

DID YOU KNOW...
Little Marion sculptures were inspired by Margaret Western's book, *Yesterday's Child*



ARTWORKS
Working closely with a writer and artists, the community researched and designed the Heritage Walk and contributed to the design of a number of artworks that celebrate local stories and sites of importance to The Village community.
Photography Little Marion Sam Oster.

Marion Historic Village Heritage Walk

INTRODUCTION

The area we now call Marion Historic Village was affectionately known to locals as 'The Marion'. Land which was destined to be marked out as Marion Village had been, throughout time, inhabited by the Kaurna Aboriginal people of the Adelaide Plains who called it 'Warriparinga' - a windy place by a creek.

We are fortunate to be accompanied on our walk by the words and memories of people who knew and loved 'The Marion', whose ancestors planted and tended the first almonds, vines and market gardens, or made bricks from local clay to build beautiful buildings, some of which survive to enrich our lives. It is the memories of these people that help us learn more about the history of European settlement in this district as we begin to see the village through their eyes. Some sites on the Marion Historic Village Heritage Walk date back to the establishment of the village in 1838, just two years after the colony was founded, while others refer to more recent history.

The original village was surveyed in November 1838 by the survey team of Light, Finnis & Co. It was a private township of 32 hectares, on Land section 117. Its proprietors were Henry Nixon and Boyle Travers Finnis. Finnis was later to become the first Premier of South Australia.

Land section 118 was granted to Edward John Eyre, who went on to explore Lake Eyre and the Eyre Peninsula. It was later divided into large allotments and sold as the village of Elmwood.

MARION HISTORIC VILLAGE

Heritage Walk



DID YOU KNOW...

On the Marion Historic Village Heritage Walk each historic site includes a tiled marker which is highlighted with a two-tone concrete 'survey line' crossing the footpath. The survey lines refer to the laying out of the village of Marion by Light, Finnis & Co. One end of each survey line points towards Light Square, Marion.



WALK DETAILS

The trail is an easy one-hour walk of approximately two kilometres, accessible for bicycles, prams and wheelchairs. Toilets, playground, barbeque facilities and parking can be found at George St Reserve.

GETTING TO THE WALK BY BUS

M44 Bus between City and Marion Shopping Centre.
Alight at Stop 26 on Finnis Street

GETTING TO THE WALK BY TRAIN

Train Between City and Seaford.
Alight at Marion Station (then approx 20 min walk) OR
Alight at Oaklands Station (then approx 25 min walk)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Call Adelaide Metro Info Line 1300 311 108

REFERENCES

Dolling, Allison 1981, *The History of Marion on the Sturt*, Peacock Publications, Frewville SA.
Western, Margaret 2008, *Yesterday's Child*, Elite Press, 1/57 Norfolk Road, Marion SA.

THESE BOOKS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM

Gallery M Marion Cultural Centre
287 Diagonal Road Oaklands Park Tel 8375 6785

This walking guide was researched and written by local residents with support from the City of Marion. The Marion Historic Village Project has been a collaborative project between residents of the City of Marion and the Council.

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Marion Historic Village Heritage Walk

1 ANNIE DOOLAN'S COTTAGE & LITTLE MARION SKIPPING

This cottage was built in 1876 as a convent for the teaching Sisters of St Joseph founded by Mary McKillop (who became Saint Mary McKillop). Later, the Doolan family lived in the cottage which has been affectionately named after Annie, who was the last member of the family to live there.



Little Marion Skipping by Gerry McMahon. The sculpture is of Little Marion skipping in what was most likely the playground of the school.

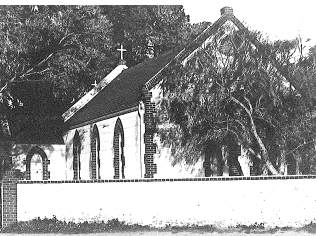
2 ST ANN'S CHAPEL BELL

It was a special occasion when the new bell for St Ann's Chapel was blessed in October 1866. A guard of honour of 50 to 60 horsemen bedecked with rosettes and sashes rode out to meet Bishop Sheil on his way to Marion Village from Adelaide. Due to the bell being too large for the Chapel, it was installed in this gum tree. It is still rung for a short time before Sunday Services.



3 ST ANN'S CHAPEL

A strong Irish Catholic community grew up in Marion Village as large numbers of immigrants, escaping the famine in their country, began arriving in South Australia in the 1850s. The foundation stone for the chapel was laid in 1859. There was cooperation between Methodists and Catholic families as demonstrated by a donation of bricks



by Henry Shearing for the quoins of the church. St Ann's Church was renovated in the early 1970s, including stained glass windows made by South Australian artist Cedar Prest.

4 FORMER HERSEY FARMHOUSE

The Hersey family were early Marion settlers who tended well-established market gardens on a large land holding on both sides of the Sturt River. The orchards and market gardens of Marion grew vegetables, fruit, almonds and top quality table grapes. The Hersey family's 100-year-old cottage that once stood on this site was demolished in 2015.



