

SPRING HILL

HERITAGE TRAIL



*Spring Hill Railway Station
Image courtesy Doug Spicer Collection*



THE VILLAGE OF SPRING HILL – ESTABLISHED 1877

The first town established west of the Blue Mountains was Bathurst, in 1813. By 1823 a convict settlement was established at Wellington and the road from Bathurst to Wellington passed through Frederick's Valley, several kilometres north of present day Spring Hill. A Government Stock Station was set up on Frederick's Valley Creek (near Lucknow) to rest livestock travelling between Bathurst and Wellington. The station was in operation from at least 1829 to 1832.

Pastoral settlement of the area commenced around the same time. By 1861 when the Robertson Land Act came into being, 56 people were listed as owning land in the district. It was not long before most of the area was taken up and successfully farmed with chaff, peas, potatoes, cattle, pigs and horses. The name Spring Hill was mentioned by 1855.

The railway network expanded into the central west of NSW in the 1870's. The line reached Blayney in August 1876 and Orange in April 1877. It was foreseen that a village would develop around the Spring Hill station.

The village of Spring Hill was surveyed in March 1877 and allotments drawn up. The town boundaries were proclaimed on 8 November 1877. All lots were sold at a public sale on 11 September 1878.

As the town developed business such as blacksmiths, carriers, coach works, foundries, hotel, stores and butcher's shops were established. You are invited to explore the history of Spring hill by following the Village Walking Trail. The walk will take approximately one hour

OTHER SITES OF INTEREST AT SPRING HILL

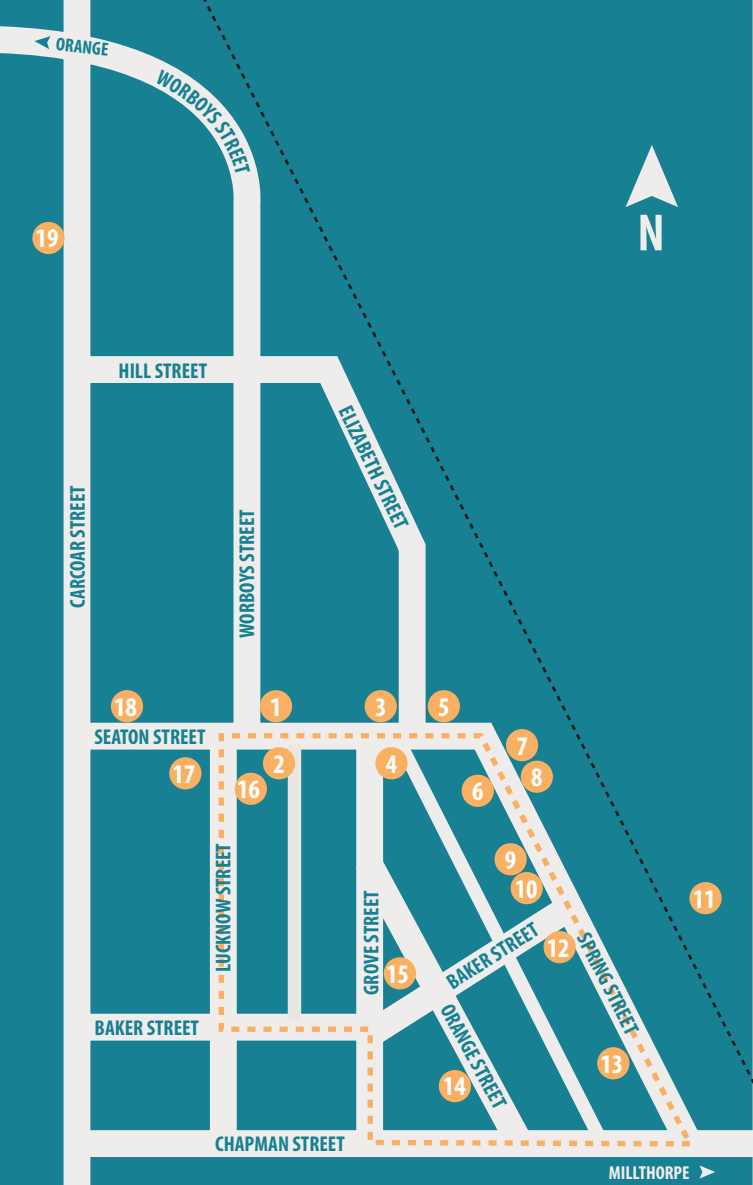
WATER TANKS – HILL STREET The water supply to the village of Spring Hill comes from two underground bores. The water is pumped to the Spring Hill tanks for storage after passing through a chlorination process.

POLICE STATION – 24 WORBOYS STREET The house in Worboys Street was leased by the Police from 1912 until the new station and lock up were completed at Baker Street in 1925.

