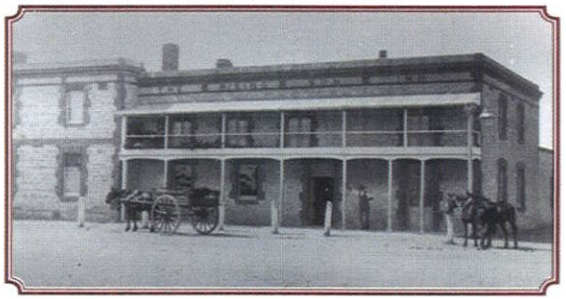
PORT WAKEFIELD

HISTORICAL WALK

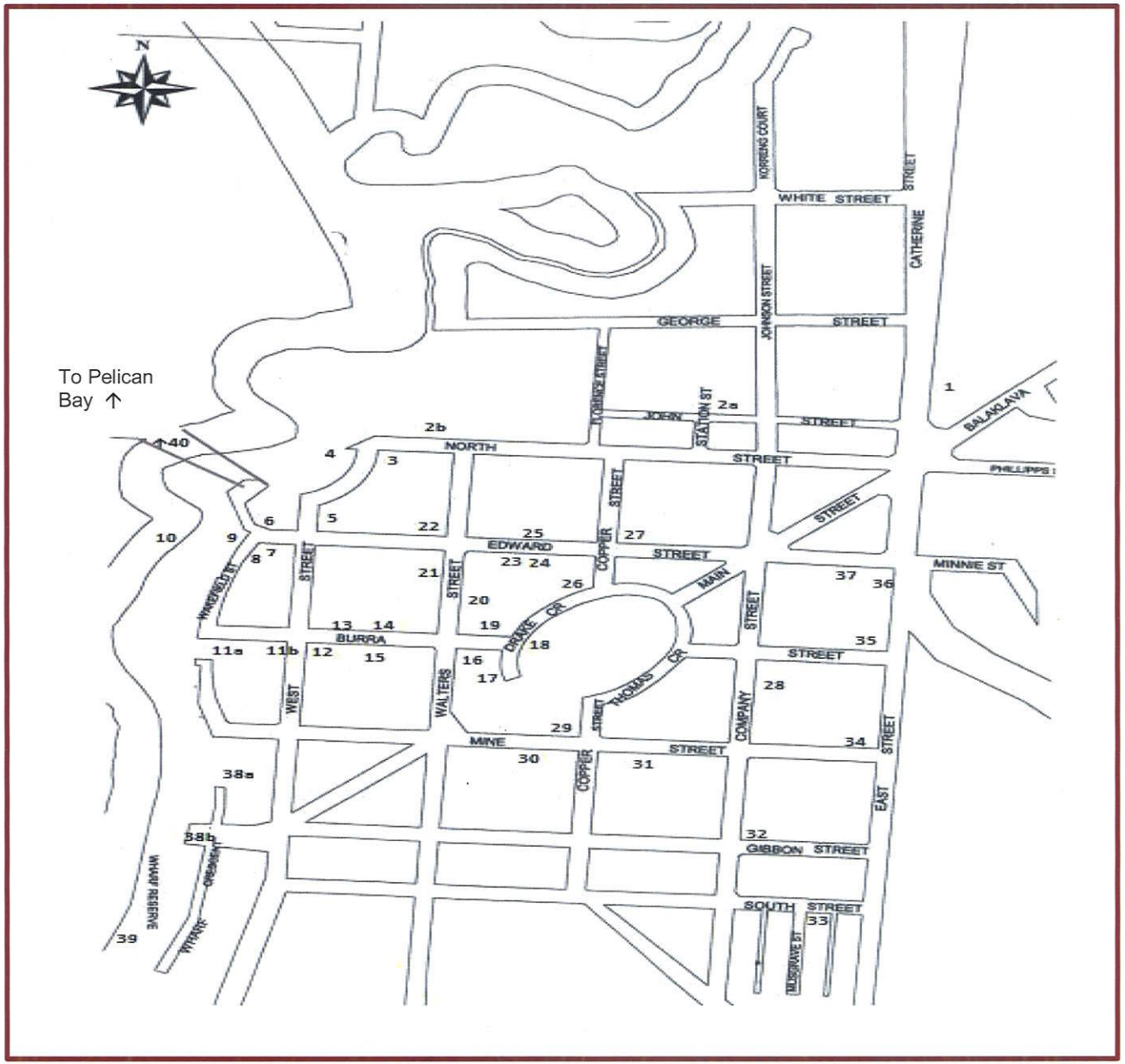
Port Wakefield is named after Edward Gibbon Wakefield who devised the system of colonisation used in the early settlement of South Australia. Originally known as Port Henry it was used as a port for copper ore from Burra Burra. The town of Wakefield was established next to the port in 1850 and Port Henry subsequently adopted the name Port Wakefield.

