

- Hall Village Motors
- St Francis Xavier Church
- Hall Village Well

LISTED PLACES IN
HALL VILLAGE - THE HERITAGE WALK

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This project was originally assisted through funding made available by the ACT Government under the ACT Heritage Grants Program. Further funding was given by the ACT Government to update and reprint the tour.

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The publishers wish to acknowledge:
Ms Carol Cosgrove (research & text) • **Dr Peter Dowling** (revisions)
The Village of Hall and District Progress Association (revisions)
• **Studio Brainstorm** (design) •

A heritage tour of
HALL VILLAGE

THE HERITAGE WALK

A SELF GUIDED TOUR



NATIONAL TRUST

CONSERVING AUSTRALIA'S HERITAGE

Hall Village is named after Henry Hall who was the first resident landholder of the Ginninderra district. Hall was born in Loughborough, England and arrived in New South Wales (NSW) in 1823. After working in Sydney for The Australian Agricultural Company he obtained a land grant of about 3,500 acres in the Ginninderra district in 1833. He named the holding 'Charnwood' and it became a very prosperous farming and grazing property. Henry married Mary Fisher and they had a family of ten children. The site of the original 'Charnwood' homestead is now located to the west of Hall, bordering the suburb of Fraser on land now leased by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation.

Early Settlement

The district in which Hall Village is located was the home of Aboriginal people for at least 20,000 years. The first European settlement in the Ginninderra district was not until 1826 when George Palmer established a station of 10,000 acres. Hall Village was established 1882 and its history is closely linked to the settlement of Ginninderra.

By 1861, settlement in the Ginninderra district had reached an advanced stage of development. The largest property was owned by William Davis and included homesteads, workers' cottages, a store and a post office. By 1881 it had developed as an unofficial village and the NSW Government surveyed the area for an official village site. The location of Hall's Creek, three kilometres away from the established village at Ginninderra was chosen.

A New Village

The new village was proclaimed in 1882 and named Ginninderra, indicating the Government intended replacing the unofficial village with an official and properly designed one. After protest from the Ginninderra residents, the new village was renamed Hall. Although the earlier village of Ginninderra remained and thrived for a time, it eventually declined and its functions were replaced by Hall.

Hall Village was developed using a rectangular grid layout design which was common for villages of the time and still exists today. The first sale of land occurred in Hall in 1886.

The Australian Capital Territory and Further Development

In 1911 the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) was proclaimed and Hall Village was situated just inside the ACT. The Hall district had been considered a possible site for the capital city after the Yass-Canberra district was selected in 1908, but was rejected.

With the growth of Canberra in the last 60 years, Hall suffered as there were few amenities and no town water supply. Many residents moved to Canberra. The school was threatened with closure in 1958. When Hall was provided with a water supply in 1967, the advantages of living in a rural centre close to Canberra became evident and the declining population trend was reversed.

New businesses were established, including an antique furniture shop, a real estate agency and a stock and station agent. In 1980 a by-pass was built around Hall to divert the Barton Highway, which had run through the centre of the village. This has assisted in preserving the village character, as has the lack of suburban development in the surrounding area. Hall is surrounded by open country giving it a distinct rural appearance even though it is on the edge of the Federal Capital.

Heritage Walk

The tour is best experienced on foot. It takes approximately one and a half hours. The walk can be shortened by omitting the Village Well, St Francis Xavier's Church and Rochford's House. These may be visited by car, although you will need to walk across the recreation reserve to view the well properly.

1. HALL PREMIER STORE & POST OFFICE

The original store was operated by Eva Southwell from a house known as 'Banksia', built in 1889. It was located two blocks along from the present store. Another small shop was built next to the house in 1898 and operated as the Premier Store (both 'Banksia' and this shop have been demolished). In 1901, the store was taken over by the partnership of Charles Southwell and Ebenezer Brown. A store building was erected on the present site in 1908. The store was demolished and rebuilt in 1982 using corrugated iron, which was the original building material, with a glass and timber façade and a verandah. The façade is a replica of the early store. The building continues to be used as the village shop and post office.

