

COLLINGWOOD

heritage walk



This heritage walk identifies some of the important heritage sites in Collingwood, one of Melbourne's earliest suburbs. From 1855 until 1994, it was part of the municipality of Collingwood, and is now in the City of Yarra.

Home to the Wurrundjeri people, Collingwood was first subdivided into 25 acre lots in land sales in 1838-39. It grew rapidly in the 1850s with the gold rushes and became an area with lots of small houses interspersed with small businesses and later, large factories.

In recent years many of the factories have been re-developed for residential use. The area contains a number of important heritage buildings and precincts.

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

Commence walk at the corner of Otter and Wellington St.

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

SEE OVER FOR
walk
details

start



1

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH

215 Wellington Street
Collingwood

St George's Church on the corner of Otter Street and Wellington Street was built by the Presbyterian congregation in 1861. This bluestone church is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



2

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

46 Otter Street
Collingwood

On the opposite corner of Otter Street is the St. Joseph's Catholic Church complex, including a distinctive art nouveau presbytery built in 1903, hall built 1885-86 and school built 1912. The church was built in stages: west nave 1860-62, centre 1875-76, and the east nave 1891. The roof and interior were badly damaged by fire at the start of 2007. The church was reopened in April 2018.



3

COLLINGWOOD POST OFFICE

174-180 Smith Street
Collingwood

The former Post Office dated 1891 provides an interesting example of the end-of-the-Boom style of architecture with its columns and tower. The Post Office is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



4

G.J. COLES LTD

170-172 Smith Street
Collingwood

G.J. Coles Ltd. is a retail empire which started in Smith Street. George James Coles opened his first 3d., 6d., and 1/- Variety Store in 1914 in Smith Street. Back from WW1 in 1919 he opened a larger shop at 170-172 Smith St which was rebuilt in 1939. This heritage building was demolished in 2009 and a replica has been built in its place as part of the large Banco development.



5

GRACE DARLING HOTEL

114 Smith Street
Collingwood

Built in 1854 and designed by prominent early architect George Wharton. It is one of the few unaltered gold rush era hotels in inner Melbourne. Like other hotels it provided venues for social activities and public meetings such as the first committee meeting of the Collingwood Football Club in 1892. This is one of Collingwood's oldest buildings as most constructed before 1880 were built of wood and later replaced by more durable brick buildings. This bluestone hotel with its sandstone window surrounds is still intact. It is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register



6

STAR HOTEL

9-11 Peel Street
Collingwood

This attractive corner building was a hotel from 1868 to 1925. Take note of its original name on the corner. After de-licensing, it was used for residential purposes and in the 1930s housed homeless men. In the 1970s the Clichy restaurant was here.



7

FOY AND GIBSON COMPLEX

Cambridge, Oxford and Little Oxford Streets
Collingwood

The vast factories of the former Foy and Gibson empire line Cambridge, Oxford and Little Oxford streets between Peel and Stanley streets. In 1880, after 15 successful years as a draper in Smith Street, Mark Foy took William Gibson as a partner. Gibson eventually bought out the Foy family and in the 1890s and subsequently established the factories, including knitting and spinning mills, furniture and clothing factories. This great industrial complex is included on the Victorian Heritage Register.



8

SINGLETON'S DISPENSARY

162 Wellington Street
Collingwood

Dr John Singleton opened a medical dispensary and mission in a single-storey building in 1869 on this site. It was rebuilt in 1887. In addition to medical services, this building had a coffee shop, a lending library and space for a boys drum and fife band. In the 1970s, as the Collingwood Community Health Centre (now cohealth) it relocated to the corner of Hoddle and Sackville Streets. This building is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



9

THE PEEL HOTEL

125 Peel Street
Collingwood

The original Sir Robert Peel Hotel was built in 1857. It was demolished in 1911 and replaced by the present building designed by Sydney Smith and Ogg. It remains a good example of the Edwardian free classical revival style. In recent years it has been a well known gay pub.



