7. Offices (former Tanunda Institute)

Constructed of local stone in 1879 by well-known local builder Johannes (John) Baserow, the former town hall provided a large meeting room as well as reading and common rooms for the local residents. In 1910 it was purchased and used as the office of the Barossa News and later the Barossa & Light Herald until 1987, when it was sold and redeveloped as office accommodation.

8. Fietz House 24 Murray St

This building was originally two separate houses of different building styles, the first of which was built for a Mr Dazler in 1856. It was later purchased by Mr and Mrs A.P. Fietz in 1946 who owned it until the 1990s and undertook extensive restoration. It was classified by the National Trust in 1975.

9. Wine Cellar (former printing office) 14 Murray St

Built in the 1880’s, this is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Murray Street and is registered with both the National Trust and State Heritage. Auriacht’s Printing Office was established by Gottlieb Auriacht in 1884. He continued publishing the Lutheran church periodical edited by his father Rev J.C. Auriacht, as well as other Lutheran publications mainly in the German language until World War I, when publishing in German was prohibited. When permission was again granted to publish in German after the war, it resumed along with English publications, until World War II when the German language was again prohibited. It continued to function as a printing office until 1985, when extensively renovated in the late 1980’s, and opened as a wine cellar in 1989.

10. House 12 Murray St

A fine example of a blue stone cottage withreturn verandah. Built in the 1880’s, the house was built directly on rocky sands in terriors which formed the layout of the cottage. A large iron bar runs through the base of each external wall which locks the ‘foundations’ together. The large tree in the courtyard is a pear tree planted in the 1860’s.

11. Houses, Paranook 6 Murray St, 4 Murray St

These two houses were built by the renowned local builder Johannes (John) Baserow. Paranook was built in the late 1880’s for Dr Franz Juttner whose practice extended to Eden Valley and Keyneton, where he traveled by horse carriage. The stables and gumtrees’ living quarters still survive at the back of the residence. Dr Juttner, who was the first person, in Tanunda to own a motor vehicle, had two sons, one of whom, Frank, continued the practice until 1957.

12. Langmeil Lutheran Church and Cemetery

(near Murray St)

Langmeil is one of the most historically important Lutheran churches in the Barossa Valley because of its association with Pastor Kavel, the first Lutheran pastor to arrive in the colony in 1838. The first Langmeil Church, built of mud and stone with a thatched roof, was dedicated in 1846 and demolished in 1888 to make way for the present building. After Pastor Kavel’s death, a number of congregations divided over his teachings and established independent congregations. Near the centre of the cemetery is a monument to Pastor Kavel.

13. Tanunda Lutheran School

The school was established in 1845. The oldest present building, built in 1865, is located on the corner of Maria St and Jane Place, and has been integrated within a more contemporary complex, yet still retains much of its scale and form with the existing buildings. After 1916 all Lutheran schools were closed and German lessons forbidden. The school was closed down between 1938 and 1939.

14. St John’s Lutheran Church

A break-away congregation of 54 members from Langmeil formed in 1860, first using Rieschiek House (see below) for services, before building a church in 1868. It is said that the present day church was built larger than originally intended. One of the congregation, convinced that the building would be too small, moved the builders’ pegs late one night. Apparently the alteration passed unnoticed until the walls were partly up. Life sized wooden statues of Christ, Peter, John, Paul and Moses were donated to the church in 1892. The front door is open for the public to view the church.

15. Maria St

This street features an interesting diversity of housing styles and materials from the late nineteenth century to the 1950’s and 1960’s.

16. Goat Square (Der Ziegenmarkt)

Goat Square was laid out as the centre of the town of Tanunda by Charles Haslam, to whom the land was granted in 1842. It was central to the nearby villages of Bethanien (est 1842, now Bethany) and Langmeil (est 1843), and was used by the early pioneers as a meeting place and for the bartering of goods. Three original cottages survive on corners of the square, displaying a distinctive German style of architecture. The cottages featured hatched roof allowing space for an upper room or attic – hence the small window in the gable. The original roof would have been of thatch construction. Wattle goat square was planned as the centre of Tanunda, commercial activity gravitated toward Murray Street, due to its prominence as a major road. Take a seat and imagine this market square bustling with life in the late 1850’s.

17. Baird House (SW corner of Goat Square)

Like many early buildings this cottage was built right to the edge of the footpath, creating a permeable streetscape reminiscent of the European village life the settlers had left behind.

18. Rieschiek House (NW corner of Goat Square)

This cottage is among the oldest surviving in Tanunda. The house was built for Johann Gottlob Rieschiek, master shoemaker, and used for church services in 1860 by the breakaway congregation that became St John’s Lutheran.

19. Tanunda Recreation Park/Showground and Oval

Many social, sporting, musical and festival functions take place here throughout the year. The oval is often used for the annual brass band competitions and is held on the last Saturday of March, for the Tanunda Kegelbahn (skittle alley). This elongated galvanized building is the only example of a nine pin German skittle alley in the southern hemisphere.

