



Oatlands

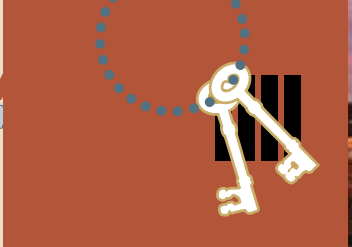
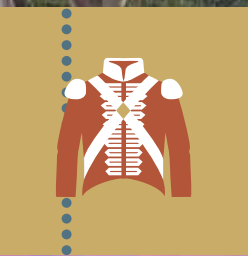
TASMANIA



Welcome to Oatlands: Everything you'll need to know to enjoy your visit

INCLUDES SELF GUIDED STREET TOUR MAP

In Graphic Detail • 5818 0622





Welcome to Oatlands

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OATLANDS IS A UNIQUE PLACE, seamlessly blending the past with the present. The town offers visitors the opportunity to connect with their heritage in an authentic, genuine environment whilst enjoying all the benefits of contemporary township services. Located in the centre of Tasmania, it is only one hour's drive from Hobart, and 1 hour and 20 minutes from Launceston, making it an ideal location to stop over on your way, or make it your primary base location as you explore other regions around the state.

With the largest collection of intact sandstone Georgian buildings in a village setting in Australia, Oatlands is a beautiful place, however it is the stories contained within the sandstone that offer a rare glimpse into the events and people who helped to shape our history and illuminate who we are. The

story of Oatlands ranges from gentry farmers to notorious bushrangers to the military and the convict system to colonial entrepreneurs looking to make their fortune. Walk in the footsteps of the past with a self-guided walking tour using the 'Oatlands Key', or indulge your senses and stroll the streets where beautiful historic buildings have been reinvented as retail outlets, galleries, cafes and accommodation. Uncover a hidden treasure at one of Oatlands' great antique shops, meet local craftspeople and learn the stories behind their craft.

For nature lovers, Oatlands is situated on Lake Dulverton, a wildlife sanctuary with abundant bird life. There are numerous picnic and barbecue facilities situated at the lake and a walking track that follows the foreshore. Lake Dulverton has a stopover area where campers can stay for three nights free of charge.



A picnic at peaceful Lake Dulverton



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Holyrood House



Black and grey water disposal facilities can be found on the corner of Wellington and William streets and public toilets are located at the rear of the Town Hall and on the foreshore of the lake.

Oatlands has a number of recreational and sporting facilities, including a popular golf course founded in 1902, making it one of the oldest courses in Tasmania. A bowling green can be found at the rear of the Ex-Servicemen's and Women's Club and the Oatlands Swimming Pool, located in the grounds of the old gaol, is open from December to March of every year.

As a major service centre for the Southern Midlands region, Oatlands is perfectly positioned to accommodate all your travel needs, including an online Access Centre which can be found at the Oatlands branch of the State Library situated in the school grounds, a Multi-Purpose Health Centre with 24 hour emergency services, and a supermarket.



Attractions



	HERITAGE
	The Callington Mill complex: an enduring symbol of our enterprising colonial past, faithfully restored to full working order.
	The Supreme Court House : one of the oldest Supreme Court Houses in Australia.
	The Military Precinct : a unique insight into Oatlands' foundation and why it nearly became the capital of Van Diemen's Land.
	The Commissariat . The oldest remaining building of the Military Precinct, once housing all of the stores and provisions for the military and convicts.
	Historic buildings — the largest collection of Georgian architecture in Australia.
	Three historic churches , including the Pugin-designed St Paul's Catholic Church.


	TOURS AND HISTORY
	Visitors and locals can register and obtain a free Oatlands Key from participating businesses displaying the logo, allowing self-guided tours of the buildings. The Oatlands Key system allows access to the following Southern Midlands Council-operated heritage buildings in Oatlands: 1828 Commissariat, 1829 Oatlands Supreme Court House and 1836 Oatlands Gaoler's Residence.
	Self Guided Walking Brochure Tours : discover the fascinating stories behind Oatlands and its captivating buildings and landscape by grabbing a self guided map and exploring Oatlands at your own pace.
	Visit the Oatlands District Historical Society for a first-hand glimpse into Oatlands' past through displays and images. Entry is by gold coin donation.




Activities

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	SPORTING
	Golf: one of the oldest courses in Australia, established in 1902. It is a picturesque public course with 9 holes.
	Walking and bike riding: Oatlands has all the facilities suited to walking and bike riding. Bikes can be hired from Callington Mill. The Lake Dulverton Walking Track is a great place to take a leisurely stroll.

	NATURE
	Bird watching at Lake Dulverton Wildlife Sanctuary.
	Take a nature walk along the Lake Dulverton foreshore.
	Relax with a picnic or barbecue by the lake.
	Fishing: sit back and wait for the fish to bite at Lake Dulverton.

	SHOPPING
	Take a stroll along the High Street and discover the wonderful galleries, shops and eateries .



