



Welcome to our historic town of Kingston SE. First established as a private town in 1858 by statesman and benefactor George Strickland Kingston, it began as a lively settlement with first settlers Archibald and James Cooke, initiators of sea trade and instigators of a railway, further developing it.

Declared a safe harbour by the government in 1865, Kingston became a busy and bustling seaport. Adjacent Rosetown continued as a private enterprise on the northern side of Maria Creek, but eventually the townships merged into one thriving town complete with banks, hotels, commercial centre and its own court house and post office.

This self-guided tour has been designed to provide you with some background into the significant old buildings that give Kingston its unique yet relaxed character. Don't forget to take a moment to rest your legs and enjoy the hospitality of our eateries, shops and establishments, many of which have brought new opportunities to our historic buildings.

## Kingston's heritage starts here...

### 1 Cape Jaffa Lighthouse

The first Australian offshore lighthouse to be dismantled and re-erected onshore...this iconic structure is now a maritime museum. Commanding attention, it provides visitors with both a unique experience of lighthouse life and an amazing view of the sweeping coastline and hinterland.

### 2 The Lightkeepers' Cottages

From 1933, these three identical cottages provided accommodation for the lightkeepers and their families, replacing the smaller stone cottages on the isolated tip of Cape Jaffa.

### 3 The Customs and Harbourmaster's House

When wool was shipped directly from Kingston to London in the late 1800s, this building was a very busy customs office. Later it became the Harbourmaster's House. The building was designed by Colonial Architect C.E.O. Smyth, who also supervised the building of the Museum and Art Gallery of South Australia.

### 4 Site of Cooke Brothers' Stores and the Old Wool Store

From 1863, brothers Archibald and James Cooke, both prominent figures in the development of Kingston, operated their well-stocked stores and shipping offices from premises on the corner of Marine Parade and Hanson Street, where the Lacepede Bay Motel now stands. In its day, the adjacent wool store moved wool bales from the inland rail network to ships berthed in Lacepede Bay. A noteworthy feature of The Old Wool Store is the curved doorway, which enabled rail trucks to enter the building.

### 5 The Royal Mail Hotel

The main structure of this building has remained virtually unchanged since it was opened in 1867. Situated near the busy port, wool stores, government offices and railway station, it provided convenient facilities for the many workers.

### 6 The Old Courthouse

Like the Post Office, the Courthouse is both elegant and functional, sharing the same designer and builders. Local courts in South Australia were established in 1870, and circuit judges travelled by mail coach between trials. The Courthouse is a reminder of Kingston's historic role as an important regional centre.

### 7 The Telegraph Station and Kingston Post Office

This handsome building is an unusually ornate post office for a modest country town. It reflected the high degree of government confidence in the growth of the new port and the surrounding district in the 1860s.

### 8 The Old Gaol (Jail) and Police Station

The former police station and gaol played a major role in government administration in the South East for one hundred years. It features a semi-walled design, with the residence and police station facing Cooke Street and cells accessed from a separate rear entrance, with a detached stable block beyond.

### 9 Site of the Lacepede Bay Schoolroom – the Kingston School

The first government school was built on this site in 1864. It was one of the first in South Australia to be given government funding assistance and entrusted to private trustees under the control of the Board of Education. Once schooling was made compulsory in 1875 however, this building proved to be inadequate for the expanding local community.

### 10 The Old Bank House

Featuring a grand entrance door, formal symmetrical design and excellent stone masonry, this former bank played a significant role in Kingston's early economic affairs. It was built in 1876 and opened as the Bank of South Australia, with many changes of bank ownership in its operating history.

### 11 J J Jarman's Sawmill Complex

The Kingston National Trust Museum is housed in the former J J Jarman's Sawmill and General Merchandise building. Jarman's business expanded into a thriving building trade from the 1870s onwards, with the development of the railways in the State's southeast.