20. Bilyara Road

Along this road lined with carob trees, can be observed a variety of housing, ranging from typical late nineteenth century villas to 1920’s Tudor-style bungalows.

21. Schrapel Department Store (former coach factory)

With its façade renovated to recuperate its former glory, the Schrapel premises was originally a coach and implement factory well-known for ‘every description of carriage and vehicle, farming implement and machinery’… (Barossa News 1911), before serving as a department store. Its ornate parapet and high roof structure are evidence of the grandeur of its architecture. Schrapels also provided the first electricity generating plant in 1925 in a brick building to the rear, which now houses a row of assorted shops.

Tanunda Historical Trail Markers

Scattered along the Tanunda Town Walk are the highly acclaimed Tanunda Historical Trail Markers. Priceless historical photographs accompanied by tales of early Barossa will give you a rare insight into a fascinating part of Australia’s history and increase your Tanunda experience.

Follow the markers on a 2.5 kilometre walk through the ‘old town’ of Tanunda.

Tanunda Town Committee welcomes you to:-

The Royal Geographical Society for granting permission to include information from their publication ‘Explore the Barossa’

Barossa historian Don Ross for his invaluable assistance
Tanunda Today ...

is a vibrant town at the heart of the Barossa Valley. It retains a strong sense of pride in the traditional character and cultural identity of the town, inherent in its distinctive architecture and sympathetic, tree-lined streetscapes, combined with the values of modern lifestyles. Today the wine and tourism industries play an important role in the town, and high quality food and wine are central to the contemporary fabric of Tanunda. We hope you enjoy your time in Tanunda.

The Barossa Valley

Many of the earliest settlers to the Barossa Valley were German Lutheran immigrants who left their native Prussia to escape religious persecution. Upon hearing of their persecution, Angas encouraged these Lutherans to emigrate to South Australia, recognizing that they represented ideal candidates for settlement of the new colony. Arriving first in Adelaide, many subsequently made their way up to the Barossa, attracted by the availability of larger farming allotments. As word of their new found freedom and relative prosperity trickled back to Prussia, many more settlers chose to emigrate to South Australia, contributing to the distinctive Germanic flavour of the Barossa, and, in particular, the Tanunda area.

Farmland-Villages

Charles Flaxman was the man responsible for the town that was to overshadow the pioneer settlements of Bethany and Langmeil, and which was established as a commercial centre to service these adjoining settlements. His plan of Tanunda established Goat Square as a market square at the centre of the subdivision, and named the streets around it after his children: Elizabeth, Ellen, Jane, Maria, John, Charles and Samuel.

The first building in Tanunda is thought to have been built in 1844, as a Lutheran school for children of nearby Langmeil. It was destroyed in 1849, under Pastor Adelbert Kappler. The original church was dedicated on 27 July 1850 and used during the week as a school. It was rebuilt in 1870 and with the membership of its congregation continuing to grow, it was significantly enlarged to its present dimensions in 1905–1910. In 1945 it was more than doubled in size. It is an impressive Angaston marble building today, with a long verandah proudy supported by wrought iron columns, and lacing which originated from England.

The Old Mill

Burials took place in the grounds last century and several very old headstones can be seen. Original church records are held in the orb above the spire, not under the foundation stone which is the usual practice.

3. House and Workshop of Carl Mai (cabinetmaker)

Built in the 1870’s as a house with sheds and stables at the rear and an adjacent workshop, these buildings have been in commercial use since 1977.

4. Tanunda Hotel

The history of the Tanunda Hotel is almost as old as the history of the Tanunda township itself. The hotel was originally built of local stone in 1845–46, and the first licence was granted in 1847. It was substantially rebuilt and a second storey added following a fire, in 1905–1910. In 1945 it was more than doubled in size. It is an impressive Angaston marble building today, with a long verandah proudly supported by wrought iron columns, and lacing which originated from England.

PATTERNS OF EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT

George Fife Angas

As the colonization of South Australia commenced, one of its major players was George Fife Angas, a wealthy London merchant and banker. Angas’s personal secretary, Charles Flaxman, was introduced to the sweeping valleys and ranges north of Adelaide by the German geologist Johannes Meng and on Angas’s behalf, purchased 28,000 acres of the land that was to comprise a significant part of the Barossa Valley.

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5. Barossa Museum (former Post Office)

Constructed of stone as a post and telegraph office with postmaster’s house, this is a fine example of a public building of the colonial era. When Australia Post decided to build a new post office in the early 1970’s it was intended to demolish the old office and build a new one on the site. As a result of representations by local residents, the old building was saved from demolition. It was purchased in 1972 by the Barossa Valley Archives and Historical Trust which now operates it as a folk museum.

6. The Old Mill

The main structure was formerly the steam-powered Tanunda flour mill, believed to have commenced operating in 1848. It was built for Daniel Schlinke who earlier operated a water-powered mill in the settlement of Bethany. Part of the mill was destroyed in 1921 and a number of subsequent ‘ad hoc’ additions over the years have left their mark. The mill cottage can be seen behind the car sales yard.