History



The Southern Midlands Council would like to acknowledge the five clans of the Big River Tribe — the Lairmairrener Pairrener, Braylwunyer, Brayhelukequonne, Melukerde, Leenowwenne people — who managed and shaped the landscape of the area for over 60,000 years. Today Aboriginal people still have a deep cultural connection to country whose art, dance, stories, oral histories and songlines brought this place into being.

‘A very eligible situation for a town,’ said Governor Lachlan Macquarie while passing through the district during a visit to Van Diemen’s Land (later named Tasmania) in 1811. He went on to add that the vicinity was ‘well watered and in the midst of rich fertile country’. Apparently the area reminded Macquarie of the grain-producing regions of Scotland, so ten years later, on 3 June 1821, he chose an appropriate name for the district, Oatlands, from oat-lands.

Until 1825 the Governor of New South Wales was theoretically in charge of Van Diemen’s

Land, with local administration falling to a Lieutenant-Governor who acted with a great deal of autonomy. Once control of the colony was made independent, the new Governor of Van Diemen’s Land, George Arthur, began to put Macquarie’s plan into action.

The early settlement of Oatlands included a military detachment of H.M. 3rd Regiment of Foot (Bufs) who were stationed there in 1825. In 1827 Governor Arthur decided to mark out streets and clear scrub and trees at the Oatlands village site. Farmers had been settling the region for some time and tradespeople were setting up business, having been encouraged to settle in the area by the previous Lieutenant-Governor. Arthur also sent a larger contingent of the Royal Staff Corps to police the district, particularly to look after the 35 skilled tradespeople who were establishing the village. As the need for the Corps diminished, they were disbanded and many of the men finished up settling at Oatlands. Of these men, some were experienced stonemasons and carpenters, and

Self-guided tours

Oatlands offers visitors a number of self-guided tours to enjoy at their own pace.

THE MILITARY PRECINCT AT OATLANDS



The township of Oatlands grew up around the Military Precinct. This walking tour takes the visitor around the key military sites of Oatlands, including the Supreme Court House, the Gaol, the Commissariat Store and the Old Barracks. Each site has interpretation on site. Visitors and locals can register and obtain a free **Oatlands Key** from participating businesses displaying the logo, allowing self-guided tours of the buildings.



Aside from offering the opportunity to visit the historic buildings, visitors will also be able to view the archaeological and heritage collection items on display as well as information panels telling the history of the site. A map is provided, enabling visitors to easily navigate the short distance between the buildings.

STREET TOUR OF OATLANDS



With the largest collection of Georgian buildings in Australia, Oatlands displays numerous early examples of architecture constructed out of timber, brick and sandstone. Using the text on pages 10 to 26 of this booklet, take a walk along the main street of Oatlands, High Street, detour down the side streets, and gain a fascinating insight into our past through buildings that have stood the test of time.

Today, the township of Oatlands, with a population of approximately 600, continues to be the rural service centre of the Southern Midlands district. Since early settlement, Oatlands' main industry has been primary production. The Municipality of Oatlands was proclaimed in 1861 and remained until the Local Government Amalgamations in April 1993, in which the old Oatlands Municipality together with the Green Ponds Municipality became the Southern Midlands Council, with a population of approximately 5,800.

Lake Dulverton

Oatlands stands on the shore of Lake Dulverton, previously known as Little Lagoon, the less than flattering Stinking Lagoon and later Lake Frederick. Once a popular fishing area and host to many aquatic events, Lake Dulverton has often been recorded as being dry over the past 180 years, the longest documented dry occurring recently between 1994 and 2009.

The lake covers 233 hectares, with approximately 1 hectare of the lake filled using bore water and contained by a bund wall. This area has been re-stocked with trout for fishing and to encourage the return of native birds to the wildlife sanctuary. There is a leisurely walking track around the foreshore of the lake, dotted with seats and picnic tables. The small island, which covers just over a hectare in Lake Dulverton, was granted to Mary Anstey (wife of Thomas Anstey, the Police Magistrate), by Governor Arthur as a picnic ground, hence its name Mary's Island.

Find out about the cows in the lake — and catch sight of one — when you visit Lake Dulverton.



8 their work can still be admired in some of the village's old buildings.

Before the Corps were removed from Oatlands a gaol and houses for staff were built, along with accommodation for the chain gang who were building the Main Road between Hobart and Launceston. The convicts working on the road were said to be 'well behaved and decorous', credit for which was given to first Police Magistrate, Thomas Anstey. It was said of Anstey that he was strict but genial and had a kind heart.

By 1829, several 'very respectable' people had applied to the government for building blocks in Oatlands, and a local brewery was under construction. With an abundance of good cheap building material close at hand, including stone sourced from quarries around Oatlands, one of which is still operating today, and clay for brick-making from nearby Burbury's Hill, buildings went up quickly. Much of Oatlands development took place in the 1830s and today many residents of the town still live in these historic buildings.

In 1832, the first proper survey of the town was undertaken by Surveyor William Stanley Sharland who, in a fit of enthusiasm, marked out over 50 miles and 400 acres of streets, visualising Oatlands as the capital city of Tasmania. It failed to eventuate; however, despite this, Oatlands remains one of the finest examples of an historic village with the greatest number of Georgian buildings in Australia.

