



This short walk takes you through the central part of Darlington Village taking in a number of early buildings and sites of what originally started as a vineyard in the early 1880's by Alfred Waylen.

*Walk and Images courtesy of Local History  
Researchers, Rob Borsje and Lyn Myles  
<https://walkingmaps.com.au/walk/4242>*



**1. Darlington Lesser Hall (1889) Owen Rd.**

This was built by Alfred Robert Waylen and operated as a cellar until the vineyard was finally subdivided for housing in 1916. It was converted to a community hall in 1923 by the local residents.



**3. Darlington Recreation Reserve, Tennis Courts (1920) and Oval.**

This was purchased privately by several local residents to provide a communal area where various sports such as cricket and school sports days could be more conveniently held. Now under shire control.



**7. Grocery Store (1912) 4 Montrose Ave. Photo Thelma Rhodes 1950's.**

This was built by Hubert Taplin as a grocery store and post office. Sold to John Mitchell then Morrie Owen. It remained in the Owen family for 50 years until 1974 when son John retired.



**2. Pines General Store (1927) 1 Owen Rd. Photo 1960's.**

The Pines/Hive was originally built as a Butcher's shop by John Charles Warr. Over the years it has operated as the Wooden Shoe Cafe, Grocery Store and now back as a cafe.



**4. St Cuthbert's Church (1924) Cnr Darlington Rd & Hillsden Rd. Photo Delys Colquhoun 1958.**

Across the road is the Church. The land was donated in 1914 by Mrs Amelia Stone and her daughters. A Lych gate was built in 1950 & stone wall 1957 in memory of the 1st Minister Walter Scott Clarke.



**8. Bakery (1920) 4 Montrose Ave. Photo Thelma Rhodes 1950's.**

First built as a shed in 1920 by J Mitchell then Morrie Owen added an extra room to house the oven for a bakery. Later used as a garden centre but now back as storage for the Liquor Store.



**5. Railway Siding 'Darlington Vineyard' (1889). Owen Rd.**

The mounded earth just adjacent to Owen Rd was the first platform that served the vineyard. This was shifted in 1906 further east to be more convenient for commuters. Area now is a landscaped reserve.



**9. Darlington Christian Fellowship Church (1927) 127 Darlington Rd. Photo Ron Mitchell.**

Built in 1927 and operated as a multi denominational church for Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregationalists. It has recently been renamed from the United Church to the Darlington Christian Fellowship.



**6. Darlington Railway Platform. Photo Railway Museum 1950's.**

Moved to its current location in 1906 and then closed in 1954 when the trains ceased. The buildings were eventually all removed. The ticket office was removed to a local private residence.



**10. Early Post Office & Store (1921) now 20 Brook Rd.**

This was built by Miss McIntosh and served as a post office and store, then later as a tearoom and gallery.

Location	Darlington Lesser Hall
Length	2.44km (Loop)
Grade 1	Flat, well formed track, no steps, 5km or less. No experience required
Walk Time	36 minutes
Facilities	Public Toilets/Picnic Areas/Parking/Dogs Allowed
On Site Info	No markers
Best Season	All Year Round







**11. Darlington Post Office (1937) 18 Brook Rd.** *Photo R Woldendorp 1972.*

This was a purpose built post office by Cecil Leedman and has remained as such today. A front facade was added by the Leedmans in 1940. Mr Leedman was a local Real Estate Agent.



**13. Entrance in Honour of Miss Emma Hogan - first Darlington head teacher 1912-1919. 365 Glen Rd.**

The first school started at Leithdale with 19 pupils and Head Teacher Miss Hogan. In 1913 the first classroom was built here. Miss Hogan took sick leave in 1919, resigned in 1920 and returned to England.



**15. Grevillea Tearoom, Boarding House and Chemist (1926) 356 Glen Rd.**

*Photo Battye 000926D 1930's.*

Built as a tearoom by the owner Burges and leased to Robert Greville until 1941. He ran a Chemist shop from here. A later owner Wally Coxon supplied and repaired radios for the Royal Flying Doctor.



**17. Site of old 'Bellair' homestead (1897) 160 Victor Rd.** *Photo Battye.*

This property of 21 acres was purchased by Thomas Cockshott and a substantial house built with an orchard established. Much later, due to neglect, it was demolished.



**19. Lance Holt/Beenong/Montessori School (1974) 11 Owen Rd.**

Lance Holt School was an independent school set up in 1974. It later changed to Beenong then Montessori Treetops in 1989. It has expanded over several properties now teaching from K-Yr 12.



**12. Station-Master's House (1921) 155 Glen Rd.** *Photo A Collings 2008.*

There were 4 Station Masters who served at Darlington, the last one Alexander Leslie left in June 1939. The house was leased until the property was sold in 1962. It has been recently renovated.



**14. Darlington Primary School (1913) Amherst Ave.**

The first classroom was built in 1913, this was demolished along with the 1916 & 1924 rooms. Left is the last classroom built in 1956 along with the original boys shelter shed in 1924. In 1963 the school was rebuilt.



**16. Kathleen Skipsey Memorial Hall built in 1957 and commemorated in 1959. Glen Rd.** *Photo L Berridge.*

The hall was built after much fund raising by the scouts and guides. Kath and her husband John ran these groups in the late 1940s & 1950s. When Kath died after a fall the hall was named in her honor.



