

Continue down Railway Terrace will take you past the **Bay View Hotel (25)** The hotel was built in 1879–80 for Aaron Lane and was originally named the Bay View Hotel. His wife Clara Lane was registered as the licensee on 28th September 1878. Between 1900 and 1950 five of the fifteen hotelkeepers were women. The property had a succession of owners and the building was added to gradually over the years. In 1988 the building was sold to IL & DW Altschwager who had the building completely renovated as it stands today. The hotel is now called the Beachport Hotel.

FINISH (Approximately 3.5 km)



Beachport Visitor Information Centre
Millicent Road
Beachport SA 5280



Phone: (08) 8735 8029
Fax: (08) 8735 8309 Like us on
[E-mail: beachport@wattlerange.sa.gov.au](mailto:beachport@wattlerange.sa.gov.au)

BEACHPORT'S HISTORIC BUILDINGS DRIVE

A French navigator named Baudin surveyed the South East Coast of South Australia. Rivoli Bay in Beachport was named after the Italian town Rivoli where the French fought and won a battle in 1797. It took just one week after the tragedy of the “Geltwood”, which sank off the southern end of Rivoli Bay in 1876, for parliament to pass a Bill to establish a port in Beachport. Things moved fast and on the 21st November 1878 Beachport came into existence, complete with its railway to Mount Gambier. The town was named after ME Hicks Beach MP.

The historic drive starts at the **Customs Office (1)** on the corner of Millicent Road and Railway Terrace. Before Federation, each state collected customs fees from goods coming in from other states and overseas. This tiny office was located at the railway yards and recorded incoming and outgoing goods. After Federation the building was used as a railway office for goods and later by men who travelled down in front of the train on a trolley to make sure that the tracks were clear.



1

They would sleep overnight in the building, and go back ahead of the train the next day. Imports at Beachport for the quarter ending 30th September 1879 resulted in customs duties of £95 13s 3p and included such items as 108 gallons of beer in bottles,

The first train rolled into Beachport on the 26th December 1878 and its 26 trucks were filled to the brim with people going to the Regatta. The public was awarded a free train ride from Mount Gambier to Beachport and this was something not to be missed. The train stopped at Millicent and a lot of Mount Gambier passengers who needed some respite from the crowded carriages, found that their seats had been taken and were therefore left behind at Millicent.



The railways chief function was to service the important and growing port of Beachport. A train line was laid down the jetty to help with the loading and unloading of goods that the ships brought in. When the railway was closed in 1956, it virtually cut Beachport off as roads out of town were in very poor condition. Close to the Railway Station were a group of 4 cottages built to provide housing for the railway employees. Only one of these buildings now remains.

Last of the local native tribe. Died 1904" Has been placed on the cairn along with two aboriginal axe heads. This was erected by the late Mr Tom McCourt. The town of Beachport commemorates this early Aboriginal Tracker with Lanky's Walk and Lanky Street.

Continue to drive down North West Terrace and you will go



past the **Old Police Station (22)** on the corner of Chambers Street and North West Terrace. The original site for the

Police Station was surveyed in 1887 and was to be on the corner of Beach Road and Lagoon Road. The station was built on this site in 1881. A new station has been built in Railway Terrace and the original station is now privately owned. Turning right into Railway Terrace will take you past the **St Nicholas Church of England (23)**. This is still used and was built to replace the original one that was brought over from Southend.



On your left directly opposite McCourt Street is the **Railway Station (24)**. The station building is used as club rooms by the Beachport Bowling Club. To celebrate the completion



of the railway, a Regatta was organised for Boxing Day 1878.

35 gallons of whisky, 735 lbs of tea and 254 lbs of biscuits. The building was used as a museum for several years by the late Mr Tom McCourt who restored the building and maintained it for many years. For some time it was leased from the District Council of Beachport by the ANZ Bank, as their Beachport Agency and held claim to being the smallest bank in Australia. The agency closed in 1997 and the building was renovated by the Beachport & District Development Association and Wattle Range Council. You can view the display through the windows.

Turn left onto Railway Terrace and there you will see the site where the **Power House (2)** stood. (Beachport Takeaway). Electricity was first supplied to Beachport from generators set up behind the old Council offices in McCourt Street. The first Power House was built behind the Council chambers and was owned and operated by Mr Fred Edwards for many years. More people started using the service and larger generators were installed on this site, no transformers were used in the direct current supply, so the nearer the supply the brighter your lights were. As you travel down Railway Terrace you will come across the **Gate Post & Spur Line (3)**

This went into the Wool and Grain Store across the road. Goods brought to Beachport by rail and wagon were stored in the Wood and Grain Store until shipping was available. The goods were then loaded onto the railway trucks and taken along the jetty to the waiting ships. Along side this is the **Susan Wilson Memorial Playground (4)** Mrs Wilson operated a kiosk on the corner block opposite, selling pies, pasties, hot water and sweets. Children always came away with much more then they had paid for.