Street tour



1 High Street

In the 20th century, the property operated as a service station, hence the 'Plume' sign still visible on the side of the outbuildings ('Plume' was a well-known brand of kerosene).

12 HIGH STREET

The Manse was built in 1860 by George Wilson for his daughter and her husband, the Reverend Lachlan Mackinnon Campbell, first Presbyterian Minister of the Campbell Free Church.

Uniting Church, 30 High Street



30 HIGH STREET

Formerly the Campbell Free Church which opened in 1856, this church had to be rebuilt after the spire of the original church crashed during a storm, destroying much of the church beneath it. The current church was rebuilt from the remains of the original, with the foundation stone being laid in 1859.

CORNER HIGH STREET AND STANLEY STREET (39 STANLEY STREET)

The house itself is a fairly standard colonial cottage. What makes it unusual is that the house sits on footings carved into the sandstone

Corner High and Stanley streets



bedrock of Oatlands, creating ready-made steps which lead out onto the street. This is one house that will never need underpinning!

40 HIGH STREET

Surrounded by historic gardens, this house was built around 1839 by Oatlands Police Magistrate John Whitefoord. An emigrant from Scotland, Whitefoord was a very capable lawyer but also a divisive figure within Oatlands. Endless accusations of corruption swirled around Whitefoord in the late 1830s, particularly around his dubious relationship with George Dudfield, himself a notorious figure. In 1836, Whitefoord narrowly avoided conviction for theft after a letter was stolen from a colonial newspaper editor (the letter in question contained wild allegations about Whitefoord's supposed corruption).



Above: 40 High Street

High Street

1 HIGH STREET

Now a private house, this building was originally a coaching inn known as the Wardour Castle. Innkeeper Edmund White provided his inn as a meeting space for the Oatlands Races committee as well as numerous public balls. White was also known for stretching the licensing rules, with one customer in 1854 resisting arrest for after-hours drinking with the words, "Surely you won't stop me now, I've come seven miles for this!"

12 High Street



Left: 32 High Street

12 In later years, Holyrood House has been a grammar school and for many years a doctor's residence.

43 HIGH STREET

In the days before the Midlands Highway bypass, Oatlands had several service stations, including this one. Now it is home to Bagdad Pottery, a decades-old business which retails from the iconic Salamanca Market in Hobart.

47 HIGH STREET

This sandstone shop and residence was known until 1890 as Wright's Butchery. In 1896, William Fisher acquired the building and added the extension which now houses the dining room and shop. The building later became a general store, an antiquarian bookshop, and for a time housed the Department of Agriculture. Calder's map of 1846 shows a small stone building on this site which appears to be part of the present-day outbuildings at the rear of the shop. The quaint stables at the rear are of typical nineteenth century design, and would have been absolutely essential for any retail business in the age before motor vehicles.

47 High Street



64 High Street

48 HIGH STREET

Built by John Baker, this stone-fronted cottage is shown on Surveyor Sharland's 1832 map, making it one of the oldest buildings in Oatlands. In 1837 it was purchased by Chief District Constable Thomas Salmon, who had emigrated from England in 1816. In 1829, Salmon married Mary Bailey from New Norfolk, and the couple went on to have ten children. Thomas passed away in 1868.

50 HIGH STREET

This land was originally owned by District Surgeon Dr Frederick Park. Calder's 1846 map shows a wooden building on this site, which is thought to be William Fisher's general store. From 1873 to 1886 the sandstone building housed the Oatlands Grammar School. As

can be seen from the varying styles of stonework, the banking chamber was a later addition. Over the years, this was home to the Commercial Bank, the ES & A Bank, and the ANZ Bank until its closure in 2014.

54 HIGH STREET

As can be seen from the frontage, this supermarket was originally a movie theatre. Built in the 1920s by the Jones family, the Roxy Talkies were the place to be on a Saturday night in Oatlands from the 1920s onwards.

60 HIGH STREET

Erected in 1832 by James McEwan, the Kentish Hotel was originally known as the Inverary Castle. At the time, McEwan offered excellent stabling, feed for bullocks, and "a very large stock of the choicest wines and liquors". Much of the original inn can still be seen under the 1920s additions. Some locals recall that a keg was kept under the verandah for free tastings.

61 HIGH STREET

Built in the 1890s, this building was once identical to the Ross post office. Architects in the 1950s decided that the post office needed a new frontage to let in more light. Sadly the alterations let out most of the character; however, the superb quality stonemasonry can still be seen on the untouched sides of the building.

64 HIGH STREET

Built in 1926 for the Commercial Bank, this building has long since outlived its original function, but the styling of the 1920s/ Federation era remain. The banking chamber was known for its finely-crafted Tasmanian blackwood interior.



Original plans of the Commanding Officer's Quarters, ca 1835 (Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office)



The Roxy Talkies, ca 1930 (Oatlands District Historical Society)

66 HIGH STREET

Built as a residence around 1881, additions were made in the early 1900s to accommodate Dando's Pharmacy. The pharmacy was also home to Mr Heane, Dentist.

