

## Winton Heritage Trail



Delamere House

the Real  
Discover  New Zealand



### Welcome to the Winton Heritage Trail

With the area's fine agricultural and pastoral potential recognised by the earliest of settlers, Winton is probably the oldest inland town in Southland. It was established in 1861, and was named after Thomas Winton, a boundary rider. Whilst searching for stray stock, he had occasion to camp by the banks of the small stream, and gave his name to the creek and the surrounding bush. From then the town took its name.

Winton first came to prominence in the days of the gold rushes, as it was one of the stops en route to the goldfields. In 1862 a police barracks was erected and a year later the Great North Road was cut, elevating Winton to more than just 'a hole in the bush'. The first surveys were completed in 1862/63 by Clement Johnstone. He named the streets after nobility who took part in a medieval jousting tournament revival he attended as a boy at the Earl of Eglinton's Estate in Scotland in 1839.

The Winton Heritage Trail route is 10km long, and can be driven in 15 minutes. Be sure to allow extra time to fully appreciate the 14 sites, and at least 20 minutes to enjoy a stroll through the Ivy Russell Reserve.

If you have more time on hand you may wish to consider walking the trail - the area is flat and the route very pleasant! Give yourself an hour or two.

Please respect the privacy of families by not venturing onto private properties on the Heritage Trail.

#### 1. Former Post Office - Great North Road

The Post Office was opened on 16 November 1905 by the Post Master General, Sir Joseph Ward. Designed by the Government Architect, it was built at a cost of 2,190 pounds by contractors Messers Smith Bros.

The second storey originally housed the postmaster's residence, and one of Southland's largest manually operated telephone exchanges which employed 40 operators.

In 1981 some of the contents of the Post Office safe were stolen, allegedly by a gang of thieves who had travelled from Dunedin. They had used blow-torches to cut through the bottom of the safe door thereby avoiding setting off the alarms.

The Post Office closed in 1994 and is now in private ownership.



#### 2. ANZAC Oval - Great North Road

The spreading elm tree was planted to commemorate the landing of the 1st NZEF (New Zealand Expeditionary Force) at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. With the aim of eliminating Turkey from the war, the New

Zealand and Australian Imperial Force (ANZACS) had participated in a Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, tasked with seizing the Southern heights of the Gallipoli Peninsula and giving the British and French Navies control of the Dardanelle Straits. Of the 8556 New Zealanders who fought there, 7473 were casualties and 2721 died. Today most people regard ANZAC Day as the beginning of New Zealand's identity.

The elm tree is also listed on the New Zealand Historic and Notable Tree Register.

Formerly a busy pedestrian access to the railway station, the Oval is now a favoured picnic area for locals and visitors. The picnic table was made by the 5th form woodwork students at Central Southland College to commemorate the Winton Centennial in 1976.



### 3. Central Southland Lodge - Great North Road

Winton was always a popular stop between Invercargill, Queenstown and the goldfields. After several delays due to lack of funds, the first railway line was eventually opened for traffic in 1871. The Invercargill-Winton Branch Line closed in December 1982.



The original Railway Hotel was the first building of any size erected in Winton. It had 25 rooms, and boasted a moderate tariff, a good table and a fine billiard room. There were also livery stables on the Hotel property to accommodate 100 horses. The hotel was destroyed by fire in 1910.

The new building was completed and opened in March 1911. Architect Mr C J Brodrick. Central Southland Lodge is a Category II Historic Building, registered by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. An interesting set of photographs depicting the history of the Hotel, Winton's main street and local schools may be viewed in the Lounge Bar,



as well as a unique list of local publicans and policemen.

### 4. Jamieson's Building - Great North Road

Jamieson's building is a Category II Historic Building, registered with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. Built in 1894, this building survived two major fires in 1901 and 1921, mainly because of its brick construction. Because of its unique construction this was a favoured subject for local artists - notably Lady Heather Francis - to draw and paint. The details warrant close inspection!



