



1954 Black and White Aerial view of Pinetown at the intersection of Old Main Road (Josiah Gunmede) and Crompton Street by photographer Trevor Crozier. It was published in the Highway Mail newspaper on 18.06.1954 and as a postcard. In foreground from left to right is Old Main Road, with Crompton Street from lawns of future Civic Centre (opened 12.09.1959), to Railway Street, with Ashley beyond. Opposite the Tennis Courts and grassed area is the 1912 Town Hall building and the 1924 World War I Memorial Cross within the Memorial Gardens. Trees found in this portion of the Market Square had been used by early local farmers to tie up their horses, while they removed produce from their saddle bags for sale to passing wagons, coaches and later cars. There were no pavements only gravel pathways, also no lay bye for unloading, cars simply parked on the grass. After the demolition of the ant infested Town Hall in 1969, the area remained vacant until a decorative water feature was erected in the late 1970's. Rapidly expanding Pinetown required a new Public Library building with a small Museum. An award winning building was erected opposite the Civic Centre in the Memorial Gardens amid the old protected trees. Occupied in 1982, it was officially opened in 1983.

Opposite the 1912 Town Hall in Crompton Street is the Crossroads Tearoom, with the first Pinetown flats on the upstairs story. Both the tearoom and the tree covered area behind it were sold to McDonalds, for a fast food franchise in approximately 2000. Dales building next to the Crossroads Tearoom is still in existence on Dales Avenue. Across Dales Avenue is the single story Barclays Bank building which is currently the site of the multistory FNB building. Going towards Hill Street is Hough House, the home of the Hill family with its stables and kennels for hunting, which was later owned by the Dales family. Hough House was demolished with all the trees in October, 1964 for the erection of the United Building Society.

Other buildings of note on the Town Hall side of the photograph are the Gaiety Cinema, built by Mr. Maurice Nichols in 1938, with its silent films and a pianist to play background music for the show. It was sold in December, 1975 and replaced by the Volkskas Bank Building. Very few of the old trees and open spaces exist in modern Pinetown.

Researched . Hazel England. 3.05.2013.