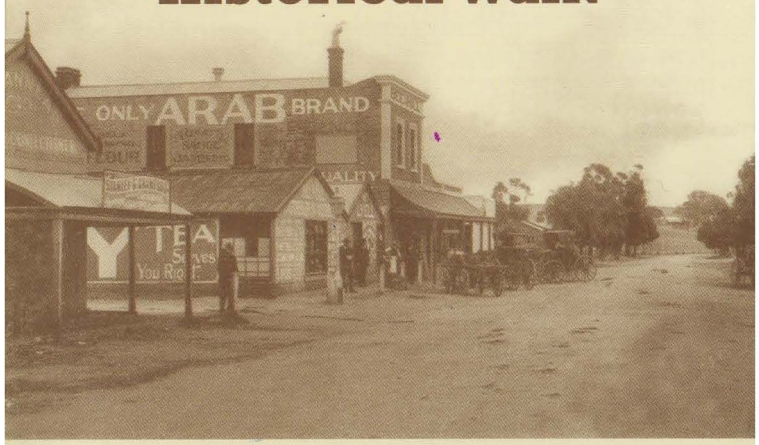
Saddleworth
Historical Walk



Located approximately 100 kilometres north of Adelaide, the district of Saddleworth is situated in the Gilbert Valley which was formed long ago by a great river which flowed from the north to the sea and through which the River Gilbert meanders today. The town was named by pioneer James Masters in memory of his former English home on the south western side of the county of Yorkshire.

As early as 1840, Masters took up an area of land extending from Riverton to Saddleworth and Auburn as a sheep run. Masters built a home approx 1km north of Riverton called Saddleworth Lodge. Further north an outstation was established known as Stone Hut. This was the beginning of Saddleworth.

With the discovery of copper at Burra, Saddleworth became one of a number of small towns along routes used to transport the copper to Port Adelaide. Each of these towns was approx 7 miles apart, about as far as the bullock teams could travel in a day. This was the reason the Stone Hut Tavern was constructed on the banks of the River Gilbert in 1846. Increased traffic led to James Masters submitting sub division plans to the Lands Department in 1850-51 for the Proclamation of Saddleworth. The first registered sale of blocks along Burra Road were made on 14th December 1852.

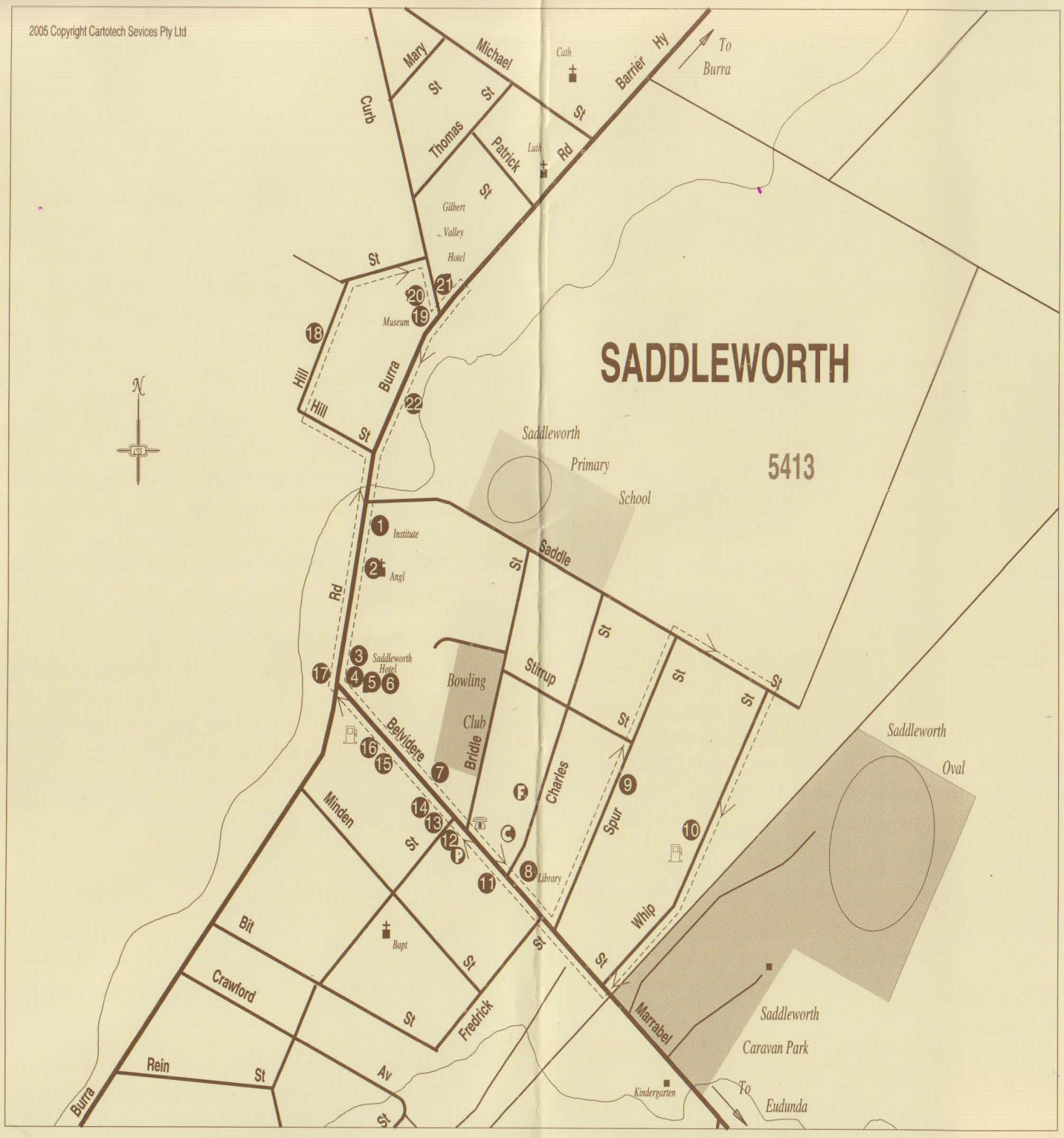
By following the heritage trail described in this brochure, you will pass by some of these and other locations, learning about the buildings and early settlers of Saddleworth. We hope you enjoy your short journey back in time and invite you to "linger longer" in our town.

