

A. WINDSOR HERITAGE WALK – THOMPSON SQUARE PRECINCT

500m walk
30 minutes
Map nos. 1 – 10

It is suggested you start exploring Windsor at Thompson Square. This walk features many fine examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings. The square was named by Governor Lachlan Macquarie in honour of his friend Andrew Thompson and was originally the centre of the village known as Green Hills which was proclaimed the town of Windsor by Governor Macquarie in December 1810.

Please note that this brochure includes many privately owned buildings which are not open for public inspection and may be viewed from the public street only.

1. Thompson Square

The square, which originated in 1795, was named after Andrew Thompson who arrived in the colony as a convict aboard the *Pitt* in 1792. Despite his felonious associations, Thompson was appointed constable at Green Hills by Governor John Hunter in 1796 and became a highly respected land owner and prosperous businessman operating a store on the square from 1799. Thompson died in October 1810 aged just 37 years and was buried in St Matthews Church of England Cemetery. His epitaph penned by Governor Lachlan Macquarie commemorated the untimely death of a 'most useful and valuable man'.

A refurbishment of the square was completed to celebrate the bicentenary of the European settlement at Sydney Cove in 1988. The memorial includes an anchor, symbolising the river trade between the productive farmlands of the Hawkesbury and Sydney on which the colony relied during the early days of the settlement. The plaque records the names of many of the early European families who settled in the Hawkesbury district from 1794.

2. Windsor Bridge

From the lower area of Thompson Square you are able to see Windsor Bridge which remains the first and only bridge to cross the Hawkesbury at Windsor. The Hawkesbury River at this location was first crossed by John Howe's ferry which commenced a regular service in 1814 but it was not until 1864 when the railway line was extended from Blacktown to Richmond that local member for Hawkesbury the Hon. William Walker put the forward the idea for the building of the bridge to the NSW parliament. Opening to traffic in 1874 the occasion was one of great celebration including a procession through the town and a bullock roast in Thompson Square for the citizens of district. The level of bridge was a matter of regular debate and following repeated flooding a decision was made to raise the level of the decking by 2.5 metres in 1897.

3. The Doctors House

The first building on this site (1819) is believed to have been an inn called The Lord Nelson and the present terrace comprising two adjoining buildings was completed in about 1845. For over a century from 1858 the house was occupied by a series of doctors, the most well known being Dr Thomas

Fiaschi of Tizzana near Ebenezer. The last doctor to practice in this building was Dr Walter James Skinner (Bill) who retired in 1992. Architectural features include the fine fanlights above the entrance doors, the columns to each side, the sandstone flagged verandah and the delicate iron railings. At the height of the 1867 flood the water lapped the balcony on the first floor of the building.

4. Howe House

This former residence and inn stands on part of a town allotment made in 1811 to John Howe (1774-1852), who arrived as a free settler aboard *Coromandel* in 1802 and became a man of some prominence in early Windsor. He became Chief Constable of the town from 1814 to 1821, Coroner from 1822 to 1836 and with James McGrath was engaged in a number of building projects such as the enlargement of the wharf at Windsor in 1814. He is also credited with leading several expeditions commencing in 1819 which resulted in opening up the Hunter region to settlement. According to early maps, a dwelling for Howe was built on the site by 1827 however Howe advertised a newly constructed building for sale or lease in *The Sydney Herald* of 3 April 1837 as he was moving to the Hunter Valley. This building later became the Daniel O'Connell Inn operated by Edward Coffey (1840s) but the exact date of construction has not been confirmed. In 1876 the building was sold to George Louis Asher Davies a printer who published *The Australian: Windsor, Richmond, and Hawkesbury Advertiser* newspaper from 1871 to 1889.

In collaboration with Windsor Municipal Council the building became the historical museum of the Hawkesbury Historical Society in March 1962. With the erection of an additional building by Hawkesbury City Council on the adjacent site in Baker Street opened in May 2008, it became part of the new Hawkesbury Regional Museum precinct. The house reopened to the public in November 2012 and offers a variety of displays relating to the uses of the building over time, including an inn and newspaper office. For more information: <http://www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au/services/places-and-facilities/hawkesbury-regional-museum>

5. Macquarie Arms Hotel

This two storey brick Georgian building with cellar and additional attic rooms was constructed in 1815 by Richard Fitzgerald and is the oldest remaining structure in Australia built as an inn. The building has however, not been in continuous use as a hotel having been occupied by garrison soldiers stationed at Windsor during the 1830s and as a private home 1840 -1872. It was operated by the Bushell family as the Royal Hotel from 1872 until 1900. Although there have been extensive additions to the front and side elevations of the building, much of the original cedar interior woodwork is still intact including the original staircases and colonial fanlights.

