

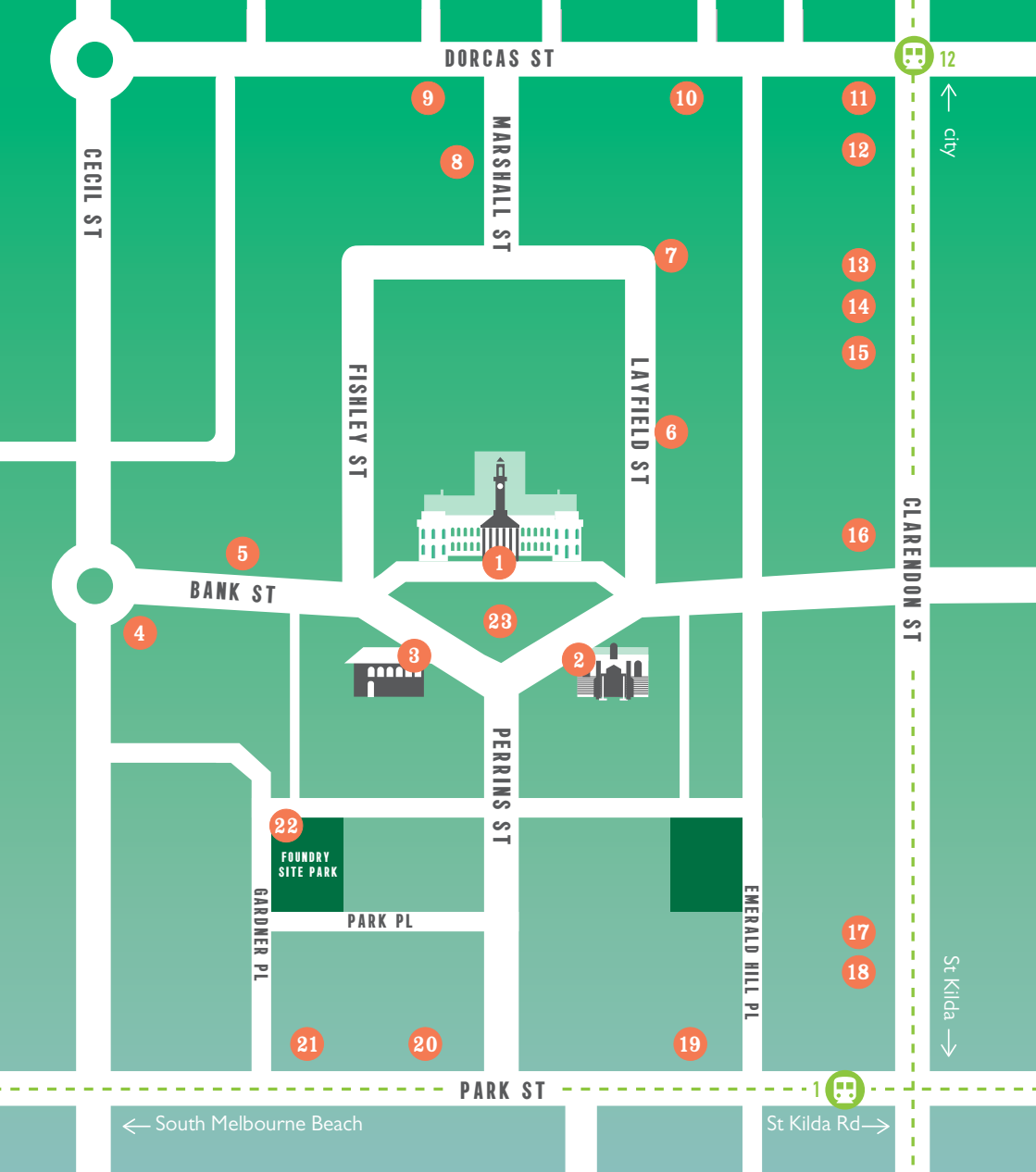
Walks in Port Phillip

# AROUND THE HILL

Town Hall, S<sup>th</sup> Melbourne



*A guide around the historic Emerald Hill precinct*



## TRAIL KEY

TOWN HALL (1)  
 POST OFFICE (2)  
 COURT HOUSE AND POLICE STATION (3)  
 239 BANK STREET (4)  
 CROFTS STORES (5)  
 5-8 LAYFIELD ST (6)  
 MCCAULEY'S WAREHOUSE (7)

2 MARSHALL STREET (8)  
 259 DORCAS STREET (9)  
 239-253 DORCAS STREET (10)  
 THE CHEMIST SHOP (11)  
 288 CLARENDON STREET (12)  
 302 CLARENDON STREET (13)  
 304 CLARENDON STREET (14)  
 306-308 CLARENDON ST (15)

326 CLARENDON ST (16)  
 352 CLARENDON STREET (17)  
 354 CLARENDON STREET (18)  
 256-264 PARK STREET (19)  
 268 PARK STREET (20)  
 FEDERAL BUILDINGS (21)  
 FOUNDRY SITE PARK (22)  
 JUBILEE MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN (23)

On 29 June 1855, the first Emerald Hill Council was elected. It chose the motto *In Ordine Primum*, First in the Field, as it was the first suburban district to proceed immediately with an election. Emerald Hill became a borough in 1863, a town in 1872, and a city on 21 September 1883. On 23 September of the same year, the name was changed to South Melbourne.

