HISTORIC DELORAINE

After returning to your car you can drive through the streets of the town using the numerical guide on the map. The drive commences in Westbury Place past Harvey’s Mill & St Ives. At the top of the hill you can stop at the Scenic Viewpoint on map, for a panoramic view of the town and the mountains. Follow the guide to see the following:

1. Scenic Viewpoint
2. Old Shop
3. Clayton’s Mill
4. Eldersyde
5. Tower Hill Street Cottages
6. Formerly Sullivans Clothing Factory
7. Formerly Langmaids butchery
8. British Hotel
9. Examples of Early Cottages
10. Cottage
11. Catholic Church of the Holy Redeemer
12. Formerly St Andrews Presbyterian Church
13. Formerly Blake’s Hotel
14. Formerly Best’s Grocer
15. The Gables
16. Oddfellows Hall & Masonic Temple
17. Folk Museum, Yarns Artwork & Great Western Tiers Visitor Centre
18. Hucts Pharmacy - formerly Sullivans Shop
19. Originally the Great Western Hotel
20. Examples of Early Shops
21. Formerly The Don Store
22. Library - originally Post Office
23. Formerly Sullivan’s Store
24. Vice-Admiral Sir John Collins former home
25. Formerly a maternity hospital

Deloraine Folk Museum & Visitor Centre

Originally, this was the “Family and Commercial Inn” (1865 - 94) - and was for many years a staging post for horse-drawn coaches between East and West. After more years as rented premises, the property was deeded to Deloraine in 1971 as the Deloraine & Districts Folk Museum. This historic building with displays is open to visitors daily. It is also home to “Yarns Artwork in Silk”.

Deloraine is a delightful riverside town with an historic streetscape classified by the National Trust.

You are invited to use this brochure to guide you on a short walk past a variety of buildings and other historical features which illustrate the rich heritage in this town.

The walk which takes approximately 45 minutes begins and ends on the bank of the Meander River.

As the settlers moved west in the 1820s land around Deloraine was taken up and the township reserve was marked out in the 1830s.

The original village which grew up on the Alveston Estate in the 1840s was outside the town boundary. The town began to develop after 1847 when the Probation Station which was on the west bank of the river was moved.

The buildings highlighted on the walk show the wide variety of architecture, style and type to be found in Deloraine.
HISTORICAL DELORAINE - a short walk

A The walk begins beside the Meander River where on the opposite bank can be seen the building which housed “Deloraine’s first Electric Power Station”. This began operating in 1907. The weir was built to hold back water for turning the wheel which drove the generator. Beside the park is an E Class No.2 locomotive. This was placed there to commemorate the opening of the Launceston to Deloraine Railway - the first in Tasmania - on 10th February, 1871. As you walk towards the bridge you see the magnificent trees planted at the turn of the Century by the far-sighted residents of that time.

B On the opposite side of the road before you cross the river is a memorial to Baden-Powell. This was placed as a tribute to him as the “Hero of Mafeking” in the Boer War.

C The first settlers and explorers crossed the river, which was originally called the Western River, by a ford about a kilometre upstream from this bridge. The first bridge which was built by convicts in 1831 was washed away by a flood in 1844 and it was replaced shortly after by a more substantial one built by convicts from the Probation Station on the western side of the river. This was in turn replaced in 1877. The stone piers of that bridge still serve the present one although it has been widened and raised. As you walk across the bridge you are aware of the picturesque view along the river banks and the Western Tiers in the distance.

D On the bank above the footpath opposite the Police Station is an obelisk. This memorial to Dr McNeeze who served in the Crimean War before settling in Deloraine, was erected in recognition of his services to the community in his capacity as Warden.

E After crossing Westbury Place you come to the original village of Alveston, which was not part of the official town area but developed earlier than Deloraine. On the right is the Bush Inn built in 1848 by John Thomas. It has been considerably altered over the years but has always operated as a hotel.

F On the left hand side of the road are the Alveston Cottages built in the early 1840s. Many of these were built as shops, but most are now private residences.

G A little further on the right is a private residence which for many years operated as the Plough Inn. It was built by Frederick Ridge in 1841 and was opened as an Inn by him in 1845, being Alveston’s first hotel.

H You now retrace your steps to Westbury Place, cross the street and climb the hill to St Marks Church. The original Anglican Church was a small wooden building which was opened in January 1847 and stood near the corner of Emu Bay Road & West Barrack Street. The foundation stone for this present Church which was designed by Henry Clayton, was laid in 1856 and the building was opened in 1859. At this time it consisted of the nave, the tower, the spire and a small chancel. In September 1860 St Marks acquired a pipe organ from London and this is still in use. The chancel and transept were consecrated in October, 1878. The stained glass window was added in 1909 to commemorate the Church’s Golden Jubilee. In the Churchyard are buried many of the pioneer settlers of this district.

From the Church you walk back to the highway and recross the bridge.

I Directly ahead is the Deloraine Hotel and next to it is Bonny’s Inn. This Inn which was first known as the Deloraine Inn was built by John Bonny in the 1830s. It is the town’s oldest remaining building. A public house had operated near the site from about 1830. The business proved so successful that Bonny built in 1853 the large hotel next door to which he transferred both name & licence. John Bonny went farming and leased the hotel to Nathaniel Poole.

The older Deloraine Inn became the Temperance Hotel and more recently a block of flats, a restaurant and bed and breakfast accommodation.

J After passing Bonny’s Inn you come to the Baptist Tabernacle. This fine brick building came about through the generosity of William Gibson, a wealthy grazier from Perth, Tasmania. He gave the congregation his prize ram which had won the Royal Melbourne Show Championships. The 1,000 guineas it raised, built the Tabernacle which opened on 26th December, 1880.

K Further along the street past the weir is a building known as Harvey’s Mill. This was built in the 1850s by Samuel Shorey. It was bought by William Harvey in 1896 from the estate of Mrs Shorey and operated by him for many years. It is built of bluestone and brick with two feet thick walls and one foot square pitsawn wood supports. The one ton mill stones of imported French quartz, were first driven by a steam engine and later by a Crosley kerosene engine. The mill once produced flour, oatmeal and rolled oats.

L Above the mill building is the house known as St Ives. This was the residence of Samuel Shorey and built by him at the same time as the mill. The bluestone for both buildings was quarried from behind the house.

Other Buildings Of Interest

BOWERBANK MILL
Meander Valley Road - 2kms towards Launceston.
Now providing accommodation, this mill was designed by William Archer and built in 1853 for the Horne Family. Originally powered by a water wheel, the boiler room and a chimney stack were added for conversion to steam in 1870.

CALSTOCK
Lake Highway, 1.5kms from Deloraine
The original single storeyed house was built by Lieutenant Pearson-Poole c. 1831. In the 1850s it was altered to its present size by John Field who developed the property as a leading horse stud. Two Melbourne Cup winners Malua 1884 and Sheer Anchor 1885 were bred here.

Disclaimer:
Many of these properties are now private homes. Please respect their privacy. Every endeavour has been made to ensure all details herein are correct.