69 HIGH STREET

Hidden away behind retail buildings and the council chambers is one of the most significant buildings in Oatlands. Built in 1828 by the Royal Staff Corps, this house accommodated the Officer Commanding the Troops in Oatlands. Jorgen Jorgenson in 1829 described it as a being "furnished in a superior style ... with one of the finest mantelpieces in the colony". Stables were located behind the house, with a plot set aside for the officer's garden. Following the departure of the last commandant in 1851, the building was used as a school and eventually sold into private ownership.

continued on page 16

ENTER HERE

Pick up an Oatlands Key to gain access to:

- Commissariat
- Supreme Court House
- Gaoler's Residence



- LEGEND**
- Public toilets
 - Picnic area with free barbecue
 - Fishing
 - Birdwatching
 - Golf
 - Carpark
 - Petrol station
 - Campervan/motorhome stopover
 - Dump point for sullage
 - Boat ramp
 - Police station
 - Midlands Multi-Purpose Health Centre (24 hrs)
 - ATM
 - Online Access Centre in library
 - Church
 - Topiary



Oatlands Town Hall,
71 High Street

71 HIGH STREET

William Henry Lord designed the town hall which was built by a W. Duncan using local stone from the Fysh brothers quarry. Built in what was formerly the commandant's garden, the Town Hall opened in September 1881. Over the years, the town hall has become the centre of community life. Right from the start, it was used as the venue for dances, bazaars and fundraising activities. By the 1920s, it also housed a library and reading room, billiard room and assembly rooms. In addition to this, Courts of Petty Sessions were held in the Council Chambers.

72 HIGH STREET

This land was granted to Oatlands entrepreneur John Robinson in 1836. Initially Robinson built a comfortable weatherboarded dwelling, but by the 1870s, shops had been added to either side of the building. On the left (southern) side was John Barwick, Saddler & Harnessmaker, and on the right, a chemist's shop run by F.S. Drake.

73 HIGH STREET

Built on the location of the 1827 Soldiers Barracks (and later Probation Station), the old Oatlands Area School was opened in March



The Midlands Dispensary as it stood in 1876 (Tasmanian Archive & Heritage Office)

1886. Originally the school included living quarters upstairs for the headmaster. Those rooms have been lost to later alterations, but the outline of the windows can still be seen in the façade. The stone walls at the rear of the block are the last remnants of the Oatlands Probation Station, a facility which housed a 100-strong gang of convicts during the 1840s. The Oatlands probation gang were notorious for laziness and insolence — on one occasion, 18 men in a single day were charged with rioting and “insubordination”.

78 HIGH STREET

This antique store is housed in the old Button Brothers (hardware and general) store, built in the 1880s and fitted with cedar shelves

and fittings. The original design included a substantial verandah on High Street, which was wiped out in a car accident in 1975. A tannery once operated from the rear of the premises.

79 HIGH STREET

The whitewashed sandstone building at the top of this block is the original Oatlands Commissariat Store. Built 1828 by members of the Oatlands chain gang, overseen by Lt Vachelle of the Royal Staff Corps, the Commissariat was key to the survival of Oatlands in the first few years of its existence. The primary role of the Commissariat was to store the rations, clothes, tools and weapons necessary for a convict outpost. In 1830, stores for Governor Arthur's 'Black Line' operation



Commissariat's Store and Guard House, 79 High Street

These before-and-after photographs show the restoration of the 1828 Commissariat Store. The work required a range of traditional skills, and employed carpenters, sawyers, shingle splitters and stonemasons.

Now available to visit with the Oatlands Key.





82 High Street



86 High Street

against Tasmanian Aborigines were distributed from here.

The site was acquired by Southern Midlands Council in 2013 and a major restoration and conservation program was undertaken, resulting in the preserved site as you see it now.

Access available via Oatlands Key.



81 HIGH STREET

This little corner building was for many years a butchery shop and residence. At one point it housed a branch of the Commercial Bank of Tasmania. A close look at the boards above the windows shows the shadows of signwriting from decades ago.

82 HIGH STREET

Built in 1837 by Joseph McEwan, this house was once known as Musgrove Cottage. Its main claim to fame is that the Irish political

prisoner Kevin O'Doherty stayed here for a while in 1848. Later in the nineteenth century the cottage served as a girls' school and bank branch.

83 HIGH STREET

Now the site of a modern police station, this was once the Oatlands Hotel, a substantial sandstone hotel which was very similar to the Midland Hotel on the opposite side of the road. The Oatlands Hotel was run by Samuel Page, best known for his coaching service between Hobart and Launceston.

84 HIGH STREET

Built in 1858 and leased by a saddler from London for many years, it later became a general store. Shortly before the Second World War, the premises became a shoemaker's shop. The original shopfront was removed in the 1960s to make way for a takeaway shop.

85 HIGH STREET

The Stables were built as part of Samuel Page's Oatlands Hotel complex. Upon opening the hotel in 1839, Page promoted the quality of accommodation and availability of "good Stabling and experienced Ostlers". Page was a talented entrepreneur, and by 1853 he had developed a coaching service from Hobart to Launceston (through Oatlands of course). Three coaches ran each way daily, requiring over 300 horses and three main fodder stations. Fares ranged from 5 shillings for outside seats to £5 for the more comfortable inside seats. Over the years, Samuel Page also became a major figure in Tasmania's horse-racing industry, using the skills he had acquired running the coaches.

