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.

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WALK DETAILS

The trail is an easy one-hour walk of approximately two kilometres, accessible for bicycles, prams and wheelchairs. Toilets, playground, barbecue 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 Finniss 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


Western, Margaret 2008, Yesterday’s Child, Elite Press, 1/57 Norfolk Road, Marion SA.

HISTORIC SITE RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

Kirsty Goacher - 287 Diagonal Road Oaklands Park Tel 8375 6785

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

**THREDGOLD’S BIRTHING HOUSE**

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. The building is currently managed by the Friends of Annie Doolan’s Cottage and displays a schoolroom of the 1870s, a kitchen of the 1940s and model of Marion Village in 1949.

**ANNIE DOOLAN’S COTTAGE & LITTLE MARION SKIPPING**

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**FINNIS STREET & LITTLE MARION WELCOMING**

Boyle Travers Finniss and Henry Nixon were employed in Colonel William Light’s surveying team. When Light resigned his post of Surveyor-General, they formed Light, Finniss and Co., which surveyed the Village of Marion on the Marion Estate. 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.

**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 subterranean 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)**

**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, moored with iron, it has been extended and modernised 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.

**STURT RIVER & LITTLE MARION PONDERING**

“The River washed the plains with fertility, 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 of the plains and the magnificent 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.”

**LITTLE MARION PONDERING Sculpture by Gerry McMahon, Little Marion is sitting on locally made bricks. (Margaret Western)**

**TILED BENCHES**

The name of this square recalls the contribution made by Colonel William Light’s team of partners in the firm of Light, Finniss and Co. who surveyed and laid out the Marion Village in 1838. Streets in Marion were named after the firm’s partners – Finniss, 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 Kaurna 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.**

**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 the 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.”

**Little Marion Waiting, Sculpture by Gerry McMahon. Little Marion is sitting on locally made bricks. (Allison Dolling)**

**HISTORIC COTTAGE**

This house, built in about 1900, was used as a residence for the manager of the brickworks. It was purchased by Seccafeni, a local market gardeners, in 1945. Patrick Ford lived in a cottage to the west of the present structure in 1864. When he died in 1899, all of his land on George Street was sold to Charles Boots and later, in 1906 to Robert William Wade.

**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 Seccafeni family who operated a market garden on adjacent land until 1960 when all their land was sold for housing blocks. The Seccafeni’s made substantial alterations by raising and plastering the external walls.

**HERSY WORKMEN’S COTTAGES**

William Alfred and Julia May Hersey, who had established extensive market gardens along Finniss 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 Reshaven Aged Care Facility. Reshaven renovated the two remaining cottages in 2008 as part of the redevelopment of their site.

**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.

**MARION HISTORIC VILLAGE MUSEUM**

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

**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 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 Dartington. All local police services have since re-located to the more-recently built Police Complex on Sturt Road, Bedford Park.

**SHOPS ON FINNIS 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 cafe in 2005. It has always been an important meeting place for the local community.

**FOR GROUP Guided Tours of the Village**

Kathy Cere 7423 7813 
marionhvdg1@adams.com.au
Annie Doolan’s Cottage
PUBLIC OPENINGS: 4th Sunday of every month (during school terms)
Between 2–4pm
SPECIAL GROUP OPENINGS
Contact Elizabeth Hunt 8377 1054
Tzhssish@hotmail.com or Helen Murphy 8289 3905
Marion Village Historic Museum
PUBLIC OPENINGS: By appointment between 2–4pm
SPECIAL GROUP OPENINGS
Contact Kathy Cere 7423 7813
marionhvdg1@adams.com.au or Max Bowden 8296 7463

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