

MOUNT PLEASANT

Walking Guide

Today's township of Mount Pleasant is made up of the towns of Totness, Mount Pleasant and Hendryton. Settlers began living in the district in 1843, however it was later that the towns were surveyed. Mount Pleasant was developed by Henry Glover, and surveyed in 1856. It comprised the land from Railway Terrace to Saleyard Road. The name was taken from that used by James Phillis, who had come from an area near Mount Pleasant in Kent. The land had reminded him of his homeland. His sister was named Pleasant, who may also have inspired the name.

Totness was surveyed in 1858, with Henry Giles Sr. as the developer; this was the section from Saleyard Road to Pentelows Road. It was named after the birthplace of Henry's wife, Mary Ann. Henry also developed North Totness, which is the land from Pentelows Road to the Angas Valley Road, surveyed in 1869.

John Hendry, a blacksmith living in Totness, developed the land to the west of Mount Pleasant, comprising that from the Crick's Mill Road (to Williamstown) to Railway Terrace, and this was surveyed in 1865.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY
 Butler, Reg 1993, *The Quiet Waters By*, District Council of Mount Pleasant, South Australia.
 Barker, Sue & Ward, Brian (eds) 2004, *Exploring the Barossa*, Royal Geographical Society of South Australia.

1. Totness House (private)

Original home of Henry Giles (situated at the rear of the Soldiers Memorial Hall, across the River Torrens). Used as Totness Grammar school from 1868 to 1870. During the 1880s the Misses Kate and Blanche Giles began teaching their brother's children, and soon Dr and Mrs Englehart sent their two children, followed by Henry Dutton's children. This resulted in a schoolroom being built. Rooms were then added to the dwelling, for the use of boarders. The house became a hospital from 1916 until 1924, after the Misses Giles, now elderly, moved to another residence, and Sister Crawford re-established her hospital which had been on the site of the now Talunga Village Senior Citizens Homes (opposite the former Police Station).

2. Soldiers Memorial Hall

Built in 1926 and opened on 16th July 1927 after many years of fundraising had been held in order to build a new Institute building. Lachlan McBean and Robert Melrose vied for the privilege of donating the required land, and after the sale of Giles' land to Robert Melrose, he was able to donate land and money for building a new Institute building. Robert Melrose saw the advent of the railway of extreme importance, and encouraged support for this particular venture before the building of the Soldiers Memorial Hall began. Finally, after the arrival of the railway, and the building of a new hospital, and with grant money available for memorials to those fallen in the war, the Mount Pleasant Soldiers Memorial Hall was able to be completed with little debt remaining. It is partly built of Mount Pleasant bricks — the lower story is of 3-brick construction. The original design of the building was in the form of a cross. The original kitchen was housed in the basement, under the stage, but is now used as a dressing room, and a new kitchen, toilet facilities was added in 1986.

The garden adjacent was developed as a Garden of Tribute by the Country Women's Association, as a memorial to those who served during World War II (1939-1945). Later the Memorial Grove was added to commemorate those members of the Lions Club who had given of their time. Its recent refurbishment has retained the memorial plaques and picnic settings provided by the Lions Club of Mount Pleasant (now disbanded).

3. Mount Pleasant Bakery

Previously the site of the Totness Bakery, the business was purchased by Bert Shanks c1914, just as he was starting his career as a baker and pastrycook. He branched into selling motor vehicles, in addition to running a bakery but by the late 1930s the business had been developed into the building of today. A stone building in the back yard had upstairs accommodation for single male employees and downstairs storage for the flour. It continues to provide original and interesting pies and baked items.

4. Mount Pleasant Natural Resource Centre

This was the site of the original District Council office and rebuilt in 1986. With the amalgamation into The Barossa Council in 1997, the Chambers was no longer required and the building became the Council Branch Office/Library, and Natural Resource Centre which offers an information service for the general district. 'Recreate' now operates from premises at the rear, using 'reuse, renew, revive, revalue, recycle' as their mantra. A fruit and veg swap and Farmers' Market are supported by the Centre.

5. Anderson and Fawcett, Landmark

This building was built in 1973 and has been utilised by stock and station agents during its lifetime.

