

CARGO WALKING TOUR

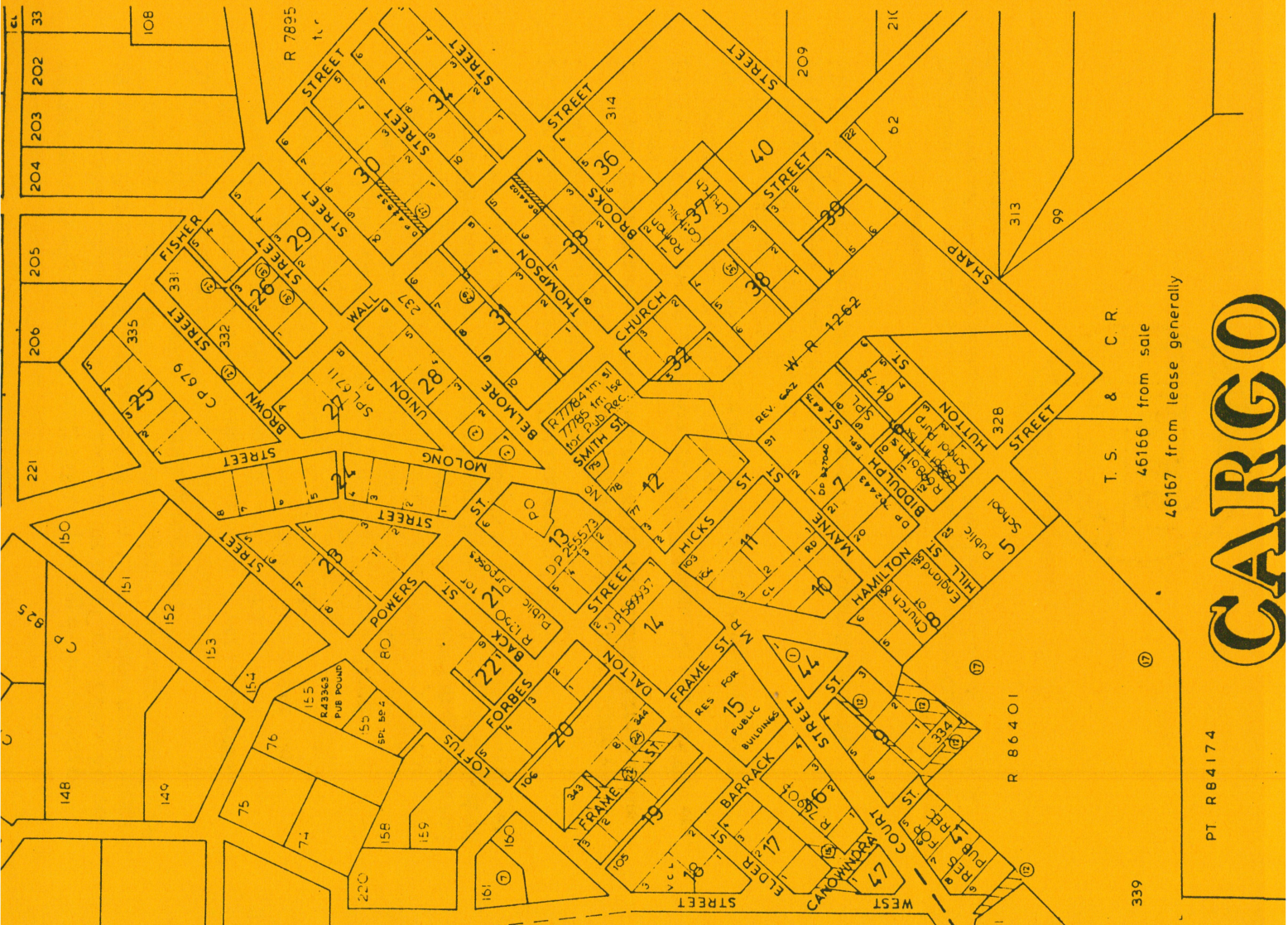


Cargo, was the name of an early pastoral station, part of the older *Davy's Plains* Run, taken up by William Lawson, with headquarters close to the old Orange-Nanami Road north of the town of Cargo.

Gold mining in the late 1860s led to the establishment of the township. The Cargo goldfield, 7 miles by 5 miles, was proclaimed in 1869 and mines were opened in all gullies leading from the Ironclad Range overshadowing Cargo. The two main periods of mining activity were from 1869 - 1879 and from 1885 - 1899, when the town boasted three hotels, a bank and several businesses lining Belmore Street; three churches, Anglican, Catholic and Methodist; two schools, a flour mill, a hall, a racecourse and sporting grounds for tennis, cricket and football.

