

8. Brundah



37 Norton Street. Built in 1908 at a cost of 556 pounds, for Mr Roy Lang, a stock and station agent, this typically northern NSW home is listed on the NSW State Heritage Register. It remained in the Lang family until Mrs Charlotte Lang died in 1980. Mrs Lang was known for her Community Service and her garden. The Cocos palms were planted after WW1. Until recently a Bed & Breakfast, it is now a private residence.

9. North Coast Girls College (Ballina Manor)

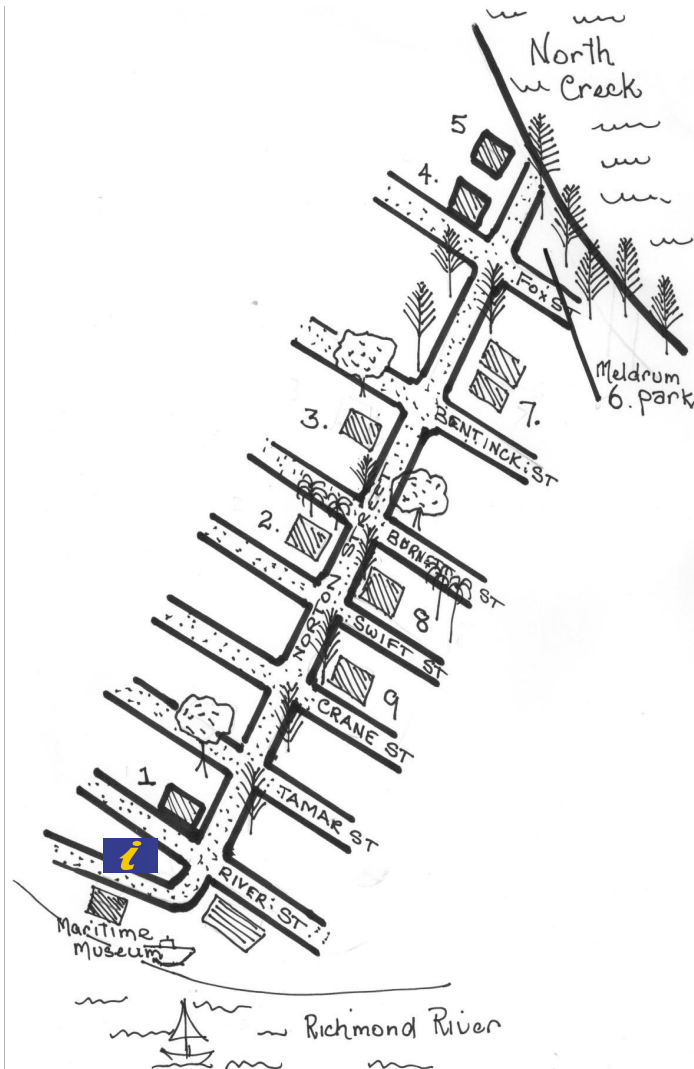


25 Norton Street. At one time or another Norton Street could boast to be the address of the post office, a newspaper office, a church and a hotel but it wasn't until 1925 that it could claim to have a school. Mrs Earle Page opened the Methodist run North Coast Girls College, which was billed as having *"new and commodious brick buildings with extensive sleep out balconies"* Despite its modern architecture and approach to girls education the school only operated for 5 years, closing *"due to difficulties in administration"*, undoubtedly due to the 1930's depression. For decades the building was used as a Guest House, Holiday Rooms and finally a retirement centre called *Sunnyhaven*. In 1999 under threat of demolition the building was purchased and underwent a magnificent restoration. Now a boutique hotel and restaurant full of heritage items and beautiful antiques it opens its doors to visitors and local alike.

As well as accommodation it offers free tours daily from 10-5 pm.

From Ballina Manor cross the road and return to the Visitors Centre. Take time to visit the Maritime Museum and experience more of Ballina's History

Points of Interest in Norton Street



Compiled by Diane Parker 2013



.....will take you there!

**Ballina Visitor Information Centre
Cnr Las Balsas Plaza & River Street
BALLINA NSW 2478**

Norton Street Heritage Trail



In 1887 a travelling correspondent wrote *"on the north side of Ballina runs a broad straight road, at the corner of which is the little post office; and near this is the printing office of the local newspaper, the Ballina Pilot. At the end of the thoroughfare are a massive timber wharf and crane opposite Jarrett's Marine View Hotel whence a good panoramic view is obtained of the mouth of the river"* Visitors today can still picture this description of Norton Street as it takes you from the Richmond River (River Street) to Meldrum Park on the edge of North Creek.

The majestic Norfolk Island pine trees along Norton St reflect a tree planting programme undertaken by the council in 1915. Norton street is one of the few streets in Ballina where early tree plantings have survived.

Allow about an hour to leisurely walk along Norton Street, still dotted with delightful old cottages and steeped in Ballina's heritage.

