

20. Avoca State School No.4, 1878. This building was constructed following overcrowding of the first National School (Refer No.28). Designed by Henry Bastow, Avoca became the second school in Victoria built to this design.

21. Anglican Church, 1871. On the corner of Russell and Barnett Streets is the Anglican Church of St. John the Divine. This church replaced the original building in High Street, and was dedicated in December, 1871. (Refer No.38)

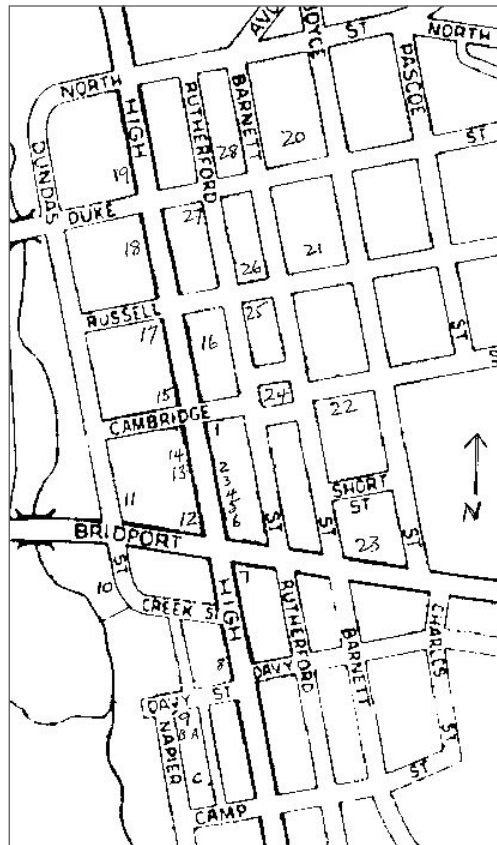
22. St. Kevin's Catholic Church, 1979. A block further along Barnett Street. The first visit of a priest to Avoca was in 1857 and the original church on this site was blessed in December, 1872. That church was demolished and replaced by the present building in 1979, retaining some of the original stained glass windows.

23. Chalmers Presbyterian Church Complex. On the corner of Bridport Street is the Scout and Guide Hall, originally part of the Chalmers Presbyterian Church. The brick church was built in 1864 and the manse was built in 1869. The last service was held on 23rd January, 1983, following the formation of the Uniting Church.

24. Shire Hall. The site for the Shire Hall and offices was reserved in June 1860. Avoca was proclaimed a town in February, 1861 and the original Town Hall was built in that year at a cost of £ 1,409.

25. Old Avoca Vicarage, 1894. On the corner of Russell and Rutherford Streets is the vicarage. It was built by William Chelley and was home to the Anglican clergy from 1917 to 1988 when a new rectory was built on the church grounds.

26. Uniting Church Complex Originally the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The complex consists of a brick church built in 1867, Sunday School Hall, 1870 and Parsonage 1871.



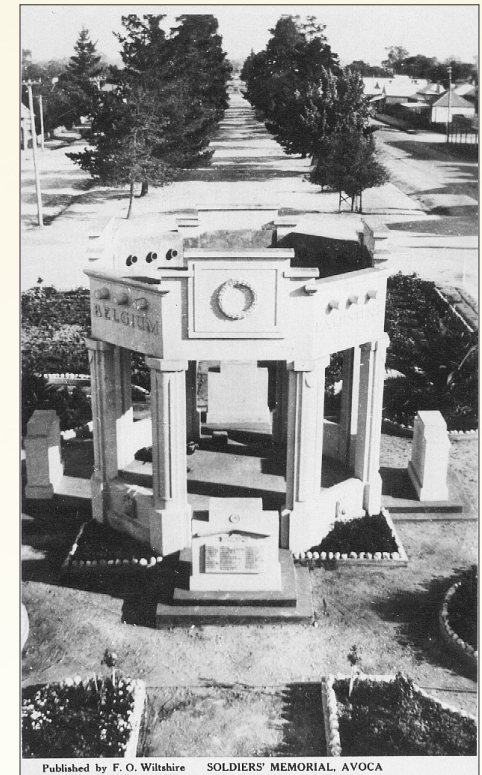
27. "Rutherford", 1860s. On the corner of Duke & Rutherford Streets, this home was built for Edmund Snell who for many years operated the General Store, which is now the IGA.

28. Former National School, 1857. The school is one of the few National Schools (also called Common Schools) in Victoria to survive. In 1872 student attendances stood at over 300. In 1878, a new school was built across the road to become the Avoca State School No. 4 (Refer No.20) Now a private residence.