6. Totness Inn *[below]*

Opened by Thomas Liddle in 1860, this was originally a single story building. The building was rebuilt as a two-storey premises in 1918, at the advent of the railway. The upper story provided excellent accommodation, whilst downstairs there was a billiard room, smoke room and lounge for commercial



travellers. The carpark opposite the hotel was once used as a turning circle for the stage coaches.

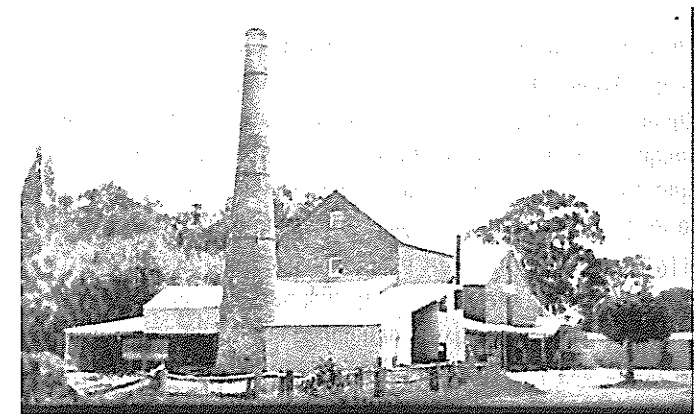
7. RSL Hall

This meeting place for the Returned Servicemen was built c1956, with money raised by the sale of crops grown on land owned by the McBean family. It is regularly used for meetings and a dawn service is held here on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day.

8. Wilksch's Garage

Originally the site of a dairy, the garage began on premises over the road, and was later moved to the present site. The main shed of the premises was built by Ben Wilksch, with the addition made by Arthur Wilksch.

9. Totness Roller Flour Mill (private) *[above]*



Originally owned by Henry Giles senr. Gustav Hittmann, a miller in Adelaide, in 1863 dismantled the machinery at the bankrupt Lobethal flour mill, and accompanied it to Henry Giles's new Totness Mill, after which he managed the business for some years. John Godlee supervised the installation of the milling equipment, and the mill began operation ahead of time. The flour produced was considered of first-rate quality, and in mid 1860s a second pair of millstones was installed to ensure continued milling while the other stones were re-dressed to keep them in fine grinding condition. Henry Giles Jr. arrived in 1866 to take over the book-keeping and general supervision of the businesses which had grown up around the Milling business — a blood and bone crushing mill, a bark mill,

a lime room, the Totness Store, which provided grocery and hardware items, creamery, butter and cheese factory. The Mill was sold in 1900 to Mr Alfred Townsend of Mount Torrens, who upgraded and modernised it, increasing annual output to 3,500 bags. The Mill was operational until it was burnt out in September 1923, with the tall chimney being demolished in 1951, as it had become unsafe due to salt-damp.

10. The Pound

Stray animals were impounded here from 1855 until it closed in 1944. In 1999 it was developed as a picnic area, with replica section of an old stock pound and plaques telling the history. Impounded stock could be retrieved by their owners for a fee.

11. Lansdowne (private) situated across the River Torrens

Home of Henry Giles Jr. This was originally a single storey home. The house remained in the hands of the Giles family until 1922. There is a walking bridge over the River Torrens, from the house to the old Flour Mill.

12. Pentelows Road

A residential street in Totness, named after pioneer shoemaker, William Pentelow. [When the thoroughfare was named in 1965, a conscientious signwriter interpreted Pentelow as Pantyhose, and the subsequent correction, Pentloes Road, remained until 1992.] Many of the houses in this road were owned by Henry Giles and rented to his employees.

13. Pentelow's cottage (private) 1 Pentelows Road

This cottage was owned by Henry Giles Sr. (owner of the Mount Pleasant Flour Mill) and rented to pioneer shoemaker William Pentelow and then to Henry Staples (a Giles employee). It was originally timber slab and thatched roof.

14. former St John Ambulance Centre

Opened in 1984, the Ambulance had previously been housed with the CFS truck behind the Council Chambers, on the corner of Showground Road and Phillis Street. The St John Ambulance service is a volunteer service, providing public First Aid duty and ambulance service in the region. The Centre is now situated at Birdwood.

