With the line almost completed it became obvious that as the railway station and buildings were being located to the south of the existing village, it would be advantageous for future development to be located near the station. Mr. Wedderburn sold the remainder of Portion 72 to Arthur Belson, a timber merchant, near the station. Mr. Wedderburn selected it in 1899. Allumbah was too similar to Aloomba, a town purchased in 1900 from George O. Donnell who had around dates and places and wars. The plan o

The information contained herein has been compiled to the best of the researcher’s knowledge up to the time of publication. Yungaburra Visitor Information Centre. Tel: (07) 40952416; Email: yungaburrawi@gmail.com Visit the Yungaburra website: www.yungaburra.com

Yungaburra's past

Old Town Loop:
A walking trail through Yungaburra’s past

Within the village are 19 sites listed on the Queensland Register of the National Trust of Australia

Enjoy your walk through history.
Yungaburra (originally Allumbah Pocket), takes its name from the language of the Yidinji Aboriginal people. It is said to mean meeting place, a place of enquiring or questioning. Prior to European settlement the area around Yungaburra was inhabited by about 16 different Indigenous groups who met to trade, camp and conduct ceremonies. The traditional home country of the Dugulburra Yidinji Aboriginal clan encompasses land to the north-east of Yungaburra, i.e. Boar Pocket, Danbullia, Tinaroo and Kulara, while the traditional lands of the Ngadjonji people is in the Millaa Millaa-Mulgrave Range from Cairns. Before then the way the forests also held Walnut, Queensland Maple, Silky Oak, Silkwood, Black Bean, Silver Ash, and Kauri Pine became involved in dairying and cropping, although rainforest presented significant challenges. Settlers became involved in dairying and cropping, although at times the native animals seemed to harvest more of their crops than they did.Selectors continued to take up land at Allumbah Pocket and by 1907 the Walker Bros had opened a store and butchery. The railway line reached Atherton in 1903 and in 1905 a meeting of settlers at Allumbah Pocket requested a branch line be constructed from Tolga to the village. A proposal was also made to continue the line towards land being surveyed in the Johnstone River and Eacham districts.

The word pocket added to place names in the region came about because pockets or clearings in the rainforest had been created by the fires of the Indigenous people. The resultant clearings produced lush grass which provided feed for animals traversing the track as well as comfortable overnight resting places for travellers. Boar Pocket was near the top of the range, further west was Ball Pocket (later Kulara) places for travellers. Boar Pocket was near the top of the range, further west was Ball Pocket (later Kulara). Today, the cemetery occupies the site of the original village.

In 1866, the same year it was decided to build a railway line between the coast and the Tablelands, Edward Baird Rankin surveyed land around Lake EACHAM and Allumbah Pocket for a Village Homestead Settlement Scheme. The plan offered settlers 40-acre farms blocks with a home site set apart in a village. The scheme failed as settlers needed to live on the land they farmed. By 1890 settlers were moving into the Allumbah Pocket area under the Queensland government’s Closer Settlement Act.

In 1890 John Ignatius Stewart became the first permanent settler, then on April 10, 1891 John Musto Roseblade selected 4 portions totalling 153 acres. A proposal was also made to continue the line towards land being surveyed in the Johnstone River and Eacham districts.

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Yungaburra Visitor Information Centre.

Enjoy your walk through history Yungaburra’s past of the National Trust of Australia listed on the Queensland Register with a home site set apart in a village.

Prior to European settlement on 5 Nov 1909 Allumbah became Yungaburra. In 1909 the Government reclaimed land for a railway branch line from Tolga and by July that year a 6-acre section of Portions 72 & 73 of George O. Wedderburn’s farm was designated as the site for the railway station. The Wedderburn Farm had been purchased in 1900 from George O’Donnell who had selected it in 1899. The Railway Department decided Allumbah was too similar to Aloomba, a town near Gordonvale, so with a gazetted name change on 5 Nov 1909 Allumbah became Yungaburra.

The information contained herein has been compiled to the best of the researcher’s knowledge up to the time of publication.
This self-guided trail is approximately 3 km in length and has been designed for walking. It will take up to two hours to complete or you can join in or depart anywhere along the route. It is possible to drive sections of the route along public roads. Please respect the rights of other road users.

Please note sites numbered 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 15, 17 and 18 are private residences with no public access.

* Denotes listing on the Heritage Register of *The National Trust of Australia (Queensland)*

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**Railway Station & Yards** [See sign in Maud Kehoe Park] – Officially opened 15 March 1910, the railway, prior to the opening of the Gillies line closed 1 July 1964. Mr Bill Gayford was in charge when it opened 16 Dec 1913. The purpose-built premises were based from the Williams Bros. Mr Gayford returned in 1916 as branch manager, a position he held until 1922. The bank purchased the premises in 1921 and provided banking services until 1967 when the building was sold.