Richard Fitzgerald (1772-1840), arrived in the colony of NSW as a convict aboard the *William and Ann* in 1791 and became one of the most influential citizens in the district holding many important government positions, including superintendent of convicts and works at Windsor. He built the 'large and commodious inn' at the insistence of Governor Macquarie and a cottage for his family next door where the modern Fitzgerald House now stands. The cottage remained in the Fitzgerald family until about 1913 and was demolished in about 1936.

A plaque on the garden wall facing the square indicates the height of the greatest recorded flood of 1867, when the river reached 19.3 metres. The wall to which the plaque is affixed is thought to be made of bricks rejected from St Matthews Anglican Church in Moses Street in 1817.

6. A C Stearn Building

Constructed in 1907 by Alf Stearn this elaborate shop and residence features a double storey cast iron verandah and decorative parapet with lion motif. The verandah was removed during the 1950s but has been reinstated in recent years. Stearn's store sold a wide variety of merchandise including cigarette and pipe tobacco, jewellery including rings and watches, fireworks and musical instruments.

7. Former Hawkesbury Motor Garage [pictured]

Hawkesbury Garage was constructed in 1923 by H A Clements on the site of the Sir John Young Hotel which was operated from 1865 by George S Hall. Known as the Hawkesbury Hotel from 1880,

the publican for a time was Joseph Leddra and finally James Walsh. The building was destroyed by fire in 1913 and the structure demolished two years later. Clements had the foresight to take advantage of the business opportunities presented by the new form of transport – the motor vehicle, and facilities included mechanical repairs and the local dealership for marques such as Buick, Chevrolet, Vauxhall and Bedford vehicles. From 1974 the premises have been occupied by a variety of commercial tenants including Hawkesbury Plumbing Supplies.

8. Former Moses Bakery and Hawkesbury Stores

Four generations of the Moses family were in the bakery business in Windsor for almost 150 years from 1821 to 1971. Uriah Moses (1780 -1847) opened his bakery at the rear of the Georgian cottage located at 62 George Street, Windsor. Moses had arrived as a convict in 1800 aboard the *Royal Admiral* having been convicted of stealing handkerchiefs, lace and cloth. Business prospered and in the early 1880s Uriah's son William built the two storey Hawkesbury Stores building next to the bakery which boasted plate glass display windows lit at night by gas and traded in a variety of goods such as groceries, crockery and homewares as well as hardware supplies.

During this time a second storey addition was also added to one half of the cottage building. By 1886 the business had diversified to include saw mill, chaff cutting and corn cracking operations as well as the bakery which delivered to surrounding areas by horse and cart and along the river by boat. The bakery business relocated further down George Street in 1920 and in later years the Hawkesbury Stores building was separated into the series of single shops that can be seen today.

You are able to view nos. 9. and 10. from the corner of George and Bridge Streets, which is also the starting point of the Peninsula Precinct Walk (Map B).

9. School of Arts [pictured]

Schools of Arts were institutions established during the nineteenth century to provide educational opportunities for working men. This Italianate style building was constructed in 1861 on the site of the old government store and provided library facilities and a venue for lectures and meetings. The two pavilion wings on either side were added after 1900. Continuing to function as a community centre until 1947, the building was converted into a factory for the boot manufacturer Enoch Taylor Pty Ltd. Since that time it has been used for a variety of business activities.

10. House 10 Bridge Street

This substantial residence on Thompson Square was built in the Colonial Regency style for Dr Joshua Dowe, surgeon at the Hawkesbury Benevolent Society Hospital in Macquarie Street, Windsor between 1856 and 1860. The building has served a variety of purposes over the years including a private girls school known as St Katherine's conducted by Mrs Nealds, Windsor Grammar School, home of local MP Brinsley Hall when it was named Lillburn Hall and Craignish Maternity Hospital from 1922-1934. Interesting features include the scrolled parapet, delicate wrought iron balustrades, open work columns and the style of the French doors which open onto the top floor verandah.

OTHER WINDSOR HERITAGE WALKS

B. The Peninsula precinct nos. 11 – 24

This walk which commences in Thompson Square explores The Peninsula area, site of early land grants and many significant public buildings of the Colonial era. The area today includes a variety of housing styles ranging from Victorian cottages and inter-war bungalows to modern houses all of which contribute to the unique character of the streetscape. Within this precinct John Tebbutt also built several observatories from which he made several important astronomical discoveries.

2 km walk, 1 hour.

C. Windsor Mall precinct nos. 25 – 53

Commencing at the waterwheel near Baker Street, this walk travels through the commercial heart of Windsor returning to Thompson Square via The Terrace. Along Windsor Mall and further along George Street, a variety of architectural styles may be observed above street level. Many buildings started their life as residences but were later converted to shop fronts as the demand for commercial premises grew. The walk also takes in several churches and the Windsor Reservoir, an item of industrial heritage significance.