1 Saddleworth Institute Built in 1873, the Institute consisted of a large hall with a room for the library. The front portion and imposing façade were built some time later. It formed an integral part of the community hosting many Balls and Strawberry fetes. It continued to house the library until 1985.

2 St Aidan's Church Built in 1894 by WK Mallyon an honorary architect, who considered this his greatest triumph in terms of design. Local stone was used from neighbouring properties, at a final cost of 800 pounds which included furniture.

3 Police Station Saddleworth was fortunately a rather peaceful and law abiding town and a request for a Police Station was granted in 1877. The cells were used for the first time in September 1878 after a brawl at one of the hotels. After 100 years the Police Station was closed in 1977.

4 Saddleworth Post Office After lengthy discussion the Post Office was located centrally between the northern and southern sections of the town at a proposed cost of 800 pounds. It was built in 1878 and had a hitching rail for horses and horse drawn vehicles on the road outside. It was a busy Post Office with mail deliveries twice daily and handling in excess of 20,000 letters and newspapers monthly.



5 National Bank was the first bank opened in Saddleworth in December 1869 trading at the front of the Siekmann and Moule's Store. The National Bank at 1 Belvidere Road was built by Sara and Dunstan of Kooringa and started trading in late 1878. Due to the depression in the 1890s the National Bank became insolvent and closed.

6 Saddleworth Hotel Was originally the Exmouth Hotel and was opened with an extravagant Ball in December 1869. It was one of three hotels in Saddleworth and its name changed to the Saddleworth Hotel in 1942.

7 Huppatz Garage Was first established as a blacksmith shop in 1909. In 1926 the building was renovated to accommodate a showroom and garage where all motor vehicle repairs were conducted and petrol sold. It had a T-model Ford agency in the early days.

8 23 Belvidere Road Built in 1938 Elders came to Saddleworth after SA Farmers Union left in 1924. Sales days were held every Tuesday and grew rapidly with as many as 200 cars lining the streets in those days. Elders built this building in the corner of the existing sale yards. In 1967 the building was sold to the Saddleworth District Council for $3500.

Public toilets are available outside Saddleworth Library and Community Centre. There is internet access at the Library.

9 Methodist Church The foundation stone was laid on 12 February 1861. An amount of 10 pounds was raised and all materials were to be supplied free of charge by the local settlers, who promised to give liberally. The new building was used as a school until the first public school was built in 1870.

10 Old Church of England Cemetery situated on Whip St, had a very short history as its close location to town was deemed unsuitable. Given to the Church of England by James Masters in 1850 it was officially closed in 1891. Actual records from the cemetery have been lost, however eleven families are recorded on the headstones, the earliest being Harriet George aged 2 years in 1862.

11 Council Office 28 Belvidere Road The local Council was inaugurated on 7 May 1868 and was called The District Councils of Waterloo, Saddleworth, Black Springs and Hamilton. However it was not until 1889 that Council Chambers were built costing 144 Pound, 18 Shillings and 1 Pence.