**Williams Lodge** – The site was bought by James Dunstan in 1911 then sold to the Williams family in 1915. It was home to Edward (Ned) Williams, his wife Maud and their 5 children in 1916. From 1920 until 1929 it was occupied by Constable Alan Pike. In 1929 the house was acquired by the Commonwealth and Leonard Craven appointed postmaster. In 1920 the post office building was moved to (2)

**Bush Telegraph Station** – The site was used for telegraph communication until after the railway line was completed in 1874. Telegraph service was also provided for the Dairy Inspector, insurers when the hall was used as a movie theatre. Early screenings. From 1954 Alfred and Alice King operated it as the Tivoli Theatre. After Mr King’s death in 1964 Mrs King continued operating the cinema until 1969.

**Basil rock Wall** – Built costing £75, it was required by the hotel mausers when the hall was used as a movie theatre. Early film projectors used carbon arc lamps which generated extreme heat and the associated risk of cellulose nitrate-based film igniting.

The buildings (22-23) were built by the Williams Bros utilizing materials from their dam ruins premises, i.e. the Allumboola Hotel and the first Post Office. Over the years these buildings have served as shopfronts for numerous and various businesses as well as domestic residences. Up to WWI the land behind them was cultivated by the hotel’s Japanese gardeners to grow vegetables and fruits for the hotel.

**Sunshine Cafe/Tivoli Cafe** – 38 Cedar Street - Built 1923, Miss Stella McClory established it as a cafe. In 1924 Mrs G Fisher took over and around 1930 Mr & Mrs Fred Davies were the proprietors. In 1945 it was known as the Tivoli Cafe and Mr Claude Murphy was the proprietor of both the cafe and picture theatre across the street.

**Auctioneer’s Rooms** – 288 Cedar Street - Built 1926, the building (originally the first post office) was rented to Mr R. Linden a Licensed Auctioneer and Crams. From 1952 this became the office of the Commonwealth Agent Mr P. McCloy who originally leased it from the Williams Bros.

**Tailor’s Shop** – 42 Cedar Street - Built c.1925. It became home to the hotel’s handyman, Billy Madfield and his family. His workshop was in a shed behind the butcher’s shop.

**Billiard Saloon, Hairdresser & SP Bookmaker** – 34 Cedar Street - Purpose-built in 1926 when planning for the hotel’s extension was underway. This became West End’s Commission Agent by Mr P. McCloy who originally leased it from the Williams Bros.

**Bank of New South Wales** – 36 Cedar Street. It was the first bank on the Tolga-Johnstone Railway Line. Mr Bill Gayford was in charge when it opened 16 Dec 1913. The purpose-built premises were based from the Williams Bros. Mr Gayford returned in 1916 as branch manager, a position he held until 1922. The building purchased the premises in 1921 and provided banking services until 1967 when the building was sold.

**Cedrela** [from Cedrela, Latin for Cedar] – 20 Gillies Highway. Built 1912, it was home to Arthur (Archie) Bellen, a local Commission Agent and Timber Merchant. It boasted a lawn tennis court and hosted lavish garden parties. Mr Bellen then sold it to his son-in-law George Duffy. In 1958 it was home to Mr and Mrs King who operated the local Tivoli Theatre.

**Lake Eacham Hotel** – Built 1910 by the Sydes Brothers [cost £2,000] for Estate H. S. Williams Ltd. Local timbers were used throughout with features of Silky Oak. The main staircases is Queensland Maple. It was completed and trading 5 October 1910. In 1929, on the second floor a dance studio and an extension was added. The opening of the Gordonvale-Yungaburra Road substantially increased the tourist trade to the area. Maud Williams later offered the hotel for sale at £7,244.10.10.10 in 1987. Mr Bill Gayford as owner was somewhat the case from 1917. From 1917 Jack Keohoe was the popular host. He died 2 January 1933. Mrs Keohoe was the manageress. From 1944 the site was sold to a group of 5 investors who in 1965 it was owned and operated by the Williams family. [See interpretative sign in shed Middle Kehoe Park]

**Site of Williams Hall** – Relocated to Cedar Street (30) in 1926 to make way for the hotel’s extension. It was the social hub of the district and a popular venue for dances, weddings, meetings and even roller-skating and boxing matches. Eacham Shire Council’s inaugural meeting on 12 February 1918 was held in the hall when it was located on this site.