15. Mount Pleasant District Hospital [below]

Built on land once owned by Henry Giles, but purchased and donated by Robert Melrose for the purpose, the Hospital was built of Mount Pleasant bricks, with the foundation stone laid in 1923, and the building opened on 27th June 1924 by Mrs John Murray of Rhine Park. Regular fetes were held at Rosebank, organised by the local mid-wife, Mrs Hicks, until in 1950 a central Mount Pleasant Hospital Auxiliary Committee was supported by committees in the surrounding towns to raise funds for improvements to the Hospital. A bequest by Mr John Edwards in 1938 allowed the building of a nine-roomed nurses quarters, now used as the Talunga Medical Clinic.

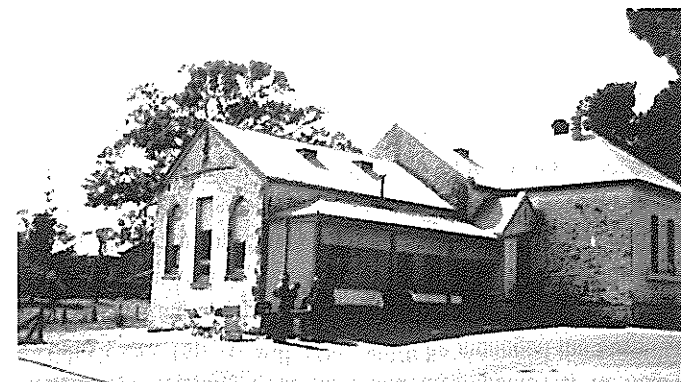


16. Mount Pleasant Primary School (former Bible Christian Chapel) [below]

The original building was the Bible Christian Chapel built in 1858, and the first church in Mount Pleasant. It was used as a private school during the week with the Misses Freeman as teachers. The Chapel closed in 1861, and the building purchased by the Talunga District Council for use as a permanent school. The Misses Freeman continued teaching at these premises. The building was finally transferred to the Central Board of Education in 1876, and has remained the school to this day.

17. 26 Showground Road (private)

The only house in Mount Pleasant completely built of Mount Pleasant Bricks. The bricks were softer and hand-made, and buildings were usually built of harder machine stamped Littlehampton or Nuriootpa bricks forming the outside layer.



18. Wesleyan Methodist Church (private) Showground Road

The church was built in 1867, but in 1874 was bought by the Mount Pleasant Institute. Henry Giles donated two blocks of land either side of the building to provide the Showgrounds. In 1900 the Show Society built the Agricultural Hall (now demolished) and further sections of land were purchased until 1911, to develop the grounds. In 1904 the Mount Barker Courier reported of the regular skating competitions which were held in the Institute to raise money for modernising the building and adding main street lights to the town. In 1928 the building was sold to the Presbyterian Church for a Sunday School and Hall, and in 1946 the Mount Pleasant Agricultural, Horticultural and Floricultural Society purchased the property. In 1978 the Showgrounds moved to Talunga Park, and the old Showgrounds were subdivided, with the building being sold as a private residence.

Immediately opposite this building is Memorial Avenue, planted in 1934 with twelve Cyprus pine saplings donated by Dr Cowling, in memory of the fallen soldiers of the district who died during the first World War. In c2004 The trees were removed for safety reasons, and been replanted with Claret Ash, and a memorial plaque placed on the corner of Melrose Street.

19. Uniting Church (former Presbyterian Church)

Built in 1866, the church site includes the adjacent stables, and grave site of the first minister, James Roddick, who died in 1872. The manse, at the rear of the property, was built in 1867, and is now a private residence. The hall built in the 1950s suffered earthquake damage in 2010 and was demolished as a result.



20. former Blacksmith Shop [above]

The original building was built as a blacksmith shop and undertakers in 1884 by Alexander Loveday. In 1924 Loveday's son-in-law, M. A. Talbot, changed its use to that of a motor garage. In 1950 it was further expanded by new owner A. M. Egel, and incorporated a petrol station. Petrol was later sold from premises over the road, at the triangular block between Melrose Street and Herriot Road, now Horse & Buggy Antiques.

