



Darling MUSEUM

DARLING VILLAGE HISTORICAL WALK

RESIDENTIAL AREA AND MAIN ROAD

The Historical buildings of Darling reflect the cultural heritage of its inhabitants since the founding of the village on the farm Langfontein (now Ormonde) in 1853 and named after the then governor of the Cape Colony, Lord Charles Henry Darling. The walk through the village highlights some of the Victorian and Edwardian buildings. More information can be found in the Museum. Please note that the majority of these buildings are private dwellings and may only be viewed from the road.

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1. MUSEUM - PASTORIE STREET



Originally the Town Hall, built in 1899 and used for all local functions such as weddings, dances, bioscope and concerts. The first Wild Flower Show was held here in 1917. It is owned by the Municipality and has housed Darling Museum since 1989.

2. PASTORIE STREET 27a & 27b



The older section of the school (27a) was erected in 1896 and extended (27b) from 1912 onwards. Sports fields (now developed land) were donated by Dr Nieuwoudt of Darling in 1924. The school remained in these buildings until 1974 and they are now two private homes.

3. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - PASTORIE STREET



Built by Harry Miller of Darling, it was consecrated on October 18th, 1915. The church is still largely original other than the addition of the bell tower and hall.

4. PASTORIE STREET 36



This house was built by Alroy Vivian Ruperti (of Klawervlei) in the late 1890's who was a general dealer and "smous" on the West Coast until the 1930's.

5. PASTORIE STREET 42



Built for one of the Duckitt families and named "Esher" after the English village from which they emigrated. It remained in the Duckitt and Melck families until 1990.

6. C/R PASTORIE AND LANGFONTEIN STREETS



This house, the cottage next door and the entire block of land belonged originally to Jack Versveld Cloete and his brother who were general dealers in Darling and (other than the cottage) is still owned by the Cloete family.

MAP



Enjoy the stroll!
Remember your hat and
some water!

7. OLD PASTORIE



Built by Franck and Samodien in 1865, it was used by the NG church as its parsonage until 1951 after which it became a private home. The original thatched roof was destroyed by fire. Each room originally had a fireplace.

8. LANGFONTEIN 10



The original school house which started life as a farm building and at various times became a church, then a school and finally a school for coloured children in 1905. It has been demolished but was located behind the current building which was built as a house for the school principal in the 1920's

9. LANGFONTEIN 17



This was built in 1938 as a "paying" hostel (as opposed to the "non-paying" hostel # 12 below) for pupils of the school referred to in #2 above. In 1954 it became an exclusively girls' hostel with the boys being moved to the hostel at # 12 below.

10. LANGFONTEIN 20



Located adjacent to the Mission Church, this house served as its parsonage for many years.

11. MISSION CHURCH



Prior to the inauguration of this church on July 29th, 1928, the coloured community worshipped at the Dutch Reformed Church. It continued to be used until the time of the forced removals of the apartheid era when the congregation resettled in Darling North. It is now a private home.

12. KRITZENHOF FLATS



This was originally a non-paying school hostel built for needy pupils of the school (# 2 above) at the instigation of Ds Malan. It was funded by a loan negotiated by the Dutch Reformed Church council with the Malmesbury Board of Executors.

13. LANGFONTEIN 2



This house belonged to the secretary of the Darling Creamery, Mr Groenewald. It was also the last home of the well known local raconteur, Willem Groot, who farmed on Langfontein in the latter part of the 20th century.

14. ORMONDE (originally LANGFONTEIN)



The original Langfontein farm house was located behind 2 Langfontein Street but was demolished. The 300 hectares of land on which it stood stretched from Towers Farm in the South to Klipberg in the North. Part of this land was sold by the Widow Croucher for the establishment of the church and village of Darling in 1853. The current farm house was built in 1908 by Pieter van Breda of Geelbek and remained in the family until 1937. It operated as a race horse stud and was renamed "Ormonde" in honour of a champion Van Breda racehorse.

15. C/R LONG AND GARDEN STREETS



Built by the Basson family in 1925, it was later owned by Johan Slabber who distributed milk throughout the village from the surrounding farms. The double storey residence at the rear in Garden Street was originally a barn and part of this property.

16. LONG STREET 29



This is a good example of cottages owned by the coloured community in the village prior to the apartheid era. Bennie Martin, a very popular figure in the community, operated his building and house painting business from these premises for many years.

17. LONG STREET 25



Probably built at the same time as the current Langfontein farm house (the date depicted on the gable is incorrect), it was owned by the Tienie Versveld family from Slangkop and subsequently became the manse for the Presbyterian Church until 1942 when the church could no longer afford a full time minister.

18. LONG STREET 22



This was built before the Anglo-Boer War (1899 - 1902) and added to during the Boer War to house a police station, holding cell and stables.

19. LONG & FONTEIN STREETS 18



The former residence and workshop of the well-known Darling shoemaker, Bonnie Visser (see display in museum)

20. NORTHERN C/R of LONG & FONTEIN STS-
CREAMERY HOUSE



This was the residence of the manager of the Darling Creamery which occupied the site bordered by Long, Fontein, Prospect and Queen Victoria Streets and which was established in 1914 after the original Swedish Creamery (see photograph in museum) was demolished. In 1950 the Darling Creamery moved to Marine Drive, Paardeneiland.

21. C/R PROSPECT AND FONTEIN STREETS



In the Cape Directory of 1926 two bakers are mentioned under Darling. This house was the bakery belonging to Mr A Ferreira.

22. PROSPECT STREET 24



This cottage originally housed the shoe making business of Mr J Ackerman prior to the Group Areas Act.

23. LONG STREET 6



For many years known as Stuart house, it has Boer War connections the story of which can be seen in the museum.

24. C/R LONG & MAIN STREET



The headquarters of the British Army during the Anglo-Boer war. The Stoch family operated a jelly factory on the adjacent erf as well as a general dealership on the Main Street frontage.

25. DUTCH REFORMED CHURCH



The original building was erected in 1857. In 1957 the church spire was struck by lightning and the church was completely destroyed along with most of the records of the village. It was subsequently rebuilt in its present form. The first minister, Ds Kotze served the congregation for 35 years.

26. STATION ROAD 13



Built in 1853 for Dr Chadwick, in 1883 it became the residence of Dr Gerrit Nieuwoudt, the first mayor of the Municipality of Darling and a much loved member of the community who practised here for more than 40 years (see display in Museum). At the rear of the residence was a coach house and stabling for 12 horses.