10

YORKSHIRE BREWERY

Mansard Lane
(formerly 88 Wellington)
Collingwood

The tall polychrome brick brewing tower was part of the large Yorkshire Brewery owned by John Wood, and was designed by his son James Wood. The brew tower was built in 1876 and for many years was a key Collingwood landmark. The brewery was absorbed into the Carlton and United Breweries in 1909. From 1954 it was used as a malt house known as Yorkshire

Maltings. CUB sold the site in the 1990s and it was vacant and derelict for many years. The brew tower has been restored and other remains of the old brewery have been incorporated in the large-scale apartment development that dwarfs the tower. There is a café at the bottom of the tower. Walk into the site to view some interpretive signage and along Waterloo Street to see the remaining brewery walls. This site is on the Victorian Heritage Register.

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11 VICTORIA DISTILLERY

21 Northumberland Street Collingwood

Thomas Aitken established the Victoria Brewery in Victoria Parade, East Melbourne in 1854 (visible at the end of Wellington Street). From 1862 he operated the distillery, a five-storey brick tower, in Northumberland St. The old distillery and its more recent silos were converted to apartments in the 1990s.



12 TANNERY AND BOOT FACTORY

Corner of Rokeby and Glasshouse streets

Along with brewing, boot making was another of Collingwood's main industries. Glasshouse Road was named as such due to Victoria's first glass factory established in this area in the early 1850s. In the 1860s the site was taken up by leather merchant Hugh Thompson as a tannery and boot factory. It was one of Collingwood's first steam powered factories in an era when most boot making was done by hand. It was still in business in 1930. There is a fragment of the earlier building, constructed about 1876, a few metres from the corner.



13 DOLLS HOUSE

Collingwood College

The so-called Dolls House is a tiny cottage 2.5m wide, built at 130 Islington Street after subdivisions in the 1870s. It was included in the Housing Investigations and Slum Abolition report, 1937, but remained a home for another 40 years. The Education Department bought the land in 1978 for Collingwood College and the cottage has been relocated a number of times. In 2016 it was moved within the Collingwood College grounds to the end of Islington Street. This building is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



14 HOUSES OF CAMPBELL AND RUPERT STREETS

Campbell Street Collingwood

Modest wooden housing such as on these streets used to be a characteristic of the Collingwood Flat. They form the Campbell Street Heritage Precinct, whereas much of the surrounding area was transformed through the construction of factories and then, following "slum clearance" of the 1960s and 1970s, by the very visible high-rise Public Housing Estate.



15 CHILDREN'S CHURCH

31 Harmsworth Street Collingwood

This former church dates from 1876. Religious instruction was shared here by children of all denominations.



16 CULLINS TEA SHOP

148 Johnston Street Collingwood

Cullins Tea Shop was the site of John Wren's Tote in the 1890s, made known to many by Frank Hardy's book, *Power Without Glory*. The rear lane into which Wren's helpers escaped during police raids can still be seen off Sackville Street.



17 SINGAPORE COTTAGE

136 Sackville Street Collingwood

Directly behind 125 Easey Street, in Sackville Street, is what has been known as the Singapore Cottage. It was one of the many prefabricated houses erected in the inner suburbs during the gold rushes. It has been relocated here from its original site. This building is included on the Victorian Heritage Register.



18 125 EASEY STREET

This 1860s house features a large setback from the street. Another pre-fabricated house has been re-located to the front garden.

Return to Johnston St and walk west. Take note of the highly decorated Mateer Victoria Bakery at 139 Johnston St and also the imposing Bendigo Hotel.



19 THE HARING MURAL

Collingwood Technical School
35-61 Johnston Street Collingwood

The mural on the east wall of the former Collingwood Technical School was painted by New York artist Keith Haring when he visited Melbourne in 1984. After considerable debate, it was restored in 2013. It is on the Victorian Heritage Register.



20 COLLINGWOOD TECHNICAL SCHOOL

35-61 Johnston Street Collingwood

This was the site of the first court house in Collingwood, built in the 1850s, and the first municipal chambers. It became an important site for technical education through the 20th century. Collingwood Technical

finish

School opened in the old bluestone buildings at 35 Johnston in 1912. The school expanded with new buildings from 1913 to the 1950s and became the biggest technical school in Melbourne. The buildings are on the Victorian Heritage Register. Take note of the highly significant 1938 Administration Building, with its arched Johnston Street entry bay, a superior example of international Modernism. The buildings now have a future as the Collingwood Arts Precinct.

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

collingwoodhs.org.au