

walk with

Penola is the oldest town in the Limestone Coast and has many attractions to offer the tourist. It is widely recognised as an historic town. Many of its buildings are listed on the State Heritage Register and some are owned and maintained by the National Trust. Today Penola offers visitors a wide variety of accommodation, art galleries, craft shops, fine food and the famed Coonawarra wine area.

Penola's first settlers were nomadic Aboriginal people, the Pinejunga, allied to the Booandik, who wandered and hunted by the occasional lagoons amidst the spindly stringy bark forests, and under the shade of muscular red gums which dot the landscape. The town's name although no one is exactly sure, seems to derive from an Aboriginal word 'Penola' meaning swamp, the name given to a location twelve kilometers north east along the Comaum Road. While, another suggestion is 'pena oorla' meaning 'wooden house' and referring to the first pub, the Royal Oak.

Prominent figures in Penola's Past have moulded the town to what it is today. This includes Alexander Cameron, the pioneering pastoralist who arrived in 1845 and founded the town in 1850. Another Scotsman, the outgoing John Riddoch acted as 'Squire of Penola' over the next 40 years. He planted the first vines and laid the rich foundation for Coonawarra's quality wines and completed building the magnificent homestead of Yallum Park in 1880.

By 1863 Penola boasted the second largest library outside of Adelaide and this attracted numerous people to call Penola home, including poets, Adam Lindsay Gordon, John Shaw Neilson and Will Ogilvie, all of whom were inspired by the landscape and lifestyle and all still remembered by various tributes around the town.

There have been many influential residents who have called Penola home, such as Father Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop. In 1866 Mary MacKillop established Australia's first school to cater for any child regardless of income or social class in Penola. The schoolhouse is still on display and the endeavours of Mary MacKillop and Father Julian Tenison Woods are highlighted in the adjoining Mary MacKillop Penola Centre.

The "Walk with History" is suitable for all ages and takes around an hour at a leisurely pace to complete. Cars can be parked at the John Riddoch Centre, formerly the Mechanics Institute, which now houses the Local History Collection and acclaimed Display. It is ideally designed as a walk. Many take advantage of the set path and cycle it or even in the colder weather do it as a drive and view the sights from the comfort of their vehicle.

This informative, self-guided walk provides an opportunity to view architecture, historical sights and find out about the notable inhabitants of the past. The walk winds its way through the heritage precincts, streets and laneways of Penola and there is simply no better way to explore the rich historical and cultural tapestry of the town. It allows those who partake to gain insight into the community that is Penola and experience the importance of keeping local history alive. The walk is signposted and the brief descriptions at each point of call allow you to fully appreciate the hardships of the town and realise how Penola has developed and arrived at where it is today. Take a step-back in time and discover the intriguing past and secrets of Penola.

Other Places to visit close by

- Yallum Park must not be missed. This 1880 two storey Victorian Mansion 8kms on the Millicent Road is one of the best preserved house of its type in Australia.
- Mc Adams Slab Hut built in the 1850's in Cameron St
- Admire the stained glass windows of the Catholic Church
- Be intrigued by the unique trees growing around the township
- View Abbey's Folly from Shepherd's Lane off the Dergholm Road
- John Riddoch's original winery and cellars, now known as Wynns Coonawarra Estate
- Relax at the Julian Tenison Woods Tree and park
- Do some research and speak to someone at the Local History Room in the John Riddoch Centre

history

Detailed historic information about the Penola district is available from the Local History Collection at the John Riddoch Centre, 27 Arthur Street, Penola

Further Reading

- Jackson, B.M. Penola Historical Selection Volume 1
Clifford, G.G. Penola Historical Selections Volumes 2-5
National Trust SA Penola Branch, Penola Historical Selections Volume 6
Hanna, Cliff, Corartwalla: A History of Penola, the Land and Its People
Byrne, Betty. The Pride of Christies Row Sharam Heritage, Penola
Eastick, Andrew & Hodge, Lois. Living History, Penola: Coonawarra
Balnaves, A. Your Guide to Penola and Coonawarra: The Past and the Present
Bowden, E. Christie and Ellen



Wattle Range
COUNCIL

Across Wattle Range, the Beachport Visitor Information Centre and the Millicent Visitor Information Centre are also able to assist you with brochures and further information on Penola Coonawarra.

