

Begin your tour near the Spirit of Devonport river ferry at the bottom of Thomas Street. A ferry service of one kind or another has operated from this area since the establishment of the town.

East Devonport was first settled in the early 1850s under the name of Torquay. Across the river was the village of Formby. Torquay was the more important of the two, being police headquarters with the courthouse and police cells. General stores, butchers and bakers, boat builders and mariners, settled in this area. The first hotel, the Mersey Hotel, was licensed in May 1853 and later destroyed by fire in 1880. The first jetty was constructed at the end of Thomas Street and a row of small cottages were erected in Pardoe Street in 1854, also destroyed by a fire in 1886.

A later Mersey Hotel, now the Edgewater Hotel was built in 1884 and only a small portion of the original building remains. Several other hotels were built nearby in the early years of the town.

The first building of interest is **No. 21 Pardoe Street**. John Hair McCall a Scotsman and qualified chemist from Glasgow built this small cottage in 1861 and operated his apothecary store from this site.



He later represented the district as a member of the Legislative Council from 1888-1901, and his son, John McCall,

graduated as a doctor in Glasgow, returning to Tasmania to practice his profession. He was elected to the House of Assembly in 1888 and was knighted in 1909, and became Agent-General for Tasmania in London between 1909-1914.

A little further along the street at **No. 5 Pardoe Street** is Illania. Built in 1888, this house was designed by architect Mr. T.Y. Kimpton for Mr Walter Dunn, a commercial traveler for over 50 years, and grandfather of a Miss Australia.



Shipwreck beach and the East Devonport Beach are worth a visit when the tide is low. The wreck is of the G. Ward Cole, a dredge used in widening the river, and wrecked in 1932. The training wall was constructed in 1903. East Devonport Beach is noted for its basalt rock pools and shingle banks where marine life may be explored, sea birds observed, and shells collected.



Return to Church Street and travel in a southerly direction back to Thomas Street. On the corner is St Paul's Anglican Church. The foundation stone was laid by Bishop

Bromby in 1876, and the first service was held in July 1879. The church was consecrated in 1882 and has been in regular use ever since. In 2001 a fire partially destroyed the building but it was restored in the same year, being re-opened in August 2001.



The church was again subject to an arson attack in July 2019.

On the opposite corner, observe the second oldest residence in East Devonport, **No. 13 Thomas Street**. Miss Catherine Dean had this house built ca 1861 and a school was conducted here for a short time. Her niece, Annie Cocker was appointed to the position of Postmistress in 1875 She was a watercolourist, and painted many of the wildflowers of the district. The dormer windows are a later addition.



Another member of the family, Miss Kathleen Cocker, lived here for many years

and published several volumes of water-colour paintings of the town and surrounding villages.

Next door to St Paul's Church was the Church of England burial ground. A park, Pioneer Park, was created following the resumption of the site in 1965, and surviving headstones from the old burial ground may be found here. The oldest surviving headstone is that of Isaac Stephens who built the first hotel, at the bottom of Thomas Street, and cottages in Pardoe Street. Also within Pioneer Park was the Wesleyan Burial Ground, located in an easterly direction along Thomas Street near the Wright Street intersection. A cairn records the name of pioneers buried here.

Turning left into Wright Street and traveling back towards the sea you will pass **No. 26 and No. 28 Wright Street**, Rose Villa and Fern Villa respectively.



These two houses (identical at time of completion in 1891) were built for Mr Gravatt who was also responsible for building the Victoria Hotel in 1890s. This building faced the river south of Thomas Street and was demolished to make way for river widening and the site is now part of the Spirit of Tasmania ferry terminal.

If you turn right at the roundabout and travel along Brooke Street you will find, tucked up at the end of Warkworth Place,

and partially hidden by trees, **Warkworth**, the homestead of the Winspear family who settled there in 1887. At this time this would have been quite remote from the main part of the town down by the river.



A golf course was later located for many years on the flats opposite Warkworth.

Continue to travel along Brooke Street and make a right turn and drive up Mary Street to the top of the hill and enjoy views overlooking the town and the coastline. Continue to travel in a southerly direction, turning into Thomas Street and then into David Street. Continue along David Street until you come to the corner of David and Stephen Streets.

Hidden behind a high fence and mature ornamental trees at **No. 107 David Street** is Mount Pleasant, the oldest house in East Devonport. Mount Pleasant was built for Mr Isaac Stephens, licensee of the Mersey Hotel, in 1857. He died before he had time to enjoy it, but his daughter Agnes lived there with her husband Colonel Benjamin Henry Rooke who came to the district in 1860 to take on the position of Police Clerk.



Mount Pleasant was once owned by the National Trust but has returned to private ownership.

Diagonally across from Mount Pleasant at **No. 104 David Street** is Fairmount, with its main entrance in Stephen Street. Built in 1889 by Mr William Raftery it became the home of Mr Arthur Gatenby, one of the first members of the Devonport Town Board in 1890 when the two towns, Torquay and Formby, voted to amalgamate and became the town of Devonport.

Later it was the home of the Powell family who came to Torquay from India where Mr John Powell was involved in the sugar industry.



Travel down Stephen Street and turn right into Tarleton Street and then left into Murray Street. On the corner of Murray and Wright Streets, is 71 Wright Street. Currently a café, this two story, 12-roomed building in the Elizabethan or Gothic style was designed by Mr W. Gadsby and built

by Mr Michael Wood for the Wesleyan Minister. It was started in May 1885 and had been completed by the next year. In 1946 it was decided to build a residence for the minister at West Devonport and the residence was sold and has been in private hands ever since.



Please note that all of the homes mentioned in this brochure are privately owned and not open to the public.