

16. Ramsay's Store (site)

Timber merchant John McDairmid Ramsay built his hardware store and residence here on Wharf Street.

His daughter Kathleen took over the store and her incredible range of stock was known far and wide. After a fire in the 1930s the shop was replaced by what had been previously been the Odd Fellows Hall.

17. Waterfront Precinct (site)

The waterfront area within the present Anzac Park and Market Park was the heart of the port from 1877.

Located here was the Customs Office, Bond Store, Divisional Board's Office, tramway station, loco repair buildings and wharf. Here also were Jack & Newell's and Walsh & Co's. wharves and Customs boat sheds.

18. St. Mary's by the Sea ★

The second Catholic church building now stands on the site of the tramway workshop. It was relocated to the waterfront precinct in 1988 and restored by the Port Douglas Restoration Society.

Known today as St. Mary's-by-the-Sea it is used for multi-denominational services, weddings and funerals.

19. Douglas Shire Council "Sugar" Wharf

A 1878 stone jetty at the northern end of Wharf Street serviced shipping that anchored in deeper water – always uncomfortable for passengers rowed ashore.

In 1905 Douglas Shire Council built a new wharf to accommodate regular coastal steamers, later to be used for storage and export of bagged Mossman sugar.

20. Caledonian Hotel (site)

Robert McLean built a large two storey hotel near the bustling wharves of the port in 1886. Having survived the 1911 cyclone it was destroyed by fire in 1918.

Photos taken from the upper verandah of this hotel showing before and after scenes of the 1911 cyclone dramatically illustrate the utter township devastation.

21. Douglas Divisional Board Wharf ("The Tin Shed")

Built during the late 1890's the present building is one half of two similar sheds used to store and load bagged sugar brought by rail from the Mossman Central Mill after the mill's construction in 1897.

Douglas Shire Council's new 1905 wharf later assumed this service with less need for dredging.

22. Port Douglas Pioneer Cemetery

This cemetery was gazetted at the regulation one mile (1.6 km) from habitation and the earliest headstone is that of a 21 year old cedar getter who died in 1878.

Here also lies Billy Thomson "who met his death by cruel and treacherous murder."

The story of Billy, and his wife Ellen who became the only woman to be hanged in Queensland in 1887, is brought to life in the Court House Museum in Wharf Street. ①



We can arrange guided tours for groups of six or more.

Please ☎ 07 4099 1575 for availability and times.

★ Stars denote Queensland Heritage Registered places.

★ Stars denote other existing significant heritage places.

At a leisurely pace, this tour should take about two hours overall. The total distance starting and finishing at the same location is about four kilometres. It is recommended that water be carried at all times.

Useful telephone numbers:

Port Douglas Taxi ☎ 131 008

Emergency ☎ 000



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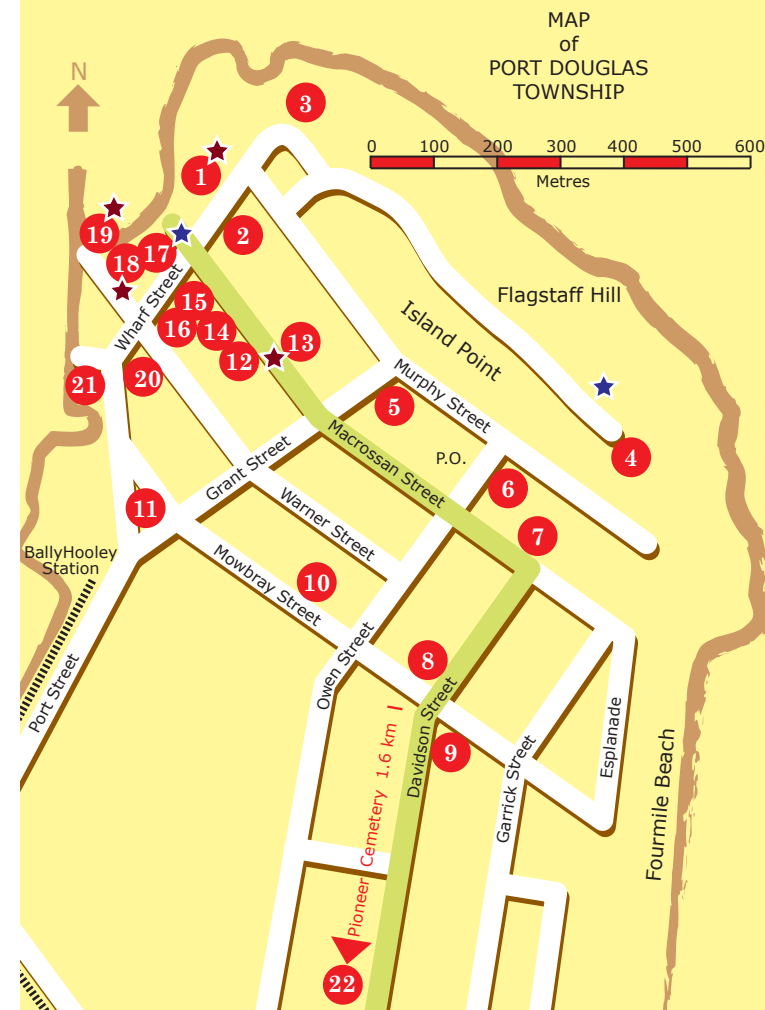
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Neil Ware May 2019

Stroll Back through Time in the Port Douglas Village

with the Douglas Shire Historical Society



We suggest that you start your tour here and carry some water.

