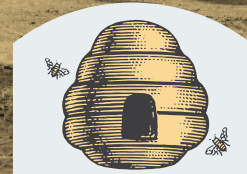


WESTY

Living Heritage Experience

SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF WEST WALLSEND



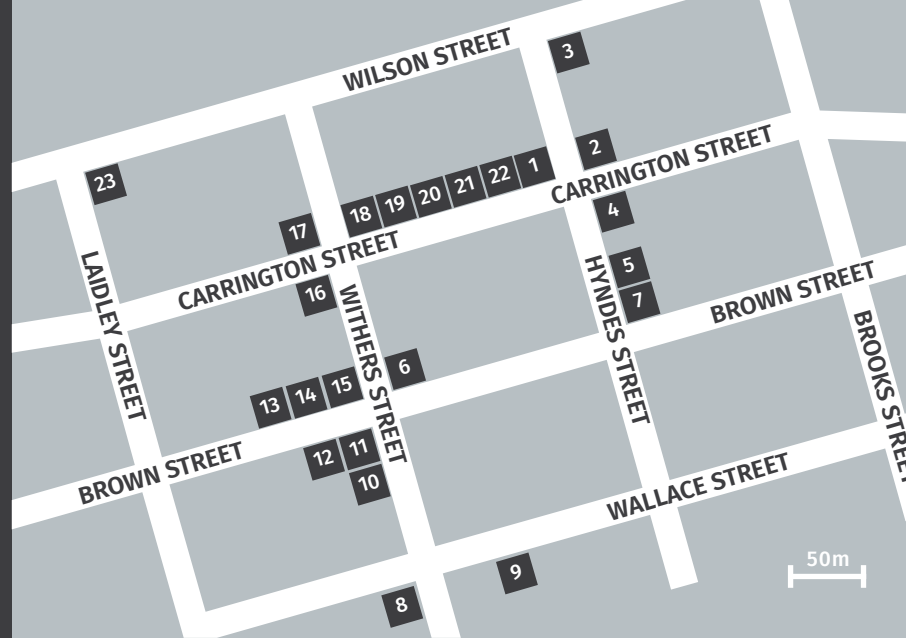
WESTY

we built this history

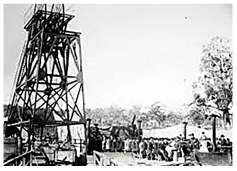
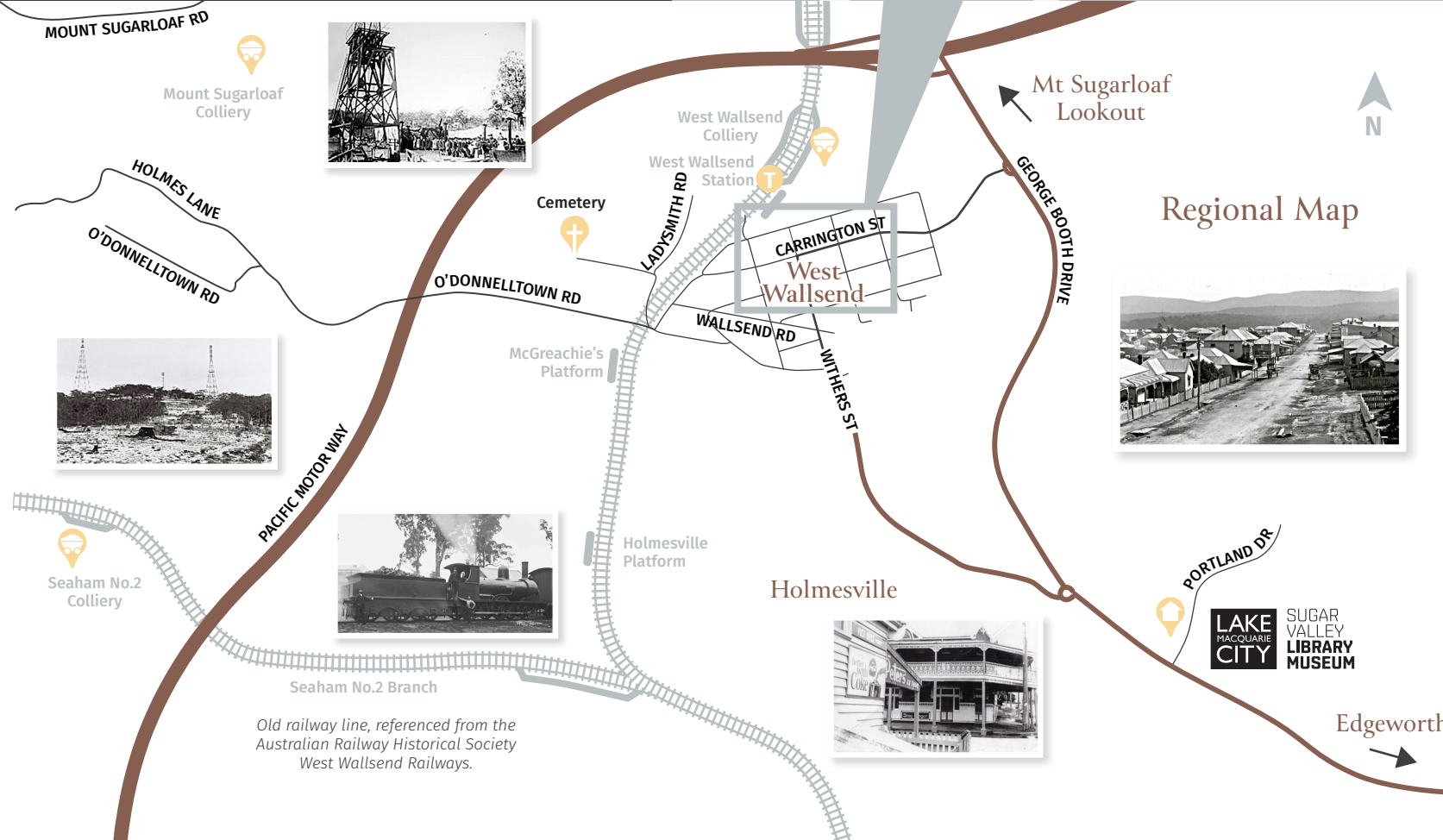
SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF WEST WALLSEND

