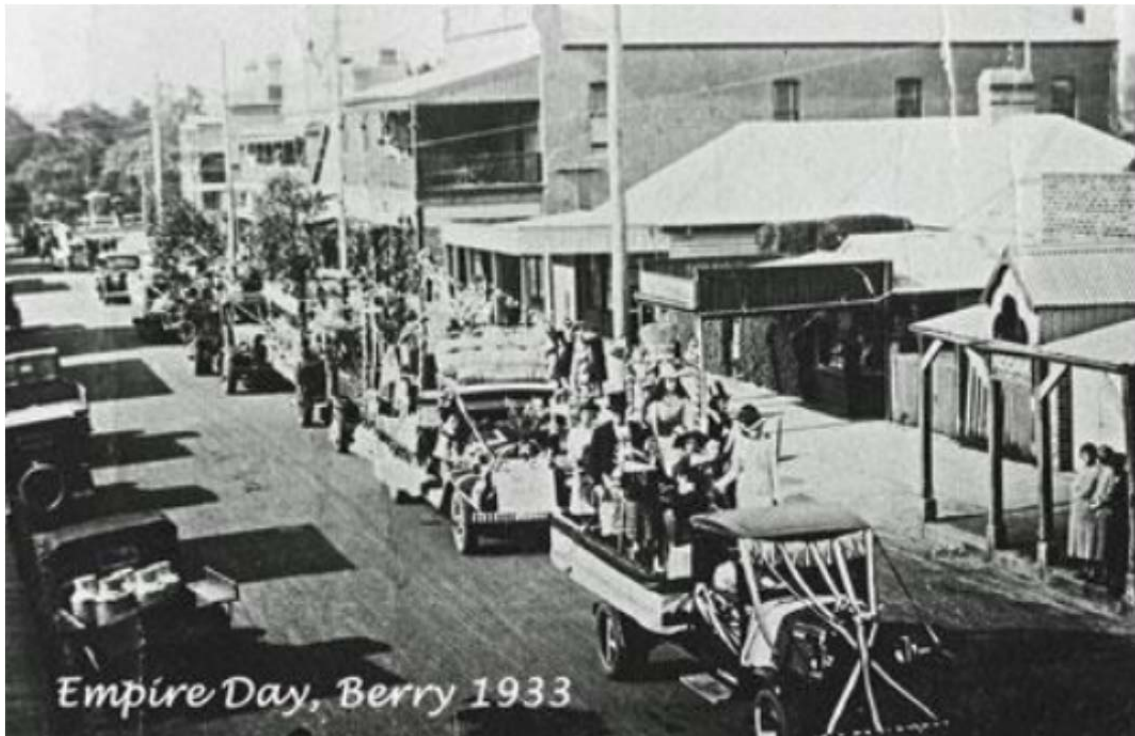


BERRY

Town of Trees

A GUIDE FOR WALKING – PART ONE

Published by The Berry Museum



A BRIEF HISTORY

Berry is proud of its history. Several of its buildings are listed on the Shoalhaven City Council's heritage list and the Railway Station, the Gate House of the David Berry Hospital and the Courthouse are on the NSW Heritage List. Many parts of the town are also listed with the National Trust.

Before European settlement the Wodi-Wodi people lived in the area which was known as Boon-ga-ree.

Alexander Berry took up a land grant at Coolangatta in 1822. Alexander Berry was introduced to this area by an indigenous person named Toodwick who was born in this area. Toodwick was also known as Broughton. The creek and township were named Broughton Creek after him. It wasn't until 1890 that the town was renamed Berry.

When Broughton Creek began, it was settled by loggers and sawyers who had come for the splendid stands of red cedar. A sawmill was built, close to where the railway bridge now crosses Tannery Road on the way to David Berry Hospital. The settlement was established here because this was the first place the creek could be crossed easily. The creek was navigable up to the wharf which was at the junction of Broughton Creek and Broughton Mill Creek.

At that time, the only means of travel to this area was by steamer. Many of the people who came to this area were convicts who were assigned to Alexander Berry and their overseers (freemen). Tenants, employees and free settlers followed later. The estate store house was at Coolangatta with rations being distributed by cart to the outstations, such as the tannery near the foot crossing on Broughton Creek.