### 12 Vine Cottage

A vine which provided a distinctive garland around the verandah of this home gave Vine Cottage its name. Built around 1868, the once small cottage was home to Reverend David Milne and his family of ten children.

### 13 Otter House

Positioned on a rise overlooking Lacepede Bay, Otter House was the elegant home of James and Mary Cooke. Cedar from Scotland and slate from Wales were shipped out for its construction from the mid-1860s.

### 14 The Anglican (formerly Congregational) Church

Despite its belfry being removed and tie rods installed following the earthquake of 1897, this church has been used continually as a place of worship and for church services since it opened in 1873.

### 15 The Uniting (formerly Wesleyan Methodist) Church

A storm unroofed this building just before it was opened in 1887, but the damage was quickly repaired. Originally established as a Wesleyan Methodist church, services have been held continuously ever since.

### 16 The Kingston School, Holland Street

In 1880, the School opened with an enrolment of 130 students, accommodated in two classrooms. With Kingston's rapid development and the introduction of compulsory schooling across the State, it was originally called the Kingston Primary School, followed by the Kingston Higher Primary School in 1948, and in 1961, it became the Kingston Area School.

### 17 Site of the Lacepede Bay Institute Hall

This car park includes the site of the Lacepede Bay Institute Hall, which opened in 1873 and served the Kingston community as its principal venue for balls, concerts, dances, music recitals, lectures, debates and the showing of movies for 65 years.

### 18 Site of Paterson's Store

The stone wall of this building facing Charles Street is the only remaining original wall of Paterson's Store. During the 1860s and 1870s, P J Paterson ran a flourishing general store, which was continued by E Goode when he bought the business.

### 19 The Crown Inn Hotel (formerly The Ship Inn)

The distinctive chamfered corner of the original building, then known as the Ship Inn, remains today, as does the hotel business operating from this building. Take a moment to step inside and look at the Dining Room's faceted-glass double doors.

### 20 Site of the Kingston Arms Hotel

The original building is no longer recognisable, but several interior walls remain in the businesses now occupying the site. As the first hotel in Kingston, it traded without competition for more than a decade and, in later years, became The Coffee Palace, a venue no longer serving alcohol.

### 21 Dudley Bridge

The weight of fully-laden bullock wagons and the need to adequately connect expanding settlements on either side of the Maria Creek necessitated the building of a strong, screw-pile bridge. The site of the Kingston Preserving and Canning Factory indicates the extent of the rabbit problem in this area in the late 1800s.

### 22 Site of the Pinkerton Butchery

The Pinkerton butchering business is still operating, having begun in 1883 and involving five generations of family butchers. In the early days, carts carried meat for door-to-door sales. In 1966 the business re-located to Holland Street.

### 23 Site of the Kingston-Naracoorte Railway and the Stationmaster's House

James and Archibald Cooke campaigned to have a railway line built between Kingston and Naracoorte, so that produce such as wool and wheat from inland could be shipped to markets. The line was opened in 1877. The Stationmaster's House was positioned alongside the track, with the stone railway station directly behind it.

### 24 The Old Council Chambers

In 1885, the District Council Chambers were built, twelve years after the District Council of Lacepede had been proclaimed. Since the new Council offices opened in 1978, the building has primarily been used to house archival records.

### 25 Site of the McCheyne Free Presbyterian Church

Located on land between the present tennis courts and bowling greens, the substantial church building was damaged beyond repair during the 1897 earthquake. It had served its congregation for only 23 years.





A collaborative project between the Kingston District Council and the Kingston Branch of the National Trust of South Australia.

Sources of information regarding the heritage sites were many, including, primarily,

- DUNN, Marie: "A Man's Reach" (1969)
- BELL, P & MARSDEN, S: "Kingston Heritage Survey" (2007)
- The KINGSTON SE NATIONAL TRUST MUSEUM



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A WALKING GUIDE TO KINGSTON'S HERITAGE