5 FINNISS STREET BRIDGE

This is the third bridge built over the Sturt River at this site. When the second bridge was demolished in 1971, a time capsule was uncovered containing a nineteenth century map of the 'Township of Marion', which is now at the Marion Heritage Research Centre on Sturt Road.



6 WATER PUMP

Remains of this 1940s Pomona brand pump powered by electric motor stands as a silent witness to the agricultural history of The Marion. Wells went down about 20 metres whilst some bores went down over 60 metres. These efficient pumps could pump up to 4 million litres a day on to the orchards or vineyards. They were often mounted on a high block of concrete inside the shed so as to be above the highest flood level.

7 FORESTERS FRIENDLY SOCIETY HALL

This was the site of the Foresters Friendly Society Hall. The Society provided financial and social benefits as well as support to members and their families in times of hardship. Foresters played a particularly active role during the Great Depression and both World Wars. The Boy Scout Movement rebuilt the hall in 1955. Their boys enjoyed playing and camping on the banks of the Sturt River, which flowed behind the hall.

8 FINNISS STREET & LITTLE MARION WELCOMING

Boyle Travers Finnis and Henry Nixon were employed in Colonel William Light's surveying team. When Light resigned his post of Surveyor-General, they formed Light, Finnis and Co., which surveyed the Village of Marion on their land grant. In November 1838 they offered for sale one-acre allotments in the village for six pounds each. Nixon's son, George, sold some of the remaining allotments after bringing them under the Torrens Title System in 1870.

Little Marion Welcoming by Gerry McMahon welcomes you to The Marion Village. Farm gates like this reproduction were very common in the district. The names of local brick makers in the village are inscribed on bricks embedded in the ground.

9 WESTERN FAMILY WELL & LITTLE MARION PEERING

Local resident, Peter Western said, "This well was about 26 metres deep and then at the bottom of this you put a bore down. You had to go down a wooden ladder right to the bottom if you ever wanted to work on the submersible water pumps. My uncle, Laurie once fell about five metres down the well only surviving by landing on a crossbeam. He broke his ankle and it was difficult to get him out."

Little Marion Peering Sculpture by Gerry McMahon represents the many wells in the Marion district. They were treated with respect and fear. (Margaret Western)

10 ORIGINAL MARION INN

The Village Inn, built in 1851, was prominently situated for travellers to take advantage of a restful haven for themselves and their horses. Built as an 8-roomed stone building, roofed with iron, it has been extended and modernized over the years. Exterior gaslights were common, as were horse troughs and hitching rails. Here, the original horse trough and hitching rail along the footpath have gone, but a replica hitching rail has been installed close to the front corner of the building.



hitching rails. Here, the original horse trough and hitching rail along the footpath have gone, but a replica hitching rail has been installed close to the front corner of the building.

11 STURT RIVER & LITTLE MARION PONDERING

"The River washed the plains with fertile, alluvial soil, and fed the wells from the sub-artesian basin which flowed beneath the Marion. In its wildest times, the River burst its banks, flowed into people's homes, cut roads in half and made the terrain hazardous." Winter flood waters were controlled by constructing concrete drains and a flood control dam up-stream. "Gone are most of the ancient river gums that had witnessed the early Aboriginal settlements, the coming of the Europeans, the tilling and watering of the alluvial plains and the magnificent produce of the district. Gone now are the wells which were the life-blood of the area. Gone is the drama, the beauty and the wildlife."



(Margaret Western)

Little Marion Pondering Sculpture by Gerry McMahon, illustrates that for most of the time, the river was a safe place to play. Village children delighted in any chance to escape to the river to play, swim, catch tadpoles, day-dream or just to enjoy nature. (Margaret Western)

DID YOU KNOW...

That in 1839, Colonel Light died of tuberculosis, at age 53, and was buried in Light Square in Adelaide?



12 LAUREL COTTAGE & GENERAL STORE

Laurel Cottage was built in 1858 by Henry Shearing, a brick maker. Near the back door was a bricked well from which water was drawn by a hand-pump. Henry's mother-in-law, Mary James, lived with Henry and his wife Anne, and operated the general store to the east. Marion's first post office opened there in 1877. Henry acquired land in Township Road and established brick-works there in the 1860s.



13 ALMOND GROVE

Only this small almond grove remains in Marion Village today. The beauty of Marion Village during almond blossom time was marketed with great success by South Australia's Tourist Bureau between 1934 and 1955 when buses were used to bring tourists to see the almond blossom. Margaret Western,



writer of Yesterday's Child, recalls, "Some people don't understand that next year's almonds depend on the blossom and they tear and twist at the trees so they can take home some of the flowers."

14 LIGHT SQUARE & TILED BENCHES

The name of this square recalls the contribution made by Colonel William Light's team of partners in the firm of Light, Finnis



and Co. who surveyed and laid out the Marion Village in 1838. Streets in Marion were named after the firm's partners – Finnis, Nixon, Jacob and Thomas. In 1939 Colonel Light's team also laid out the township of Gawler, which has some similarly named streets and also a Light Square.

Tiled Benches. The tiles on the four benches were painted by community members. One is about the Kaurra people, two tell stories about 19th century people and settlement in the area, while the fourth is about industries and market gardens in the Village.