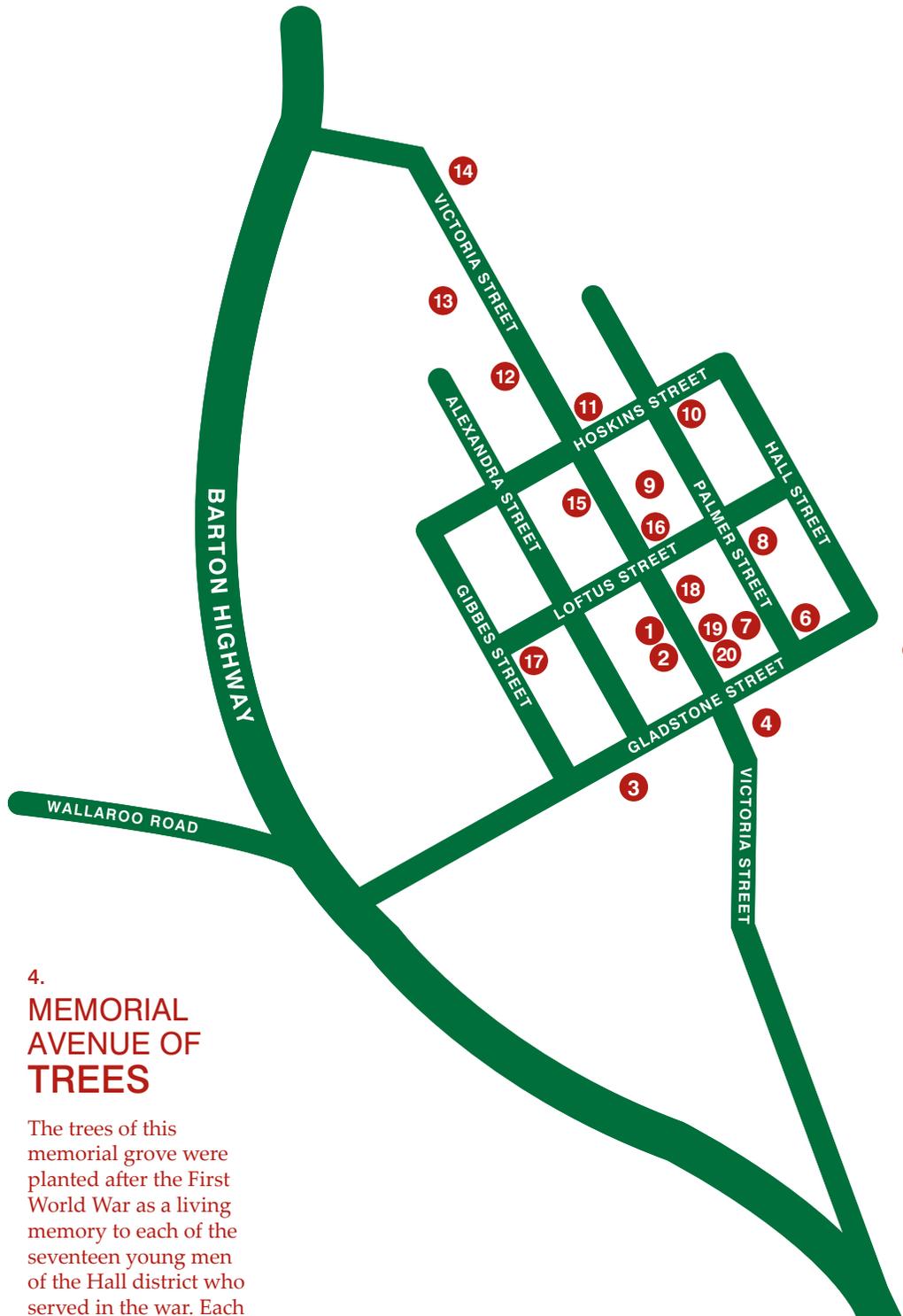
2. 'WINARLIA' (1901)

This house has particular significance because of its age and unique quality. It was built from rammed earth and is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Hall. It was the residence of Ebenezer Brown who ran the store with Charles Southwell. A later occupant was Jean Southwell MBE, who died in 1996. She ran the store for many years and was also the postmistress and Sunday school teacher.

3. HALL VILLAGE WELL (c.1890)

Known as the Reserve Well or McClung's Well, it is located in the recreation reserve at the southern end of Gladstone Street, twenty metres south west of the intersection with Alexandra Street. Built by McClung and Burton, it is the only well remaining of three wells which supplied Hall with water.

TO YASS



4. MEMORIAL AVENUE OF TREES

The trees of this memorial grove were planted after the First World War as a living memory to each of the seventeen young men of the Hall district who served in the war. Each

10. LAVENDER COTTAGE (1927)

On the corner of Palmer and Hoskins streets is a weatherboard cottage which was transported to Hall in 1960. It was one of several constructed in a settlement on Acton Peninsula in 1927 to house workers who were building Old Parliament House.

11. 'AVOCA'

(Original building 1897)

'Avoca' was the residence of William Jones, a carpenter. He and his wife ran a haberdashery store from the premises until 1915 when it reverted back to a residence. An art gallery was built on the same block in the 1970s and continued to be used for this purpose in the 1980s; it has since been turned into an extension to the house and used as part of the residence. The interior has been renovated in a sympathetic manner which preserves the exterior of the cottage and some of the interior features such as the fireplace.

14. ST FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC CHURCH (1910)

This church is located just outside the village. One of three local churches, it was built in 1910 in the Neo gothic style from locally quarried bluestone granite. It is an ornate building with rendered brick window and door surrounds. There have been no alterations to the building since its construction.

Across the road and towards Barton Highway is Eneagh Hill (the older weatherboard cottage) where James Kilby lived from 1905, and ran a butcher's business from 1907 to 1918, delivering meat twice weekly to the local community.

15. NATIVE TREE RESERVE

Returning to the village centre, the native tree reserve is located on the opposite side of Victoria Street to the school. The trees are mainly yellow box and red gum.