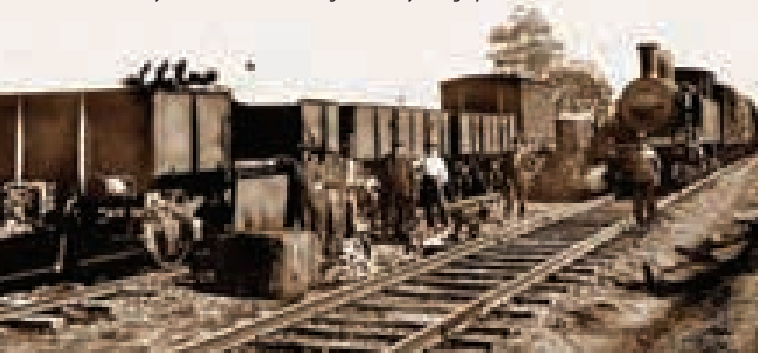
CEMETERY Land was dedicated for the Spring Hill cemetery in 1887. The cemetery was closed in 1977.

WHEAT STORAGE & ARMY DEPOT – SPRING HILL LANE A lease was negotiated through the Government with the Australian Wheat Board to stockpile wheat and jute on this site, as the cold climate provided immunity from weevils for the stored wheat. A railway siding was built to service the wheat depot. In 1941 the Australian Military Forces took over the site as an Army Engineers Depot. By 1948 the land reverted to agricultural use.

IRON DUKE RAILWAY LINE The Iron Duke Railway line stretched from Spring Hill to Cadia and was opened in 1919. It was considered advantageous to transport the iron from the Iron Duke Mine at Cadia to Lithgow via the main western line. By 1929 the production of ore dropped forcing the mines closure. During WWII, mining activity increased with large quantities of ore again being obtained from Cadia and railed to Port Kembla to meet war time demand. The rail link was re-commissioned until the closure of the mine in 1945. As you drive along the Orange Road you can see remnants of the old line on the southern side of the road.



- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. THE TEMPERANCE HALL | 11. OVAL & TENNIS COURT |
| 2. POST OFFICE | 12. BAKERY |
| 3. HORSTMAN'S/NESBITT'S BUTCHER'S SHOP | 13. HOTEL |
| 4. BAKEHOUSE/PITTMAN'S SHOP | 14. THE POLICE STATION |
| 5. FETTEL'S STORE/IRON FOUNDRY | 15. ALF READ PARK |
| 6. PRODUCE MERCHANT | 16. ANGLICAN CHURCH |
| 7. STATION MASTER'S HOUSE | 17. SPRING HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL |
| 8. RAILWAY STATION | 18. METHODIST PARSONAGE |
| 9. CARRUTHER'S STORE | 19. METHODIST CHURCH – CARCOAR STREET |
| 10. PRESCOTT'S SHED/CATHOLIC CHURCH | |



THE WALK STARTS FROM THE SPRING HILL TEMPERANCE HALL AND PROCEEDS EAST ALONG SEATON STREET TO SPRING STREET, THEN MEANDERS ALONG THE VILLAGE STREETS TO RETURN TO THE HALL. THE WALK WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR TO COMPLETE.

1. THE TEMPERANCE HALL

The hall was built by the Spring Hill Baptist Community in 1883, and it served as a meeting place until 1907. Other uses for the hall included the School of Arts and the Mutual Improvement Association, as well as regular meetings of the Good Templars' Lodge, school concerts, dances, parties, and Naturalisation Ceremonies. In 1983 the hall was officially handed over to Orange City Council to be used by the local community.

2. POST OFFICE

The Spring Hill Post Office has had three different locations. It was relocated to Henderson's store in Seaton Street in 1937-38. The Post Office continues to be conducted from this building.

3. HORSTMAN'S/NESBITT'S BUTCHER'S SHOP

Frank Nesbitt started a butcher's shop on this site. In 1946 Mick Horstman bought the business and continued the butcher's shop until his retirement in the 1960s.

4. BAKEHOUSE/PITTMAN'S SHOP

Frank Nesbitt established his baker's shop here in 1907. The original bakehouse was detached from the shop, and is still standing today at the back of the property. After World War II the Pittmans' operated a general store here.

5. FETTELL'S STORE/IRON FOUNDRY

For many years Emma Fettel conducted a general store/confectionery business in this building. Prior to that her father, William Melhuish, operated a produce store in this building. He also was involved with his father, Henry, in conducting a large iron foundry on the land adjacent to the railway line. The Foundry business was sold in 1908 and transferred to Blayney.

TURN IN TO SPRING STREET

6. PRODUCE MERCHANT

Martin Bros produce merchants of Orange built a large chaff storage shed c1940, opposite the railway station. The business was in operation until the 1960s.