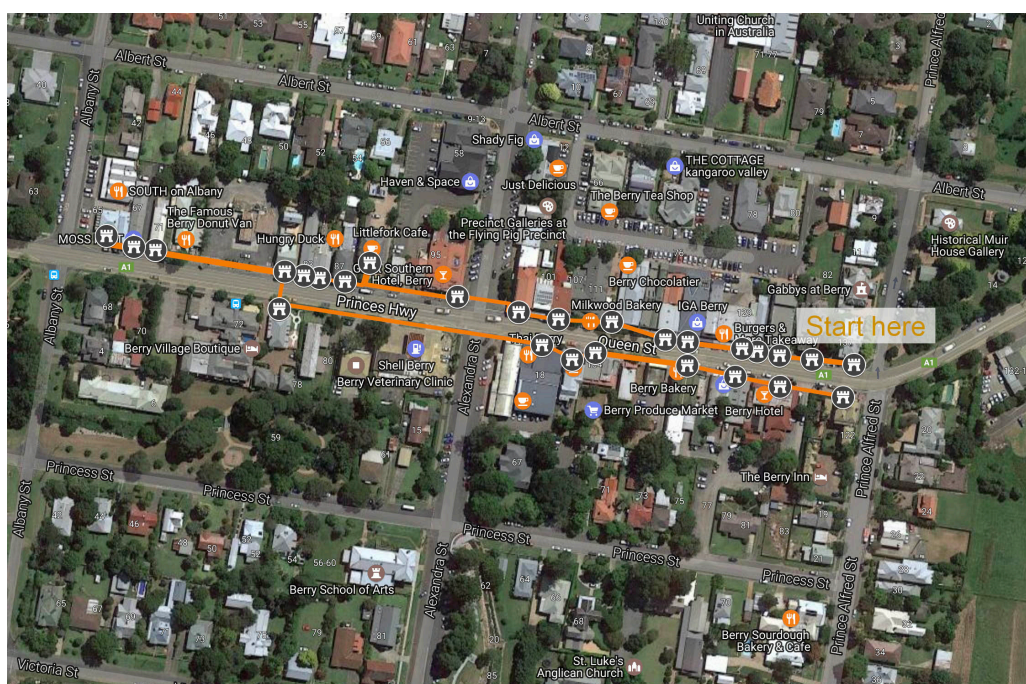
Because of flooding, the settlement moved to the ridge where Pulman Street and the Princes Highway are now. The store, church, post office, police house, council chambers, court house and school were built later. In 1868 the population was 300 and the town was proclaimed a municipality. Broughton Creek was a private town, part of the Coolangatta Estate. Alexander Berry died in 1873, and the estate passed to his brother David.

The town spread to the southwest over Broughton Mill Creek, around the Inn that David Berry built so travelers could stay overnight before proceeding to the Nowra ferry. This is where the main part of Berry now lies.

In 1883 a rectangular grid of streets was first proposed. Many of the town's public areas were planned, including the showground, the post office, the public school, the court house and 2 acres each for four churches located at the four corners of the town. After the death of David Berry in 1889, the name of Broughton Creek was changed to Berry by Act of Parliament in 1890 in honour of the Berry family. The estate was inherited by John Hay, a cousin, and most of the estate was sold off to meet the large bequests of David Berry's will that included the David Berry Hospital. John Hay died in 1909. A new subdivision plan for Berry, with some changes from the first, was drawn up in 1912 and Berry was sold off by the trustees of his estate. The streets bear names to commemorate members of Queen Victoria's family.

In 1972 the community proposed a scheme in to plant trees in the streets of the town, with every street having different trees or shrubs. And so Berry became known as the "Town of Trees".

➔*The tour begins at the Sydney end of Queen Street*



The Short Tour - THE COMMERCIAL CENTRE

North side of Queen Street

137 Corner Prince Alfred & Queen Streets - OLD POST OFFICE & TELEGRAPH OFFICE – 1886

The building was designed by James Barnet, the Colonial Architect, and built by W. A. Isley, a local builder, on land given by David Berry. It replaced two previous post offices. In late 1991 the postal facilities were moved to new premises further along the street and the building was sold into private hands.



Berry Post Office 1886-1991

135 Queen Street - THE BERRY MUSEUM – 1885



Berry Museum

This building was originally built for the ES&A Bank in the Scottish Baronial Style to a design by the prominent architect William Wardell, who also designed St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney, and St Patrick's Cathedral as well as several government buildings in Melbourne. When the branch closed in 1942, the Berry Municipal Council bought the building and used it as a residence and council chambers until 1948, when the local councils merged to become the Shoalhaven Shire Council. It was then leased back to the bank in 1951. The bank merged with the A.N.Z. Bank and ceased operations in Berry in 1972. In October 1975 the Berry and District Historical Society leased the banking chambers at the front of the building. By 1984 the museum had full use of the building and grounds.

