Welcome to the historic sites of Wangaratta.
Let these designs take you back to days gone by.

We invite you to take this guided walk and experience a blend of various architectural styles encompassing Neo Romanesque, Norman and Gothic designs.

Take time to read the storyboards as you wander along the streets and through our beautiful churches, parks and gardens. Experience Wangaratta's heritage with a unique blend of historical buildings.

Acknowledgements:
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Let us explore how the historic sites of Wangaratta bring us closer to our roots. Join us in a journey through time as we uncover the stories of Wangaratta's past.

Wangaratta's History

Wangaratta was previously known as Ovens Crossing for its first few years, the first eleven streets: Chisholm, Murphy, Ovens, Baker, Gray, Templeton, Faithfull, Reid, Rowan, Ford and Rattray, our first settler, built a two-room slab and bark settlement began in Ovens Crossing in 1838. Thomas Clark acquired Rattray's place of cormorants or meeting of the waters) was named Wangaratta by surveyor Thomas Wedge in 1848. Wangaratta (an aboriginal word meaning either resting place of cormorants or meeting of the waters) was named by surveyor Thomas Wedge in 1848. Wangaratta was previously known as Ovens Crossing for its first few years, the first eleven streets: Chisholm, Murphy, Ovens, Baker, Gray, Templeton, Faithfull, Reid, Rowan, Ford and Rattray, our first settler, built a two-room slab and bark settlement began in Ovens Crossing in 1838. Thomas Clark acquired Rattray's place of cormorants or meeting of the waters) was named Wangaratta by surveyor Thomas Wedge in 1848. Wangaratta (an aboriginal word meaning either resting place of cormorants or meeting of the waters) was named by surveyor Thomas Wedge in 1848.

Following Major Mitchell’s favourable report of the area, overlanders were quickly on the move and our first settler, built a two-room slab and bark settlement began in Ovens Crossing in 1838. Thomas Clark acquired Rattray's place of cormorants or meeting of the waters) was named Wangaratta by surveyor Thomas Wedge in 1848. Wangaratta (an aboriginal word meaning either resting place of cormorants or meeting of the waters) was named by surveyor Thomas Wedge in 1848. Wangaratta was previously known as Ovens Crossing for its first few years, the first eleven streets: Chisholm, Murphy, Ovens, Baker, Gray, Templeton, Faithfull, Reid, Rowan, Ford and Rattray, our first settler, built a two-room slab and bark settlement began in Ovens Crossing in 1838. Thomas Clark acquired Rattray's place of cormorants or meeting of the waters) was named Wangaratta by surveyor Thomas Wedge in 1848. Wangaratta (an aboriginal word meaning either resting place of cormorants or meeting of the waters) was named by surveyor Thomas Wedge in 1848.

By 1848 the township had been officially named and the population was approximately 200. During the next two years the first land sales were held, the first police were stationed here and the first police services were held and the agricultural Society was established.

Established in 1851, this was the oldest building in Wangaratta until it was demolished in 2004.

It was built by William Painter who charged its first erected on this site in 1858. It was demolished and the free Library was opened in 1909. It also contained a billiard room and a meeting room. It is now the Wangaratta Visitor’s Centre.

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1. W.H. EDWARDS MUSEUM
Originally the fire station, it is today headquarters of the Wangaratta Historical Society.

2. MEMORIAL TOWN HALL
Built on the site of the municipal offices (1867-1962), it was opened in 1963 and demolished in 2008 to make way for the Performing Arts Centre.

3. EXHIBITIONS GALLERY
Originally the Presbyterian Church, it was purchased by the city council in the mid 1980s.

4. MONUMENT GARDENS
The basalt and granite memorials commemorate the district soldiers killed in the wars. They were designed by Arthur Rundle and James McLeod.

5. THE HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL
The church precinct embraces the Cathedral, Cathedral Close, Purbrick Hall, Cathedral College and the Deanery that is the oldest building in Wangaratta.

6. TAFE COLLEGE
Opened in 1928 as the Wangaratta Technical School, it is today the Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE with more than 2,000 students.

7. WATER TOWERS
The borough’s third water tower, it was built in 1929 and was later used for abseiling. Across the footbridge is the first water tower built in 1874. Today it is the headquarters of the Railway Club.

8. THE RAILWAY STATION
It was opened in 1873 when the section of the line to Wodonga was built.

9. SIR EDWARD DUNLOP’S BIRTHPLACE (LISTER HOUSE)
The present motel building is on the site of a private hospital where Sir Edward Dunlop was born in 1907.

10. BISHOP’S LODGE
It was erected in 1904 as Bishop’s Palace and is the residence of the Anglican Bishop of the Diocese.

11. ST CATHERINE’S HOSTEL
It was relocated from Ford Street and opened in 2001.

12. THE CONVENT PRECINCT
It includes St Brigid’s, a Catholic regional education office, the chapel and the grotto.

13. THE FIRST SCHOOL
The site is on the south west corner of Chisholm Street. The school was opened by William Bindall in 1848 with 17 pupils.

14. THE WANGARATTA BREWERY
The site is at the east end of Ely Street, behind number 2 Chisholm Street. Built in 1868, it was one of four breweries in the town.

15. JOHN McEWEN’S CHILDHOOD HOME
The present residence, the Parsonage, is built on the site of John McEwen’s childhood home. For a short time he was Prime Minister of Australia.

16. PINSENT HOTEL
Originally the Royal Hotel and later the Royal Hotel, it was conducted by Mrs Annie Pinsent between 1917 and 1934.

17. WANGARATTA’S FIRST STATE SECONDARY SCHOOL
Originally the Wangaratta Agricultural High School, it became in 1962 the first Victorian regional centre for continuing education.

18. STATE SCHOOL 643
In 1850 the national school occupied this site with Henry Howard as head teacher and with an enrolment of 30 pupils.

19. PIONEER CEMETERY
The township’s first cemetery is situated near the original junction of the Ovens and King Rivers.