

Martinborough Heritage Trail

A MARTINBOROUGH MUSEUM GUIDE



Martinborough's famous Square

In the 1870s, a central square featured in John Martin's plans for the new town of Martinborough. But it was not until 1921 that today's park was established.



Until then, the square was a crossroads where Otarara Road (now Kitchener Street) turned south into today's Jellicoe Street. From 1908, the Boer war memorial **1** stood at the centre of the crossroads.

Today, the road surrounding Soldiers' Memorial Park is called Memorial Square.



Together, they are the centre of John Martin's Union Jack layout. Many of the town's streets carry the names of places Martin visited during a world tour in 1875; other streets are named after British military men and prominent figures from New Zealand's colonial period.

Generations of grocers

Pain & Kershaw is said to be the longest-running family-owned grocery business in New Zealand. Its story began in 1865 when young George Pain trekked across from Wellington.

After a while working on farms, he went into business selling clothes and other necessities from a pack horse. In 1873, he opened a general store at Waihinga.

In 1908, in partnership with John Kershaw and Thomas Haycock, Pain opened a grand store on the Square, with an ornate façade that rivalled any main street building in the country. John Kershaw later bought out his partners, but agreed to keep Pain's name on the business, where it remains to this day. George Pain then pursued other business and community interests and is acknowledged as one of Martinborough's founding fathers.



The store's façade and turrets had to be removed after they were badly damaged by the 1942 earthquake. Today, Pain & Kershaw – always known as P&K – still trades from the same corner of the Square **17**, in redeveloped premises now owned and managed by the fourth generation of Kershaws.

A tale of two shops

It's a miracle these two pretty shop buildings **21**, built in the early 1880s, are still standing: it's an interesting history.

In the 1970s, when Martinborough was far from prosperous, they were given to the local council in lieu of unpaid rates. The buildings sat unloved until 1992 when Angela Sears, a local heritage enthusiast, bought and restored them. She set up The Heritage Store at No 33 – the sign is still there – to sell vintage textiles and haberdashery.

Over the years, the shops have housed many different businesses. Originally, No 33 was home for J W McCarthy, a tailor, but then became the office

of the Martinborough Star. The paper was printed in a shed at the rear. For a few years in the early 1900s, No 29 was the local Bank of New Zealand branch. The shops have also hosted a florist and plant shop, a dressmaker and milliner, a lending library, engineers, electricians, a greengrocer, and a paint and wallpaper business. Martinborough's first coffee shop, Caferama, operated from No 31 during the 1970s, but it has since been demolished. The present occupants are Le Coiffeur hairdressing (No 29) and He Puti Puti, a floral studio (No 33).



Martinborough Museum

The museum building **5** was opened in 1894 as Martinborough's public library. It was designed by Charles Natusch, the noted architect who is well known for his grand country houses.

It is registered with Heritage New Zealand as an Historic Place Category 2. The library remained in the building until 1975 when it shifted to larger premises. The museum, managed by a trust, opened in 1978.

Its collection of Martinborough memorabilia is open to visitors every weekend throughout the year and for extended hours during summer.



Contact details

Martinborough Museum
Memorial Square, Martinborough
Email martinborough.museum@gmail.com



Follow the heritage trail

The trail on the map overleaf covers about 3 kilometres. It takes an hour or two if you're walking, less if you're driving or cycling. But that depends on stops.

If time is limited, you could stay close to the Square **1-19** and **37-39** on the map).

The trail is flat, no hills. There are paved footpaths, so it's suitable for wheelchairs and pushchairs.