7. STATION MASTER'S HOUSE

At the peak of railway use it is said that trains passed through the Spring Hill Station at least once an hour. These were mainly good trains, sometimes with two passenger carriages attached. The Station Master oversaw all railway activities.

8. RAILWAY STATION

The line was opened up to Blayney in 1876 and the extension to Orange completed on 19 April 1877. The Spring Hill station building was not completed until 1884. The Spring Hill and Millthorpe Stations were identical in design.

A private line owned by G&C Hoskins connected the Cadia Mine to the Main Western Line at Spring Hill. It was used to convey iron ore from Cadia to the main western line for the Lithgow Blast Furnaces. The line was closed in 1929, but reopened in 1941 and was owned by the Australian Iron and Steel Ltd., with the ore being taken to Port Kembla Steel Works for use in the war effort. It was found that ore could be obtained more economically from other locations, so the line was again closed in 1944.

From September 1977 the Station was unmanned. The station building was demolished in 1988. A Postal Receiving Office was opened at the Station in August 1877.



9. CARRUTHER'S STORE

The Post Office was transferred from the railway station to Carruther's store in 1911. A branch of the Bank of NSW was run from a partitioned section of the store from 1926. The Post Office was relocated to Seaton Street in the late 1930s.

10. PRESCOTT'S SHED/CATHOLIC CHURCH

There was no Catholic Church in the Spring Hill district until after World War II. With the closure of the Catholic Church at Cadia, the building was dismantled and transported to Spring Hill. The site of the former Whitmee and Davis (later Prescott's) chaff shed opposite the Railway Station was purchased and the church re-erected there. In the late 1960s the building was again relocated, this time to the Sacred Heart Infant School in Orange. A private residence now occupies this site.

11. OVAL & TENNIS COURT

The Spring Hill Recreation Ground was dedicated for public recreation, and the first meeting of the Trustees was held on 24 July 1888. The area was cleared and a cricket/football oval constructed. Not long after, tennis courts were erected. New tennis courts were built in the 1960s.

12. BAKERY

Patrick Lohan is thought to have built Spring Hill's first hotel on this site. In 1938 May's baker's shop opened on the site, later being operated by John Bobeldyk until 1964.

13. HOTEL

The present hotel is built on land originally purchased by George Hawke and John Plumb, shopkeepers of Blayney. Edward Davis erected the present hotel, which became known as the Railway Hotel.

TURN RIGHT INTO CHAPMAN STREET, THEN TURN RIGHT INTO GROVE STREET AND PROCEED NORTH TOWARDS THE PARK.

14. THE POLICE STATION

The Police Station and lock up were completed in 1925. The Station was closed on 26 July 1979. The property is now a private residence.

15. ALF READ PARK

Alf Read was a prominent member of the Spring Hill community; he served as Chairman of the Bushfire Brigade, an Alderman of the Orange City Council for a short time, a member of the Spring Hill Advisory Committee, Spring Hill Tennis Club and an invaluable worker for Legacy. The Park was dedicated in honour of David "Alf" Read by Mayor John Davis on 5 November 2011.



TURN LEFT INTO BAKER STREET, THEN RIGHT INTO LUCKNOW STREET

16. ANGLICAN CHURCH

The church was completed in 1904 and used by the community until 1991. The building has been converted into a private residence.

17. SPRING HILL PUBLIC SCHOOL

In December 1877 a 5 acre lot was approved by the Department of Education for a school and residence. In 1884 there was 124 pupils. By the 1940s this had decreased to just 40. The attendance has remained static since then.

Spring Hill School Garden. Photo courtesy of Bev Chatman



LOOKING WEST ALONG SEATON STREET TO CARCOAR STREET

18. METHODIST PARSONAGE

November 1881, 'Parson' William Tom laid the foundation stone for the new parsonage. The church split from the Orange Circuit in 1882, and the Reverend Robert Allen became the first Superintendent Minister at Spring Hill, residing in the new parsonage. The property is now a private residence.

19. METHODIST CHURCH – CARCOAR STREET

The Methodist Church opened in September 1874. The bluestone church is now part of the Uniting Church circuit. *(The Church is located approximately .05km north along Carcoar Street).*

TURN RIGHT INTO SEATON STREET TO RETURN TO THE START OF THE WALKING TRAIL.



*Naturalisation Ceremony at the Spring Hill Hall 25 February, 1959
Image courtesy Alex Rezko*

Brochures of Lucknow and the Orange Heritage Trail can be obtained from the Orange Visitor Information Centre.

Sketches courtesy of Ross Maroney

Information in this brochure was sourced from *A History Springs to Mind* by Kerrin Cook

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT



Orange Visitor Information Centre
151 Byng Street, Orange
FREE CALL 1800 069 466
www.orange.nsw.gov.au