Robert Jamieson, a baker, arrived in New Zealand in 1875 and worked for Mr CD Moore's Bakery in Winton. When Jamieson left Mr Moore's employment to establish his own bakery in the town, it was agreed that west of the Oreti River would be served by Jamieson's Bakery, and east by Mr Moore's. A most amicable business agreement!

A restaurant was run in conjunction with the Jamieson's bakery, the family living above the shop. Sadly Robert's wife, Jane, died while removing personal possessions in the 1921 fire. Robert Jamieson died in 1929 and the family relinquished the business in 1951.

### 5. Centennial Park - John Street

The gates to Centennial Park, a recreation reserve, were erected to commemorate the Centennial of New Zealand in 1940. Tree and shrub planting commenced in 1978. In 1980 Mr Bert Lumsden left a bequest which started the Bert Lumsden Memorial Gardens in the north east corner of the park.



This property has a cedar tree, listed in the New Zealand Notable and Historic Tree Register, probably planted when the house was built. It once had a canopy spread of 21m, which matched its height, but was severely damaged in a storm in 1997. A rimu tree, just inside the gateway, was brought as a seedling from Stewart Island in the early 1900's.

### 7. Former Home Of Adam Hamilton - 9 Arthur Street

This brick home was built for Mr Adam Hamilton (brother of J R Hamilton of Avalon). Although qualified as a Presbyterian Minister, he, like his brother, was attracted to the world of politics. In 1919 he was elected as MP for Wallace. Mr Hamilton enjoyed a brilliant career in politics, including a brief period as Leader of the Opposition. During World War 2 he was a member of the War Cabinet. He finally retired in 1946, taking up the position of President of the Southland Savings Bank between 1951 and 1952.



Mr and Mrs Hamilton sold their home to the Presbyterian Church and it served as a Manse for some time.

### 8. Delamere - 180 Park Street

Built by Mr James Wilson, this was the home of Dr Peter Gow. He took up a medical practice in Winton around 1903. The house was named after his first wife, Anita Rose Delamere Gow, who died in 1917 leaving 3 small boys.

Dr Gow married again in 1923. Dr Moana Anderson, his new wife, was a house surgeon at Southland Hospital. Together they set up a medical practice at their home, Delamere, which lasted for twenty years. The Gows became well-known through the depression years when they gave free medical care to patients who were struggling financially. Dr Peter Gow died in 1943, and Dr Moana Gow carried on with the practice until 1946.

In commemoration of the Gows' service to the community of Winton, a Memorial Library was opened at the old Winton District High School in 1947 and a local street named after them.



### 6. Avalon - 64 MacKenzie Street

This home was built for Mr J R Hamilton, a member of Parliament for Awarua. Designed by architect, Mr Lambert, Avalon was built circa 1910.

### 9. Woodnorth Pottery - Displayed at the Winton Public Library, Wemyss Street

Winton is thrilled to have on permanent loan several pieces of New Zealand's famous Woodnorth Pottery. Somewhat avant-garde for its day, this was the work of Henry Sherratt Woodnorth in the early 1900's.



Henry's father had emigrated to Bluff from Burslem, Staffordshire, in 1875, and set up the first pottery works between Waikiwi and Lorneville. The two sons, Henry Sherratt and William Copeland, set up a brickworks and pottery works at Gap Road, Winton, closer to a source of clay at Pebbly Hills. Trading under the name of 'Woodnorth Brick and Tile Works', field tiles were the mainstay of the business. Henry was more interested in pottery manufacture and experimented with glazes and designs in the two storey Gap Road factory. Sadly, production ended in 1916 after a fire destroyed the family home.

As a tribute to Henry Woodnorth, an entire stand of his pottery was displayed at Southland's Centennial Exhibition in 1940.

### 10. Central Southland Museum - Park Street

This newly-established, private museum is housed in the old Salvation Army Hall, which was sold when the Salvation Army built its new premises on De Joux Road in 1999. The hall had, in fact, originally been shifted to Winton from Mataura in 1962.

Now owned by Duncan and Noeline McGregor, the facility has been lovingly transformed into a museum. It boasts early artifacts and features, including those of a cowbyre, stables, a smithy, a Victorian room, a doll room, a bar and a shop. The museum is open for restricted hours or by appointment. A small charge applies.

