery where many early pioneers are buried is adjacent to the original St. Andrew's Church which was opened in May 1836. The foundation stone was laid by Longford's first chaplain, the Revd R.R. Davies.
- The graves of early pioneers to be seen here include:
- i. The vault of Captain William Wood, later paymaster in Her Majesty's 15th Regiment of Foot, who died in 1864, aged 86, and his French wife Marie Hyacinthe Genevieve, a romantic figure credited with being the prototype of the French lady in G.B. Lancaster's popular novel, 'Pageant', who also died in 1864, aged 60. Wood who lived at 'Hawkridge' near Pouranna, also featured in 'Pageant' and supported transportation during the strong movement to end in 1851-52. This led John West in his 'Examiner' of the times to describe Wood as being 'timber' by name and a blockhead to boot.



21. 1 and 3 Talisker Street

- ii. Graves of the Affleck family. Thomas, a noted miller who died in 1898, aged 61, and his wife, Thomas arrived from Scotland in 1861 and, after a period working for David Ritchie in his 'Scone' mills, he bought the mill at Newury on the South Esk River from Alexander Clarke of 'Mountford'. When this was burnt down in the 1890's he built the old mill which still stands at the corner of Wellington and Union Streets, Longford. One monument records the tragic deaths of two young Afflecks at the site of Newury Mill on the South Esk River and now one of Longford's most attractive picnic spots: Richard who was accidentally drowned at Newury Mill on 29th October 1872, aged two and Rowland, who died on 29th December 1879 also accidentally drowned at Newury Mills, aged two years.

- iii. An impressive memorial marks the grave of John Helder Wedge (1793-1872), well-known government surveyor, explorer, parliamentarian, and landowner, and his wife, nee Maria Medland Wills, governess to Bishop Nixon's children who died in childbirth 1844 within a year of their marriage. Wedge arrived in the colony in 1824, built 'Leighlands' on an original grant of 1500 acres, later extended, but died on another property, 'Medlands' on the Forth River, named after his wife. 'The Diaries of John Helder Wedge' during his work as a surveyor, published in 1962, contain many references to early Tasmanian and Tasmanian properties.

- iv. There are also Dryden graves in the cemetery, descendants from a branch of the same family as John Dryden, distinguished poet and Poet Laureate of 17th century England: Thomas who died in 1867, aged 85, and Ann, who died in 1876, aged 64, wife of the John Dryden who kept the Crown Inn, Punt Road for many years, and built 'Haggerston' off the Main Road out of Perth towards Launceston.

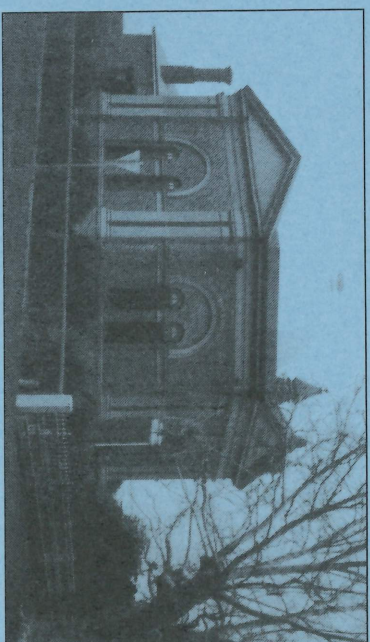
- 30. St. Andrew's Parish Hall. Plain Georgian style, but probably built about the same time as the second church 1840.

- 31. 'Stonehaven'. Rendered brick residence, Georgian style with verandah front and side and wooden moulding, circa 1840.

- 32. 2 Frederick Street. Similar in construction and built about the same time as 'Stonehaven'.

- 33. St. Andrew's Church. Completed in 1879 to take the place of old St. Andrew's in Elizabeth Street which opened in 1836 but failed due to faulty foundations. The new church was designed by Harry Conway of Launceston in Gothic Revival style. The Foundation stone was laid by Miss Youl, daughter of the Revd. John Youl, and the church was consecrated by Bishop Bromby (1809-1889) on 5th January 1879.

- 34. 13 Frederick Street. Old School House. Solid brick construction with interesting chimney pots diagonal to the brick chimneys, steeply pitched gable roof and casement windows. Gothic Revival style by architect Peter Mills of Launceston. Circa 1860.



25. Baptist Tabernacle

If time permits the visitor may also take a look at the following houses which are a little off the walk.

- 37. 62 Main Road. Rendered brick cottage, Georgian style, with brick additions. The presence of a large oven suggests it was once a bakery. It is now the Perth Craft Shop.
- 38. 48 Main Road. Small rendered brick cottage, Georgian style with two brick chimneys mounting unusual chimney pots.
- 39. 37 Main Road. Rendered brick cottage, Georgian cottage with additions, tiled roof in character, and weatherboard outbuildings in rear.

The following houses are off the present tour but still worth visiting:

- 35. 40 Frederick Street. Georgian style cottage.
- 36. 'The Jolly Farmer'. Two storey rendered brick residence, with dormer windows and brick outbuildings. The Inn was built around 1826.
- 40. 'The Railway Tavern'. Georgian style building
- 41. 'Esleigh'. Originally named 'Scone' it was built in 1870 in the 'rural' Italian style and handed over by the Gibson family in 1943 for use as a hospital.