86 HIGH STREET

Raffah is a house with a long and chequered past. Built around 1840 as a substantial stone shopfront and residence above, Raffah was home to Samuel Loone's pharmacy and quack medicine business. From here he sold "Loone's Magic Linament". Mr Loone assured the public that his compound (available only at Oatlands) would cure rheumatism, backache, neuralgia and frostbite (and a long list of other illnesses

88 High Street

besides). Later, the shop became James Burrill's drapery store, which was destroyed by fire in 1914. All that remained were the outer walls and chimneys, but this did not deter the owner from rebuilding (hence the strange height of the chimneys). Renamed Raffah after the fire, the house later became a private maternity hospital run by Mrs Nell Gane; many local people were born here until the hospital's closure in the 1940s. Today it is a private residence.

87 HIGH STREET

This colonial cottage was built by John Robinson in 1836. An enterprising character, Robinson opened a general store in Oatlands in 1831, and expanded to become a dealer in wine and spirits in 1835 (advising the people of Oatlands that he could supply all their Wine and Spirits, in any quantity). He also opened a tannery at the rear of the premises, and late in 1836 began a bakery. As his business and family grew, Robinson added an extra wing to the cottage in about 1840. The French doors and internal joinery of the cottage are built to a very high standard.

In the early twentieth century, the cottage became accommodation for the Oatlands Council Clerk.

Oatlands ca 1880: on the right, Raffah before the fire, and on the left, Oatlands Hotel (Southern Midlands Council)



20 88 HIGH STREET

The former Midland Hotel stands on land granted to James Weeding, who built two houses, including the rough field stone cottage which forms the oldest part of the hotel. This section operated as the Lake Frederick Inn until 1834, when George Aitcheson opened an inn of the same name on the other side of the road. In 1855, William Barwick purchased half of Weeding's 1829 grant and started work on the Midland Hotel. The new hotel was built on a grand scale, and offered travellers a high standard of accommodation. At the time it was described by newspapers as "a flattering example of what honest industry and perseverance can effect ... centrally situated, it commands a view of the whole town and for miles around". Barwick opened the hotel in January 1856, advising the public that he could offer "a liberal table", superior wines and spirits, ale in wood and bottle, and private apartments for families.

In 1861, the new Municipality of Oatlands was declared from the front steps of the Midland Hotel. Recent conservation works revealed many layers of signwriting above the door; if you look closely, you can make out the names of old licensees and offers to buy skins of all kinds.

90A HIGH STREET

These stables were built in 1858 as part of William Barwick's Midland Hotel complex. At the time, Barwick advertised that he had stabling for 40 or 50 horses, a claim that seems justified by the massive size of the stables. This was not unusual in a time when horses were the main form of transport.

Barwick also claimed to have the best ostlers (grooms) available, a claim which was not entirely justified by the facts. One of the first ostlers was caught stabbing a customer's horse with a fork (he didn't like the customer).



90 High Street

He was replaced by 88-year-old Thomas Hayes, who, under the influence of alcohol, stole the district constable's horse from the Midland Hotel stables, rode it to Jericho and there left it in a paddock to graze. Despite his advanced age, the ostler was sentenced to three month's imprisonment; it perhaps didn't help that the horse belonged to a policeman.

90 HIGH STREET

In January 1860, William Barwick, owner of the adjacent Midland Hotel, began work on the Oatlands Emporium (now the Oatlands Pharmacy). Opened with great fanfare in December 1860, the Emporium was "stocked with an extensive and varied assortment of the

92 High Street



best quality Drapery, Hosiery, Dresses, Farming Implements and Patent Medicines" as well as "baby linen and dresses of every description and pattern". Barwick also had a grain store at the rear of the premises.

Later in the nineteenth century, the building was used as a school, and later a residence. Perhaps the best remembered tenant is Mr A.S. Burrill, who ran a bookmaking business here in the early 20th century.

91 HIGH STREET

As can be seen above, hotels in the nineteenth century often changed their names (which is why the Midlands Hotel is opposite the former Midland Hotel). This hotel has been an inn since 1837, and if you look carefully, you can still see some of the original stonework and string course hiding under the 20th century additions.

92 HIGH STREET

This residence was built on land granted to James Weeding in about 1832. Originally it had a separate kitchen and stables, and it may have operated in the early 1830s as the Lake Frederick Inn. In the 1840s, Mrs Weeding leased the building to the colonial government to be used

99-103 High Street



as a hospital. Later in the nineteenth century it became a girls' school.

93 HIGH STREET

Originally part of the Callington Mill complex, John Jubilee Vincent ran a bakery from here, selling bread made from flour ground at the mill. Later it became Coop's Meat Bazaar under the management of butcher Henry Coop, and also served as Oatlands Post Office before the construction of the present day Post Office. Now a private residence.

