

## 7. Wharf – Daintree River

- a. *The wharf was the heart of the town for 50 years. A steam winch hauled logs up the hill to the Sawmill and cream was landed for the Butter Factory*
- b. *Cedar logs were floated down to waiting boats and launch services carried passengers and produce along the river until the road to Mossman opened in 1933.*

## 8. Daintree School

- a. *One-teacher provisional schools had operated in the area since 1899 but it was difficult to retain teachers in the harsh environment. This school opened in 1924.*
- b. *Fires in 1926 and 1952 damaged the school. During World War II parents built an air-raid shelter for the children.*

## 9. First Settlers

- a. *The Osborne family arrived in the district in 1882. The fifth generation still lives in Daintree.*
- b. *John Whitehead Stewart, a cedar-getter, and Jack Shewan, a teamster, were the first settlers in 1879. John Pentschke introduced the prolific Para grass for the settlement's pastures.*

## 10. Daintree River Mission – Dormitory

- a. *In 1940 the Assembly of God church purchased land for a Mission station. About fifty local Aboriginal people came to live there.*
- b. *The Mission built a dormitory for children in 1949. When the Mission closed in 1962 most people were moved to the Mossman Gorge reserve.*

The Court House Museum is a project of the Douglas Shire Historical Society and features the story of Ellen Thomson, the only woman to be hanged in Queensland.



Port Douglas Court House 1879

Located in Wharf Street Port Douglas next to the police station, it is open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Photo courtesy N O'Donoghue

Daintree launch c.1936



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At a leisurely pace, this walking tour should take about half an hour with the exception of the Mission site approximately 5 km back on the Mossman road.

The walking distance starting and finishing at the same location is less than two kilometres. It is recommended that water be carried.

Useful telephone numbers:

Council Office Mossman ☎ 07 4099 9444

Emergency ☎ 000

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# Stroll Back through Time in the Daintree Village with the Douglas Shire Historical Society





We suggest that you start your tour here and carry some water.

1. Welcome – Daintree Hall

- a. *George Elphinstone Dalrymple discovered the Daintree River in 1873. He named it after his friend, government geologist Richard Daintree.*
- b. *The long awaited Daintree Hall was built by Arthur Zillfleisch & Co. for the Douglas Shire Council in December 1956.*

2. Red Mill House – Lucas Hughes

- a. *Managing Director of the Daintree River Development Company, Alfred Lucas Hughes built this residence for his family in 1930.*
- b. *Lucas Hughes was responsible for the revitalisation of Daintree Village. He headed the company which built the Sawmill and the Butter Factory in the early 1920s.*

3. Hash House – Timeline

- a. *The Hash House was built around 1923 by volunteer labour to provide hearty meals for workers at the Sawmill and Butter Factory. Later the Wallwork family built a two-storey boarding house at the rear.*
- b. *A timeline of important events in the history of Daintree.*

4. Shops

*Small businesses sprang up around the town and Arthur Osborne and Charlie Tunnie built three shops across the road from the Sawmill in 1929. They burnt down in 1995.*

5. Bushman's Lodge

*Jack Maxwell the engineer at the Butter Factory around 1939, built this two-storey house. The original building on this site was the home of Eric Osborne, the engineer for the first 10 years.*

6. Sawmill – Butter Factory

- a. *The Sawmill was built in 1923 by the Daintree River Development Company to provide timber for a butter factory and houses for its workers. It closed in 1942.*
- b. *The Butter Factory opened in 1924 and was the most northerly in Australia. It won many prizes worldwide for its butter until it closed in 1962.*