WELCOME TO OUR TOWN

Gateway to the Yorke Peninsula and the Mid and Upper North.



Town Map of Port Wakefield



Port Wakefield Community Management Committee 2017

Some of the buildings referred to are privately owned. Please respect owner's privacy.
The area covered by this walk is flat for easy walking, wheelchair access or vehicular.
Walking time approx. one hour.

1a. PORT WAKEFIELD FIRST ROADHOUSE

Opened by 'Possum' A.L. Kipling in 1955.
Initially traded 6am to 10pm employing ten women. Later traded 24 hours with forty employees. Now trading as Coles Express and Coolabah Café.

1b. UNDERWOOD'S GARAGE

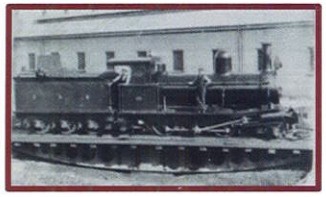
First garage in Port Wakefield established by Mr W.C.G.Underwood in 1918, when petrol was sold to customers in 4 gallon drums

2a. RAILWAY STATION

Built 1927 after the original station was burnt down.

2b. RAILWAY WORKSHOPS

In 1870 construction of a horse drawn tramway eastwards from Port Wakefield to Auburn provided service for expanding agricultural areas. The line however, terminated before the hills.
A feature of the tramway was wagons travelling to Port Wakefield made most of the trip under the influence of gravity. 1875 saw the introduction of locomotives. In 1878 the line to Kadina was opened.
In 1923 the broad-gauge railway from Adelaide which connected with the east-west transcontinental railway had a great impact on Port Wakefield. The railway workshops and families of those who worked in them were transferred to Peterborough.



3. BUBNER'S (Port Henry Arms Inn)

Built 1848. Former stage coach relay station for passengers travelling from Adelaide to Wallaroo.

4. COURTHOUSE MUSEUM

Built 1858, includes courtroom, police station, aboriginal store, police living quarters and stables. Building under restoration by the community.

5. BANK

Constructed in 1877 as a managers villa for National Bank of Australasia. Opened as Commercial Bank of Australia in 1903, later became Westpac Bank and sold in 1993. Now a private residence.

6. FORMER POST OFFICE

Postal facilities first established in 1851, mail sent by sea to Port Adelaide. In 1866 mail sent by coach network. Telegraph opened in 1867.

7. SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL

Built for a Wine Merchant and General Store owner. Once used as a skating rink, picture theatre and dance hall. Also used as a bus servicing depot. Became Soldiers Memorial Hall after WWII. **MURALS**
By Steve Semmler, local artist, celebrating encounter 2002 (Flinders Festival) throughout the town.

8. MAGNIFICENT PEPPER TREE

Age 147 years in 2004, (Tree consultant Mr Ferenc (Frank) Ugody).

9. FORMER RAILWAY REFRESHMENT ROOM

Provided refreshment for rail travellers and workers. To the right are railway workers cottages, now private residences.

10. SALT WATER SWIMMING AREA

For many years a tidal pool until a sluice gate was built in 1930. Dawn Fraser swam here in her early years (1949). Beside the pool is a memorial to Captain Matthew Flinders when he landed at the head of the Gulf.

11b. JOHNSON'S STORE

In 1854 Captain JJ Johnson established a store, setting himself up as general storekeeper, baker and butcher.

11b. FORESTER'S HALL/ MASONIC LODGE HALL

Built 1874. The Masonic lodge formed in 1879 in the Rising Sun Hotel and transferred here. Now privately owned.

12. PORT WAKEFIELD HOTEL

Built 1849, then Wakefield Arms Inn. Became Terminus Hotel 1868, changed to Port Wakefield Hotel 1958.

13. GROUP OF ATTACHED COTTAGES

Baker, Butcher and Draper shops.

14. FORMER HOSPITAL

Originally built as 2 bungalows, became a hospital in 1933 with 7 beds and operating room. Closed in 1950. Now used as residence and visiting doctor's consulting rooms.

15. FLOUR MILL and SALT WORKS

Flour mill erected by Mr Ferguson, one-time chairman of the District Council, completed in 1867. The Australian Salt Company took over the building and converted it in 1912. Demolished in the early 1960's
To the left, flour mill manager residence built 1875. Later a doctor's residence and consulting rooms. Now a private residence.