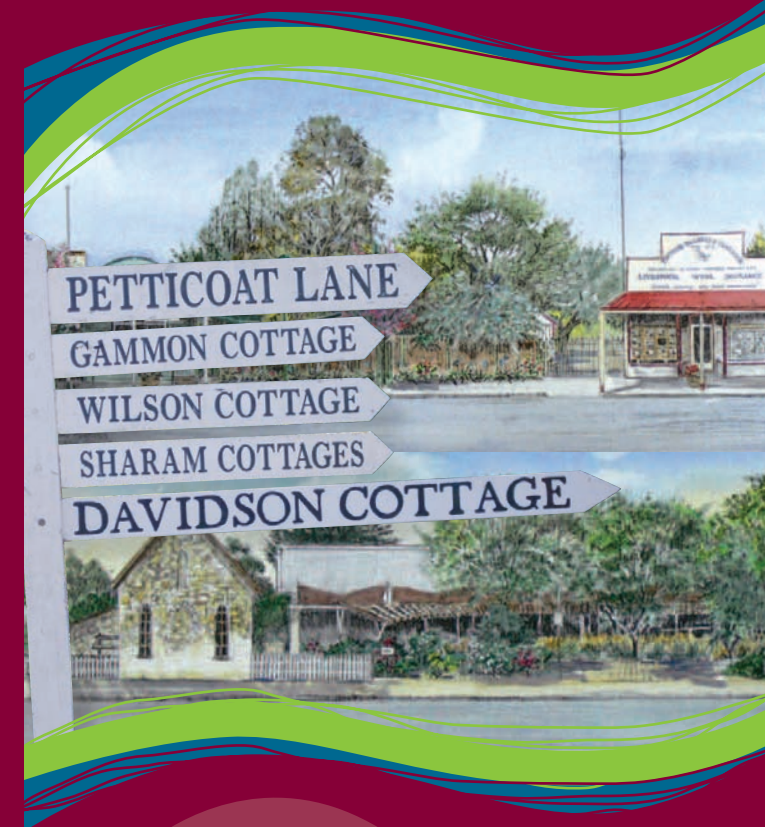
DISCLAIMER -The information in the publication was current at the time of printing April 2010. The publisher takes no responsibility for the accuracy of this information and suggests that you check all details when making an inquiry

Acknowledgements:

State Heritage Branch of the Department of Environment and Planning
National Trust of South Australia, Penola Branch
Wattle Range Council
Illustrations by Lois Hodge. Designed by Bianca Gillin

WALK WITH HISTORY

penola - south australia



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experience

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1. JOHN RIDDOCH CENTRE

Formerly the Penola Mechanics Institute and Public Library built by George Gladstone in 1869. W.T Gore was the architect.

2. BOND STORE

Built adjacent to Ulva Cottage to hold Penola's liquor supplies and goods received from interstate. During Colonial days (pre 1901) customs duty was payable on goods transported between adjacent colonies. The building has also been used as a residence.

3. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (I)

A weatherboard building was erected on this site in 1845 and demolished in 1940.

4. GLENROWAN (I)

Owned by George Gladstone in 1861-62. Purchased from C J Valentine in 1866 by Benjamin Pickworth Hunt, Inspector of South Australian Police Force. Sold to Jessie Balnaves in 1901. Has had a succession of owners since then.

5. ULVA COTTAGE (H)

Built by Alexander Cameron for his daughter Margaret and son-in-law Doctor Bayton, one of Penola's first doctors. In October 1863, Margaret died during the birth of their first child and Doctor Bayton left the district soon after. The building has since been used as a residence and Bed & Breakfast accommodation.

6. PENOLA PARK (I)

For many years prior to the establishment of the Park in 1935 the area was the local livestock yards.

7. MOTHER MARY MACKILLOP MEMORIAL PARK (I)

A stable on this site was converted to a school for Mary MacKillop in 1966.

8. SAINT MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH (I)

Built in 1873 by Michael Harris and William Blight on land donated by Thomas Congdon. Richard McClure laid the foundation stone with Masonic Honours. The architect was Thomas Artaud.

9. D.J. LYNN & CO (I)

Andrew McAlpine built the South Australian Store on this site in the 1850s and in 1865 sold it to Andrew McKeand. Since his death in 1899 the next twelve years saw a succession of owners until purchased in 1911 by ex-Mounted Police Trooper, Daniel James Lynn. Since then it has traded under the name of DJ Lynn & Co, although having several other owners until 2009. It is now a hardware store.

10. PRINCE OF WALES HOTEL (I)

Original building first licensed to John Bowden in 1860. Present building named Log Cabin Hotel for some years before returning to original name.

11. LOCAL IMAGES (I)

First used as Thomas Oswald's Saddlers Shop.