1. Former 1879 Port Douglas Court House ★

This building is now the Douglas Shire Historical Society's Museum featuring Ellen Thomson, the only woman to be hanged in the State of Queensland. 1887

Open 10 am to 1 pm – Tue, Thu, Sat & Sun.

2. St. Andrew's Anglican Church (*site*)

Opposite the Court House Museum is the second site of the rebuilt Anglican Church and residence. The original church was destroyed by a cyclone in 1911.

This building was demolished in the 1970s and a new church was built at the southern end of Port Douglas township known as Reef Park.

3. Former Flagstaff Hill Lighthouse

The lighthouse was the second to be built on this site and has now been replaced by a light on the communications tower further up the hill.

This acetylene (gas) light was more powerful than the first wooden lighthouse of 1878 with its kerosene lamp. The old concrete base foundation is adjacent.

4. Flagstaff Hill Lookout & Signal Flagstaff

After a moderate climb to the top of Flagstaff Hill an extensive view is gained of the eastern end of Port Douglas, Fourmile Beach, Mowbray River (of "Bump" fame), and the coastal range toward Black Mountain.

★ *Note the flagstaff, first used to signal shipping arrivals and which flew its flag again on Anzac Day 2018.*

5. St. Mary's Catholic Church (*site*)

The original Roman Catholic church was built on this site in 1881 and destroyed in the 1911 cyclone – the replacement became the second St. Mary's in 1914.

The 1878 Roman Catholic chapel was relocated from the western end of Flagstaff Hill, renovated and converted to serve as the presbytery on this site.

6. Former 1879 State School No. 334

It is uncertain whether this building or the Court House qualifies as the oldest survivor of the Port Douglas township since they both came into use at almost the same time - November 1879.

The building's exterior is mostly original but the internal space has been modified as a private residence.

7. Rutherford's Corner (*site*)

George Rutherford had his chemist shop and family residence in this strategic location at the entry to the township near the junction of Macrossan Street and Davidson Street .

A man of many paramedical talents, he was called to give evidence in the case against Ellen Thomson.

8. The Red Road (Davidson Street)

Port Douglas is built on a number of parallel sand ridges between the coastal mountain range and Flagstaff Hill deposited over extended geological time.

One ridge served as the road into the town and the red soil removed from excavation of building sites in Macrossan Street was used to overlay the soft sand.

9. Former Port Douglas Hospital (*site*)

On what was originally the southern limits of the town, this country hospital supported the entire region.

In 1930 Port Douglas hospital staff and patients were transferred to a new hospital built at Mossman.

The building was removed after 50 years of service.

10. Former Mossman Court House [Clink Theatre]

This former 1932 Mossman court house building replaced a room in Mossman's police barracks that had served as the court since the late 1890s.

In 1992 it was, in turn, replaced and the court room and lockup ("clink") were brought to Port Douglas.

11. Faugh-a-Ballagh Loco & Carriage

The Divisional Board's first loco Faugh-a-Ballagh was purchased in 1900 for use on the Board's 2 foot gauge tramway between Port Douglas and Mossman.

During the year 1900 the tram travelled 5,807 miles and carried 23,062 passengers. It continued to haul bagged sugar from the Mossman mill until 1957.

12. Bank of New South Wales (*site*)

The Bank of New South Wales, was amongst the first banks in Port Douglas to service the gold fields, and opened on 17 October 1878. It closed in June 1896.

It was reported that the gold escort left Georgetown for Port Douglas taking 3,217oz. for the Bank of New South Wales – Brisbane Courier Friday, 18 July 1879.

13. Exchange Hotel (*site*) & Carstens' Memorial ★

The two storey Mining Exchange or Exchange as it became known was built by William McMahan in 1878 and was the largest of the town's early hotels.

Later owned by F.D.A. Carstens, champion of the Port Douglas to Mossman tramway, his memorial marble column ★ is opposite in a mid-street enclosure.

14. North Australian Hotel (Central Hotel)

Denis O'Brien is listed as hotel keeper of the North Australian in Willmet's Almanac of Queensland from 1878. It was originally called the Reefer's Arms in keeping with the port's gold mining association.

The two storey building of today replaces the single storey hotel destroyed by the big cyclone of 1911.

15. Buchanan's Family Hotel (Court House Hotel)

William Buchanan built his hotel on this highly desirable corner location in 1878 and changed its name with the opening of the Court House in 1879.

The original single storey hotel on Macrossan Street was damaged by the 1911 cyclone and rebuilt together with this abutting two storey building (modified 2000).