Cargo was a stopping place for Cobb & Co Coaches from Orange to Canowindra. Surveys in the early 1870s tried to impose a grid plan on the unplanned growth of the goldfield but the winding main street and gullies defied such order. Cargo was proclaimed a town in 1885. Closer land settlement coincided with the mining period and many miners and businessmen settled on farms around Cargo or worked on larger pastoral stations. Gum Flat, over the hill from Cargo, on the Canowindra Rd was closely settled mainly by Irish selectors on blocks of 40-50 acres. There was a butter factory at Gum Flat and the racecourse.

By 1969, Cargo's population had dwindled to 160 but there has been renewed interest in the town in the 1980s and 1990s as people are attracted to its peaceful, rural beauty within easy commuting distance from Orange. Population in 1991 is 200 and growing. Cargo retains its charm as an early mining town and most buildings in Belmore Street are from the 19th Century goldmining era.



CARGO

PT R84174

T. S. & C. R.
46166 from sale
46167 from lease generally

Cargo Walking Tour.

1. Monument in square erected in 1969 to commemorate centenary of declaration of Cargo Goldfield in 1869.
Belmore St is Cargo's main street. Walk towards Orange. On left
2. Site of Sargent's Blacksmith's Shop
3. Early Police Station. Now a private home. Old cell at back. First police station on Cudal Rd where Sands live.
4. A slab hut, first home for the Sisters of Joseph who arrived in Cargo in 1880, was nearby.
5. Cargo Methodist Church, of corrugated iron, was also nearby.
Proceed over crest and downhill on right is entrance to
6. Cargo Recreation Ground.
Return towards Cargo to Church Street
7. Site of Worralls Flour Mill, built 1880. Closed and transferred to Manildra in 1907 when plans for railway link to Cargo unsuccessful.
Proceed south in Church Street to Catholic Church and former convent school buildings. Note old pise cottage(Barclays')
8. First St Patrick's Catholic Church in Cargo built here in 1875 of weatherboard with shingled roof. Present brick church opened 1907. First weatherboard convent school built 1882, demolished 1939 and replaced with brick building opened 1940, together with extensions to the church. Convent school closed in 1965 and the building is now a private dwelling.
About turn in Church St at Catholic Church back towards town.
9. Site of second Post Office on left
10. Village green, public park area. Corner Church and Belmore Sts
Turn Left into Belmore St.
11. Early shop. Built in two parts with cellar basement and second storey used for dancing. Later burnt down and rebuilt one storey in brick.
12. Former bank building adjoining shop. As Australian Joint Stock Bank, it was scene of famous bank robbery on 10 June 1893. Bank manager struck on head, tied and blindfolded. 775 pounds stolen and never recovered. No conviction ever made, despite two trials. A store for many years, it is now a private home.
13. Site of Royal Hotel (Mayne's)
14. Shop and Residence. Formerly Fishers', now *Miners Rest* Craft Shop.
15. Former Hicks' shop, for Ladies and Menswear, Boot Repairs. Now a private home.
16. Site of Hutton's Shop (two storeys). Later John Hamilton's
Turn Left into Hamilton Street.
17. Site of Byrnes' Butchery

18. St John's Anglican Church, built 1880, replacing earlier church of stringybark, built in 1871, also used for the first Cargo Public School.
19. Cargo Public School. Established 1871 in C. of E. bark church. Brick building erected in 1877 with attached teacher's residence. Demolished and replaced by weatherboard building in early 1970s.
20. Cargo Common, much of which retains natural timber.
Return to Canowindra Road end of the main street. This section officially Court Street. Head towards Canowindra.
21. Gum Flat was over the hill on Canowindra Rd. Remains of old mullock heaps of goldmining days are still visible.
22. Butter Factory site on right opposite The Common.
23. Cargo Race Course was on the right of the Barragan Road.
Turn and proceed in Orange direction and note on left:
24. Iron Clad Mine at top of hill. Mine still worked. Private property.
25. Hennessy's Blacksmith's was on vacant block at junction of Court and Barrack Sts, reserved on map for Public Building. A tree once stood on this block where police chained prisoners awaiting transfer by coach to Orange.
26. The Cargo Inn, built 1874 as The Commercial Hotel.
27. Former bakery, now private home.
Turn into Forbes St to view Cargo from heights. Return same way.
28. Johns' Store and Post Office. Built 1982 by Blundells. Former tennis courts here.
29. Site of Collins' Hotel, later Powers'. Burnt down. Mr and Mrs Powers died in fire, trying to save their money.
30. Site of early Post Office. First P.O. in Cargo established in 1868.
31. Cargo Community Centre
32. Cargo Bushfire Brigade Depot.
33. CWA Hall, used for health services.
34. Cargo Cemetery a little on right along Cudal Road (Molong St)

This Walking Tour, a guide to Cargo, past and present, was prepared by Canowindra & District Historical Society for the second Cabonne Shire Festival of Arts & Tourism in Cargo, 14 September 1991.