12. TOFFEE & TREATS OF PENOLA (I)

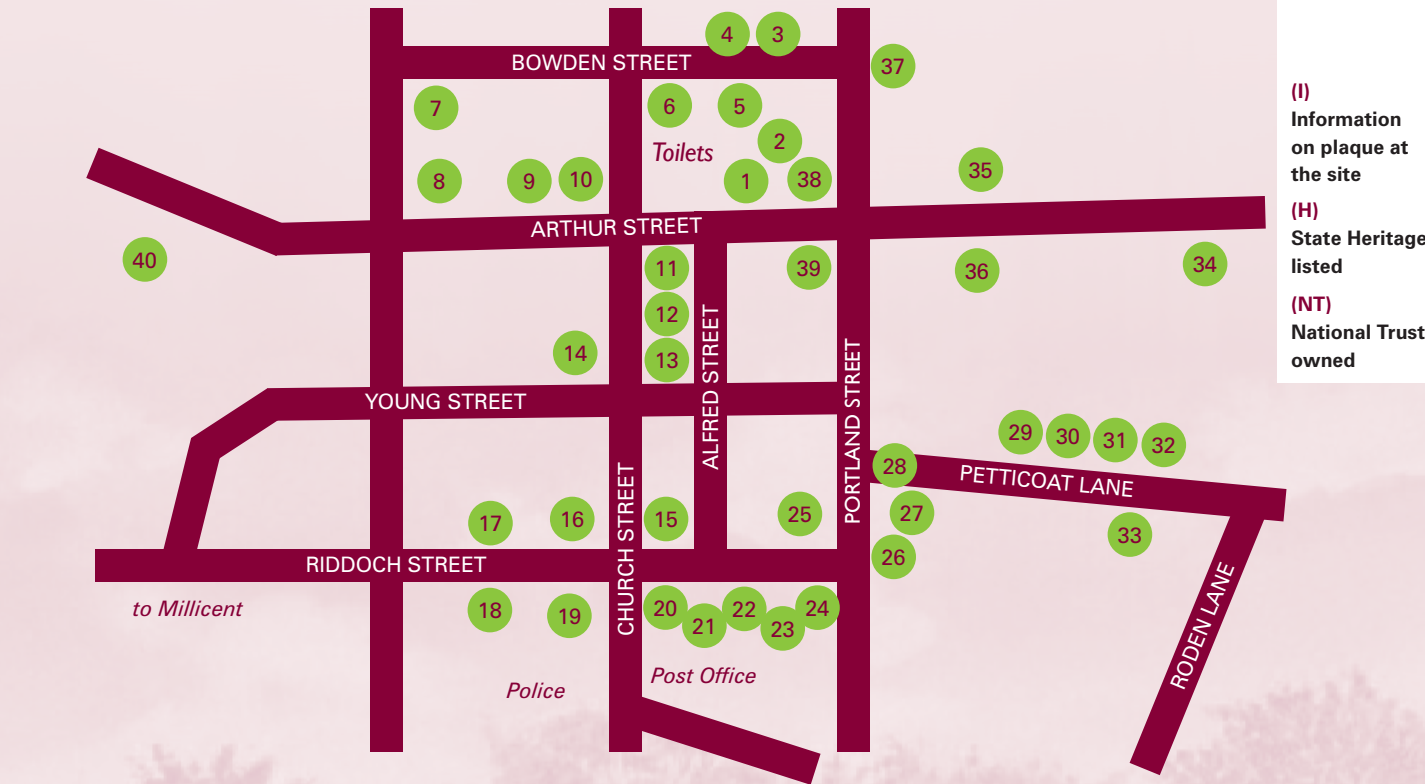
Christopher Sharam, conducted his boot making business in these premises during the 1870s. At a much later stage, the building was used as a Barber Shop, Billiard Room, Women's Clothing & Fabrics and an Antique Shop.

13. BALNAVES STORE (I)

Built as a shop by Simon MacKenzie. The building was purchased by the Balnaves family in the 1890s and was used as a shop by successive generations of the family until the late 1970s.

14. PENOLA VETERINARY CENTRE (I)

The original District Council Office built on land donated by William McPherson was replaced by the present building in 1963.



15. ROYAL OAK HOTEL (I) (H)

Built in 1873 to take the place of a slab building, licensed in 1848. The architect was W T Gore.

16. PRIVATE RESIDENCE (I) (H)

Built in 1886 as the Bank of South Australia, which failed during the 1890s depression. Later house of Goldsborough Mort Managers.

17. JANE BALNAVES GENERAL STORE (I)

Opened in 1858. Operated continuously until Jane's son Robert moved the business to Church Street in 1892.

18. PENOLA FANTASY MODEL RAILWAY (I)

James McKay conducted a coach building and blacksmith business on this site. His son and others followed. Marion McKay donated the land for the McKay Memorial Kindergarten which later moved to the Primary School site.

19. NATIONAL AUSTRALIA BANK (I) (H)

The building has been used continuously as a Bank. The architect was WT Gore. Since construction in 1868 this building has been used continuously as a bank until 2008. It is now a private residence.