**18. 'Meedo' (1920) 16 Beenong Rd.**

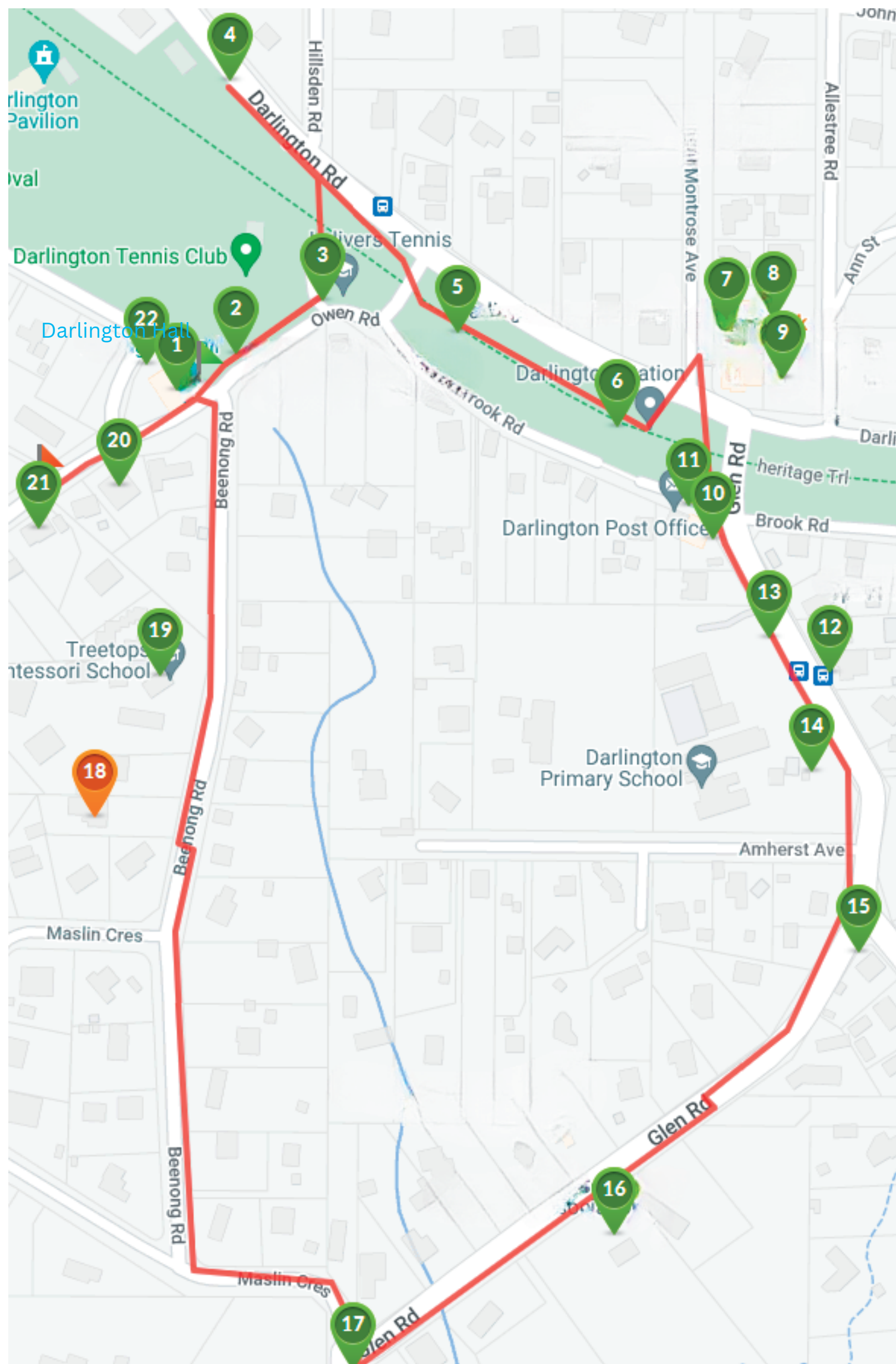
Thomas Stitfold worked for the Post & Telegraph and built his house. He renamed the road from Cellar to Beenong in 1923. The next owner was Monger who named the house "Meedo" after a station up north.



**20. The Vineyard Managers House (1889) 5 Owen Rd.**

*Photo R Macleod.*

Built to house the first vineyard manager, Charles Mumme Snr. Later occupants were Auber Neville Protector of Aborigines 1915-1936 who planted the Plumbago hedge and Mrs Curlewis who ran the "Glee Club"



**21. Rosendale Guest House (1936) 11 Owen Rd.**

*Photo Anne Charleston 1940's.*

Left a widow with five daughters, Mrs Dorothy Edmonson ran her guest house and tearoom until her death in 1969. One of the St Cuthbert's windows was donated in 1973 by the daughters to their parents.



**22. Still Room (1896) Owen Rd.**

*Photo Battye 3233P.*

Used for distilling spirits to fortify the wine, accommodation and later as a supper room. In the 1960s it was demolished to make way for toilet facilities next to the new hall.

