

Heritage Walking Tour of

Narellan



Hume Highway Narellan (now Camden Valley Way) looking west towards Camden in the 1940's. The Northern Road turnoff is in the middle distance on the right.

Narellan as a village was surveyed and staked out by Robert Hoddle in 1827. It was planned on land originally granted to John Oxley.

At the time Camden as a town was not in existence. Narellan was an important stop on the Great South Road (now Camden Valley Way) for those who were travelling to Southern NSW and Victoria. Stage coaches and travellers could stop in one of the many inns or sly grog shops for sustenance and Narellan was a popular stop for breakfast.

The name Narellan is believed to have been derived from William Hovell's nearby property "Narralling" which is believed to be the aboriginal name for the area.

Present day Narellan still follows the original plan of 1827 fairly closely, although in recent times the 'centre of town' has been relocated to the east and many historic buildings have been lost in the name of progress. Only a few early buildings remain.

This walking tour takes in these historic sites which are all within an approximate thirty minute walk from The Old St Thomas Chapel.

1. The Old St Thomas Chapel Hall

1A Wilson Crescent

On the 10th November 1839 the first Church was officially opened. This building was to serve the Anglican community at Narellan until 1884 and became known as the School Church. Built by the Reverend Thomas Hassall it was used as a schoolroom



on weekdays and a church on Sunday. The form of the 1839 building was a simple rectangle when built. It then had several additions made to it including the end bay with two gothic windows, the rendering to the walls to simulate stonework, a brick skillion wing to the west and an eastern verandah with closed end storerooms. The school church is now the studio of Handprint Photography.

2. The Old St Thomas Chapel

1A Wilson Crescent

Formerly St Thomas' Anglican Church

Not long after the School Church was built, the Parish of Narellan wanted



to build a new church to house the growing population. The first subscriptions for the new church were taken at a parish council meeting on the 22nd April 1856, with most of the sizeable donations coming from the "Cobbitty Squires" Charles Cowper and John Oxley. Total promissaries from the meeting totalled £117.6.0 and a building committee was formed.

At a building committee meeting on the 20th September 1857, Reverend Hassall vetoed the plans for the new church and rejected all brickmaking tenders that had been received in his absence. At his insistence it was moved all funds collected thus far should be applied to the "repair of the Church School House at Narellan and that Reverend T. Hassall be treasurer." With the church funds safely in Reverend Hassall's hands there was no further discussion of a new church until 1868 after Hassall's death and the appointment of the new incumbent Reverend A.W. Pain. It was not until Rev. Pain took over the ministry that plans for a new church were taken seriously.

In April 1879 architect Edmund Blacket provided sketches of the new church. The sandstone structure would rival St Paul's at Cobbitty, however a check of the building fund showed that the Parish could not afford to build the whole church entirely from sandstone so Mr Blacket was requested to amend his design and replace most of the sandstone with brickwork.

Although the church building was designed by Edmund Blacket in 1879 it was not finished until after his death. On Friday 30th May 1884 the foundation stone was laid by Miss Hassall, daughter of the first incumbent Rev Thomas Hassall. The church building was completed at the end of 1884 and was opened by Bishop Barry on the 16th of September of that same year. The church is now accessed via Wilson Crescent but was designed to face Camden Valley Way, at the end of a planned - but not formed street named "Church Street".

With considerable alterations to Blacket's original plans the final cost of the new church was estimated at £1500.

With the development of the Narellan area the congregation needed to move to larger amenities at 172 Richardson Road, The Old St Thomas Chapel is now privately owned the chapel is hired out for wedding ceremonies, christenings and funerals.

3. Camden Country Milk Depot

259 Camden Valley Way

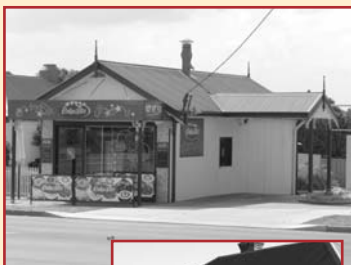
Camden Country Milk Suppliers operated from this site from the 1920's. Owned by Mr Coleman, the depot closed in 1931 following the introduction of stricter health regulations.



4. Cake Biz

269 Camden Valley Way

Owned and operated by Frank Tildsley, the butcher shop was originally constructed of timber similar to the adjacent cottage which was the family home. The butcher shop was rebuilt in 1937 to comply with hygiene laws. After many unoccupied years, Cake Biz entered the premises in 2003, modifying the



butcher style window into full length doors and adding a side awning and window.

