

historic heart of tasmania



Thomas Scott, 1823 (The Mitchell Library, State Library NSW)

VISITOR INFORMATION

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29. "The Old Rectory"

This Georgian Manor House was once the home of the Church of England Rector. It was previously known as Solomon's Farm (originally 30 acres); the old stables and outbuildings at the rear date from 1838.

30. "Howley Lodge"

"Howley Lodge" was constructed for the Reverend William Bedford Junior who arrived in the district in 1833 to become the first Anglican Minister of Campbell Town.

31. First Recorded Telephone Message in Southern Hemisphere

(site of the Campbell Town Railway Station).

32. Kean's Brewery

This freestone building was constructed soon after the completion of the Red Bridge: possibly 1840, by Hugh Kean.

33. "The Mill House"

Constructed by Everard James Blackburn, civil engineer and architect, in the mid 1840s and used as his residence until his departure for Melbourne in 1850. He constructed a flour mill close by.

34. Colonial Cottage, No 8 Foster Street.

This cottage was constructed circa 1850 and originally was two con-joined cottages. No 10 Forster Street was similar but has been modernised in recent years.

35. No 17 Forster Street

This old cottage was erected in 1851 for George Peter Phillips, a retired British soldier, who, together with his family migrated to this island travelling as a convict guard on the "Eliza".

36. Stone Cottage in Montague Street

This stone building was a pensioner's cottage erected in 1851 for Nicholas Murphy and his family.

37. No. 146 High Street

This was the first Campbell Town Public Hospital. Campbell Town had petitioned as early as 1838 for a hospital, but it was not until 1855 when a grazier, Mr W. Race Allison of "Streanshalh", canvassed the district and raised £340.4 shillings that this private home was leased for such purposes.

38. Cottage Ornee. 154 High Street

Originally constructed for Captain Frederick Forth, who came to Van Dieman's Land in 1833. He resigned his military commission as a Captain of the Royal North British Fusiliers in 1836 and became Police Magistrate for the District of Campbell Town, where he supervised the construction of the Red Bridge.

39. "Rosetta"

This house was constructed in 1847 and was the home of Claudius Thompson, the first Warden of Campbell Town and a former Waterloo veteran.

40. "The Rookery"

The first settler in Campbell Town, Thos Kenton built a log cabin on this site in 1819. He checked all travellers passing over the Elizabeth River between Launceston and Hobart Town.

41. First Bridge in Campbell Town

This bridge was erected when Bridge Street was the main street. It is older than any existing bridge in Tasmania still in use.

42. No. 170 Bridge Street

A wooden structure stood on this site in 1823 and was licensed as "The Campbell Town Inn". It was replaced by this brick building in 1828, which is believed to be the oldest existing home on Campbell Town. The whole area is known locally as "Tragedy Hill" as a local woman poisoned her husband and child here in the nineteenth century.



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Campbell Town

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Founded in 1821 by Governor Macquarie - the river and town was named for his wife Elizabeth Campbell - it was a string of settlements established to link Hobart and Launceston. Properties in this area produce some of the finest Merino wool in the world and the Midlands region is the main agricultural centre of Tasmania. The oldest continuously held Agricultural show in the southern hemisphere still takes place every June in the showground.

Centrally located on the Heritage Highway, with a town population of 900 people, Campbell Town boasts over a hundred homes aged a century or more, of which some are fine examples of colonial architecture.

'The Red Bridge'

Lieutenant Governor Arthur laid the foundation stone of the Red Bridge on 21st October 1836 and work commenced the following year. The bridge took 15 months to construct and was completed in July 1838. The clay was extracted on the south-eastern side of the bridge. It has been calculated that more than 1,500,000 bricks were used in the construction. Originally constructed for horse drawn vehicles only, the bridge currently takes over 2,000,000 vehicles annually and no major repair work has ever been necessary.

1. "The Grange" and Valentine Park

This building was designed by the well-known architect Everard James Blackburn and built in 1847 for Dr. William Valentine. "The Grange" was ultimately sold to the Leake Family after his death and one of the descendants, Miss Dorothy Foster, bequeathed the property to the National Trust of Tasmania upon her death in 1964.

A. The Transit of Venus

This important occasion took place on December 8-9 1874, when a party of American Astronomers, invited by Dr William Valentine, and under the leadership of Captain Raymond, viewed the occurrence at an observatory constructed to the left of "The Grange".



B. Sundial

The sundial was designed and built by Anthony Sprent in 2004, using old agricultural machinery from local properties, for Campbell Town to commemorate the transit of the planet Venus across the face of the Sun, first observed at The Grange by scientists from the United States Naval Observatory in 1874.

C. The Log

"A tribute to the pioneers".
Felled on the "Evercreech" property at Mathinna in the Fingal Valley in 1980. Hardwood (most probably gum), 7.8m long, 218cm girth.