In 1851 gold was discovered in Victoria and its lure drew thousands of people from overseas. Housing in Melbourne rapidly became a problem, so a canvas town sprang up on the south side of the Yarra to provide temporary housing.

The first land allotments in Emerald Hill were sold in 1852, with some blocks held aside for grants to churches and schools. The prime block on the hill, eleven acres in all, was handed over to the Melbourne Protestant Orphan Asylum, which moved there in 1854. This site became a contentious issue for many years, as it effectively divided the township in half and acted as a barrier to Clarendon Street, which by the 1860s had become the main thoroughfare.



Aerial photo of South Melbourne Town Hall, taken from Harcourt Parry Tower, 1930s. sm0524

When Emerald Hill became a town, civic pride dictated that a Town Hall be built, and negotiations were entered into for the removal of the orphanage to Brighton. Legislation had to be passed to secure the site for the town, and the Town Hall opened in 1880. The area was subdivided and the orphanage continued to collect rents from the site for the next one hundred years.

The **Town Hall (1)** was opened in June 1880. The architect was Charles Webb who designed many prominent Melbourne buildings such as the Windsor Hotel, Trades Hall, Melbourne Grammar School and Christ Church South Yarra. The Town Hall originally housed the Post and Telegraph Office and the Mechanics' Institute and Library at the front of the building. The Fire Brigade, Court House and Police Station were at the back. The builders were Gillow and Treeby. Labourers on the job were paid 8 shillings a day.

The **Post Office (2)** moved from the Town Hall to 195 Bank Street in 1913. Decorated in the Art Nouveau style, the building was designed by Horace MacKenna, Director of Works, Department of the Interior. An extension was added in 1918. The Emerald Hill Library moved here in 1995 and a Heritage Centre opened in October 2013.

The **Court House and Police Station (3)** at 227 Bank Street were erected in the Spanish Mission style, and opened in 1928. The designer was E. Evan Smith, Chief architect, Public Works Department.



Canvas Town, South Melbourne, 1850s. sm0525

Built in 1882 for Dr Thomas Lucas as a residence and surgery, the property at **239 Bank Street (4)** had 12 rooms and a stable. The building was a doctor's surgery until the 1930s.

The building known as **Crofts Stores (5)** at 230 Bank Street was erected in the 1930s. Archibald Crofts was a Member of Parliament and a South Melbourne Councillor from 1931 to 1942. He was Mayor in 1934. Starting in business in South Melbourne in 1905, he was eventually the owner of one of the largest chains of grocery stores in Victoria.

Layfield Street was once called Post Office Place. In 1888 James Perrins, brewer, owned these houses at **5-8 Layfield St (6)**. He was the managing director of the Castlemaine Brewery. The Malthouse Theatre in Southbank originally belonged to the Castlemaine Brewery.

**McCauley's Warehouse (7)** at 1 Layfield Street was established by Patrick McCauley in the mid-1880s. He sold everything from bicycles to bedsteads. See the advertisement on the wall of a building in Marshall St. Also see 239-253 Dorcas St.

Built in 1882, the residence at **2 Marshall Street (8)** belonged to the Reverend William Potter. Potter purchased *The Record* newspaper in 1881, and was its editor and owner until 1889. The Rev. Potter was a friend of the Government Botanist Baron Ferdinand von Mueller.

The building at **259 Dorcas Street (9)** was erected in 1882 and, from this date until it was sold, was the home of South Melbourne's longest running newspaper *The Record* (1868-1976). In 1885 the building was sold to a rival newspaper, *The Courier*.

The buildings at **239-253 Dorcas Street (10)**, erected in 1885, were originally a row of shops. By 1905 these were part of Patrick McCauley's furniture store. In the 1920s the shops were transformed into a terrace of Spanish Mission style houses.

In 1904 the **chemist shop (11)** at 284 Dorcas Street (corner of Clarendon Street) was owned by Charles Imes. It remains a chemist shop to this day. The Imes Liver Pills advertisement on the wall in Dorcas Street reads 'Imes Liver Pills a shilling a box'. The motto was: 'a healthy liver is a long liver'.

