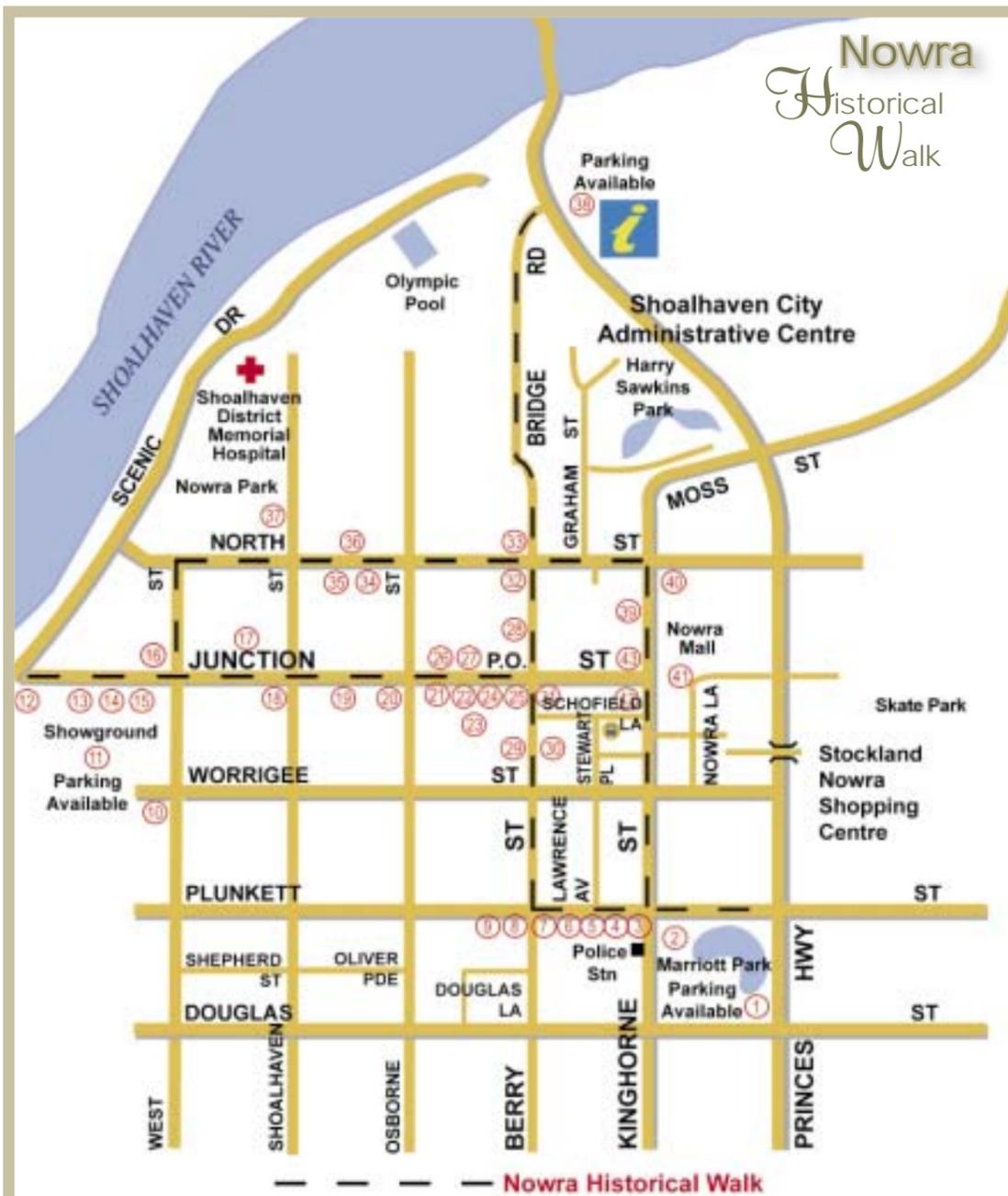


Nowra Historical Walk



The Imperial Hotel built in 1886 now the Empire Hotel

For more information please contact:
Shoalhaven City Council Visitors Centre
Pleasant Way, Nowra
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Telephone: (02) 4421 0778
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1. Marriott Park

Once a swampy area, it was secured by Nowra Municipal Council in 1937. This park was designed by local jeweller and artist Leonard Long, OAM in 1945; the work being carried out under a scheme to involve unemployed people.



2. Werninck Craft Cottage

This simple weatherboard cottage was erected by Joseph Turner for his son-in-law, Thomas Werninck. It was purchased by Shoalhaven City Council in 1984 and was re-opened the following year as a craft cottage.