96 HIGH STREET

Purchased by a local entrepreneur in 1844, Hayward House became John Robinson's headquarters, from where the people of Oatlands could purchase an astonishing array of products, from ladies' gloves to farm implements. At the time, there were at least four general stores in Oatlands supplying similarly broad ranges of products. Today it is a private residence.

99-103 HIGH STREET

This inn complex was built by ex-convict George Aitcheson in 1833. Aitcheson was transported

22 for housebreaking in 1819, but prospered in Van Diemen's Land (he also built the now demolished York and Albany Inn). This inn consisted of a considerable complex, including stables, coach house, and workers' cottages, much of which has since been demolished. In 1834 John Jubilee Vincent (son of Callington Mill owner John Vincent) became the first licensee. Later, it was taken over by Samuel Page, who changed the name to the White Horse Inn.

102 HIGH STREET

Although much altered in the 20th century, this building originated in the 1830s as two conjoined shops built by ex-convict Thomas Burbury. Transported in 1832 for being part of a riotous crowd which burnt down a steam mill, Burbury became a policeman in Oatlands and gained notoriety for breaking up cattle-rustling gangs — and also for colluding with the same gangs. A substantial stone and brick building at the rear is said to have been a morgue, run by the town barber and undertaker. His wife, Mrs Fysh, sold lollies from one of the shops.

104 HIGH STREET

Built by Thomas Burbury in 1838, this was his main residence in Oatlands. Later it operated as a changing station for horses on the coach route between Hobart and Launceston.



124-138 High Street

110 HIGH STREET

George Wright purchased this block in 1845 for £75, and immediately set about building a cottage, stables, blacksmith's shop, and carpenter's workshop. In 1849, Wright sold the property to William Walter, who built the present shopfront and dwelling.

116-118 HIGH STREET

Although a common sight in towns across Tasmania, these are the only conjoined brick cottages in Oatlands. The block was originally granted to John Ryder and his wife Mary; the cottages were built in 1835. The bricks were convict-made in a nearby brickfield.

120 HIGH STREET

The cottage here dates from 1840 and was built by Elizabeth Adams, great-grand-daughter of Van Diemen's Land's first governor, David Collins. In 1857 a shop was added, with cedar shopfittings which survive to this day.

122 HIGH STREET

Robert Geary built this shop in 1921 and operated his bootmaking business from here. The Oatlands Public Pound was originally located at the rear of this property.



Cantwell's the Popular Stores (Oatlands District Historical Society)



122 High Street

124-138 HIGH STREET

This row of cottages was built on land granted to Oatlands Police Clerk Thomas Browne. The area was once known as Wapping.

Mill Lane

CALLINGTON MILL

John Vincent began work on Callington Mill in 1836. At the time it was built, Vincent's mill utilised the leading edge of windmill technology, operating two pairs of French burr stones and powered by sails with 'patent' shutters which could be opened or closed on demand by means of chains on the outside of the mill. Callington Mill operated as a wind-driven flour mill for approximately 60 years, but the business was always very dependant on grain prices — and wind. In 1846, Vincent added a steam-driven mill to capture more of the market. By the end of the century, larger steam mills rendered Callington obsolete, and the mill suffered the indignity of being used to mill animal feed. By 1914, the sails had been cut off and the ground floor of the tower was leased to a blacksmith. In 1910, a stray spark led to a fire which destroyed the cap, sails, and interior of the mill, leaving just the stone tower standing. Later this was lined with concrete and used as a water tank.

Over the last three decades, the community has rallied to restore the mill. Reconstruction was completed in 2010. The mill is now part of the Callington Mill Distillery & Visitor Centre complex.

Callington Mill, Mill Lane



Wellington Street

34 WELLINGTON STREET

This railway station served the 7 km spur line from Oatlands to Parrattah, where it joined the North–South Main Line. The spur line operated from May 1885 until June 1949.

Gay Street

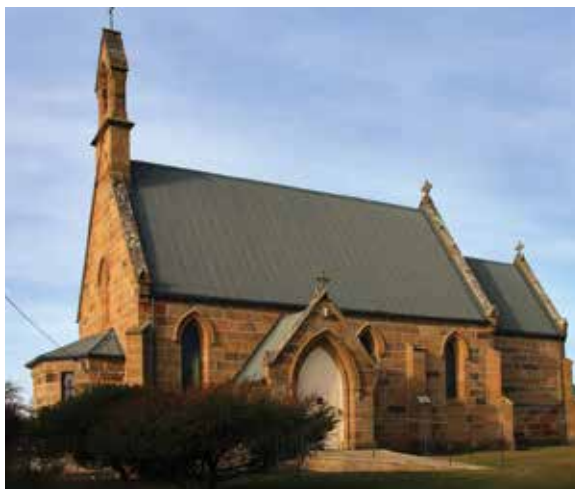
3 GAY STREET

The Independent Order of Rechabites was founded in England in 1835 as part of the temperance movement, with members pledging total abstinence from alcohol. The Rechabites got an early start in Tasmania, establishing their first 'tent' here in 1843. Over time, the Rechabites came to be more of a social institution, offering savings plans and health benefits to members. This Rechabites Hall was built by the Fysh brothers in 1876, and also served as a Sunday school for Anglicans, a temporary school, and a venue for dancing. It is now operated as a community hall.