15 GEORGE STREET RESERVE, LITTLE MARION WAITING & TILED HOPSCOTCH

Brick making was an important industry in The Marion. This is the site of one of four major pug holes. "At their peak before World War I, Wade's Brickworks employed eight assistants working from 7am to 5pm. Sometimes they worked for 20 hours without a break, stoking the kilns to maintain the temperature for firing brick. Pug (clay) was raised in trucks by a winch from a small railway at the bottom of the pug hole. From the trucks it was tipped into the pug-mill, which was operated by a horse plodding all day in a giddy treadmill motion."



(Allison Dolling)

Little Marion Waiting. Sculpture by Gerry McMahon. Little Marion is sitting on locally made bricks.

Tiled Hopscotch. Tiles for this hopscotch were painted by the community under the guidance of mosaic artists, Irene Dougan and Cheryl Dean. The tiles depict games and childhood memories from times past to the present day.

16 HISTORIC COTTAGE

This house, built in about 1900, was used as a residence for the manager of the brickworks. It was sold to Giuseppe Seccafien, a local market gardener, in 1945. Patrick Ford lived in a cottage to the west of the present structure in 1864. When he died in 1898, all of his land on George Street was sold to Charles Boots and later, in 1906 to Robert William Wade.

17 EARLY SETTLERS' COTTAGE

Believed to have been built in the mid 1800s, this cottage has solid mud and straw walls about 450 mms thick. Between 1914 and 1945 brick maker, Robert Wade, was the owner. The cottage was then transferred to the Seccafien family who operated a market garden on adjacent land until 1960 when all their land was sold for housing blocks. The Seccafiens made substantial alterations by raising and plastering the external walls.

18 HERSEY WORKMEN'S COTTAGES

William Alfred and Julia May Hersey, who had established extensive market-gardens along Finnis Street in the 1920s, purchased this land in 1935. They built four cottages from locally



produced bricks and these were ready for occupation by their workmen in 1940. May Hersey donated land for the establishment of the Resthaven Aged Care Facility. Resthaven renovated the two remaining cottages in 2008 as part of the redevelopment of their site.

19 THREDGOLD'S BIRTHING HOUSE

This home of Alf and May Thredgold was once part of 4 acres on which Alf ran a brick-kiln. May, being one of the Village midwives, used the left-hand front room (as you face



the home) for delivering babies. Midwives played a vital in this era when doctors were some distance away and transport and communications were both slow.

20 CHARLESWORTH NUTS

Herb and Doris Charlesworth of Clarence Gardens purchased a nut stall in the Central Market in 1934. Their son Chappy took over the market business in the 1950s. By the 1970s his two sons Mark and Brett joined him. As production increased Chappy looked for a new site



for expansion. He chose the current location for a new warehouse and manufacturing facility built in 1977 and it has been continually developed.

21 JOHN SHEARING HOME

John Shearing worked alongside his father Henry (of Laurel Cottage), in his brick-making business near here. Later,



John established a chaff and wood business (pictured), although his own son, Gilbert, turned away from chaff milling and went back to brick-making.

22 WESLEYAN CHAPEL

The Wesleyan Chapel was enlarged only five years after it was built in 1862. It was restored in the 1970s and given a



National Trust listing. The stones for the front fence were obtained from the Sturt Methodist Church originally located on Marion Road until 1972.

22a MARION HISTORIC VILLAGE MUSEUM

This 1927 building, once used as a Sunday School, is now managed and operated by volunteer members of the community, as a museum. Come and see changing exhibits and discover more about the Marion Village, its people and their stories. Open every Sunday 2–4pm (free entry).



During other days and times, school classes and other groups are welcomed by arrangement (a small fee may apply).

23 FORMER POLICE STATION

The need for a police station in Marion was brought about by thefts of fruit, vegetables and almonds from the area's gardens and orchards during the great depression, when there was severe unemployment. The station office opened in 1933 in a side room of this house, the remainder of which accommodated the sole constable and his family. The station closed in the 1960s when a new police station with 24-hour services, including mobile patrols, was opened at Darlington. All local police services have since re-located to the more-recently built Police Complex on Sturt Road, Bedford Park.

24 SHOPS ON FINNISS STREET

Albert and Ada Gosling leased the old general store in Nixon Street from the Shearing family for 10 years. In 1927 they decided to build their own shop, post office and residence at this site. After the Goslings, it continued to operate as a local shop until it was converted to a café in 2005. It has always been an important meeting place for the local community.

Marion Historic Village Museum (at 9 Township Road, behind the Wesleyn Chapel) Open Sundays 2pm to 4pm & Tuesdays 10am to 12 noon.

Group Guided Walks of the Village Walks also include a visit to the Village Museum. Morning or afternoon teas can be provided for an additional fee.

Contacts for Special Group Openings or Guided Walks Kathy Creer 0411 043 344 or Judy Morphet 0422 187 177 marionhvdg1@adam.com.au

Please note: Annie Doolan's Cottage (No. 1 site in this brochure) is no longer open for public viewing.