### 11. Former Home of P De La Perrelle - 224 Park Street

This home was owned by the De La Perrelle family for 31 years, from 1913-1944.

Born in Arrowtown in 1872, Mr P De La Perrelle bought the local newspaper, the Winton Record, in 1914. In 1922 he contested the Awarua seat and was elected to Parliament, but was defeated during the next round by Mr J R Hamilton. Mr De La Perrelle stood again in 1928, and was shortly thereafter appointed as Minister of Internal Affairs



for the United Party's Government until 1931. He died during his following term of office.

When Mr De La Perrelle senior, became an MP, his sons Harold, Frank, Lindsay and John printed and published the Winton Record.

### 12. Ivy Russell Reserve - Hillary Street

This reserve is named after Miss Ivy Russell, who, in 1919, became the first woman Town Clerk in New Zealand. She held the position for 35 years. Miss Russell was also Registrar for Births, Deaths and Marriages. After retiring, she served for a time as town Librarian and in all gave nearly 50 years of local body service. On her death in 1983, aged 94 years, Miss Russell bequeathed \$28,244 to the Winton Medical Centre for equipment and \$1,000 for the library.



The Winton Borough Council bought the reserve in the early 1980's. This was the last stand of white pines in the area and over the years has been rejuvenated with the planting of thousands of native trees. Much of the replanting is attributable to the vision and commitment of Mr Basil Anderson and other retired men who have given many years of voluntary labour.

If you are walking the Trail, you can proceed through the reserve onto Welsh Road and head out to the next site on Great North Road. Those travelling by car would need to complete the loop back to the parking area and follow the Heritage Trail signs.

### 13. Winton Cemetery

Many early settlers from Winton and the surrounding Districts were laid to rest at the Winton Cemetery. In fact, most of the persons mentioned in this Heritage Trail are buried here: The Gow plot is located in the middle of the cemetery, while the Woodnorth headstone faces onto the main highway.

A large cedar bluegum, found at the northern end of the cemetery, is listed on New Zealand's Notable and Historic Tree Register.

Winton Cemetery is also the burial place of Minnie Dean, the only woman to have been hanged in New Zealand. While many myths continue to surround the case, it was alleged that she murdered illegitimate babies that she had in her care at her "baby farm" in nearby Deans Road, Winton. She was hung in Invercargill on 12 August 1895. Deemed a wicked person, Minnie Dean was buried 8ft below ground at the Winton Cemetery, instead of the usual 6ft. Her grave was never marked. For a period the grass above her grave appeared not to grow, which really fuelled stories of Minnie Dean's wickedness. This was, in fact, later attributed to a local gardener and his herbicide! Today the grave is covered with grass and it remains unmarked.

Her husband, Charles Dean, died in 1908 and was buried six feet down in the same grave.



### Horse-Chestnut Trees on Great North Road

Heading back south from the cemetery to Great North Road, you will notice an avenue of chestnut trees planted along what used to be known as Coronation Avenue.



The 186 chestnuts were planted to commemorate the Coronation of King George VI, on 12 May 1937. Today there are only 53 chestnuts left lining the road.

A plaque recording the first planting was reinstated on a stone in front of the Medical Centre on 12 May 1997.

#### 14. Holy Trinity Anglican Church - Great North Road



This church is one of the few in the Southern area of the Anglican Diocese to have weathered the period of time on its original site.

Tenders for the establishment of the church were called in January 1876. It was built by Price and Shadrow and the Architect was Mr F W Burwell. The church was opened on 18 October 1876 and finally consecrated in 1893 when cleared of all debts.

The Winton community nearly lost the church in 1979, with the threat of demolition. Fortunately parishioners and friends worked very hard to restore and extend the building and it was a great thrill to have it rededicated by Bishop Peter Marn on 20 December 1981.

The Church is also recognised as a Category II, Historic Building by the

*A project of Winton Area Promotions Incorporated with support from:*

