Lincoln Historical Walk

Lincoln & Districts Historical Society

Suitable for wheelchairs/strollers

Precinct (1–16) 45 minutes; whole walk 1–1.5 hours

For more information contact the Community Development Advisor at Selwyn District Council on 347 2755

Front cover image: Liffey Cottage, with Mr Muir the butcher and his family
1. Liffey Cottage, 1875: built in Market Square (3 Gerald Street); relocated to James Street 1977. Note step from original school. Open first Sunday each month, 2-4pm.

2. School, 1866. District High 1903–20; High School since 1945; Manual Training Centre. Current primary school play grounds were original site of Lincoln Fair Grounds.


5. ** Tod cottage: **William and Mary Tod came here 1858. First school held in their home; also Presbyterian services.


7. **Rail bridge, 1883: **Abutments are straddled by pedestrian bridge, built 2012 due to earthquake damage.


9. **General Store, circa 1879: **run by Howell Bros for many years. Demolished in 1990s; Medical Centre built on site.

10. Original site of Liffey Cottage.

11. **Harry Terry’s shop, **hairdresser and tobacconist. Verandah was hangout for local youths.


13. **Blacksmith’s: **William Watson set up business, 1885. Made award – winning farm implements (see plough between Pioneer Hall and the bridge).

14. Pioneer Hall, 1874: opened as library in James Street, relocated 1900; replaced 1912. Used by St Stephens as Sunday School and meeting room from 1935. Used for display of photographic history since 1991, by Lincoln and Districts Historical Society. Open first Sunday each month, 2-4 pm.

15. Coronation Library, 1912: built to commemorate coronation of George V. Later used as Toy Library, now gallery featuring work of local artists.


17. Home of Bert Restall, wheelchair and undertaker, 1874; work shop was next door. Now Hillyer’s Cafe.

18. J Benny’s shop: **began as a grocery; varied uses since, currently real estate agent’s.


20. **Lincoln Baptist Church, est. 1876, chapel built 1877; hall built in 1950s. Church complex in Birch’s Road since Feb. 2011. This site now The Vale business complex.


22. Community Centre, opened 1961 as result of 6000+ voluntary man-hours and tireless fundraising. Incorporated Druids Hall, built in 1893 and later served as public hall and movie theatre. Due for demolition 2013; site of new Library.

23. Police station. First station built 1876, on current golf course. Early 1900s present site built on; current station built 1970.

24. Catholic Church and Presbytery; services held in district since 1862, first church built on Shands Track in 1871. Presbytery built in Lincoln 1908, St Patrick’s built next to it in 1957; existing presbytery 1994.

25. Lincoln University was established as a School of Agriculture, 1878; became Canterbury Agricultural College 1886; granted autonomous university status 1990. Proud history of land-based teaching and research. Ivey Hall the original building.

26. E Birch & Sons Carriers: business purchased in 1908, first motor vehicle 1923. “Granny” Birch drove one of the wagons to Leeston and Christchurch.

27. W A Habgood Ltd, est. 1928 as transport business; fleet of 31 trucks by 1960s–70s, providing freight services to farming community.

28. Railway station, 1875–1962: Lincoln was junction for lines to Little River and to Southbridge. Goods shed was near Robert Street/South Belt junction.

29. Long Cottage, built as single men’s quarters. Also known as Chain Cottage, was one chain (20m) long.

30. **Vogan’s Store: **wooden building which saw a succession of uses. Known as the ‘Pink Pussy Cat’ when student housing.

31. **Lincoln Flour Mill, 1864: **built by S Early for Henry Moffat – one of the biggest in Canterbury. Weir can be seen from path beside the Liffey Stream; one millstone on site of former Ellesmere Club.