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Heritage Walk of Old Noarlunga, by Barry Maslin

I had looked forward to this walk for some time because we have lived in Old Noarlunga for almost 30 years and our ancestors would have passed through here in the 1850's. We gathered in one corner of Market Square where our guide Vanessa Catterall welcomed everyone and explained how Old Noarlunga came into being.

Noarlunga, as it was known prior to the establishment of Noarlunga Centre, was subdivided by the South Australian Company and allotments were advertised in the Adelaide press on 30 April 1840.

One can only imagine the hive of activity in Market Square in the early days as stock was bought and sold and produce was loaded onto flat bottomed boats for transport to Port Noarlunga and then onto larger ships. The Onkaparinga River was reported to be 20 feet deep nearly the whole way to the sea and the remains of a jetty are still visible.

The Harbour Master's cottage adjacent to the Mill was built in 1844 and is distinguished by a double chimney - the second was used for smoking meat.

The Mill in Hall Crescent was erected in 1844 by Messrs STEPHENS, PHILLIPS & DEHORNE and was four stories high with roof and floor of Willunga slate and bricks made on site. The walls were 2 feet thick at the base and a steam engine was used to grind the grain.

The adjacent Mill Cottages have been knocked down but were used to house the workers who worked on two shifts per day. A blacksmith's shop was situated at the corner of Hall Crescent and Patapinda Road, and was also the site of the earliest post box.

The District Hall was erected in 1881 for the local Council who previously met in the Horseshoe Inn. In 1929 the front porch and projector box was added. The Hall has been a focal point for community activity ever since and before the days of baby-sitters it was commonplace for children to bed down in the cloakroom.

The house situated at *60 Patapinda Road* was built in 1880 and has been owned by the same family since 1914. The wall almost surrounding the front verandah was built to reduce the amount of sand-bagging required during the frequent floods of yesteryear.

The former Post Office across the road was built in 1892.

The oldest part of the *Horseshoe Inn* is at the back and was built in 1840, and added to in the 1890's. Stables were located behind the Inn to service the travelling public and the mail coaches. Besides stabling and accommodation the Inn was reportedly visited by smugglers and in later years became a petrol station and restaurant before fire destroyed most of it.

The *Port Noarlunga Hotel* purchased the Horseshoe Inn liquor license in 1933. Across the road and partially set into the hillside is *the former brewery and malthouse* of Mr. W B EDMONDS built in 1850 - 1860 but derelict in 1867.

Further around the river past the ford is the *National Parks Centennial footbridge* built in 1994. This is at least the third pedestrian bridge to cross the river in this area and while previous bridges were destroyed by floods the current bridge easily survived the November 1996 flood.

The Uniting Church built in 1854 has no adjoining cemetery except for the solitary grave of John HOOPER and his daughter Mary Ann HOOPER.

The house at *6 Paringa Parade* was formerly occupied by Harry COLLINS, a seasonal worker who spent the summer at Port Noarlunga and made excellent drinks and sweets for sale.

Before European settlement Noarlunga was the home of many aborigines, with food and shelter readily available. In later years they used to sell fish and woven baskets.

HUTCHINSON Reserve was originally planned as a school site, then a public reserve, before being enclosed as the Public Pound. The reserve was named to commemorate the arrival of William & Harriet HUTCHINSON in SA in 1839.

Across the road at *28 Malpas Street* is the former Poundkeeper's House built in 1854 by a stonemason called ELLIS. In 1905 Mr FURLER was the Poundkeeper and Undertaker, using ponies borrowed from Mr DUNGEY. In the late 1950's I spent several school holidays in this house when it was owned by my Uncle Doug SPARROW.

25 MALPAS Street was a former home of our member Vivienne HILDER who recalls that some of the bricks from the Mill were used for an extension.

The Noarlunga School is built on what was a Public Reserve, the original building in 1860 and the current building in 1912. Whilst the current brick building was under construction children attended classes in the District Hall. In the school grounds are a pepper tree planted around 1860 and a majestic gum tree said to pre-date European settlement.

Land was granted in 1839 for the Forge cottage at *12 MALPAS Street*, however some doubt exists as to when the cottage was built for Michael MORRISEY the blacksmith. Five butcher shops were in business in Noarlunga before the turn of the century.

The house at *33 Patapinda Road* was originally a baker's shop built between 1840 and 1850 for a John CHAMPNEST who was also a judge at the Markets in the 1850's.

The Noarlunga Hotel was built in 1850 and originally called the Jolly Miller because of the success of the Mill at that time. The penny farthing bicycle presently painted above the entrance recalls the association with the bicycle club at Port Noarlunga.

Henry COX's 2 storey town house at *37 Patapinda Road* was built in 1840 and the upper floor was used for dances and other functions prior to the completion of the District Hall.

Next door was BALDOCK's *blacksmith shop* which was in business for over 100 years. I remember the COX building in the 1950's when it was a General Store operated by the REHN family.

45 Patapinda Road was purchased by the McDONALD family in 1910. The rear of the building is 1840's with a 1920's front and was used as a General Store and Bank Agency on Wednesdays.

48 Patapinda Road was built in 1870 and housed FURLER's Drapery.

The adjoining house at *50 Patapinda Road* was built for George MALPAS in the late 1850's and was once the Library with over 300 books. In 1928 the same allotment was the site of AMOS' market garden and descendants of the AMOS family occupy the house today. The attached shop was added in the 1950's and has traded in recent years as the Horseshoe Deli.

The weather was fine and mild and I'm sure everyone learned something during the afternoon. Many thanks to Vanessa for sharing her interest in the past with us.

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