



Bathurst Primary School, the oldest school in the Eastern Cape.

Butter churner and mold

Bathurst Heritage Sites

The little hamlet of Bathurst is an eclectic mix of old and new with its English village atmosphere and quiet charm. It was established in May 1820 by British Settlers and named after Lord Bathurst. The Bathurst Settlers had to cope with droughts, floods, crop failure and stock raids. A series of Frontier Wars further decimated their families, their homes and their livestock. The Wesleyan Chapel and St John's Church both served as sanctuaries and forts during the Frontier wars. In the 1870's Charles Purdon, a Bathurst farmer planted a few pineapple tops. They grew so well that others followed suit and today Bathurst is credited as being the pineapple capital of South Africa.

- 33. **Big Pineapple.** A famous landmark. The Big Pineapple, a 16.5m high, 3 storey fibreglass, steel and concrete structure with a magnificent view from the top all the way to the coast is situated on part of an 1820 Settler farm allocated to Charles Crause. The original 1825 homestead (evidence of fortification visible) has been restored and houses the Packshed Restaurant. In 1833 John Hawkins bought the property, known as Summerhill Park. John was a founder member of the Bathurst Agricultural Society and one of the first farmers to plant pineapples.
- 34. **Morley House.** Built by William Forword and Thomas Hartley in 1828.
- 35. **Pig and Whistle** is a National Monument, built in 1831 by blacksmith Thomas Hartley. In 1823, a farrier's business was added. In 1852 an accommodation wing was added. Known previously as the Bathurst Inn, it was nicknamed the "Pig and Whistle" by men of the nearby 43 Air School in WWII. Over the years many important people stayed here.
- 36. **Bleak House** is a National Monument, built in 1825 by Alexander Bisset and restored in 1883.
- 37. **Bathurst Primary School.** This, the oldest school in the Eastern Cape, was founded by Rev William Boardman in 1824 at the Old Drosty and moved to its current location in 1827, where it was known as the Bathurst Grammar and Mathematical School, later changing its name to The Bathurst Free School. In 1830, there were 51 scholars at the school.
- 38. **St John's Church.** The oldest unaltered Anglican Church in South Africa was designed by Major Mitchel and built of Bathurst Freestone by Samuel Bradshaw. In an incomplete roofless state the church had to serve as a military garrison and temporary shelter for Settler families when war broke out on Christmas day, 1834. It was also used as a sanctuary during the later Frontier Wars of 1846 and 1851. The Church was completed in 1837. The first service was held on New Year's day, 1838. It was consecrated by Bishop Gray on 19 October 1848. The Churchyard bears graves of the early settlers.
- 39. **Powder Magazine.** The historic powder magazine was erected in 1821 and carried, as regular stock, approximately 273 kilograms of gunpowder, 7 000 ball cartridges and 60 rifles. It is an excellent example of British military architecture of the early 19th century.

Sunshine Coast Heritage Sites

47. 43 Air School, museum and SAAF Garden of Remembrance. The original 43 Air School opened in 1942 as part of the Empire Air Training Scheme during WW1. It was used primarily for the training of observers, gunners and wireless telegraphers, and in its heyday housed 2000 people, had 2 cinemas, an Olympic-size swimming pool and hanger up to 100 aircraft, mostly Avro Ansons and Airspeed Oxfords. After the war, the school closed down and was finally abandoned in 1956. Jim Davis, well known in Aviation circles, bought the property in 1988, renovated some of the buildings, upgraded the runways, installed a control tower and founded 43 Air School. Today it is one of the finest Air Training facilities in the world. The 43 Air School museum houses memorabilia of the glory days of flying as well as a full Impala Mk1 jet on a 3m high column.

48. Clumber Church. The original church was built in 1825 by British Settlers from the Nottingham Party. A second church replaced it in 1837 and served as a defence station in 1846. The present church was opened in 1867.

49. Caywoods Post. This monolith commemorates British Soldiers who were killed in the Frontier Wars.

50. Trompetters Drift. A memorial cenotaph in the cemetery bears the names of British Soldiers who died during the Frontier Wars.