21. Mount Pleasant Butcher

Originally a tailor's shop. The butcher has been at these premises for over 50 years. A smoke-house is situated at the rear of the block.

22. Former Police Station and Lock-up

Built in 1867, with the first recorded policeman as M. C. Edward Deane. The *Observer* reported on 21st September 1867: *The design is a neat one, and the building, when finished, in an architectural point of view, will be an ornament to the town... The police station will cost a little over £1,000.*

It was discovered, when the building was almost complete, that it had in fact been built on the wrong piece of land, and in 1872, the Government finally purchased the parcel of land on which it had been built. This building used until 2012 when the Police office was moved to premises in the middle of the town.

23. Lunaria (private residence)

Used for various business ventures over the years. The first bowling green was situated behind these premises. It was a

private green and for an annual fee of £5 the competitions were held here, for nearly a decade. Adjoining the green was a croquet lawn.

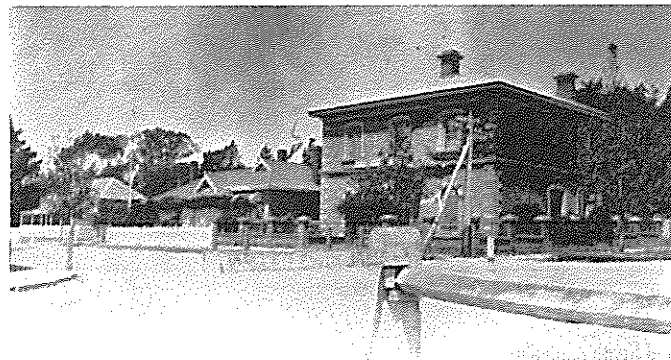
24. Mount Pleasant Hotel (formerly Talunga Hotel)

The original Mount Pleasant Inn was situated across the River Torrens, closer to the ford on Williamstown Road. After this was destroyed by a fire, James Owen rebuilt the hotel on the main road, close to the township of Totness, in the hope of attracting trade from both the Mount Pleasant residents and those of Totness. However, just a year later, the Totness Inn was built, and the publicans vied for their trade, making improvements to the amenities. Talunga Hotel was a favourite drinking place during the 1940s for servicemen quartered in the town.

25. former Elders Smith office and residence (cnr Talunga Park Road and Melrose Street)

This site had previously been Descovich's bakery, but in 1914 had been abandoned. Hartley Binks Williams was the foundation manager for Elders and took over the building for this business. Elders saleyards began business on 14th April 1914, despite one of the most severe droughts ever experienced by the district. In the 1930s new premises were purpose built on the site for Elders, and the building reverted to a residence only, when the firm amalgamated with Goldsborough in 1940, and the business was carried out in the Elders building on the opposite corner.

26. former Bank of South Australia and Stock & Station agent (private)[below]



This building was built in 1868 and was used as a bank until 1895, when it was sold to Bagot, Shakes & Lewis, stock & station agents. It was then the office for stock and station agents until 1990, when it became privately owned, and retained for Real Estate sales only. The front offices were added in 1968. The main building is a private residence.

27. former store and more recently the ANZ Bank

In the 1930s Neumanns of Palmer operated one of their Central Stores here and many businesses have operated from these premises over the years including Jim Herriot's General Store, Porter's Hardware Store and as a land agent office, when it was called Tatiara House for some years in the 1980s.

28. former Commercial Bank (private)

These premises were built c1885 with attached residence, and were used for the Commercial Bank, Bank of Adelaide and ANZ Bank, respectively. The present fence was designed and adapted from photos of the original fence.

29. Mount Pleasant Post Office

Now an agency, this building was purpose built as a post office, with residence on the block adjacent, at 57 Melrose Street. The manual telephone exchange was situated here until the 1970s. The PMG Technician Depot was situated at the rear until mid 1980s.

30. BankSA

Built in the 1960s, for the purpose, residence at the rear.

31. Lee's Spot-On Motorcycles

Stock and Station agents operated from this building in the 1970s until 1990s (Southern Farmers)

For further enquiries telephone Paula Bartsch on 08 8568 2126.