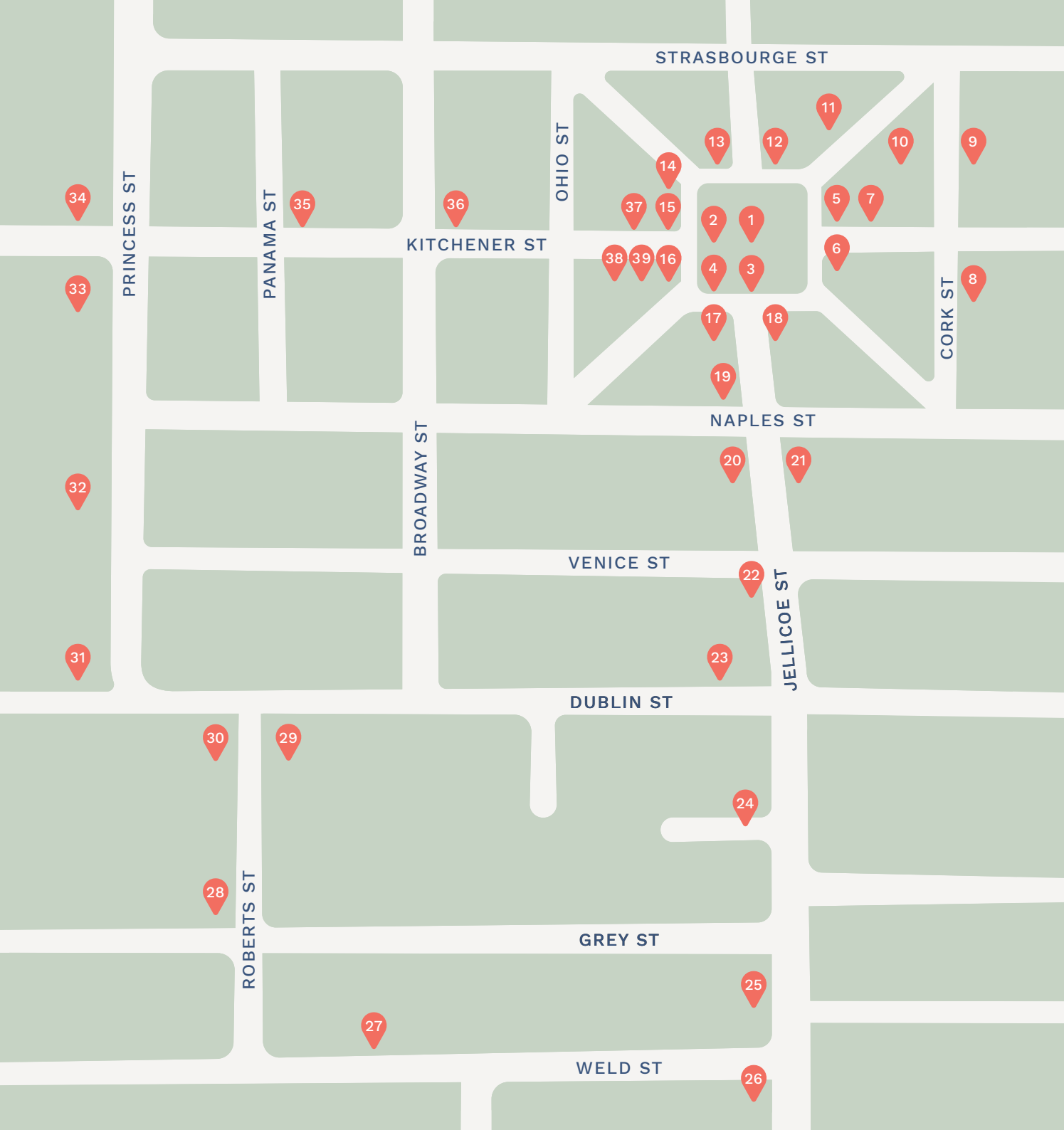
There are public toilets in the Square next to the museum **5**.

You can take your dog on the trail, but it must be on a lead. There is an off-lead dog park in Weld Street (opposite Roberts Street). Please clear up after your pet.

Some of the sites on the map are private residences. Please do not enter private property.

This brochure was produced by the volunteers of the Martinborough Museum, with generous financial support from Pain & Kershaw Ltd.





1 Troopers' memorial cenotaph
The cenotaph was erected in 1908 to honour local men who served in the Boer War.

2 ANZAC gates
Erected in 1921 as a World War I memorial, the gates are the venue for Martinborough's Anzac Day commemorations.

3 World War II memorial
This memorial was built in 1952.

4 Honouring service
This large rock from Palliser Bay was unveiled in 1995 to honour those who served in Korea, Borneo, Malaya and Vietnam.

5 Martinborough Museum
The old library building became home to the museum in 1978 (see over).

6 Pukemanu tavern
Built in the 1970s, it is named after a popular television series which featured the fictional patrons of the Club Hotel which had stood on this site from 1892.

7 Oddfellows' Hall
Now owned by the Lions Club, it has been used as a social club, courthouse, band rooms, church and school.

8 Small Bore Rifle Club
Built in 1914 to house a gas-powered electricity generator. Martinborough was the first town in the Wairarapa with electric street lights.

9 Old courthouse
The old courthouse is now home to Martinborough's men's shed.

10 Town hall and Waihinga Centre
The hall was built in 1912. It was refurbished and strengthened in 2018, when the Waihinga Centre was added for the library and information centre.