Details of individual places of interest are subject to revision as new information comes to hand. Readers of this brochure who are able to suggest possible corrections or additions are welcome to contact the Historical Society at PO Box 24, Avoca VIC 3467, phone 5465 3744 or email tonyoshea@inet.net.au

AVOCA

WALKING TOUR



Published by F. O. Wiltshire SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL, AVOCA

Welcome to Historic
AVOCA
Established 1853

Walking Tour of the historic township.

1. Post Office, 1872. The first government Post Office was a timber building erected alongside the Courthouse at the Police Camp in 1860. The present building was erected in 1872. Photographs of this and many other items of interest can be seen at the Court House. (No 8)

2. Albion Hotel, 1868. The licence of this once well patronised hotel was held by eleven different publicans and owners. Avoca once boasted over eleven hotels. Now a private residence.

3. State Savings Bank, 1924. Erected as a State Savings Bank. In early 1990s was taken over by the Commonwealth Bank. Began life as a bakery in mid 1990's.

4. Holland's Store, 1866. Timothy Holland, who ran a Hay & Corn Store "opposite the Camp" obtained a Crown Grant of this "Town Lot" on 25th January, 1855 and built on it in 1866 a General Store on the north side and "Manchester House" on the south side. Now a private residence, having a garden on the south side next to the Butcher.

5. Filbey's Butchery, 1856. Opened by Filbey in 1856. Later owned by Ah Pee and Ah Kang, descendants of early goldminers. Now Pyrenees Gourmet Butchers.

6. Olive and Lavender Store 2004. Previously the "Bottom Shop" mixed business. Obviously an historic building, but earlier history not yet known. The space between here and the Pyrenees Motel corner was previously the Paramount Theatre.

7. Bank of Victoria, 1854. The building's expansive design reflects the optimism of the period. It was the sixth branch opened by the Bank of Victoria. The verandah was added when it became a private residence in 1912 after the Bank moved to new premises.

8. Avoca Court House, 1859. The court house officially closed in 1979 and is now used as the headquarters of the Avoca and District Historical Society Inc. Open Sundays from 10.30 am to 4.00pm and by appointment on (03) 5465 3744 or email at <tonyoshea@inet.net.au>.

9. Historic Precinct, 1858-1860. The whole of the area stretching to the river and bounded by High, Bridport and Camp Streets was selected in 1853 for the first police station. Known as "The Camp", the area ultimately consisted of a Police Station, Barracks, Treasury, Gaol, Court House "and all other offices incidental to the Government centre of town."

9a. Lock Up, 1867 This coursed bluestone lock up replaced the original log gaol built in 1854.

9b. Police Station/Residence, 1859 One of the few remaining public buildings to date from Avoca's early gold mining period.

9c. Powder Magazine, 1860 Built at the request of the Avoca Borough Council for the safe storage of explosives.

10. Avoca Baths c1865 was at the south end of the row of pencil pines in the present Avoca Lions Club Park. The Historical Society has a photo of the Baths building in which hot baths were available at a cost of threepence!

11. Watford House, 1854 This is a rare surviving example of a prefabricated house. Imported by C.K. Pearson, the proprietor of the Avoca Hotel, it was part of the hotel until sold for removal in 1871 when it was moved down the hill on rollers. (See No. 14)

12. Union Hotel, 1855. Gollop's Garage at the crossroads is on the site of the Union Hotel built by Neil Campbell in 1855.

13. Tea Merchant c1870 Between 1870 and 1873, this building was operated by Tea Merchant, H. Brooks. In 1886, Kate Herlihy ran a grocery and drapers store here. In the 1960's Bill Burke operated as a barber from these premises.

14. Avoca Hotel, 1872 This is one of the few businesses to have operated continuously since 1854. Its location on the site of the original 1854 Avoca Hotel gives it strong connection to the town's early goldrush days. The original timber building was moved and became what is now known as Watford House. (see No. 11)

15. Bank Of Victoria, 1912. This building was erected to continue service as the Bank of Victoria following from the former building (Refer No.7). The Bank is said to have been built on the site of an early grave of an unknown timber worker who suffered an accident in the Pyrenees Ranges. More recently it was the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney; subsequently absorbed into the National Australia Bank and closed in 2002. Now an antique furniture business.

16. Avoca War Memorial. Built by public subscription and unveiled in November 1921. Inscribed on four granite tablets are the names of 137 officers and men, 29 of whom were killed in action. Diagonally to the right of the Memorial is a tree grown from seed of the Lone Pine.

17. Lalor's Pharmacy, 1854. Believed to be the oldest building in Victoria still in use for the same purpose.

18. Kelley's Store, 1865. Established by Edward Kelley as a drapery and General Store. Known as "Parkers" haberdashery and gift store in the 1930's. Now a Hairdresser's shop.

19. Avoca Meat Market, c1856 has been a butcher shop under a number of proprietors through to the present day.