16. ST MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS ANGLICAN CHURCH (1945)

This church is located

18. WILLIAM MORRIS' BOOTMAKER'S SHOP (c.1900)

The original Bootmaker's Shop was built around 1900. It was a small worker's cottage of corrugated iron with a weatherboard front and a verandah. It also had a corrugated iron roof with gable ends. It was demolished and rebuilt in the 1980s in a similar style and is currently used as a commercial business. William Morris lived at nearby 'Dellwood' (now just over the border in NSW). As well as a bootmaker, he operated from the same premises as a bicycle repairer, barber and banker.

19. HALL VILLAGE MOTORS (c.1938)

The present Hall service station is the site of George Kinlyside's business. As well as a blacksmith, he was a wheelwright, coachbuilder, tank builder and an undertaker. Kinlyside Hall, next door, is named after him. Jim Rochford, a

tree has a plaque next to it with the soldier's name inscribed on it. The two cypress trees located either side of the original gateway (replaced in the 1980s) are in memory of the two who died during active service. Other replacement trees have been planted as the originals age and die. A memorial cairn commemorating those who served in the armed forces was built just inside the new entrance gate in 1992.

5. HALL SPORTS GROUND & SHOWGROUND

The Advance Hall Association held shows annually at the Hall Showground from 1925 until 1964, when they moved to the Canberra showgrounds. The buildings at the showground include the pavilion and the shed at the north eastern side of the grounds and sheds located on the southern side. These are simple vernacular buildings constructed of corrugated iron and wood and are typical of showground constructions. Markets are held monthly at the showground.

6. 'GLENONA' (c.1900)

Located on the corner of Gladstone and Palmer streets, this was the home of the Smith's (the family of Leon Smith who wrote *Memories of Hall*) in the early twentieth century. Originally a weatherboard building, it has been extended and clad in 'Hardiplank'.

7. 'KENMIRA' (c.1900)

This is a weatherboard cottage originally built by George Kinlyside, backing up to his business premises. It was later the property of Jim Rochford, who established the Hall service station.

8. 'OTTOCLIFFE' (1907)

This residence was built by John Southwell in approximately 1907 to replace one built in 1894 which burned down. The walls are of 'ashlar block' composed of local crushed rock, sand and cement. The block to the right of Ottocliffe was originally part of the same block and included a tennis court. This area, surrounded by pine trees, has been retained as part of the block because of its heritage significance.

9. HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL AND PINES

(Original building 1911)

The original school building, located towards the centre of the block, was built in 1911, following the closure of the school at Ginninderra. Extensions were completed in 1924. The school building is set among mature pine trees planted by the school children around 1918. Today, it is surrounded by additional buildings constructed after 1960. In the 1990s facilities were improved with the addition of a hall and a separate library.

The original school building is now an education museum established by Laurie Copping, former principal of the school. The museum was officially opened in 1986. After many years serving the population of Hall and district the school was finally closed to students in 2007.

TO CANBERRA

12. 'COOEE' (c.1900)

Located towards the northern end of Victoria Street, this early twentieth century weatherboard cottage has a corrugated iron gable roof, with decorative bargeboards, and a verandah. An extra room has been added at the rear of the building. Lyall Gillespie, a well-known local historian, spent his earliest years here.

13. TRAVELLING STOCK ROUTE

There is a narrow strip of unfenced land on the left as you leave the village which is part of a travelling stock route. Travelling stock routes were areas of land set aside for the grazing and movement of stock being transferred from one place to another. The stock route originally crossed the NSW border but has since been cut by the Barton Highway. A sales yard was constructed on the land and regular sales of sheep and cattle were held. The yards no longer exist.

This church is located on the corner of Victoria and Loftus Streets. The foundation stone was laid in 1941 and dedicated in 1948. Its rendered external walls have been coursed to give the image of stonework. An unusual stained glass window depicting two eucalyptus trees has since been installed at the Victoria Street side of the church. It commemorates the tragic deaths of two young local people who died in motor accidents.

The Church bell is hung on a wooden frame in the yard. It was cast in 1854 and originally hung in St John's Anglican Church spire in Canberra. It was erected in the Church grounds in 1965.

17. COTTAGE SITE & HALL COMMON

Turn right into Loftus Street and proceed to Gibbes Street. Just before reaching the end of Loftus Street, you will see a laneway on the left. The first block on the left after the laneway is the site of a weatherboard cottage, built in 1926, and home of the Gillespie family for a time. It has recently been sold and demolished. Hall Common, an open public area, used by Hall residents for keeping horses, can be seen at the end of Loftus Street, beyond Gibbes Street.

local resident, purchased the property from Kinlyside in 1938 and built a service station there which operated until 1974, except for two breaks, one of which was to serve in the Second World War.

20. KINLYSIDE HALL (1907)

This building was constructed using a timber frame clad in corrugated iron, a construction technique characteristic of the era. The hall was first used as a paint shop using a unique air-drying system designed by George Kinlyside. It soon became the focal point of the developing Hall Village and was used for dances, as a cinema, a church, and as clubrooms for various clubs. It was also used for visiting medical services, including dental work. Silent films were shown here from as early as 1911, using hand operated projectors. The hall is now used as commercial premises.