CORNER OF GAY STREET & WILLIAM STREET

Although a beautiful church in its own right, this church has an unusual claim to fame: its architect was none other than Augustus Welby Pugin, designer of the interior of Westminster Palace and the Big Ben clock tower.

Pugin was asked by the first Catholic Bishop of New South Wales, John Bede Polding, to supply designs for a series of Australian churches. A protagonist of the Gothic Revival school of architecture, many today credit him with introducing Gothic as the primary style of church design. St Paul's is one of the last of Pugin's designs to be constructed before his untimely death in 1852 at the age of 40.



St Paul's Catholic Church, corner of Gay and William streets

St Paul's other claim to fame is that it killed one of its builders — Patrick O'Flanagan, a stonemason, who was crushed by falling masonry in July 1850. His tombstone records that he was "slain by the fall of the turret of Saint Pauls Church Oatlands".

Campbell Street

SUPREME COURT HOUSE

Built in 1829, the Court House is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Oatlands. The earliest part was constructed over the winter of 1829 by two convicts from the Oatlands chain



The Supreme Court House, Campbell Street

gang, James Macintosh and George Wood. In 1834, Colonial Architect John Lee Archer (Parliament House Hobart, St John's New Town) erected the classical frontage, and cut into the roof timbers of the 1829 court house to install a "waggon headed ceiling". Archer also added the finely carved stone mantelpiece.

From 1841 to 1863, the Supreme Court held quarterly sittings here. This meant that capital crimes could be tried here; from highway robbery to murder. Over the two decades of Supreme Court sittings here, hundreds of cases were heard, with some 18 resulting in death sentences.

Access available via Oatlands Key.



WATCH HOUSE

This is the location of the Oatlands Watch House, as can be seen by the stone walls exposed on the corner. Built in 1836, the Watch House served as Oatlands' police station for nearly a century. The building had two lock-up wards, solitary confinement cells and accommodation for the constables. It was designed by John Lee Archer.

Mason Street

GAOL

Designed by John Lee Archer (see also Court House and RSL/Watch House), the gaol was built by convicts between 1834 and 1836.

The Gaoler's Residence, Mason Street





Exterior view of the Oatlands Gaol, circa 1908 (Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office)

Accommodation was provided for up to 270 prisoners, with a high stone wall separating the male and female divisions. At its peak, this was the largest regional gaol in Van Diemen's Land. The gaol was by far the largest structure in the township, with walls 30 feet high covering the whole block (for context, this is the same height as the gaolers' residence). As a gaol, the building was a bit of a failure, as it soon proved to be easily escaped from. By the early 1920s, the gaol held just two prisoners, leading the state government to begin demolition in the early 1830s. The swimming pool was built in the original gaol yard in 1954.

Public executions were held outside the gaol gates; between 1841 and 1862, 18 men lost their lives this way.

Access available via Oatlands Key.



William Street

St Peter's Anglican Church

As early as 1828, Oatlands Magistrate Thomas Anstey had been calling for an Anglican church to be built. Initially church services were held on the back verandah of the soldiers' barracks; later, they were held in the Court House. Work on St Peter's began in 1838 following several petitions from local residents. Robert De Little

and John Lee Archer drew up the plans, with the rectory (originally two-storeyed) being built at the same time. The stonemason was George Aitcheson, who also built two of the best inns in Oatlands (the Lake Frederick and the York and Albany). To this day nobody is certain why the clock tower was never fitted with a clock.

St Peter's Anglican Church, William Street



TOWN CEMETERIES

Anglican Cemetery

Adjacent to St Peter's Anglican Church in William Street, this cemetery contains the grave of Thomas Anstey (1777–1851).

Old General Cemetery

Located on the corner of Chatham and Stanley streets, this lovely cemetery is the oldest in Oatlands, with records dating back to 1827. Successful businessman and coachman Samuel Page is buried here, the Page family have an impressive monument, as well as many convicts, soldiers and early settlers.

Wesleyan Cemetery

Opposite the Old Railway Station in Wellington Street, this site contains the

remains of the old sandstone Wesleyan Chapel, demolished in the 1960s. This picturesque site still has a number of sandstone tombstones.

Presbyterian Cemetery (Uniting Church)

This lovely cemetery is located on Chatham Street along Parattah Main Road. It contains graves dating back from the 1850s and has a number of family plots.

Catholic Church Cemetery

Situated behind a hedge of large pines in Chatham Street (behind the Old General Cemetery), it is set on Lake Dulverton's foreshore.

Uniting Church, High Street



Further afield



HERITAGE HIGHWAY

The Heritage Highway runs through the heart of Tasmania with much of the Heritage Highway touring route following the Midlands Highway (A1) — the main transport route between Tasmania's northern and southern population centres. The Midlands Highway bypasses many of the historic towns that were on the first Main Road built in 1837; however many parts of the original road can be seen from the highway and are still accessible by car. Stray from the established path and rediscover the hidden roads and buildings of Tasmania's past.