Turning left at the round about will take you to the **Jetty (5)** Construction of the Jetty was commenced in 1878 and was originally intended to be 4,000 feet long with a T head, but owing to many problems with the contractors and Government Architect, the Jetty was not completed until 1882. The final structure was not all tha satisfactory and the removal of the T head and a section of the Jetty, which is approximately 2536 feet (772 metres) in length. In 1974–1975 the Government proposed to demolish the outer section of the Jetty, because they said that it was unsafe.

Travelling further down McCourt Street you will come across the **Old Council Chambers (20)** on the corner of Attiwell Street and McCourt Street. The District Council of Beachport was proclaimed on 20th April 1882 and the first meeting of the Council was held on the 4th May 1882. This building was sold when council built new premises on the Millicent Road entrance to the town. 20 ↓

Travelling down Attiwell Street and turning onto North West Terrace will take you past **Lanky's Well (21)**

Lanky was the last surviving member of the Buandik people the traditional owners of this area. A well was dug to water the Police horses which he cared for and in turn received a small wage. He was buried in the far corner of the Beachport cemetery, next to a little white girl, to give him a good place in the next world. A plaque with a death mask in the likeness of Lanky and the inscription “Lanky.



21

↔



The school which is on the corner of McCourt Street and Chambers Street was opened in 1881, with a total enrolment of 64 students. The first Head teacher was Mr John W Jarvis. The school building was built at a cost of 231 pounds and was a large stone room attached to a residence. Enrolments fluctuated over the years but suffered a drop when the Kangaroo Inn Area School was built in 1964.

Turn left into McCourt Street and on the corner of Carthew Street and McCourt Street is **Carthew Cottage (19)** The cottage was bought by Mr James Fyfe on the 4th August 1879. The cottage has been added onto over the years. It first consisted of two rooms and then had another two rooms added onto it in 1900.

The residents of Beachport came together and protested and kept watch to make sure that it didn't happen. The outer end of the Jetty was taken over by the District Council of Beachport and repaired, and was leased by Wattle Range Council until it was handed back to the Department of Transport Marine Facilities.

5 & 6 ↓



After seeing the second largest Jetty in the state, head back towards the roundabout, in the centre of which was the site of the **White Fountain (6)** This was the site of a fresh water bore, with a hand operated Douglas Pump installed to supply fresh water for holiday makers in Beachport. This bore and pump was provided in 1906 by Councillor Michael White, in response to a request to the Council. In 1904 the Norfolk Island Pine was planted by two local children, May Smith and Ivy Bedson.

On your left as you go round the roundabout you will see the **Harbour Master's House (7)** Beachport was planned to become the main seaport for the Southern area of Australia, (Portland became this port), and Mr Frank Corigliano (Snr) in his capacity as Harbour Master and his family, occupied this residence for many years. He was infact the last Harbour Master to occupy this building.

Going around the roundabout will take you back onto Railway Terrace and you will see on your left a beautiful old building called **Bompas (8)** Bompas of Beachport was built in 1878 by Peter McQueen soon after Beachport was proclaimed a township. 8 ↓



Turning right into Corigliano Street, and then right again into Somerville Street. Continue driving until you come to Chambers Street, turn left onto Chambers Street and directly on your right you will see the site of the **Workmen's Cottages (16)** There was also a building at the rear of this site which was used as the first mainland school and later was used as a butcher shop.

Turning left into Chambers Street will take you past the **Sergeants Boarding House (17)** This is one of the few early buildings of Beachport that is still standing. A row of single rooms along the back fence provided accommodation for itinerant workmen.

On the corner of McCourt Street and Chambers Street is the **Old Primary School (18)** The first school in Beachport was only a provisional school and was opened in 1879. The first teacher was Miss Lavinia Walters and the total enrolment was 37 with an average attendance of 24.5%.

On the corner of Corigliano Street and Foster Street is the old **Butcher shop (14)**. This shop may be able to lay claim to being the oldest butcher shop in the state. Built in 1879 the premises served as a butcher shop until closing in 1994, when the owners moved to a new premises in Railway Terrace. This shop changed hands several times until, in 1892, Walter Charles Pretty married Sophia Fox, widow of the former butcher James David Fox. The business remained in the Pretty family until the retirement of Walter Rex Pretty and subsequent sale of the business in 1964.

14 →



Just across the street from the butcher's shop was the **Gilders Store (15)**. This store also has a long history of use. The land was originally purchased in 1878 by William Fensom a farmer from Mount Gambier. This store has had just 4 owners in its long history. The store has now been demolished.