51. St Mary's Church Cuylerville. The present building, whose foundation stone was laid in 1839, succeeds two earlier ones; the first used in 1824 as a school and church. Through the war of 1846 over 70 people were sheltered, and 9 attacks were sustained during the 1851 war. The cemetery, situated .5km beyond the church has many early graves. The interior of the fascinating Lynch-gate contains granite tablets in memory of "the brave men who defended the laager during the wars". The tablets also list their names, several of which are well known surnames in South Africa today.

44. Centenary Hall. The hall was built in 1907, and became known as Centenary Hall. A plaque was laid in 1920 to celebrate the centenary of the 1820 British Settlers.

45. Toposcope. Built from stones taken from the ruins of original settler homes, the toposcope marks the spot from where the 1820 British Settlers' lands / farms were surveyed. 57 plaques record details of settlements. On a clear day you can see from Great Fish River to Kwaaihoek.

46. Bathurst Agricultural Museum. The museum houses an extensive and unique collection over 1600 exhibits ranging from household items, toys, ox wagons, buggies, tractors and implements. The museum is open Mondays - Friday 9am to 4pm, and weekends from 9am to noon. Contact: 079 987 9507.

52. Great Fish Point Lighthouse. In 1890 the Lighthouse Commission recommended the establishment of this lighthouse, but delays in construction resulted in it first being lit on 1st July 1898. The 9m octagonal masonry tower is painted in vertical black and white stripes and situated 76 metres above sea level and approximately 800 metres from the shoreline. The revolving electric light flashes once every 10 seconds and has an approximate candle power of 500 000 candles with a range of 32 sea miles.

53. Glendower Beacon. Erected 1881 at the recommendation of British harbour engineer, Sir John Coode as a landmark to assist mariners overcome difficulties experienced in making the Kowie Landfall. The beacon is 15m high, in triangular design facing SE, SW and N and is built of stone transported by ox wagon from Grahamstown. The lower third is painted white, the top two thirds black.

54. Barville Park. This fortified farmhouse was built between 1835-1846 of Bathurst Stone, comprising seven rooms, barn and outbuilding, all placed in a farmyard surrounded by a loopholed wall 2.4 metres high, with a similar but higher wall surrounding the adjacent cattle pens. The entrance to the farmyard was protected by a double-storied barn with loopholes on both floors. Gun fire could be provided through two arrow-head bastions projecting out from the wall line. During the Seventh and Eighth Frontier Wars, this farmhouse was again used for defensive purposes. In May 1846, Barville House was under attack until Colonel Somerset arrived with 300 mounted troops, including the 7th Dragoons, and the siege was lifted.

55. Lombard's Post. First established as a military garrison in 1812, the land was granted to Major George Sackville Fraser in 1817. He lived there until 1823. After the 6th Frontier War of 1835, new buildings were erected. The farm passed into the hands of a wealthy horse-breeder, Benjamin Keaton. During the war of 1850, soldiers and horses were stationed at Lombard's Post. The surviving group of buildings comprises the barracks, stables, separate officers' quarters and Keaton's own house. The four main buildings are arranged in a polygonal plan, with a linking wall between them, enclosing a central mustering yard for defense. The main building is loopholed over two levels with gangplanks at the upper level for access.

56. St James Church, Southwell. Circa 1876 - many pioneer settlers are buried in the churchyard.

57. Kasouga. This area is now an Oribi conservancy. The wreck of Cape St. Blaize is visible from the beach.

58. Dias Cross. The original cross was erected in 1488 at "Kwaaihoek" by Bartholomew Diaz. This copy was unveiled in 1988, at a 500-year celebration.