THE MAIN ROAD

During his first visit in 1811, Governor Macquarie, who is considered to be the father of Australian roads by some historians, saw the need for a road to join the northern settlement of Port Dalrymple (now George Town) to Hobart in the south. The following year he sent James Meehan, his surveyor general, to peg out and chain a main road between the two settlements, including four sites along the road as military posts. These were Launceston, Perth, Jericho and Brighton.

The Main Road took 15 years to complete, with construction finally being concluded in 1837; however it had been consistently used by travellers during its construction. The route between Launceston and Hobart took 15 hours to complete via stage coach.

HEADING NORTH FROM OATLANDS

Tunbridge

The first mail exchange on horseback took place at Tunbridge in 1816, with settlement of the area coming two years later in 1818. The area grew rapidly as work on the Main Road began, and the town became an important coaching stop between Hobart and Launceston, with three coaching inns, each associated with a different company. Tunbridge is also the site of Australia's oldest single span wooden bridge, built by convicts, and spanning the Blackman River, a rare example of a sandstone bridge with wooden decking. This bridge was used as a meeting place for Irish political exiles during the early days of settlement.

Ross

The history of Ross began in 1811 when a garrison of soldiers was established at the ford of the Macquarie River (Governor Macquarie named it after himself) to protect the development of this future town. In 1836 a stone bridge was built to span the river. It still stands today, making it the third oldest in Australia. Throughout the nineteenth century Ross was an important stopover point between Launceston and Hobart. It was a horse coach changing point, a town for the local garrison and an important destination for produce from the surrounding farms.

Campbell Town

Campbell Town was established in the 1820s as one of the chain of garrison stations between Launceston and Hobart. Today, it is the centre of the fine wool and beef cattle production industry. Of interest is the Harold Gatty Memorial. Gatty was born at Campbell Town and together with Wiley Post set the record for aerial circumnavigation in 1931. Campbell Town is also the gateway to the East Coast, Swansea and Bicheno, turning off and travelling along highway B34 towards Lake Leake, which is a popular fishing spot.

HEADING SOUTH FROM OATLANDS

Jericho

Detour slightly off the main highway to see the mud walls of Jericho, the remains of a convict probation station and the Commandant's Cottage, which was built in 1842. Settled in 1816, Jericho is one of the oldest townships in Australia. The main road of Jericho contains many fine examples of early colonial sandstone architecture and constructions, including examples of convict-cut culverts, bridges and walls, many of which date from the 1830s. Visit the former St James' Anglican Church (now the Jericho Heritage Centre) cemetery and view the grave of John Hutton Bisdee, the first Australian-born recipient of the Victoria Cross.

Kempton

Kempton, originally Green Ponds, was named after Anthony Fenn Kemp, the first settler to receive a land grant in the district. Kemp had been a key figure in the infamous NSW Rum Corps, and once in Van Diemen's Land he quickly used his position to gain control over the colony's rum trade. By fair means and foul he increased his wealth and established the grand homestead of *Mount Vernon* just north of Kempton on the Midlands Highway. Kempton once boasted a flour mill, a brewery

and numerous hotels and coaching inns which catered for the travellers of the day.

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HEADING EAST FROM OATLANDS

Colebrook

Colebrook, originally named 'Jerusalem', developed around a substantial convict probation station in the 1840s. This, and Colebrook's place on the coaching route, made it seem destined to become an important town, so much so a Pugin-designed church, St Patrick's, was built between 1855 and 1857. There are still a number of historic buildings in the area.

Campania

Campania developed for the railway which opened in 1876, on land that was previously part of the Campania Estate, owned by James Brock. The small township of Campania contains several notable examples of colonial architecture and the Flour Mill Park with its bronze sculpture is a nice place to stop for a picnic, barbecue or just a rest. For further information on historic townships in the region please visit the Oatlands Heritage Highway Visitor Centre, Mill Lane, Oatlands.

Shadow of the past bring folklore and history to life along the Heritage Highway. Keep an eye out between Tunbridge and Kempton for sixteen silhouettes. Some are quite close to the road; some are high on the hilltops. They serve as poignant reminders of early colonial life — bushrangers, convict chain gangs and travel by horse and carriage. See how many you can spot.



Useful information

30 Banks and ATMs:

ANZ Bank ATM, 56 High Street
Commonwealth Bank ATM, 61 High Street
Commonwealth Bank, 76 High Street

Fuel:

BP Service Station, 52 High Street

Hairdresser:

77 High Street

Historical Society:

107 High Street

Internet Access:

Online Access Centre, 53 High Street
Open Mon & Wed 2–5pm, Fri 10am–1pm and
2pm–5pm

Laundromat:

45 High Street

Medical:

Midlands Multi-Purpose Centre (24 hours),
13 Church Street

Pharmacy:

90 High Street

Newsagency:

65 High Street

Police Station:

83 High Street
For emergencies please dial 000

Postal Service:

Australia Post, 61 High Street

Public Toilets:

Public toilets are located at the rear of
the Town Hall, 71 High Street, and on
the foreshore of Lake Dulverton, on the
Esplanade.

Southern Midlands Council/ Service Tasmania:

71 High Street

Supermarket:

IGA 54 High Street