2 km walk, 1 hour.

D. McQuade Park precinct nos. 54 – 83

Continuing along George Street from New Street to the Windsor Railway Station and back along The Terrace, discover the residential areas of Windsor as they have developed around McQuade Park. The park was planned by Macquarie when the town was laid out in 1810. Of special interest is St Matthews Anglican Church which was commenced in 1817 during the time of Governor Lachlan Macquarie and its associated burial ground and rectory.

3.5 km walk, 2 hours.

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For further information call the Hawkesbury Visitor Information Centre (02) 4560 4620 or 1300 362 874. Or visit www.hawkesburytourism.com.au

The Centre is at Ham Common (opposite Richmond RAAF Base), Hawkesbury Valley Way, CLARENDON NSW 2756. Open 7 days. Managed by Hawkesbury City Council

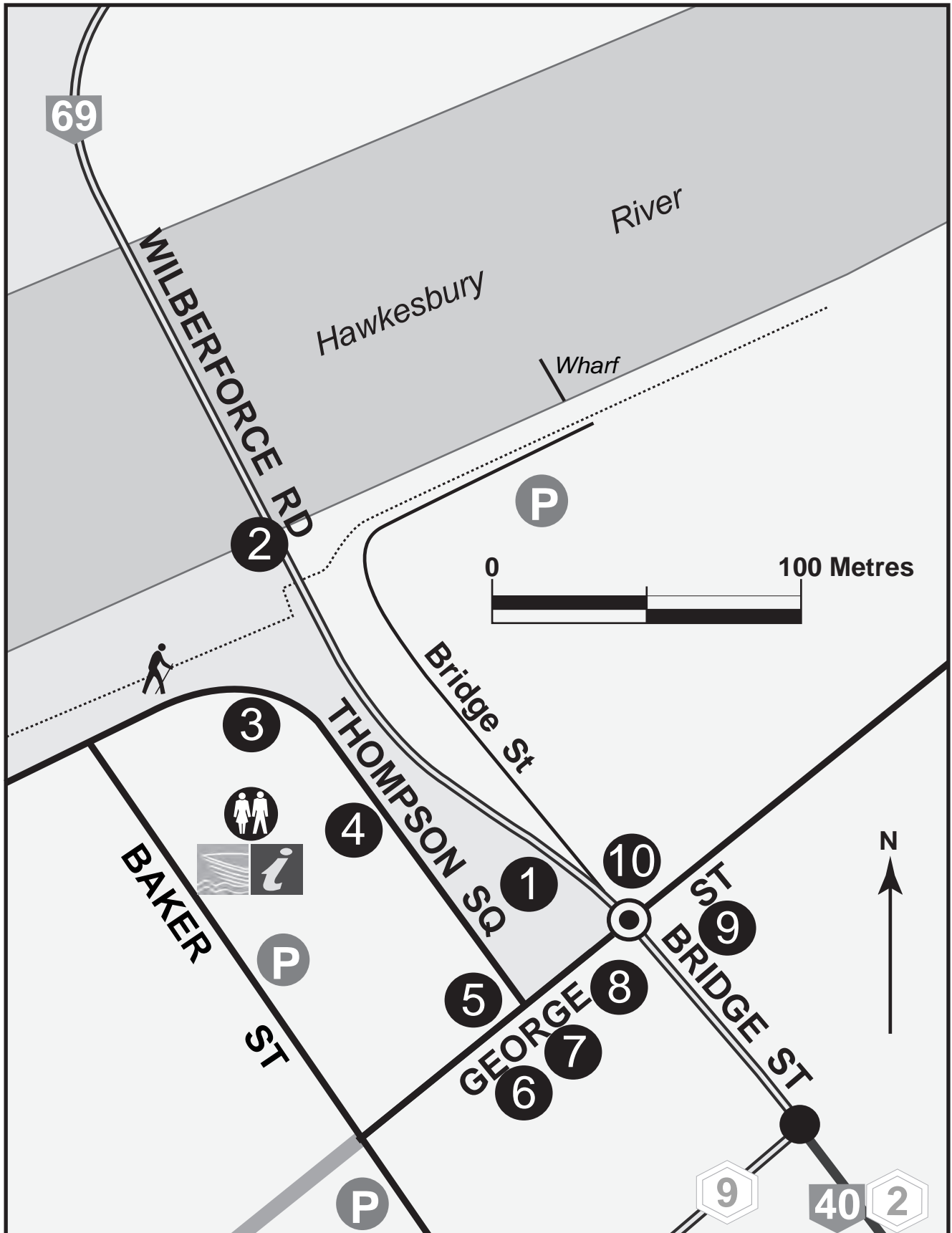
A. WINDSOR HERITAGE WALK - Thompson Square precinct

