



Pinetown Museum 24\ 2922.1. View of Traffic Circle at intersection of Old Main Road (Josiah Gumede) and Crompton Street, Pinetown. 1967. Looking towards Railway Street and Caversham Road. Foreground left is the garden in front of the Pinetown Civic Centre (opened 12.09.1959.) with the 1912 Town Hall on the other side of Old Main Road. None of the trees around the Town Hall Memorial Garden had been removed . There were no pavements only gravel walkways. The Main town roads had been hardened with tarmac. A gravel lay bye gave easy access to the 1924 World War 1 & 11 Memorial Cross within the Memorial Gardens. Cars going to the Town Hall simply parked on the grass.

Buildings on the opposite side of Crompton Street to the Town Hall include the Crossroads Tearoom, then Dales Building. Behind these buildings amid the trees was Dales Auctioneers which faced onto Dales Avenue. Crossroads Tearoom and Dales Auctioneers with the trees was sold to McDonalds Fast Food franchise in approx 2000. Barclays Bank on the corner of Dales Avenue and Crompton Street had increased in size, but it was later made a multi story modern building, with underground parking. Next to the bank was the new United Building Society site. On the corner of Hill Street and Crompton was the Corner Store (later the site of Edgars Clothing Store), the Medical Centre and the new O.K. Bazaars, a national chain store, which opened in 1960.

Park Lane was identified by the Park Lane Hotel, a block of flats and the old Pinetown Club. Trees around these buildings have been removed with vacant lots been developed. Multistory buildings now line Crompton Street with flats and offices requiring parking for increased cars.

Increased traffic on the Durban to Johannesburg National road led to the design of a new dual carriageway road to by pass the Pinetown Town centre and Old Main Road. It reached Sarnia in 1952, although it took longer for the economic effects to change the town. Modern maps mark the 1952 road as the M13.

A new Traffic Plan to “eliminate hazardous intersections and speed up traffic flow” led to the removal of the traffic circles at Old Main Road | Crompton Steet and Moody Street in August 1974. Traffic lights were installed with the first robot at Crompton Street.