This map was produced by the Lake Macquarie City Council as a guide to exploring the local history of West Wallsend, Lake Macquarie.

The walk may take about an hour to view all the sites. When viewing sites, please respect private property, be aware that Churches are not always open, and that entry to school grounds is prohibited other than to people on business.



- 1 West Wallsend War Memorial
49 Carrington Street
- 2 Original West Wallsend Co-Operative Store
47 Carrington Street
- 3 Northumberland Hotel
1 Hyndes Street
- 4 West Wallsend Post Office
54 Carrington Street
- 5 Catholic Church And Convent
5 & 7 Hyndes Street
- 6 West Wallsend Co-Operative Store
7 Withers Street
- 7 Josephite Nuns Residence
7 Hyndes Street
- 8 Presbyterian Church
415 Withers Street
- 9 Baptist Church
49 Wallace Street
- 10 West Wallsend Public School
1906/7 East Wing, 7 Withers Street
West Wallsend Public School
Infants School, 43 Brown Street
- 11 Miners Memorial
Corner of Carrington & Brown Streets
- 12 The 1892 Schoolmaster's Residence
62 Brown Street
- 13 Masonic Lodge
45 Brown Street
- 14 Methodist Church And Residence
43 & 41 Brown Street
- 15 West Wallsend Co-Operative Store
8 Withers Street
- 16 Butcher Shop
6 Withers Street
- 17 Vaisey's Store [Now The Bottle Shop]
69 Carrington Street
Horse Trough
Corner Withers And Carrington Streets
- 18 Bowie's Shop
67 Carrington Street
- 19 Grey's Shop
74 Carrington Street
- 20 The School Of Arts
65 Carrington Street
- 21 The Clyde Inn
57 Carrington Street
- 22 Workers Club
51 Carrington Street
- 23 Museum Hotel
Corner Laidley And Wilson Streets



Old railway line, referenced from the Australian Railway Historical Society West Wallsend Railways.



1 WEST WALLSEND WAR MEMORIAL
49 Carrington Street

The West Wallsend Soldiers Memorial was unveiled on 28th January 1922. The memorial has both historical and social

significance in embodying and reflecting community sentiment, pride, and memories of its contributions to two World Wars. The memorial is also significant in terms of artistic and technical significance in featuring a sculpture of a soldier, uncommon for NSW WWI war memorials.