D. Eliza Forlong

Eliza Forlong left Glasgow, Scotland for Saxony in 1826. She set out alone and on foot to buy the best Saxon Merino stock she could find, with the intention of moving her family to Australia. The family were granted land in 1829, near Campbell Town and the original bloodlines of her flock in Tasmania still produce some of the world's finest wool.

2. St. Luke's Church of England

John Lee Archer had plans drawn up for this church and in 1835 the foundation stone was laid. The contractor was soon in financial trouble and it was found that part of the base course had been laid on bare soil and the foundation forgotten.

A new contractor completed the work to the satisfaction of Lee Archer and the church was opened in 1839.

3. St. Luke's Sunday School

This building, designed by the famous architect Everard James Blackburn whilst he was resident in Campbell Town, was constructed in 1845.

4. Gloucester House

This building was constructed in the 1830s as living quarters for three married police constables.

5. Campbell Town Grammar School

Here on this site stood Rainbow Hotel, constructed by Hugh Kean for Gavin Hogg in 1840. Campbell Town was unable to support four hotels so in 1855 the building became the Campbell Town Grammar School with Dr. William Carr Boyd as its principal.

6. Campbell Town Inn (Beehive Bistro)

The hotel was constructed in 1840 for Gavin Hogg by well-known builder Hugh Kean. It features the original flagstone floor, heritage-listed sandstone staircase and open fire-places.

7. Brickhill Memorial Church

This building was erected in 1880 from funds left by Joseph Brickhill, who constructed a store on the corner of High and King Street where Tas Ag now stands.

8. St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church

Bishop Willson was responsible for the erection of this fine bluestone church. His arms and initials may be seen on the south-eastern wall.

9. Fox Hunters Return

This building was commenced in 1833 and constructed by Hugh Kean, when the main highway was proposed to be realigned after the building of the Red Bridge. It has one of the finest Georgian facades in Australia.

10. "Solomon's Store"

Joseph and Judah Solomon were transported to Van Dieman's Land in 1820, but quickly established themselves as successful general dealers and liquor merchants in Hobart Town.

The higher part of this conjoined building became Solomon's Store in 1837, upon the marriage of Lion Solomon, son of Joseph.

11. Wesleyan Chapel

The present building was erected in 1846 and it is of that mellow red brick which was once common in Campbell Town.

12. No. 141 Bridge Street

This building is believed to have been the school conducted by Theophilus Swift from 1839 to 1842.

13. Lower Bridge Street

No. 140 Bridge Street was originally built as a Watch House and No. 142 as a barracks.

No. 144 Bridge Street was also a barracks building with a large kitchen behind it.

No. 146 was an officers quarters and was a double-storied building with five rooms on the upper floor.

No. 148 Bridge Street was the Gaoler's House and the stocks stood on the southern side of the present bowling green.

All buildings would have been constructed in the early 1830s.

14. No. 157 Bridge Street

This building is the original "Fox Hunters Return" and was constructed in 1829 by William Broad.

15. The Bowling Green

This was the site of the first proper Gaol and Court House in Campbell Town, and it is believed to have been in use from 1828 onwards.

16. "The Chinese Gardens" (site only)

Directly opposite the Lions Park is the land known as the "Chinese Gardens", where a market garden was cultivated last century by Chinese immigrants.

17. The Willows Picnic Reserve (site only)

This spot has been a favourite picnic area all throughout living memory in this town.

18. "Balvaird"

This bluestone house was built about 1870 by Thomas Henry Power who came to this area in 1855. He named it "Mount Joy".

19. The old School and Schoolhouse

The old school and schoolhouse were completed in 1878.

20. Site of the Midland Agricultural Association Annual Show

Annual exhibitions of the Midland Agricultural Association have been held continuously since 1839, oldest continuous show in the British Commonwealth.

21. "The Old Anglican Cemetery"

The cemetery has been used as a place of burial since 1827, although not consecrated until 1830.

22. Colonial Buildings in Church Street

It is believed that local builder George Rew constructed most of these buildings in the late 1830s. They were known as Rew's Row.

23. "Ivy Cottage"

This building was erected circa 1838 by James Hamilton, Storekeeper and Wine Merchant of the town and was originally known as 'Dry Cottage'.

24. "Gage's Row"

This old home, originally two conjoined cottages, was erected by Henry Gage in 1838.

He had been transported in 1831 per "The Red Rover".

25. No. 20 Pedder Street

This two-storied home is believed to have been constructed by Alexander Johnson in 1842.

26. "The Almond Gardens"

A mile along the Cressy road on the left are the remains of an Almond Orchard planted in the 1830s by John McLeod.

27. Harold Gatty Memorial

Opposite St. Andrews Church this monument is to Campbell Town born aviator, Harold Gatty, who in 1931, with American Wylie Post, made the first round the world flight in the "Winnie Mae".

28. St. Andrews Church

This church was completed and dedicated in 1857. The organ in the church was originally the property of Bishop Nixon, first Anglican Bishop of Tasmania.