133 Queen Street - The Towers Building – 1927

In 1898 Frederick Towers built a new modern store for his drapery and grocery business which he moved here from Prince Alfred Street. The existing small wooden building which had housed the Commercial Bank was moved to the rear of the property for use as a store room. The shop burnt down in 1927. It was rebuilt, not as grandly, and housed a refrigerator agent and motor garage. In 1962 Berry Co-op bought the building. They sold it in 1975 to the Shoalhaven City Council who rented it for light industrial purposes. From 1984 it housed the local library and Community Activities Centre. Since 2000, when it was sold back into private hands this building has been two shops.



Earlier times - From left to right: Towers Building, ES&A Bank and Post Office

131 Queen Street - Original Timber Shop – 1873

This quaint little timber shop is the last of many in the town that would have had an attached residence. Since 1873 it has been used as a shoemaker's shop, barber's shop, general store, furniture store, Red Cross Tea Rooms, hairdressers and since 1999, it has been a specialty book and gift shop.

129 Queen Street - Butchery - 1920

This building has undergone many renovations. From 1885 to 1922, this site was occupied by Tom Jones' Saddlery. A. J. Schofield (a butcher) built a brick shop and timber residence here in the early 1920s. A. J. Witchard ran a butchery business until 1941 when he was bought out by Dudley Atkins. In 1969 the building was extensively renovated, there are early photos on the walls in the butcher's.

123 & 125 Queen Street - BERRY SUPERMARKET BUILDING - 1961

From 1890 to 1961 this was the site of a general store and residence. In 1961 the old general store building was demolished and a new one built by Harold Mannell Jnr. The supermarket burnt down in 2004 and was rebuilt in 2005.

121 Queen Street - ELDERS REAL ESTATE BUILDING - 1960

This was the site of a large timber building that was a produce store in the early 1900s and later a milliner and dressmaker and a billiard room. It was demolished in the 1960s and two small shops were built.

BROUGHTON COURT - 1991

The walkway through to the car park is a recent development. It was once the site of the blacksmith's and stables for the local coach runs. Broughton Court opened in 1991.

103 Queen Street - CAFÉ – 1880s

This two storey brick building originated as a fruit shop in the late 1880s, but has been a café for many years. There is a fine old grapefruit tree in the back courtyard.

97 Corner of Queen & Alexandra Streets - WILSON'S GENERAL STORE BUILDING - 1892

This iconic two storey building was built as a general store and residence for James Wilson by Sydney contractors. The building carries two dates – 1857, the date Wilson arrived in Australia, and 1892, the date he moved into the building from his first store in Pulman Street. Inside there were once fine cedar fittings and you can still see the impressive staircase that goes up to the first floor.



Wilson & Co 1930

95 Queen Street & Corner of Alexandra Street - THE GREAT SOUTHERN HOTEL – 1887/1961

This was once a double storey brick building with cast iron verandah railings opened in 1887. It had thirty rooms to cater for the tourists who would arrive by train to visit the beautiful sights of Berry. The car park at the back was originally a yard with stables. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1961 and was rebuilt using the lower part of the old building and motel rooms were added in the grounds. These are now used as storage for the hotel.



Great Southern Hotel 1887 - 1961

89 Queen Street - "THE DOCTOR'S HOUSE"

By 1908 a two storey wooden dwelling with eight rooms occupied by Dr Georges was here. Adjacent to it were a coach house and stables. There is an account of the doctor summoning his groom to get out his carriage in the middle of the night for a race to the cottage hospital to see a patient. In the 1912 estate auction the house was bought by Dr Bobart of Nowra but he may have been a bidder for Dr Georges as he continued to reside here after the sale. In 1922 when he came to town Dr Stafford rented a room in this house and lived in the hotel until he built the other doctor's house in Alexandra Street. The rest became a guest house. It then became a private residence and then a commercial building.



Doctor's Residence

87 Queen Street - BERRY HARDWARE - 1920

This was the site of a timber building that housed the local newspaper the "South Coast Register" until it partially burnt down in 1920.

85 Queen Street - ORIGINAL TIMBER SHOP – Circa 1920

This was built as a butchery and has since been a restaurant for many years.

83 Queen Street – W. H. COCKERILL'S MOTOR COACH, BLACKSMITH & FARRIER WORKS -

This iconic building is now a retail store



Cockerill's Motor Coach, Blacksmith and Farrier Works

81 Queen Street - MR COCKERIL'S RESIDENCE- 1883

This was possibly an early estate house, and was the residence of Mr Cockerill.

