

CASSILIS *Places of Interest...*



1. PARSONAGE Believed to have been built c. 1863. the Minister served a large area extending from Cassilis to Coonamble.

2. ST COLUMBA'S OF IONA The cemetery was consecrated 1864, and the stone church built 1899.

3. WAR MEMORIAL PARK Donated by the Busby family. Among other community uses, it is the ground for the Cassilis Pony Club, the second oldest in the state (after Merriwa).

4. WAR MEMORIAL GATES for local men who served in World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam.

5. MASONIC LODGE Older locals recall youth groups and dances held there. The Lodge was upstairs and the Presbyterian Church services downstairs. The gate and foundations remain.

6. KELLETTS/HAYNES STORE In its heyday was the original "Mall", selling everything from dresses to farm supplies. It still has the overhead wire cable to send orders and accounts back and forth from counter to the office in the back. It also conveyed the occasional dead mouse to the horror of the office girls, and amusement of the counter men!

7. ORIGINAL C. of E. CHURCH SITE donated by John O'Regan for the church. The first was a smallish slab hut built c.1850, then replaced by a larger wood building 1867, until the current sandstone church (see 2) was built. Denominational School classes were held there until the Public School was built.

8. HAYES BAKERS SHOP. Many loaves baked here were sent out on the mail. Many more were sent out after the German pastry cook learnt how to bake bread after sending to Sydney for the recipe!

9. COURTHOUSE and POLICE STATION Built 1859. O'Regan donated this land, and that for the police residence next door. All land to the west was registered here also. The original holding cells are in the Police Station, which is still operational.

10. POLICE RESIDENCE Built 1857. Jimmy Governor was a black tracker at Cassilis. The old stables are still there.

11. SCHOOL HOUSE and PARK Land donated by O'Regan, although not until 1874-75 was a National school formed. The latest building is up at the current school - removed due to the 1955 floods.

12. KUM CHONG YEK CHINESE EMPORIUM Built around the 1850/60s, it was an institution for about a century. One family built and ran the store for decades.

13. STORE Once the AGS Bank and at one time a fruit shop. The leadlight windows were accidentally discovered during renovations 2008 when repairs were made to rotten boards.

14. Built 1909 this was the DOCTOR'S SURGERY and residence. Also where the first store of John McKinlay was built. The lower part was the site of the DALKEITH INN, the first licensed Inn in a slab hut, run by John O'Regan c.1844. This Inn was operated until 1870 by various locals.

15. Commercial Banking Company of Sydney BANK. Built in the 1960's to replace the sandstone building which in turn replaced an adapted cottage. At the back was the site of the original Post Office c. 1839. The 1960's bank structure is still intact including the teller counters, and the stronghold walk in safe. Now a private residence.

16. JAMES PIPER'S CASSILIS HOTEL, licenced 1861, and utilizing the general store previously run by his brother William. It burnt down in 1917 and was replaced by Maskell's milk bar which burnt down in the 1980's.

17. IRWIN'S GARAGE. Also sold necessities, videos and petrol, closed 1980s. The site was previously occupied by a cottage, and that immediately uphill was previously occupied by Scully's general store (17a).

18. GUILD HALL. Originally built as a Stock and Station Agency for James Piper c. 1918, then a church Guild Hall, but abandoned for many years. Now a community project to restore and house a local Museum.

19. BUTCHER initially run by Thomas Piper from c. 1886, and by Frank Piper in the early 1940s, it was still in occasional use in the 1990s. Date of construction not yet ascertained (c. 1865).

20. SKIN BUYER operating in the 1940s. Built 1870 as butcher shop for Thomas Braggat.

21. BRAGGETT'S ROYAL HOTEL William Braggett purchased the lot in 1844 and built the wood slab Traveller's Rest in the 1850's, relocating his blacksmith's business here from its initial site in Branksome St. He replaced the Traveller's Rest with the current sandstone building, finished in 1869.

22. SOLE'S SADDLERS The final of three buildings built by the generations of saddlers named Sole. Was also a drapery in later years among other things. Now a café.

23. POST OFFICE Another 1960's building that replaced a beautiful stone edifice (built 1919) that housed the earlier Post Office.

24. COMMUNITY HALL Built by the community when the original GUOOF Hall was torn down, on site of School of Arts (24a) which burned down.

25. GENERAL CEMETARY The original graveyard which holds many of the original local inhabitants who helped build Cassilis. At the front is the site where the temporary Catholic Church was erected 1875.

26. ST JOSEPH'S Built 1894. On its centenary the local pony club had a rally day, and they rode to the church for service, tying up their ponies to the fence.

27. GUOOF HALL The site of the original Grand United Order Of Odd Fellows hall, where many a dance and debutante ball was held. The foundations can still be seen.

28. PUBLIC SCHOOL C1875, the original building (moved from 14) is now the main office, and the other two buildings are from other earlier schools nearby that closed down. The site of the current school was donated by Thelma McMaster of Dalkeith after the original school was flooded in 1955.

29. COTTAGE HOSPITAL Funded primarily by the Cassilis Branch of the CWA, 400 babies were born here. Now a private residence.

30. Where the travelling circuses and shows used to set up and hold their events.