3. Nowra Museum

Built as a police station and lock-up in 1900, it was used for this purpose until the mid 1970s. After restoration by the State Government, it was opened as a museum in December, 1980 by the Shoalhaven Historical Society.



4. Nowra Court House

On the top side of the museum, it was designed by Government Architect, Walter Liberty Vernon and built by George Brewer of Marrickville. It was opened in March 1896, and has been a symbol of law and order ever since.

5. Marriott Oliver

Alongside the Court House is a building now used by solicitors as offices, but it has an historic past. It was built in 1861 to serve as the court house and lock-up, but in 1905 it became the police sergeant's residence.

6. Former Teacher's Residence

The building at No. 82 Plunkett Street was erected in 1891 by Moore & Wolfe for £679, as the residence for the head teacher. Now the school's Consultants and Suspension Centre, its exterior has changed little.

7. Nowra Public School

The original school building comprised two rooms and entrance on the north east corner, constructed in 1862 by Willet Burry at a cost of £364. The first of many alterations and additions were made in 1892.



8. All Saints' Anglican Church

It is the second church built on the corner of Berry and Plunkett Streets. After the foundation stone was laid on 22 August, 1899, the church was dedicated on 18 April, 1900, and consecrated on 7 July, 1900.



9. Former Rectory

Alongside the church is the original rectory (now All Saints' Community Care). The foundation stone was laid in December 1877 and after being completed for £850, it was occupied by Rev. Joshua Hargrave in December 1878.

10. Meroogal

This home was built in 1886 by Robert Thorburn, and was occupied by female members of the Thorburn family for many years. Purchased by the State Government in 1985, it is now operated by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW.

11. Nowra Showground

The first show was held at Nowra in 1887, the ground at that time being limited to an area bounded by Junction, Worrigee and West Streets. Cattle were housed and judged where the croquet lawn and tennis courts now are.



12. Hanging Rock Lookout

This has been a prominent landmark since Nowra was founded. A superb lookout, it is 46.25 metres above the river. The extent of the overhang can best be seen from the walking track which passes beneath the rock.



13. The Grandstand

Completed in January 1905, this grandstand replaced the old one that had been located at the southern end of the showground, near the Worrigee Street entrance. Major renovations were carried out in time for the 1988 show.

14. Monaghan Memorial Fountain

This unusual monument was erected in February 1912 by the Shoalhaven Agricultural and Horticultural Association to the memory of John Monaghan JP, in recognition of his 36 years' continuous service to it.

15. President's Gate

Show society president, Hugh Mackenzie financed an entrance to the showground, with brick ticket office adjoining. When the ground was enlarged in 1927, the office was converted to a toilet - to the horror of his relatives.

16. Memorial Gates

Cyril Blacket won a competition to design this war memorial, and the impressive structure was officially opened on 22 January, 1931. In front of it is a striking sculpture designed by Otto Steen, unveiled on 23 March, 1968.



17. Oolong House

No. 11 Junction Street was built in 1931 for Sister Pascoe as Edman Private Hospital. When Shoalhaven hospital opened in 1957 it became the Edman Maternity Annexe; and in 1981 it became a drug and rehabilitation centre.

18. Former Convent

At No. 22 Junction Street, the Convent opened on 2 April, 1905 for The Good Samaritan Sisters who had arrived at Nowra in 1893. There was an adjacent school building which was later moved. It is now a private residence.



19. The White House

This building was erected in 1921 for the Bice sisters as a boarding house named St. Enoder, after the home of their pioneering family. Its original use has been retained, and it has also been known as The Town House.

20. Nowra Bowling & Recreation Club

This club was formed in 1914, and on a site that had included a creek, its first green was officially opened on 27 February, 1918. This was extended by 10 feet in 1964, and the second green came in 1976.



31. The Postman's Tavern

Erected in 1883 as the Nowra Post Office, it served this purpose for 110 years during which time it saw enormous growth in the town. It was vacated when a new post office was built on the corner diagonally opposite.



32. William Batt Memorial Garden

The triangular site at the front of the hotel has been the source of comment since the 1920s when it had a German gun as a war memorial. The brainchild of the town clerk, it was long known as "Batt's Folly".

33. Bridge Hotel

Nowra's fourth major hotel was built in 1886 for Henry Moss some five years after the bridge for which it was named, with Benjamin Thompson its first licensee. A rear paddock was used for sporting events in its early days.

