

SOVEREIGN HILL

SHOPPING FACT SHEET



As part of Sovereign Hill's goldfields story, visitors can experience a wide variety of 1850s-style shopping. Main Street's stores are based on those known to have existed in early Ballarat. Most are open for business, selling the types of goods that were available on the goldfields. They are attended by costumed staff, and items are priced in contemporary as well as 1850s currency. Visitors can also shop at the Waterloo Store, the Blacksmith's, the Candlemaker's and the Soho Foundry. From Sovereign Hill's famous boiled lollies to fine lace tablecloths, china, jewellery, candles, fireside sets and genuine copper gold pans, visitors are spoilt for choice.

Souvenirs

The Entrance Shop

Located in the main entrance building, this is a convenient stop for postcards, Australian-themed books, souvenirs and gold items.

Sovereign Hill Gift Shop

Sovereign Hill's Gift Shop, located in the visitor car park, offers a wide range of Australian-themed souvenirs, books, quality clothing, beautiful home wares, gifts, chocolates, postcards and film. An ATM machine is located within the shop.

Ballarat Times Office

The Ballarat Times Office was the place to go for the latest news and gossip in the 1850s. Sovereign Hill's Ballarat Times Office contains 19th century printing presses. Watch the printer at work and have your name printed on an 1850s-style news poster.

Red Hill Photographic Rooms

William Ellis operated Ballarat's original Red Hill Photographic Rooms, on Main Road, around 1854. Today, you can have fun dressing in period costume for Victorian-style portraits. A perfect memento of your trip to Sovereign Hill! Bookings are strongly advised, especially on weekends and holidays, as this is a very popular activity.

Food

Brown's Confectionery Manufactory

The original Brown's Confectionery Manufactory was established in Dunolly, north of Ballarat, in 1857. The business moved to Ballarat in the late 19th century. In 1974, its traditional sweet-making equipment was transferred to Sovereign Hill. Today, you can watch Sovereign Hill's famous boiled lollies being made right before your eyes. Lollies are sold at the factory, at Charles Spencer's Confectionery Shop in Main Street and at the Sovereign Hill Gift Shop.

Charles Spencer, Confectioner

In the 1850s, Charles Spencer was a baker, grocer and confectioner. Today, Charles Spencer's Confectionery (next to the Ballarat Times Office) is where you will find the full range of colourful boiled lollies and lollipops.

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Clarke Brothers, Grocers

Thomas and Richard Clarke migrated from England during the Gold Rush. They had three grocery shops in Ballarat. Clarke Bros. Grocery at Sovereign Hill is rich with the aroma of soaps, spices, herbs and coffee. (At the back of the shop is a magnificent coffee grinder.) Mr Clarke also stocks traditional kitchen utensils, cordials, honey, jam, mustard, vinegar, biscuits, liquorice and fudge.

Hope Bakery

Ballarat's original Hope Bakery was located in Seymour Street, Soldiers' Hill. The Hope Bakery is famous for its meat pies, but also sells traditional pasties, biscuits and bread - all baked in a wood-fired brick oven. Hot Cross Buns are popular at Easter and traditional cakes and mince pies are available during the festive season. All goods sold by the Hope Bakery are made on-site. Hope Bakery products are a great idea for schools and community groups organising fund-raising activities. Orders are welcome.

Trades

Clarke Brothers, Tinsmiths

This building originally stood in Humffray Street North and was donated to Sovereign Hill by its owner, 'Tinker' Clarke. Watch the tinsmith cutting tin plate and sheet copper to make pie plates, scone and biscuit cutters, candle lamps and similar wares.

Visit www.sohofoundry.com.au for more information.

Dilges' Blacksmith's Shop

Dilges' Blacksmith Shop at Sovereign Hill is based on a photograph of the original Dilges' Forge in Sebastopol, Ballarat. Today, the blacksmith makes and sells a diverse range of products including fireside tools, log stackers, rose stakes, kitchen hangers and candelabra.