Elspeth McQueen held the license for the hotel until 1887, when it was taken on by JR Cowen until 1888. The hotel was then taken by the SA Brewing Company, Smith & Morgan. Business in the town was increasing so fast that the services of a bank were needed and so the English, Scottish & Australian bank set up a temporary office in the almost completed hotel. The license of the then, "Chester's Commercial House", was not renewed in 1889 and the building later became known as "The Coffee Palace", and operated as a boarding house for many years.

Next to The Institute is the **Old Wool & Grain Store Museum (9)**. The building was erected in 1879–1880 for FM Bevelaqua, who was at the time a shipping agent in Beachport. When the District Council of Beachport was first formed in 1882,

they leased an office in the building for 8shillings per week. The building was sold to Dalgety & Company, after having 3 previous owners, in 1912. The building changed hands 6 times, before being purchased by the District Council of Beachport. In 1972 the Beachport & District Branch of National Trust of South Australia Incorporated was granted a lease of the building. The restoration of the building was underway on the 11th April 1972 and was carried out by voluntary labour, personal donations and the assistance of a grant from the Rural Unemployed Relief Scheme through the District Council of Beachport. The building was officially opened on Sunday 8th October 1972 by the then Chairman of the Council, Mr Brian deCourcey-Ireland. 9 ↓

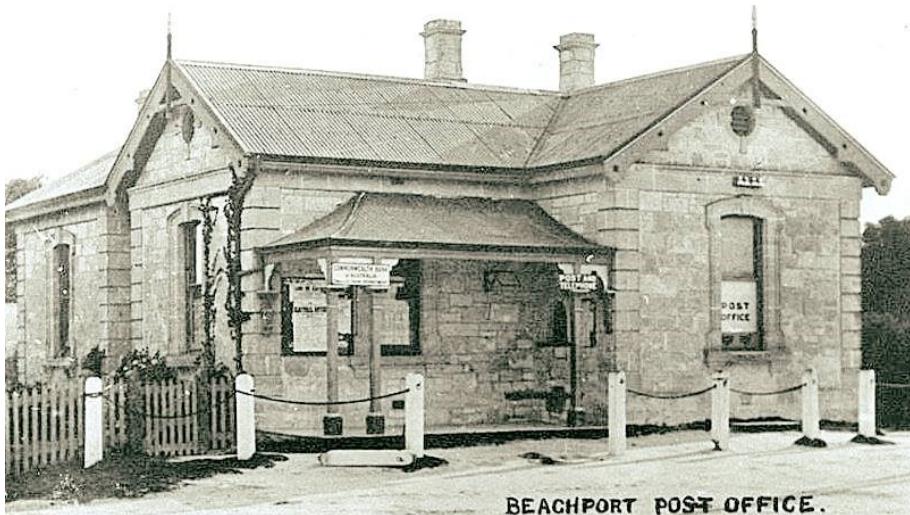


The first official postmaster listed was Mr A Lane in September 1876. The mail service was increased to three times a week and came via Millicent. The first Post Office in Beachport was actually housed in a tin shed, until a solid stone building was erected. Construction on the Beachport Post Office commenced in November 1879 and was finished in April 1880.

Continue to travel down Foster Street and on the corner of Lagoon Road and Foster Street on your left is the old **Chicory Factory (13)** The factory was opened in 1892 and the chicory was brought to Beachport by rail for processing. The kiln was serviced by a spur line off the main line and running down Foster Street. The South Australian product was vastly superior to that imported, in the points of purity and nutriment. The kiln was partly destroyed by fire at about 3:00am on Friday 29th June 1900.

It was originally situated on the site where Rivoli Bay Deli now stands, but had to be moved when it was sold to Mr AL Spehr of Furner in 1927. The first service held in the church was on 13th November 1881 and was conducted by Reverend Rowland Hayward, Missionary Chaplain. The building was sold to the Beachport Institute on the 25th November 1940. It served as a dressing room/supper room for many years, until it was restored in 1975 by the Beachport National Trust.

Turning left onto Foster Street, you will see on the corner of Foster Street, Lanky Street and Railway Terrace, the original **Post Office (12)** The post office was opened in Rivoli Bay in September 1875. Mail was received from Adelaide twice a week and was despatched to Adelaide once a week. 12 ↓



Continuing down Railway Terrace will take you past **The Institute (10)** which came about as a result of concerns of some of the early residents that the intellectual needs of the new community were overlooked, as no provisions were made for a library in the planning of Beachport. From 1878 temporary premises were used until 1882 when the Institute Reading Room and the main Institute Building were completed. The Beachport Institute Motion Picture Project was inaugurated on 23rd June 1952 and the first screening was held on 11th July 1952. Now after many years this building has once more become a cinema. 10 →

11↓



Next to the Institute is the **Old St Nicholas Church (11)** The tiny wooden church was brought in from Southend, when it was decided that Beachport was to be the main seaport for the area.