20. OLD POST OFFICE & RESIDENCE (I) (H) (NT)

The Telegraph Office/Residence and Post Office were constructed in 1859/60. The adjacent new Post Office was built in the 1960.

21. LIVE LIFE DESIGN (I)

Clarke's Saddlery & Simcoe's Temple of Fashion built in 1865 by Matthew Clarke was replaced with an impressive two-storey stone building used later as a residence by the Blight family. This was demolished and replaced with the present building in the 1930s.

22. PIPERS OF PENOLA RESTAURANT

This building was constructed as a Methodist Church in 1908.

Owned by the Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society 1928-1940 and was used by the RSL until sold to the Caledonian Society in 1958.

23. PRIVATE RESIDENCE

Built around the turn of the century by Ralph Howard, part owner and Manager of the adjacent Penola Cheese Factory.

24. COBB & CO BOOKING OFFICE (I) (H)

Reputedly used by Cobb & Co. and in 1889 became the Penola Cheese and Butter Factory. First used as a Tea Rooms and Restaurant in 1984 by Mistress Kate. Since used as a Restaurant and Art Gallery.

25. PRIVATE RESIDENCE (I)

Home of Donald McDonald, licensee of the Royal Oak Hotel from 1864 until 1880. For many years it was the home of Leonard Peake, District Clerk of the District Council. During the 1930s, the building became a private hospital, owned and operated by Matron Margaret 'Daisy' McKay. It has been used as a residence since the new hospital was built in 1955. For many years it was under the management of a local syndicate as the first home of overseas immigrants to the Penola District.

26. SAINT JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH (I)

The first Church on the site was built in 1859 whilst Father Julian Tenison Woods was priest.

27. WOODS-MACKILLOP SCHOOLHOUSE (I) (H)

Mary MacKillop's first purpose built school built in 1867 adjacent to the Mary MacKillop Penola Centre.

28. PETTICOAT LANE HERITAGE AREA (I) (H)

Carefully conserved area of Penola with a number of original cottages dating from 1850. Declared a State Heritage Area, December 11, 1997.

29. GAMMON COTTAGE (I) (NT)

Owned in the 1860s by Andrew Adams and purchased from C Smith in 1879 by William Gammon. The detached kitchen was a common feature of buildings of those times, with the constant threat to life and property from open fires. The pressed metal tiles were used briefly prior to the introduction of corrugated iron. Currently used as an Art Gallery.

30. WILSON COTTAGE (I) (NT)

Home of William Wilson, nursery-man, and his wife Agnes. Currently used as a Retro fashion and Bric-a-Brac shop.

31. KIRKGATE (I) (NT)

Site of the former home of William Neilson, ancestor of several local families and uncle of poet, John Shaw Neilson.

32. DAVIDSON COTTAGE (I) (NT)

Built by the Davidson family in 1861. Leased for the use of Church of England Rectors from 1889 to 1895. Restored by National Trust SA Penola Branch in 1980s. Currently used as a Bed & Breakfast accommodation.

33. SHARAM'S COTTAGES (I) (H) (NT)

Slab cottage – first home of Christopher and Ellen Sharam, built in 1850. Second cottage built c 1864.

34. PRIVATE RESIDENCE

Home of Elisabeth Air built in the early 1860s. This building has been continually occupied as a residence since that time.

35. MISS THOMPSONS (I)

Constructed in the 1860s, this building has been the subject of many additions over the years. In 1925, it was purchased by the Thompson family. It is now a private residence.

36. FORMER TEMPERANCE HALL SITE

Tenders were called for the construction of a Temperance Hall on this site in January 1864 and in March of that year John Riddoch laid the foundation stone of the building. Meetings calling for the establishment of a District Council were held in the building in September 1864 although the Council was not formed until 1869. The building was used for a wide variety of community purposes until it was demolished in the 1960s.

37. COOMBE COTTAGE (I)

The second residence built on this site originally purchased by William Britt in 1861. On site of Penola's Retirement Village.

38. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (I) (H)

Built in 1870 by James and Joseph Riddoch. Foundation stone laid with Masonic Honours by John Riddoch. The architect was W T Gore

39. FORESTERS' HALL

Built as a Foresters' Hall in 1873. The building has also been used as a dentist's room, Lutheran Church, Tyre and battery sales. Currently used as a fashion and gift shop.

40. PEAKE'S FOLLY (H)

Penola's Railway Station from 1909-1959. It replaced a smaller weatherboard structure on the same site, built when the line was opened in 1887. This fine two storey building features Romanesque windows, tapered federation chimneys and cantilevered verandahs supported by Staffordshire wrought iron stays. It is now a private residence.