5. Narellan Hotel

283 Camden Valley Way

Opening in 1847 as the Queen's Arms, this hotel was substantially modified c1937 and renamed Byrnes Hotel. Currently operating as the Narellan Hotel this building was substantially renovated in 2003.



6. Ben Linden

311 Camden Valley Way

The estate on which Ben Linden stands was part of a portion of land granted to Edward Lord in 1815. The house was built c1919 by George Blackmore as a residence for Miss Anne Stuckey. The building functioned as a maternity hospital. In the 1960's and in the 70's it operated as a convalescent hospital. Ben Linden is now a privately owned residence.



7. Combined Real Estate

332 Camden Valley Way

Built c1830 as the Burton Arms Inn this building was located at the entrance to Narellan town and was one of many Inns in operation during the 1830's and 40's. During its history it has been a pub, a store, an auto electric workshop and now the offices of Combined Real Estate.



8. Narellan Public School

Crn Coghill Street &
Camden Valley Way

Best viewed from Coghill Street the school opened in 1875 following the closure of the Anglican school at St Thomas' in 1874. Initially utilising a rented cottage the school house and teacher's residence was completed by January 1877.



9. Narellan Cemetery

Richardson Road

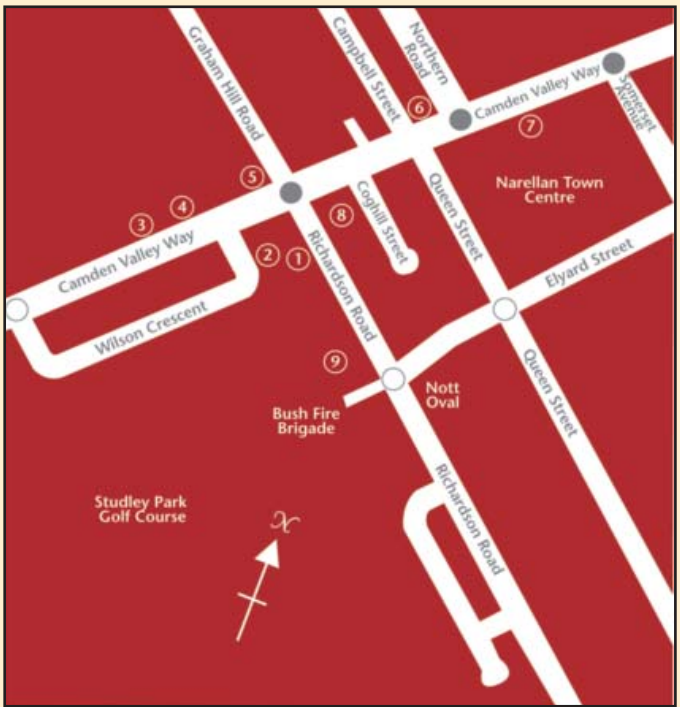
The lands for the cemetery were first marked out in 1827 by Robert Hoddle at the same time the village of Narellan was surveyed. Records and headstones show burials from the 1840's. It is thought however that the cemetery may have been in use since the 1820's particularly as transportation of the deceased to other cemeteries in the area would have been very difficult. Many Narellan pioneers are buried in the cemetery.

The cemetery is now privately owned.



*Other historic sites to see within a 30 minute drive of
The Old St Thomas Chapel*

1. Camelot - Kirkham Lane, Kirkham.
2. Kirkham Stables - Kirkham Lane, Kirkham.
3. Wivenhoe - Macquarie Grove Road, Camden.
4. Denbigh - The Northern Road, Harrington Park.
(not visible from the road)
5. Orielson - The Northern Road, Narellan.
6. Harrington Park House- Hickson Drive, Harrington Park.
7. Struggletown - Stewart Street, Narellan.
8. Sharman's Slab Cottage - Stewart Street, Narellan.
9. Studley Park Mansion - Lodges Road Narellan
10. Gledswood - Camden Valley Way Catherine Field



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- 3. Camden Area Milk Depot**
- 4. Cake Biz**
- 5. Narellan Hotel**
- 6. Ben Linden**
- 7. Combined Real Estate**
- 8. Narellan Public School**
- 9. Narellan Cemetery**



*Compiled by Kylie and Peter Lyons
with the generous assistance of :
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The Old St Thomas Chapel. Phone 4648 5680
email info@theoldstthomaschapel.com.au
www.theoldstthomaschapel.com.au