

CLIFTON HILL

heritage walk



The confluence of the Yarra River and the Merri Creek was an important area for the local people, the Wurundjeri-willam. The area now known as Clifton Hill (a name first used in 1871) became Crown land, until late 1855 when it was annexed to the newly formed municipality of East Collingwood.

However, by this date east Clifton Hill had already been settled by contractors who used the local bluestone to build themselves houses. Noxious processes were established, with abattoirs from the 1850s, followed by a manure depot and tanneries. Most residential development took place later in the 19th century, and 20th century.

Almost the whole of Clifton Hill is covered by two Heritage Overlays, HO316 and HO317.

This trail covers a considerable distance so you may prefer to walk sections on separate occasions.

Yarra City Council acknowledges the assistance of the Collingwood Historical Society in compiling this walk (2018)

SEE OVER FOR
walk
details

start



1

FORMER QUARRY SITE Ramsden Street Clifton Hill

At the end of Ramsden Street is the site of the Collingwood council quarry which operated until 1963, became a tip, and is now Quarries Park. Melbourne City Council also had a quarry here. Walk along the Merri Creek for a view of the remaining bluestone cliffs.



2

BROCKENSHIRE STREET Brockenshire Street Clifton Hill

A twentieth century subdivision. All the houses were built between 1926 and 1929 and form a cohesive group of timber bungalows of typical inter-war period design. Edward Brockenshire lived at 109 Ramsden Street and subdivided the land for the new street.



3

1-3 HORNE STREET

1 Horne Street Clifton Hill

These two early 1850s bluestone buildings were built and occupied by Charles Brown, a quarryman and building contractor. This and the houses in Clifton Ave and Ford Street are the oldest known houses in Clifton Hill and among the oldest in the City of Yarra.



4

2 FORD STREET 2 Ford Street Clifton Hill

This early 1850s bluestone house was built and occupied by Henry Brown, a quarryman and building contractor.



5

27-29 CLIFTON AVENUE 27-29 Clifton Avenue Clifton Hill

These two early 1850s bluestone buildings were built and occupied by Samuel Ramsden, a quarryman and building contractor.



6

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT HARNESS FACTORY

24 Groom Street Clifton Hill

Charles Trescowthick established a small boot and shoe factory behind his house in Roseneath Street, Clifton Hill in 1892. By 1900 he had enlarged this to a large three-storey building where he employed 250 workers. During the First World War the factory expanded and became the Commonwealth Government Harness, Saddlery and Leather Accoutrements Factory, to manufacture essential military supplies. Trescowthick's factory can be seen at the rear, connected to the newer building.



7

CLIFTON SHOE COMPANY 380-460 Hoddle Street Clifton Hill

Built in 1913 and now occupied by Schots Emporium, this was among the biggest Edwardian period shoe manufacturing companies in Victoria.



8

WILLIAM MURRAY WOOLWORKS

457 Hoddle Street Clifton Hill

A woolworks operated here from 1896. This was one of several noxious trades in Alexandra Parade. William McMurray & Co. rebuilt it extensively around 1917-18. In 2016, Provans Timber moved into this building from 62 Alexandra Parade, where they had been since the 1920s.



9

CLIFTON HILL TRAIN STATION Clifton Hill

Clifton Hill Railway Station was built by Parkers and Vickers in 1888. It is a good example of a late Victorian Gothic-style station. This station is included on the Victorian Heritage Register. Together with the original swinging gates (now disused), and signal boxes, the station represents a substantially complete late 19th century urban railway complex.



10

12 NORTH TERRACE 12 North Terrace Clifton Hill

Built in 1883 by Mr George David Langridge, MLA who was both a councillor for nine years and a Parliamentarian. He started out as a carpenter and contractor, then founded an estate agency on the corner of Smith and Langridge streets and opened a permanent building society. The house was subsequently bought by Edgar Wilkins, butcher and MLA for Collingwood 1892-1908. In Parliament, Wilkins was responsible for shortening working hours for employees. The house later became the home of the Sisters of Charity and is now a private residence.

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11

DARLING GARDENS BAND STAND

Clifton Hill

This bandstand is a 1970s reconstruction of the original rotunda built in 1906.



12

SOUTH TERRACE South Terrace Clifton Hill

South Terrace, like its counterpart on the north side of the gardens, has always been a sought after residential location. A number of the original Victorian houses have been demolished and replaced by blocks of flats.



13

221 GOLD STREET 221 Gold St Clifton Hill

A former staircase builder located his factory at the back of his house at 221 Gold Street.



14

231 GOLD STREET 231 Gold Street Clifton Hill

This is an example of a more ornate style. It was built by James Scott and named "Elsie Leigh" after his granddaughter who was ill at the time of construction.



15

241 GOLD STREET 241 Gold Street Clifton Hill

This property is believed to have been a butcher's house, with an arched coach room for his jinker and stables in the back yard.



16

CROATIAN CHURCH 490 Wellington Street Clifton Hill

The church at the corner of Hodgkinson and Wellington streets was Methodist for most of its life, and was bought by the Croatia Church in the 1960s.



17

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH 199 Queens Parade Clifton Hill

St. John's Church in Queens Parade is a large-scale bluestone church which is prominently sited on one of the highest points in Clifton Hill. The land was granted to the Catholic people by the Government in 1864. Although the Church's foundation stone was laid in 1876 it was not until 1893 that it was completed (with the exception of the spire, added in 1907). The Lady Chapel and Sacristy were completed in 1903, and the present school building was opened in 1904.



18

CLIFTON HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL 185 Gold Street Clifton Hill

Clifton Hill Primary School, formerly Gold Street Primary School, was opened in 1874 as a school for 1,000 scholars. The school is on the Victorian Heritage Register. The Organ Factory was built in 1884 as Yates Boot Factory now used by the school. The Page Street building was taken over in 1927 by organ builder Hill, Norman and Beard. The Melbourne Town Hall Grand Organ was constructed here in 1929. The Education Department purchased the building in 1975 and it became a community arts centre.



19

SHOT TOWER 94 Alexandra Parade Clifton Hill

In Alexandra Parade, look east towards Hoddle Street to the Shot Tower which was built in c.1882 for Richard Hodgson. Lead shot for shot guns was manufactured in this spectacular landmark building. This building is on the Victorian Heritage Register.

finish 20

REILLY STREET DRAIN, CLIFTON HILL

63 Alexandra Parade
Collingwood

The Reilly Street (now Alexandra Parade) Drain carried water from Collingwood, Fitzroy and Carlton to the Yarra River in an open drain, 10 feet deep and lined with bluestone and brick. It was partly fenced in and was crossed by wooden bridges. There are many stories about the open drain in wintertime, such as the one that a horse and cart were swept down it in a flood. The drain was covered at the end of the 19th century and remains as a major drain beneath the central reservation.

CLIFTON HILL heritage walk

For further information about Clifton Hill's heritage walks, visit the Collingwood Historical Society website

collingwoodhs.org.au