12 Corner Store 20 Belvidere Road In the early 1900s Mrs Margaret Bannear built a greengrocers and merchandise store. Tea Rooms were set up on the east side and were popular when farmers came into town with their wives. In 1926 the shop was sold to Stan Crawford. *(pictured below)*

13 18 Belvidere Road In 1869 Mr Thomas Cornish built an ironmongers store . This iron building has undergone quite a transformation, being demolished and rebuilt by Bee & Hill in 1914. In 1928 the building, together with the two storey alongside, was sold to Eudunda Farmers Co-operative Society. *(pictured below)*

14 General Store 16 Belvidere Road This rather substantial building was built in 1869 by Joshua Carr, a merchant and Thomas Cornish a storekeeper. The store was to be ready when the railway commenced its goods traffic. A boot maker was housed in the bottom portion of the building. Bee & Hill leased the business in 1894 and later purchased the property in 1902.

15 Blacksmiths Shop 12 Belvidere Road was purchased from Joshua Gurr for 25 pound by a widow, Mary Foster. A blacksmith shop was established in 1872. The premises was sold in 1881 to George Beer who used the slogan "Trade here with Plenty, Goode, Beer and Tucker"; referring to Plenty the watchmaker, Goode the Stock Agent, Beer the carpenter, undertaker and blacksmith and Tucker the Chemist.

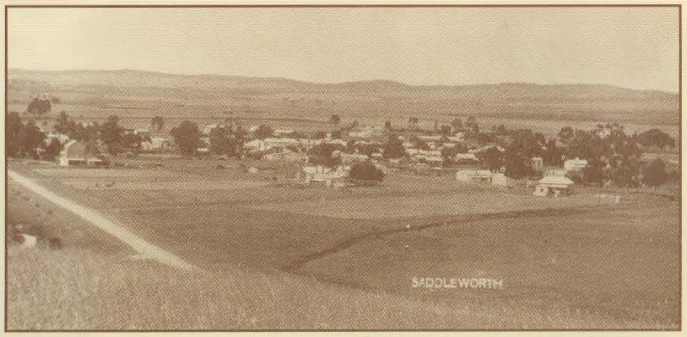
16 Bank of Adelaide originally operated a branch from two rooms leased from Eudunda Farmers in 1928. Mr L.J. Burton, the manager then, was instrumental in having this impressive two storey bank and residence built in 1938. Unfortunately it only operated as a bank for four years before it was closed in 1942 as part of the wartime rationalization of industry.

17 War Memorial After three years in the planning, a monument was built in 1922. It stands proudly at the towns major intersection. The 6 foot soldier is carved from Italian marble and sits on a cement base. The cost of 600 pounds was raised from public subscription.

18 Hill St Saddleworth Primary School was established in 1870 at a cost of 400 pounds. However following the completion of the railway line the population grew significantly. By 1874 Saddleworth had three schools, two private and one Public school. In 1877 plans were made for a new school to be built to the north of the old school at a cost of 799 pounds and 2 shillings. Attendances peaked at 100 children in the 1870s. The original building was converted to a teacher's residence.

19 Museum The store of Siekmann and Moule, now the Museum, was built in 1859. It is the oldest building still standing in Saddleworth. The National bank operated from one room, and the Wheat Store, the largest store north of Gawler, housed the first Post Office. It was extended in 1873 and today it houses the Saddleworth Museum. It is open to the public on Sunday afternoons or by appointment . *(Pictured right)*

20 Salvation Army Barracks were established in the old wheat store on the north side of the



present museum. In 1884 barracks were built at 5 Curb street and used until 1904.

21 Gilbert Valley Hotel It was thought that the new railway would pass through the northern end of town and so Mr Thomas Magor built a rather impressive Railway Hotel which was first licenced in 1869. The railway line was built east of Saddleworth, however it continued to do a roaring trade.

22 Stuarts Hotel 34 Burra Road The stone Hut Tavern built in 1846, to accommodate the passing trade, was later renamed the Saddleworth Hotel when James Masters named the town and laid out blocks in that same year. The Hotel was again renamed in 1862 to Stuart's Hotel to recognise John McDouall Stuart who successfully travelled overland from Adelaide to Darwin and camped overnight on a reserve south of the Hotel.

You have completed our walk through time. Should you wish to explore further we would suggest :

Catholic Church this imposing structure was built by Joseph Jones an architect from Auburn. It was planned to be twice as large. Originally the driveway was rather steep and twelve pallbearers were required per funeral. Six were positioned halfway up the hill to relieve the first six and carry the coffin the rest of the way to the church. It has its own cemetery located on the western side of the church. According to the headstones, the first burial was in July 1869.

Baptist Church located in Newark St was built in 1870. Prior to the church being built, a number of men and women were baptised in the creek half a mile south of the town. The Baptist and Methodists had a strong relationship and often exchanged preachers and joined congregations on many occasions.

Winkler Park Cottage located at Winkler Park (south west of Saddleworth) is thought to have been built in the early 1900s. The property was willed to the South Australian Government by Mr. George Winkler and successfully lobbied by locals to form a recreational park in 1984. It's a great place for a picnic.

SADDLEWORTH DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.

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