1. Thompson Square
2. Windsor Bridge
3. The Doctors House
4. Howes House
5. Macquarie Arms Hotel
6. A C Stearn Building

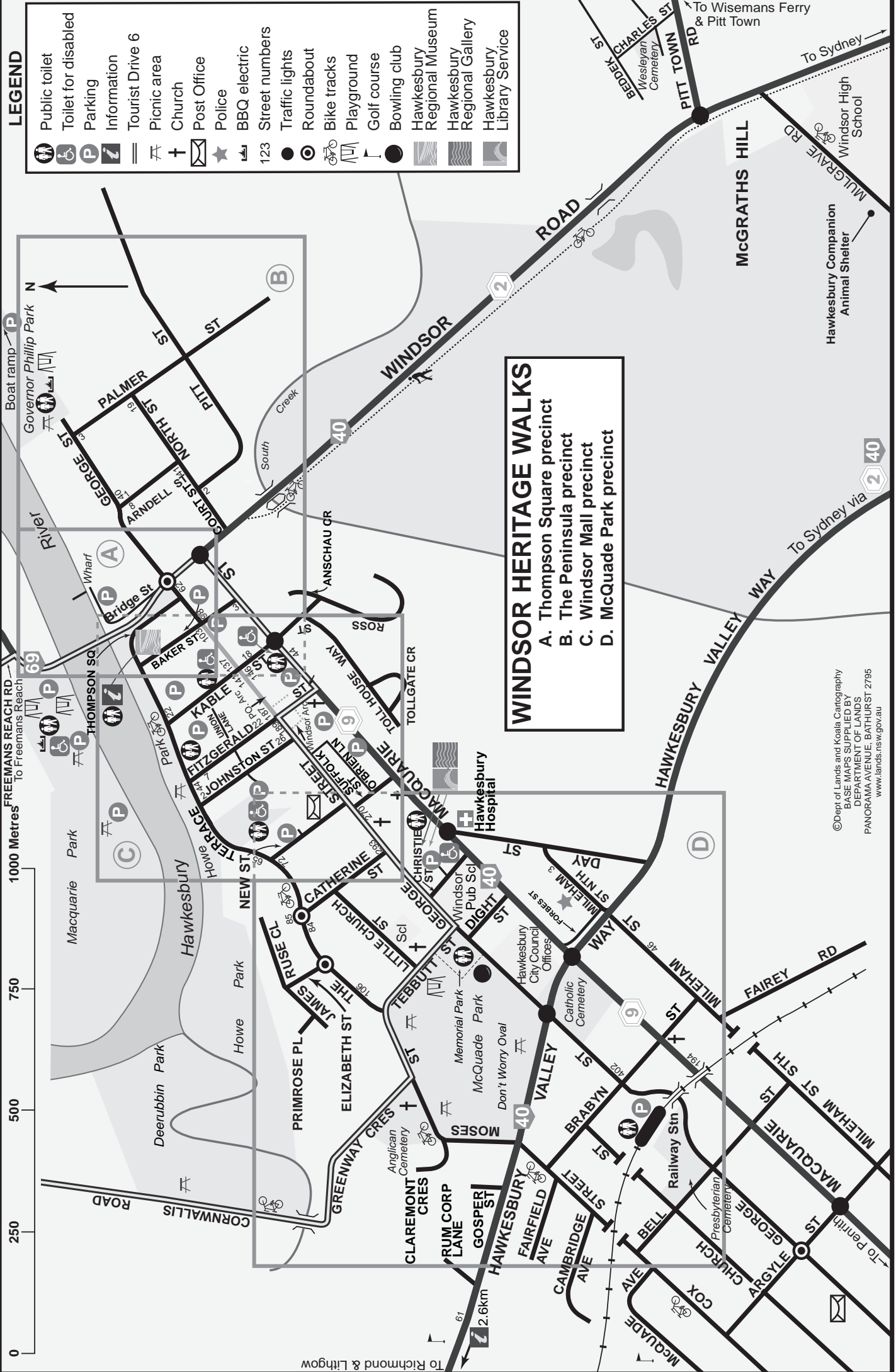
7. Former Hawkesbury Motor Garage
8. Former Moses Bakery and Hawkesbury Stores
9. School of Arts
10. Number 10 Bridge Street



Hawkesbury Regional Museum



WILBERFORCE ROAD
To Wilberforce &
Singleton



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A. Thompson Square precinct
B. The Peninsula precinct
C. Windsor Mall precinct
D. McQuade Park precinct

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