2 ORIGINAL WEST WALLSEND CO-OPERATIVE STORE
47 Carrington Street

Built with an adjacent house circa 1888 for C.H. Thomas, butcher of Minmi. Shop and leased

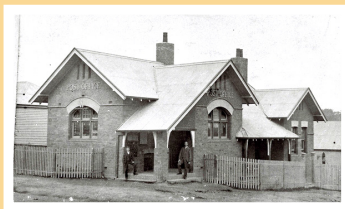
in July 1891 to the new West Wallsend Co-operative Society as its first commercial venture. The British co-operative tradition was brought to the Hunter Valley by immigrant coal miners.



3 NORTHUMBERLAND HOTEL
1 Hyndes Street

For a little mining town that once had an unquenchable thirst, with six pubs trading at the same time early last century. The

Northumberland opened in 1888, and closed in 1956 after its license was transferred to Belmont to allow the Belmont Hotel to open. Leonard Arthur Lownades, licensee of the Northumberland Hotel, appeared for the transfer of the license.



4 WEST WALLSEND POST OFFICE
54 Carrington Street

The first post office in West Wallsend was in a building in Carrington Street next to Nesbitt Gray, whose shop was on the corner with

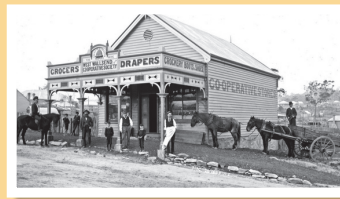
Withers Street. Miss Blanche Clinton was appointed Postmistress on 1st July 1888 and Mr Alexander McKinnon followed her on 27th August of the same year. The present-day West Wallsend Post Office was opened on the 23rd of August 1906.



5 CATHOLIC CHURCH AND CONVENT
5 & 7 Hyndes Street

“Our Lady of Good Council” Catholic Church was opened on 7th August 1904. The adjacent

Convent was built for the Sisters of St Joseph, who ran the Catholic school in what is now the church hall. The cost of construction was 800 pounds. The School, opened 28th January 1912, with 95 children enrolled. The Catholic church is the only remaining original church in West Wallsend built in timber and vernacular in style. The simple architectural form of the Church is representative of the contemporary small community of Catholic mine workers. The grander Convent building represents the growing prosperity of the community.



6 WEST WALLSEND CO-OPERATIVE STORE
7 Withers Street

The Co-op outgrew the small shop on Carrington Street and built larger premises on the east side

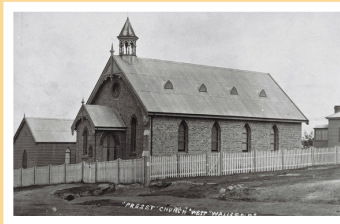
of Withers Street where the Service Station is now. By 1899 the Co-op had 1044 Store members (or shareholders) in a population of around 6000. The co-operatives helped the miners to save in good times and would stand by them in times of depression, unemployment and industrial strife – it meant having “a stake in the business”.



7 JOSEPHITE NUNS RESIDENCE
7 Hyndes Street

Built in 1912 with original gable, lattice work and veranda stripes. The Josephite nuns resided and taught at the school

from 1912 until c1969. The building is now a private residence.



8 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
415 Withers Street

Built in 1903 by contractors William Turnbull & Sons, the altar, pulpit, pews and communion rail were brought from the first Presbyterian Church in

Newcastle. In its simple and elegant form, this church contributes to the distinctive character of the historic mining town. It contains relics of the earliest Presbyterian Church in the northern region of the State. The church is now a private residence.



9 BAPTIST CHURCH
49 Wallace Street

Opened in 1906, closed from 1938 to 1941 the congregation no longer meets at this building, which is now a private residence The church has significance as an early

place of community gatherings and as an interesting example of Federation style church architecture.



10 WEST WALLSEND PUBLIC SCHOOL
1906/7 East Wing
7 Withers Street

This three-classroom building, with a basement, was built across the east end of the first 1889 building in 1906/7. It was

built by Mr S. O'Brien at a cost of 1,810 pounds. The growth of the school over a short period of about 20 years, reflects the rapid population growth of the town. The changing architectural styles of successive buildings reflect the predominant and changing influences and attitudes of several Colonial or Government Architects over quite a short period of time.