16. INSTITUTE AND DISTRICT COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Built 1878 as an institute, consisting of a library and public reading room. District Council of Port Wakefield moved to this building in 1946. Now used as a community meeting place.

17. KINDERGARTEN

Built 1881 and used as former chamber when Port Wakefield was made a corporate town. Now is the Eileen Underwood Kindergarten

18. WAR MEMORIAL ARCH

Built in 1927 as a tangible reminder of the commitment of the townsfolk to WWI.

19. ST. ALBANS ANGLICAN CHURCH AND HALL
Built 1874, Hall built in 1905 and used for dances and fetes. Now privately owned and used as Salt of the Earth Cafe and Gallery.

20. GENERAL STORE
Built 1855, serviced the town until 1999. Now private residence.

21. CORPORATION OFFICE
Built 1903. Former Corporation Office, Country Women's Association Rest Rooms 1946-2004. Now used by Clementina Corner Craft.

22. RISING SUN HOTEL
Built 1856 as Rising Sun Inn, renamed Rising Sun Hotel 1859.

23. CATHOLIC CHURCH
Built 1870 named St. Vincent de Paul. Priests travelled from Kadina until 1889, now serviced by priests from Kapunda.

24. PORT WAKEFIELD COMMUNITY COMMEMORATIVE TILED WALL
Opened 2002 by Mrs Bessie Madigan, eldest resident.

25. GROUP OF HOUSES
This group of houses were (west to east) former workshop, betting shop, power station 1936-1952, butchers shop, fruit and veg., tearoom and fabric shop. Now private residences

26 . INNES HOUSE
Salt manager's house.
In 1912 the Australian Salt company was floated to process salt which was harvested from Lake Bumbunga, near Lochiel. The company took over the old flour mill in Burra St. (see 15)

27. GROUP OF HOUSES
Going from west to east, former billiard room in shed, undertaker, bakery, grocer, fruit and veg, Lolly Martins shop.

28. COTTAGE HOSPITAL
Built 1913, used as hospital prior to hospital in Burra Street.

29. PRIMARY SCHOOL
Opened 1856. Enrolments peaked in 1921 when 129 students attended. Stone house built as principal's residence cir. 1870.

30. UNITING CHURCH
First church in Port Wakefield built 1868 as Wesleyan Chapel (smaller building). Manse situated on left. Larger building erected 1885, became Wesleyan Methodist Church. The porch was added as a memorial to those who died in WWI. Became Uniting Church in 1977.

31. GROUP OF ATTACHED COTTAGES
Resident cottages cir.1860. Former shipping agents offices.

32. GROUP OF COTTAGES
Built in the late 1860's

33. COTTAGE
Cir.1874. This area is known as New Town.

34. COTTAGE
Circ. 1904 and is used as a residence.

35. SA AMBULANCE SERVICES AND COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE (CFS)
Built 2002. Previously located in Edward Street. Formerly called Port Wakefield St. John Rescue Unit, established 1977 and Emergency Fire Service, established 1947

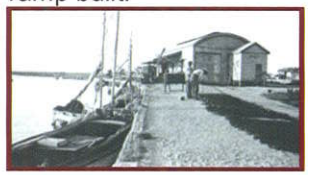
36. BAKERY AND SHOP
Built by Mr Matthews 1940.

37. GROUP OF HOUSES
Residence built 1903, next door was a former private school, next former butcher shop and residence built 1872.

38a. MARINE CRANE
Crane originally located on southernmost end of wharf and used by professional fishermen to lift boat engines for repairs in the days when fishermen moored their boats to the wharf.

38b. SAILING KETCHES MEMORIAL
Trading 1850-1930. Used to ship copper ore from Burra, transported by Muleteer and bullock Wagons. Wool and wheat from local areas for delivery to Port Adelaide and return with stores etc. for the region.

39. WHARF
Built 1849. Channel dredged same year for a cost of £1,000. 2004 channel dredged and new floating ramp built.



40. PELICAN BAY
River Wakefield was diverted at the turn of the 20th century to alleviate flooding of the township. This work carried out largely by picks, shovels and wheelbarrows.

PROOF AND EXPERIMENTAL ESTABLISHEMENT
An Australian Army Proof Range, established 1926. Approx.10kms south of the town. Visits to this establishment by appointment only.

PORT WAKEFIELD CEMETERY
Situated approx. 3 kms north of the town.

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PORT WAKEFIELD MOTORS

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