67 Queen Street - OLD BLACKSMITH'S SITE – 1919

This was built about 1919 for Rutledge and Deamer, blacksmiths, wheelwrights and farriers. In the late 1980s it became an antiques shop and then a dance studio. It is now a restaurant.

69 Queen Street - THE OLD PRINTING SHOP – CIRCA 1920

This large brick building was built to house the local newspaper, The South Coast Register, which was bought by a Nowra publishing firm in 1970 and moved to Nowra. For many years a printery continued to operate on this site. In 2011 it became a retail shop.

65 Corner Queen and Albany Streets - TIMBER COTTAGE

This cottage was originally on a farm behind the hospital and was moved into the town in the 1920s. In the 1930s it was occupied by a dressmaker. It is now a real estate agent.

South side of Queen Street

78 Queen Street - THE OLD CORDIAL FACTORY - Circa 1880

A one-time family residence with a cordial factory, possibly situated at the rear of the cottage. The cottage had a long association with the Bolt family. In 1894 Mr Robert Bolt advertised in the Berry Register that he could supply cordials of all kinds and vinegars on a commercial basis and to the public. This business ceased in 1928. After WWII Bill Bolt ran a shoe repair business from the premises. Bill died in 1948 and the ownership transferred to Mark Bolt. The current owners purchased the run-down cottage in 1998 and painstakingly restored it, preserving original features and uncovering evidence of its colourful past. Moonshine appears to have been one of the more interesting products that was produced here. The property has been converted for commercial use.

96 Queen Street - STAN BURT'S ARCADE (GARAGE) – 1916/2005

Close to the corner of Alexandra Street, this development opened as a garage in 1916. It has been owned by the present family since 1924. In 2005 it was converted into shops and a cafe.

98 Queen Street - ANDREW PLACE 1884/1997

This was the site of the first Agricultural Society's Exhibition Building in 1884. It was also used as council chambers, the School of Arts and a public hall. The splendid old Live Oak in the car park at the Princess Street end of the site is the only remaining tree of many that were planted by visiting dignitaries to the town. Shoalhaven City Council has heritage listed the tree. The School of Arts has been at its present site in Alexandra Street since 1906 and the old buildings were moved to the Showground. The present building was built in 1997 and named for Andrew Waddell.

100 Queen Street - BERRY NEWSAGENCY BUILDING – 1885/1935

In 1885 Andrew Waddell started selling newspapers from the front rooms of the house next door. A room was added at the front for a shop and soon it was trading as a general store. The present shop was built in 1935. The motto "Multum in parvo" (Much in little) is still inscribed above the door.

110 & 112 Queen Street - BAKERY & ESTATE AGENT'S BUILDING - 1896

This was built in 1896 for the Berry Estate by W. Coward. One section was built especially as a bakery and is still one today. Part of the upper floor was the Berry Estate Office where tenants paid their rent. Adjacent to the bakery the shop was once a produce store and auctioneer's premises. Later it

was occupied by the Bank of Australasia, the Berry Saddlery and The Berry Burger before becoming a Real Estate Agent's Office.

118 Queen Street - THE OLD HARDWARE SHOP BUILDING – 1916

In 1872 a cottage was built on this site. It was altered in order to be occupied by the ES&A Bank. In 1885 the Bank moved across to what is now the Museum building, the cottage was demolished and the site used as the hotel yard. It was still vacant in 1908. The present building was built in 1916 by W. Brooke as a hardware store and it operated as such until 1988. In recent times, it was converted to three retail shops.

120 Queen Street - THE BERRY HOTEL – 1863/1924

This occupies the site of the timber Kangaroo Inn which was built in 1863. In 1888 a new brick hotel with cast iron verandah railings and hitching posts for horses was built in front of the old inn and it was renamed the Commercial Hotel. In 1924 the old verandah railings were replaced by a two storey brick wing and the name changed to The Berry Hotel. At the rear of the building is a single storey free standing brick room which may once have been the kitchen of the Kangaroo Inn. During 1991 extensive alterations and restoration took place.



Commercial Hotel circa 1890

122 Corner Queen & Prince Alfred Streets - COMMERCIAL BANKING COMPANY OF SYDNEY – 1889

Prior to 1889 a general store occupied this site after which The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney purchased the land and later erected the present building. It was designed by George Mansfield who designed many CBC buildings in NSW country towns. He also designed such buildings as Parliament House and Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney. By 1988 the CBC had become the National Australia Bank and moved to new premises. The building was then converted to a Guest House.



CBC Bank circa 1925