WEST WALLSEND PUBLIC SCHOOL, Infants School
43 Brown Street

The school was founded in 1889, with a substantial block of two classrooms, and in 1892, a separate Schoolteachers Residence, both facing north on Brown Street, and both a short distance from the town centre. The last major building on the site was the separate Infants School, completed in 1913. The buildings all reflect a dynamic period in public education, when noticeable changes (or advances) in educational theory led to a quite different plan layout for each new building.



11 MINERS MEMORIAL
corner of Carrington and Brown Streets

The Mount Sugarloaf Colliery commenced operations on the side of Mt Sugarloaf in November 1949, using an abandoned adit

from 1885 which was cleaned out and hand operated by pick and shovel, using coal skips on trolley rails to haul out the coal. The mine was worked out by 1978 and closed, it was probably then that the sign was re-erected in West Wallsend. Restored skip is typical of those used in older mines to move coal to the shaft.

12 THE 1892 SCHOOLMASTER'S RESIDENCE
62 Brown Street

The contract for this building was signed by builder John Fry of Newcastle on 7th June 1890. The Residence was finished and occupied in April 1892 at a cost of 899 pounds 17 shillings. It was converted to a school library in 1981.



idiosyncratic architecture which references Masonic symbology. The Lodge is now a private residence.

13 MASONIC LODGE
45 Brown Street

The Masonic Lodge St Andrews was founded in March 1891. The Temple was built in 1909 and extended in 1923. It closed before 2006. It has

14 METHODIST CHURCH AND RESIDENCE
43 & 41 Brown Street

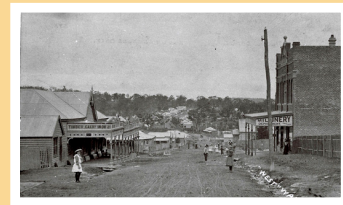
The Methodist Church was constructed in c. 1910. The adjoining residence is a rendered masonry building dating from c. 1888 and



used as a former Police Station and in the 1930's and 1940's as the Methodist Manse. Now a private residence and the church is part of the Uniting Church in Australia.

15 WEST WALLSEND CO-OPERATIVE STORE
8 Withers Street

It is probable that the Co-op. bought Lot 9, Section "A", at the same time (on the corner of Withers



and Brown Streets), as it was on this lot that the two-storey first brick building was opened in 1906. It consisted of two large shops downstairs, housing Drapery, Millinery, Tailoring etc. departments, and a line shaft equipped Workshop upstairs.

Withers Street circa 1910 looking East towards Main Rd Edgeworth in the distance. The first two buildings on the left and right belonged to the West Wallsend Co-operative store. The two-storey building on the right was erected in 1906 on the corner of Government Road (later re-named Withers Street) and Brown Street. While the co-operative has gone, the building complex which makes up the West Wallsend Co-op remains as a testament to that significant historical and social movement and needs to be able to continue to tell that story into the future. The West Wallsend Store is one of the few co-op complexes in the Hunter Valley which still operates as a retail centre for the township it sits at the heart of.



16 BUTCHER SHOP
6 Withers Street

In 1905 it was the J.D. Thomas's Butcher Shop. Around 1910 to 1915, a large new Shop was built on Lot 7, between the

Produce Store and Thomas's shop. The former Thomas's Butcher Shop was eventually demolished and replaced by the existing corner block in 1927.



17 VAISEY'S STORE
[now the Bottle shop]
69 Carrington Street

In 1903 Mr Stobbs resigned as the first manager of the West Wallsend Co-operative

Society and went into the general storekeeping business in opposition. Shortly after resigning from his position, Stobbs opened a general store in a newly erected two storey brick building with iron lace verandah and corrugated iron roof. The Vaisey family may have financed the building of the large corner store which became first Stobbs and then Vaisey's Store. By the 1880s it was not uncommon for large general stores to have several departments including grocery, boots and shoes, millinery, drapery, ironmongery and dressmaking.

HORSE TROUGH
corner Withers and Carrington Streets

Installed 1908. 9 Jan 1929 reported in the Newcastle Sun – invasion of cattle due to fires in area removing feed and water: "... The Influx commenced a few weeks ago. To the accompaniment of much neighing and bellowing, all tho cattle for miles around seemed to be converging upon the town. The space around the local water trough became a sea of waving horns and protruding ribs..."