George Paulin fruiterer, opened his fruit shop in 1883 at **288 Clarendon Street (12)**. He advertised his wares as being direct from 'the growers in the Goulburn Valley'. He also had a fruit shop in Port Melbourne. The building was still a greengrocer in the 1990s and the sign 'South Melbourne Fruit Palace' is still readable on the shop.

Once the home of A.H. Hansen Bookseller, **302 Clarendon Street (13)** features an open book on the pediment of the building, reflecting the type of business originally on the site. Hansen sold sheet music and stationery as well. By 1889 it was the premises of Mason's circulating library.

In 1902 Walter McCabe Tailor was located at **304 Clarendon Street (14)**. The business was known as Mitchell McCabe. By the 1920s the business was run by Walter and Roy McCabe and their address was expanded to cover not only number 304 but also numbers 306 and 308 Clarendon Street. By 1951 Mitchell McCabe Tailors and Men's Outfitters were no longer at number 304. After some years at 306-308 Clarendon Street, the men's wear shop Mitchell McCabe, returned in 2014 to number 304.

The Glasgow Bakery was originally located at **306-308 Clarendon St (15)**. See the wheat sheaf on the pediment of the building. William Thomson, caterer for many 19th century town hall functions, was the proprietor of the bakery. Mitchell McCabe Tailors and Men's Outfitters occupied these premises from the 1950s until early 2014, when they moved once again to their original shop at number 304.

William Buckhurst estate agent, auctioneer and property developer had his business at **326 Clarendon St (16)**. By 1889 the firm was known as Buckhurst and Buxton. Buxton's are still in business as developers. David Wood, well known South Melbourne photographer, had his portrait rooms upstairs.

From 1878 to 1911, Samuel G. Potts barber and hairdresser was the occupier at **352 Clarendon Street (17)**. By 1915 the occupier was Charles V Potts who is described as a hairdresser and tobacconist. See the writing on the glass on the top of the door.



*Dorcas Street, looking west, 1888. Photographer- David Wood. sm0444. 1-3*

The South Melbourne Building Society at **354 Clarendon Street (18)** was run by Matthias Larkin from 1881. At age 28, he was the youngest magistrate in Victoria and, in 1886, was elected to South Melbourne Council. In 1891 he embezzled nearly £100,000 (worth many millions of dollars today) from the Building Society. Many small investors were wiped out. Larkin was sentenced to six years hard labour.

In 1885 Edwin Harcourt and John Parry's Drapery Emporium opened at **256-264 Park Street (19)**. In a series of shops they sold men's and women's clothing, fabrics, bedding, haberdashery etc. They advertised as 'Collins Street in South Melbourne'. From 1933-1937 Patross Knitting Mills was there. Today much of the building is taken up with the Australian Tapestry Workshop, whose tapestries are found in public buildings all over the world.

In 1905 Dr H.D. Hirst's dental surgery was operating at **268 Park Street (20)**.

The **Federal Buildings (21)** at 270-286 Park Street are a terrace of shops built in 1886 by local builder William Ireland, and were lit outside by 'Hayward's patent Prismatic pavement lights' - the first time they were used in South Melbourne. In 1898 the shop at number 282 was James Morton's bicycle works known as 'Moreton's Cycles'. He advertised his wares as 'the best bicycles on earth'. South Melbourne was well known in the first half of the 20th century for its bicycle workshops.



Park Street, South Melbourne, c1900. sm0761

By the 1920s there was a factory on this site (22). The tenant at the time was T.B. Guest and Co. It was vacant for some years, and then in 1934 it became a brass foundry occupied by William Hill. His company was still there in the 1970s.

The **Jubilee Memorial Fountain (23)** was designed by George Dawe of Carlton. It was unveiled on 26 May 1905 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Emerald Hill - later South Melbourne - becoming a municipality (1855-1905). It was also a memorial to those volunteers who left South Melbourne to fight in the South African War 1899-1902.



*Bank Street, looking west, 1888. Photographer- David Wood. sm0466*



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**START AND  
FINISH**

South Melbourne Town Hall, Bank Street

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**LENGTH**

1 kilometre

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**TIME**

About 30 minutes

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**REFRESHMENTS**

There are numerous cafes along the route

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Visit [heritage.port Phillip.vic.gov.au](http://heritage.port Phillip.vic.gov.au) for more information about cultural heritage programs and activities in the City of Port Phillip.

You can also contact us by phone via our ASSIST centre on **03 9209 6777**.

To book a guided walk, phone the Guided Walks booking line on **03 9209 6522**.

*Cover South Melbourne Town Hall, c1908. sm0744*

*Images are from the Port Phillip City Collection.*