34. St Michael's School

Catholic education at Nowra started in Junction Street, but during World War I it was decided to build nearer the church. The brick building was opened on 21 April, 1918, and rooms were moved from the former site.

35. St. Michael's Catholic Church

The foundation stone was laid on 30 November 1875 by Archbishop Vaughan of Sydney who returned to open the church on 30 September, 1877. Built by Alex McArthur, it cost £1100. Additions took place in 1921.

36. Catholic Cemetery

The burial ground closest to the centre of town, it is on land donated by William Ratnett to Rev. Father Rigney for a church and cemetery. The first known burial in the cemetery is Bridget Smith who died on 3 October, 1845.

21. Shoalhaven Commercial Printers

This was erected by Joseph Kennedy in 1891 for newspaper proprietors Watson & Leeming. The Shoalhaven & Nowra News was once published from the building that has been used as a printery for over 100 years.

22. Rauch Park

This park was formed by the Nowra Municipal Council on behalf of the Nowra Chamber of Commerce in 1956, and named after the pioneer newspaperman, Henry Rauch whose business was located alongside. His name rhymes with "how".

23. Boer War Memorial

This was designed by Nowra stonemason James Dudgeon, who made it of marble from Italy. Originally in front of the School of Arts where it was unveiled on 15 January, 1902, the memorial was moved to Rauch Park in 1962.



24. Wesley Opportunity Shop

The Methodist Sunday School Hall was erected on the site of a former weatherboard hall and opened on 17 November, 1956. Following the Wesley Centre's opening, the parish has utilised this building in other ways.

25. Uniting Church

The foundation stone for the Wesleyan Church was laid on 1 January, 1877 and the church opened for worship exactly a year later. The adjacent parsonage was included in the Wesley Centre development in 1981.



37. Tree of Significance

On the lower side of the Recreation Ground is this huge gum tree that has stood the test of time - even the great windstorm of 2003. One could speculate it was growing when the English XI played cricket there in 1885.

38. Graham Lodge

Perhaps the most historic building in Nowra, it was built by leading citizen James Graham in 1861-62. After it passed from the family it was part of the Nowra/Bomaderry Leagues Club before being purchased by Council in 1998.



39. Presbyterian Church

After the denomination had been established in other parts of the district, St. Andrew's was designed by noted architect John Horbury Hunt and became the first major church to be opened in Nowra, in January 1875.



40. Empire Hotel

There have been hotels in this vicinity since the 1860's, but James Fitzgerald was responsible for the three-storey Imperial Hotel being built in 1886. It became the Empire in 1902, and has seen extensive changes over the years.



41. National Australia Bank

This site was purchased by the Commercial Banking Co. in 1884 for a record Nowra price of £9/10/- per foot. A double-storey branch opened in January 1888, and following the bank merger in 1983, the branch stayed put.



26. Hillcrest

At No. 53 Junction Street is this two-storey building erected for John M. Morison in 1897. After being a residence and boarding house, it was sold in 1972 to accounting firm Tait Miller McIntyre which now uses it for offices.



27. Old Fire Station Restaurant

The Fire Station was built in 1908 at a cost of £275 raised by public subscription, while the adjacent captain's residence was constructed in 1918. They were used until the new station was opened in 1978.

28. School of Arts

Designed by Cyril Blacket, it was erected for £2,500 in 1892 when there was a body of the same name, and it became the centre of the town's social life. Although threatened with demolition in the 1980s, it has survived.



29. Nowra Cinema Complex

Berry Street has been the location of most Nowra movie theatres, and this one opened as The Roxy Theatre in 1937. While the interior has progressed, the façade remains the same and the footpath reflects the era.

30. Spotlight Store

On the south side of the former post office is a store built for John McArthur in 1893. When he fell on hard times, it was bought by Woodhills who operated it for 55 years, and there have been other tenants since.



42. Albion Hotel

The corner now occupied by the Commonwealth Bank was formerly the site of a hotel that was opened by William Wheatley as the Albion in 1880, and had its name changed to the Hotel Nowra in 1926. It was demolished in late 1979.



43. Prince of Wales Hotel

On this site where the Best and Less store now stands, the Prince of Wales Hotel was a landmark for 100 years. It was built by Anton Wolf in 1883, burnt to the ground in 1901 but then rebuilt with verandahs and balcony.



Junction Street
Nowra



Nowra Historical Walk



Further information on these and other historic sites in Nowra district is available from
Shoalhaven Historical Society Inc.
PO Box 301
Nowra 2541
<http://www.shoal.net.au/~rflorance/>