11 Fire station and ambulance base
A volunteer fire brigade was formed in the late 1890s. In those days, bucket brigades were needed to fight fires.

12 Karahui wine bar and eatery
This building started life in 1909 as the Bank of New Zealand. It is a registered historic place.

13 Neighbourhood coffee bar
Opened in 1975 as the Post Office, this building has more recently housed restaurants, bars and cafés.

14 Martinborough Winemakers' Services
The Wairarapa Farmers' Co-operative Association opened here in 1907 and competed for many years with Pain & Kershaw to be the premier department store.

15 Cool Change Bar and Eatery
The building opened in 1896 as Martinborough's first Post Office. It is a registered historic place. The Zodiac restaurant (1987) was Martinborough's first restaurant.

16 Martinborough Hotel
The hotel has stood at the entrance to the Square since 1882. It was restored in 1996, and later extended with the addition of a new accommodation wing.

17 Pain & Kershaw
P&K (as it's known to everybody) is a Martinborough institution (see over). It has occupied this site since 1908.

18 The Bach
This was the first shop on the Square, when Thomas Evans opened a saddlery in 1882. The building became a grocery in the 1920s and a food outlet in the 1970s.

19
The elegant two-storey building on the corner of Naples Street is now a private house, but originally housed the Union Bank of Australasia and, later, the ANZ Bank.

20 26 Jellicoe Street
This was Martinborough's first town hall. Opened in 1889, it was a venue for Community events and recreation. It will become a performance centre.

21 29 and 33 Jellicoe Street
These shops are the only survivors of several similar shops on Jellicoe Street (see over).

22 42 Jellicoe Street
Ramsden and Ussher's general store opened here in the 1890s. It became Joe Kwong On & Co in 1909, and sold produce from nearby gardens.

23 St Andrews Anglican Church
Built in 1883, the church was consecrated two years later; it is now registered with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust. The original church is the nave of the present structure.

24 Radium Street
The street is named for the brand of boot polish patented by Sandy McLeod and made in the factory that still stands at No 3 Radium Street.

25 80 Jellicoe Street
Sandy McLeod opened a cash store in this building in 1888. Boots and shoes were made in the buildings behind the shop.

26 First Church (Presbyterian Free Church)
The original church, built in 1871, was the first significant building in Waihinga: it is now the vestry at the rear of the present building which dates from 1891.

27 31 Weld Street
This house is one of the town's oldest dwellings. Built in 1876 for a blacksmith who was also the town's Postmaster, a room was used for postal business. A school was opened on the corner of Weld Street and Roberts Street in 1883.

28 Old Manse
Built in 1876 to house the Presbyterian minister, this is a fine example of a Victorian villa. It is now a homestay.

29 Martinborough School
The school has been on this site since 1922. The oldest of the present buildings date from 1976, and were some of New Zealand's first "open plan" classrooms.

30 Cemetery
Here is the final resting place for many of Martinborough's early residents. A placard shows the location of known graves. The lychgate was added in 2021.

31 Centennial Baths
The pool was opened in 1940 and named to mark one hundred years of British settlement in New Zealand.

32 Considine Park
The park is made up of land gifted and sold to the town board in 1914 by Andrew Considine, who was the district's first carrier and prominent in local government.

33 Centennial Park
The park was developed to mark Martinborough's centennial in 1982. There are commemorative plaques and trees and the start of the Palliser Vineyard Walk.

34 St Anthony of Padua Catholic church
A wooden church built in 1895 was destroyed by fire in 1918. The concrete replacement was opened in 1923, but not completed until 1952. The earthquake-prone building was closed in 2018.

35 Glenharvon House
This house was built in the 1890s as a staging post for travellers between Wellington and White Rock on Wairarapa's east coast. Boarding house accommodation was added in the early 1900s.

36 Dental surgery
This building opened in 1904 as the offices of the Featherston County Council. It was used by local government for the next one hundred years.

37
The large, two-storey building was the Station Hotel in Masterton until 2000, when it was brought to Martinborough and converted into shops on the ground floor and apartments upstairs.

38 Kitchener's café
Originally called Glasgow House, this building was erected in 1906 by Alec McGregor to house his millinery and dressmaking business. It became a dairy and tea rooms after the second world war.

39 Petit Hotel
The building was erected in 1905 for Adam Wright, who lived above the ground floor shops. The School of Architecture said it was "an archetype of New Zealand vernacular architecture".