18 BOWIE'S SHOP
67 Carrington Street

The building was erected in two stages, firstly the corner half shop and

residence (before 1900) and then the shop adjoining which are now combined as the Veterinary Surgery.

19 GREY'S SHOP
74 Carrington Street

The Gray family came to West Wallsend in 1890. They lived in houses and shops in Carrington Street, and their corner shop survives. The shop was later run by a G.W. Brown.



20 THE SCHOOL OF ARTS
65 Carrington Street

Land given to town by West Wallsend Coal Co. Built 1895-1900. Cost 900 pounds, with half raised by the local Committee

and half given by the Government. The building originally comprised a hall, library and reading room on the ground floor, and a billiard room and offices on the upper floor.



21 THE CLYDE INN
57 Carrington Street

The Clyde Inn was built in 1893 by Thomas Robertson. The building was replaced in 1929 and stayed open until it's closure in 2007. The

Clyde Inn Hotel was the town centre & many excursions started from it. Later it became the terminal bus stop for trips away from the town. The Hotel title includes a 5-foot-wide right-of-way from the back of the Hotel to the West Wallsend No.1 Colliery site. This encouraged miners coming off shift to walk straight up hill to the Clyde Inn, so by-passing the Museum Hotel.



22 WORKERS CLUB
51 Carrington Street

The Workers' Club was established on this site in 1948, in the renovated premises of J.H. Jones' Drapery Palace. The present clubhouse

was built circa 1958, and extended into the Memorial Park in 1965. Historically significant as representing a principal social & recreational centre in the town, after the decline of the School of Arts as a social centre, and before repeal of 6 o'clock closing for the pubs. Architecturally significant in that it epitomises a popular architectural style for the clubs which sprang up in many country towns around the State in the 1940s and 1950s.



23 MUSEUM HOTEL
corner Laidley and Wilson Streets

In 1887 William Johnston and family moved to West Wallsend and built the Museum Hotel, named for the

taxidermy specimens of William Johnston's daughter Margaret. It is a reminder of the time when there were operating coal mines nearby, a railway station and busy steam-tram terminus outside the front door, and the popular soccer football ground (still in use) across the railway line, all supplying the Museum Hotel with a large clientele.

Regional sites of interest within driving distance

West Wallsend Cemetery

Cemetery established in 1890, following a request to the West Wallsend Coal Co., from a town improvement committee, for a suitable grant of land. The Company handed the present site to a Cemetery Trust composed of 6 men chosen by the Company. The trust continued for nearly 80 years. In the early 1970s, management was handed to the Lake Macquarie Council.

Much of the history of the district is represented in this cemetery, in names, family relationships, dates of birth & death, and sometimes in the manner of death. The cemetery contains interesting examples of funerary art. Scenically, it is evocative of a mining community, having respect for the dead, but little money to spare for frills.

Mount Sugarloaf and the Sugarloaf Range

This nine-acre reserve around the mountain top was notified in 1887. Mount Sugarloaf and Sugarloaf Range have been major factors in the social unity and the sense of identity and place amongst the mining villages which sprang up to exploit the coal resources of the West Wallsend area. This sense of identity is still evident today within the local community living "Neath Mount Sugarloaf".

Surrounding mining towns of **Holmesville**, **Killingworth** and **Barnsley** also include some sites of interest.





For more information about the history of West Wallsend visit Sugar Valley Library Museum.

The information provided has been summarised and updated from Council's database or from the archives of the West Wallsend District Heritage Group. All images included in this trail are sourced from the Lake Macquarie City Council or West Wallsend Collection.

To find out more about the history of the area, we recommend that you combine your living heritage experience with a visit to the Sugar Valley Library Museum, Kirantakamyari (Awabakal meaning "North Creek"). The museum presents the story of the region through enticing and immersive experiences, and objects portraying the life and times of this unique township forged by coal mining.

SUGAR VALLEY LIBRARY MUSEUM Kirantakamyari

Located on the corner of
Northridge Drive and Portland Road,
CAMERON PARK

Opening hours:
10am-2pm, 3pm-6pm Tuesday to Friday
10am-2pm Sat & Sun

Phone: 02 4921 0111
library.lakemac.com.au