Please respect the rights of property owners along the way.

Cross the road from the visitors centre and start walking back in time to Riversleigh, which once provided board and lodging for travellers arriving at the Port of Ballina

1. Riversleigh



On the corner of Norton and River Street– Alexander Heugh, using timber from his father's Pimlico saw mill, built this two storey building late in 1880 s. Prior to this a butchers shop operated from this site.

Heugh's sister Mary later used the home as a boarding house. Being close to the River St wharves its patrons were often seafarers. In 2000 the building, which had been enclosed, turned into flats and in disrepair, was restored.



Along both sides of Norton street there are several delightful cottages, the history of these has not been recorded.

.The Ocean View Store

This was located on the corner of Norton & Tamar Streets. In 1880 Mr Peter Thomas operated a general store on the southern side of this intersection. The store really had an uninterrupted view of the ocean and the high tide mark was apparently almost at the front door. This building was demolished in 1974.

. Norton Street

The relationship between the wharf facilities at the northern end of Norton Street and the condition of Norton Street itself was strong. Norton St was in use well before 1884. That year the wharf was handed over to council and tenders were promptly called for the clearing and forming of Norton Street, from River Street to North Creek. In the same year money was made available for Norton Street to be widened to 18 feet, but the government refused to allow the same width in River street. Clearing was needed because stumps were a continuing hazard. In 1893 stumps needed clearing from Swift and Norton Street Corner to allow Roy Lang to build his family home.

2.St Marys Anglican Church



On the corner of Norton and Burnett Street. The Anglican Church has had a long presence in Norton Street. On the 28th March 1877 a weatherboard building of beech, fifty feet long by twenty feet wide, with walls 10 feet high with an

iron roof was opened as a church. By 1904 it was decided the old church was too small and a new church was dedicated in 1906. It is not known when the Canary Island palms were planted but a 1956 photograph shows them in the church grounds. Maintenance issues with the second timber church resulted in its removal and a new Church was built in 1997

3. Mc Curdys Store



52 Norton Street.

The Mc Curdys were early residents and business people in Ballina. They ran a boarding house in River Street and the store at this site . The advertising motto for McCurdys store was "*the little store*

with the big turnover" and in 1925 it sold everything from groceries to sandshoes and bathing caps. In 1946 Ray and Nancy O'Neill bought the store. Soon after, in 1950 Ray became a shire Alderman. He was one of Ballina's longest serving Alderman holding positions including that of Mayor, until 1976.

4. The Marine View Hotel



On the corner of Fox and Norton Street. A single story timber home now marks the site of the Hotel, which opened in 1884. Newspaper Reports tell us that the hotel was originally a two story building with a "*good panoramic view of the*

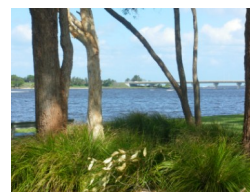
river mouth". One of the owners of the Hotel was Charles S Jarrett, son of Chas Jarrett who was a resident of 63 Norton Street. For many years the hotel was known as the Tattersall's Hotel. When the last licensee Walter Gray died in 1919 the licence was not renewed. Following WW1, when there was a shortage of building materials the top of the hotel was reportedly lifted off and became a dwelling next door in Fox Street.

5 . Lyston



92 Norton Street. This restored timber home is locally known as the Lofters house and was built as a residence in 1901

6. North Creek & Meldrum Park



. The Government Wharf Council records show that in 1914 Mayor Ald. Hugh Gibson recommended the demolition of the wharf to prevent the risk of accident. Built in the early 1870's the

first substantial wharf was built on the banks of North Creek at the end of Norton St to service Ballina.

.Meldrum Park

Cross the road to Meldrum Park and enjoy the view up North Creek. Meldrum Park was named in 1950 after former Alderman George Meldrum who resided at 72 Norton street. Adjacent to Meldrum Park were Ballina's second baths. This bathing area which became popular after the demolition of the wharf, competed with the main baths at the other end of Norton Street .

.Flooding

In the Northern Star on 1/1/1893 it was reported "*(Ballina) has experienced with clear sky and no rain, the greatest submersion it has had for years. (due to high tides) the Tattersalls Hotel (formerly the Marine View Hotel) was surrounded by one sheet of water extending up Norton Street as far as Mr Jarrett's (65)*"

The Ballina Council even issued a warning to people against using Norton Street at night as the tide was running with such considerable force.

7.Jarrett's House



63-65 Norton St. Built in 1878 by cedar getter, Charles Jarrett, this was reputedly the first two-storey home to be built in Ballina. Jarrett served as a Councillor and Mayor from 1883 - 1889 and parish maps showed he owned much land in Norton Street. During the shortage of building materials in the years following WW1 the top storey of the house was lifted off and placed at 65 Norton Street to create two houses.