The Glasgow Saddlery

Thomas Gray was a prize-winning exhibitor of harnesses at Ballarat's early Agricultural Society shows. Sovereign Hill's Glasgow Saddlery was based on a photograph of Gray's shop that stood on Armstrong Street in 1861. For equestrians, the saddler sells bridles, bits, spurs, riding crops and stock whips. Specialty products include leather hats, saddle soap and leather dressing.

Soho Foundry

An 1850s advertisement for the Soho Works inspired this building. The original Soho Works was founded in 1856 by Robinson, Thomas & Co. They were iron and brass founders, boilermakers, patternmakers and engineers. Visit the Soho Foundry to see skilled craftsmen using steam-powered lathes to spin metal and turn wood. This is the place to buy candleholders, lamps, cookware, moneyboxes and gold pans.

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W Proctor, Wheelwright & Coach Manufactory

Sovereign Hill's coachbuilders and wheelwrights build and repair the extensive range of horse-drawn vehicles seen in use around Sovereign Hill. They also accept commissions from all over Australia. The wheelwright's plant contains a rare collection of late 19th century wheelwrighting machinery and equipment that can be seen in action during daily demonstrations. Sovereign Hill's significant historical collection of horse-drawn vehicles is also on display.

William Hewett's Yarrowee Soap and Candle Works

Candles were an essential commodity in the homes, businesses and mines of early Ballarat. William Hewitt's original factory was located in Main Street, in the early 1860s. The candle maker uses a late 18th century-style 'Nodding Donkey' to dip candles, and he has original 19th century continuous wicking candle machines to produce the moulded variety. The factory shop sells a variety of soaps, candles and lamp ware. Children love making colourful dipped candles to take home!

Postal Services

Post Office

Sovereign Hill's Post Office was built using the original 1854 plans and a watercolour by goldfields artist, S T Gill as historical references. Behind the historical façade, however, lies a modern day, working post office. Postage stamps, postcards, stationery and other postal items are for sale. Send your postcards and letters home with Sovereign Hill's own postmark!

Health

Robinson & Wayne's Apothecaries' Hall

The 'apothecary' was an important man on the goldfields. The equivalent of today's chemist, he was also licensed to practise medicine and dentistry. Fascinating items of 19th century medical equipment and apothecaries' tools are on display, and you may even find the apothecary rolling pills when you visit! Robinson & Wayne's stocks timber walking sticks, pot pourri, herbal infusions, chemical free furniture polish, teapot warmers, hand made soap and mortar and pestle sets.

General Store

Waterloo Store

In 1853, the Original Waterloo Store, run by R B Caul, was located on the flat opposite Golden Point. Sovereign Hill's store, located on the Red Hill Gully Diggings, allows you to step inside an early diggings business, supplying all types of goods, from cookware to small pieces of mining equipment.

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Clothes & Accessories

David Jones' Criterion Store

An 1859 lithograph by François Cogné shows the twelve-foot plate glass windows for which Ballarat's original Criterion Store was noted. This image was used by Sovereign Hill to replicate the façade of this elegant building. Inside, delicate original lithographs demonstrate the newest fashions to the ladies of the Colony. The Criterion Store sells clothing, accessories and a wide range of napery, including fine lace tablecloths.

Gold

Gold, that precious metal, is Sovereign Hill's specialty! Gold nuggets, gold jewellery and gold souvenir items can be purchased at a number of shops. Try the Waterloo Store, Rees & Benjamin's jewellery shop and the Gold Smelting Works. The Sovereign Hill Gift Shop (located in the main car park) and the Entrance Shop also carry gold items. And don't miss the Gold Museum Shop (opposite Sovereign Hill) for gold nuggets and fine gold jewellery and giftware.

Rees & Benjamin, Watch & Clockmakers

The original firm of Rees & Benjamin was located on Main Road, and sold watches and jewellery, as well as instruments for land and mining surveying. Today, Rees & Benjamin is the place for Victorian-style jewellery, fob watches, clocks and trinket boxes. This busy little shop was built using an 1859 lithograph by François Cogné as an historical reference.