- 59. **Volo Wreck Bushmans.** In March 1896 the Norwegian barque was wrecked. The anchor is mounted on a plinth in front of the municipal buildings.
- 60. **Cannon Rocks:** The anchor and cannon of Sao Joao Baptista wrecked near Boknes in 1622 can be seen. Of the 279 survivors who trekked to Lorenzo Marques, only 28 reached their destination.
- 61. **Alexandria Anglican Church.** This was built in 1860.
- 62. **Dutch Reformed Church, Alexandria.** The original 1895 structure was rebuilt in 1925.
- 63. **Old Drosty.** Alexandria. Now a private residence, it once housed the magistrate's residence with a jail in the cellar.
- 64. **Karel Landman Voortrekker Monument.** Erected in honour of Karel Landman who farmed in the area until 1837. He became a leader in the Great Trek, taking a party of 180 people and their servants on a trek of 885 kilometres into Natal where he was prominent in several battles against the Zulus.
- 65. **Nongqawuse Grave.** A bronze plaque erected in 1963 marks the Xhosa prophets' grave. In 1858, 14 year old Nongqawuse, influenced by a dream and encouraged by her uncle, instructed her people to kill their cattle, destroy grain and plant no crops, with disastrous consequences. Many people died of hunger and migrated west in search of food. Nongqawuse was arrested in the Cathcart district, confessed to acting under her uncle's influence and was sent to Robben Island. After repatriation, she settled in the Alexandria district, married and bore two daughters. She died in 1898 and was buried on state land, later to become Glenshaw farm.
- 66. **Salem.** Sephton's party settled in Salem on 18 July 1820. The first church was built in 1822, then replaced in 1832. The churchyard and walls surrounding the cemetery are national monuments. During the 6th Frontier War 1834-3, villagers built barricades near the church, but Richard Gush bravely refused to fight and instead negotiated terms with the Xhosa warriors, saving Salem. A beautiful stained glass window in the Methodist Church is one of 2 in the world, depicting all 4 military disciplines and is dedicated to the Glory of God in Grateful Remembrance of the men who gave their lives in Defence of the Christian Way of Life in the two World Wars. Sadly, the last local elephant was killed in Salem in 1826.

1488	Bartholomew Diaz erects Padrone at Kwaaihoek
1652	Dutch Settlers land at the Cape of Good Hope
1770-1809	Cape colony expands to Great Fish River and European settlers move eastwards
1779-81	First Frontier War (Boer / Xhosa confrontation)
1789-93	Second Frontier War (Boers aligned with Chief Ndlambe in war against Gqunukhwebe in Zuurveld district)
1799-1803	Third Frontier War (Xhosa rebellion, Khoi join Xhosa in attacking European farms)
1806	British seize control of the Cape Colony
1811-12	Fourth Frontier War (British forces drive Xhosa back beyond the Fish River)
1818-19	Fifth Frontier War (War of Nxele -Grahamstown attacked, over 1,000 Xhosa killed in battle. British push Xhosa further east beyond the fish River to Keiskamma River)
1820	4,000 British Settlers arrive at Algoa Bay and trek eastwards to their allocated farms in the Albany district Bathurst declared Magistry
1822	Magistry moved to Grahamstown and British Settlers abandoned
1830	Tensions between British and Boers increasing, sparking the "Great Trek". Alexandria farmer, Karel Landman voortrekker leader
1834-36	Sixth Frontier War (Sparked by cattle raids, escalating into violence with Boer, Khoi and British forces, resulting in a string of defeats on the Xhosa—(see Trompetters Drift)
1841	Flow of Kowie River diverted to the west bank
1846-47	Seventh Frontier War - War of the Axe. A Khoi escort, transporting a manacled Xhosa man to Grahamstown to be tried for stealing an axe, was attacked and killed by Xhosa raiders. The Xhosa refused to surrender the murderer and war broke out in March 1846.
1850-53	Eighth Frontier War. The most bitter and brutal in the series of wars. Lasting over two years and ending in the complete subjugation of the Ciskei Xhosa.
1856-58	Cattle Killing leading to near starvation of Xhosa
1863	Harbour opened in Port Kowie—more than 100 vessels called in for the next 20 years
1877-79	Ninth Frontier War
1884	Railway Link between Grahamstown and Port Alfred established
1890	Kowie Harbour fell into disuse
1899-1902	Anglo Boer War results in hundreds of refugees settling in Port Alfred. Tented camp set up behind the market.
1910	Union of South Africa established under British rule
1923	ANC founded in opposition to discriminatory laws
1950	Apartheid state declared
1964	Nelson Mandela jailed for treason and sabotage
1970's-80's	Political unrest throughout South Africa
1990	Nelson Mandela released from prison
1992	Nelson Mandela visits Port Alfred and Nematso Township
1994	First free elections in South Africa, Mandela declared president.

