

## 1 Durban House Heritage Centre

**“suffering the tortures of the damned”**

This large red brick building was built in 1876 as offices for Barber Walker & Co., major Colliery company owners in Eastwood and the surrounding area. As a boy, D.H. Lawrence - collected his father's wages from here on many occasions. As a shy and awkward child it was a task he always disliked. He wrote about this experience in Sons and Lovers, where his character is described as suffering “the tortures of the damned”.

## 2 Princes Street

**“great quadrangles of dwellings on the hillside”**

When the 19th century saw a huge increase in the amount of coal produced by this region, Barber Walker and Co., the local Colliery company, built houses in this area to house their increasing workforce of miners. The houses were great quadrangles of buildings on the hillside known locally as ‘the squares’ or ‘the buildings’. Lawrence later described them as “sordid and hideous”. Princes Street, ahead, formed the lower edge of the square and gives some sense of how the area might have looked in Lawrence's time.

## 3 Mechanics Institute

**“the outstanding event of the week”**

In Lawrence's time this building was the Mechanics Institute a 19th century version of a working-man's adult education college, found across the country. It incorporated a lending library, which was used extensively by the young D.H. Lawrence and Jessie Chambers, with whom he had his first romantic, yet troubled relationship. He read widely and his future work was certainly influenced by this early introduction to literature.



## 11 Three Tuns

**“Moon and Stars”**

The Three Tuns was D.H. Lawrence's father's favourite pub, where he would call for a drink on the way home from Brinsley Colliery. The pub was used in Lawrence's novel, Sons and Lovers, with the name changed to the Moon and Stars. It was on this site that the “hill top wakes” or fair was held for three days each September, causing much local excitement and higher rates than normal of truancy at the local schools

## 10 Walker Street House

**“Bleak House”**

The Lawrence family lived in this block of six brand new houses from 1891 to 1905, enjoying its elevated position and view across the countryside. It was yet another step up the ladder for the family and the houses were known locally as ‘piano row’ due to the prosperity of the occupants. It was in 1901, while the family lived at this house, that his brother Ernest died. The death deeply affected the family, especially Mrs Lawrence, who transferred her hopes and dreams to her youngest son, Bert.

## 9 View from Walker Street

**“the country of my heart”**

The countryside around Eastwood held a special fascination for D.H. Lawrence and influenced many of his works. As he later expressed to a friend in a letter from abroad, the view from Walker Street meant a great deal to him: “Go to Walker Street – and stand in front of the third house - and look across at Crich on the left, Underwood in front – High Park Woods and Annesley on the right: I lived in that house from the age of 6 to 18, and I know that view better than any in the world...That's the country of my heart”

## 8 Canyons

**“the best playground one could have”**

In Lawrence's day the undulating land here was the source of clay for the Lynncroft Pottery and was locally referred to as ‘the canyons’. The Mellor family, who also built the house on Walker Street where the Lawrence family lived, owned the nearby pottery. In his story, You Touched Me, the setting and characters were based on this family and area. In his sister's biography of their early life, she described fields stretching to the Breach, which made “the best playground one could have”.

## 7 Lynncroft

**“It is finished”**

The house built on the steep hillside of Lynncroft was the fourth Lawrence family home, from 1905 – 1911. It represented success for the family in their constant struggle for social and material improvement. It was the only one of the family homes to be semi-detached, and it had a garden with a field at the back. Lydia had a girl called Minnie to help her with the housework when she lived here. His mother Lydia Lawrence died in here in 1910 leaving a bereft Lawrence without his “love of loves”.

## 4 D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum

**“the flat fronted red brick house in Victoria Street”**

This is the original mining cottage where D.H. Lawrence was born on 11th September 1885, fourth child to Arthur and Lydia Lawrence. It was the first of the Lawrence's four Eastwood homes and fairly typical of the period. As you continue the trail, you will notice how the Lawrence family's progress through the houses of Eastwood reflects the ‘improvement’ of their situation.

## 5 Congregational Chapel and British School

**“three years savage teaching of collier lads”**

This is the site of the former Congregational Chapel, often attended by the Lawrence family. It was at the ‘Congo’ that D.H. Lawrence first met Jessie Chambers of Haggs Farm. Immediately behind the chapel was the British School where Lawrence often went to ‘penny readings’ as well as meetings of the literary society. Then from 1902 – 1905 Lawrence taught at this school, which he described later as “three years savage teaching of collier lads”.

## 6 Breach House

**“it was a little less common to live in the Breach.”**

This is the house known to all readers of Lawrence as the setting for “The Bottoms” in Sons and Lovers. The Lawrence family – moved here from Victoria Street in 1887 and lived here until 1891. Since it was an end house with extra space, they paid an extra sixpence a week rent. As Lawrence later recalled, “it was a little less common to live in the Breach.” In Sons and Lovers the reader is entertained with much rich information about Eastwood and the day-to-day life of a mining family.

