

*Turn left into Main Street.*

**Perrett's store and Post Office** was next to the hotel. Robert Louis Perrett purchased Froy's store about 1886 and was appointed postmaster. The post office was known as Spencers Creek Post Office at Robinson's Wharf. Perrett's store was close to the wharf and the mail ran past his door.

**7. This two storey house was built** by Jack Baldwin 1907. Baldwin first ran a small river trading steamer "Irene" in 1892. In 1903 he launched the "Olga" a passenger steamer which ran for eighteen years. This riverboat was built at Spencers Creek by the firm Reckless of Port Macquarie. Millie Plowman known to the children as Aunt Millie ran a lollie shop in one of the front rooms in the 1920s.

**8. A Methodist church** stood on this site. The building was removed to Yarrahapinni in 1952. It can be seen on the corner of Barbers Lane and Stuarts Point Road.

**Beside the church** stood a hall, the Jerseyville School of Arts. The building had been the Mechanical Institute at

Arakoon. After the closure of Trial Bay Gaol the hall was moved to Jerseyville in 1906.

**9. The house at the end of Main Street was** built as a store and Post Office by Percy Robinson in 1929. He considered that this site was on higher ground than the old store on the river bank. Although the building has been renovated the outline of the roof and front can still be seen.

**Look across Spencers Creek** to see the charming house owned by Robert Perrett. This home was built by W. Wheeldon. The original ornamental iron, which enclosed the balcony has been replaced by timber railings.

Continue walking in S.W.R. road. See the **Fishermen's Co-operative**. This business began as the ice works in 1920s. The works were built by Percy Robinson and supplied ice to fishermen and also householders for their ice chests. The fishermen's Co-Op was first formed in 1946 and was known as Nambucca and Macleay Fishermen's Co-Operative.

*You are now back at your car*



*The "Olga" at Jerseyville.*

HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.



step back in

*time*



Walks in History

# JERSEYVILLE

MACLEAY RIVER

Jerseyville's history revolves around the river. The village was sometimes known as Robinson's Wharf, Spencers Creek or Pelican Island. The name was finally decided in 1891 as a tribute to the Earl of Jersey, Governor of N.S.W 1891-1893. George Robinson acquired land where Jerseyville stands in 1869. He subdivided part of his land in 1886 to form the township. Robinson and his brother started a river boat service between his farm wharf and Kempsey, hence the name Robinson's Wharf. The wharf was the first important stop for steamers after entering the Macleay River. The wharf became a public wharf and it was here passengers disembarked for South West



*The Jerseyville punt.*

Rocks. They were met by William Arthur in a smart horse drawn vehicle and transported to his Jubilee House in the seaside village. After the gaol closed at Trial bay and the village of Arakoon folded, services were transferred to Jerseyville. The township became the centre for a large population and remained so for many years. Regattas were held on New Year's Day each year. The first was in 1899 and they continued until 1950s. Local scullers were held in high esteem. World light weight sculling championships were taken out by local scullers.

The Dughutti Aboriginal people occupied land around Pelican Island. Closer settlement ended the lifestyle of the traditional owners of the land and waterways of the Macleay and they moved to reserves.

***Leave your car at the Fishermen's Co-op on South West Rocks Road. Walk back to the corner of Main Street and see the houses on the left side of the road.***

**1. Old Police Station.** This house was one of the gaolers'

cottages removed from Trial Bay Gaol in 1907 after the gaol closed as a prison. Cells were built at the back at a short distance from the station.

**2. School residence** built in 1924 by a local builder G.F. Brest at a cost of \$1695.

**3. Public School built in 1922.** The contractor was Alfred Ede of Moss Vale. The school closed in 1971. It is now a private residence let to holiday makers. The hat room and verandah have been enclosed. A paddock at the rear of the school was where children left their ponies. Some pupils crossed the river from Pelican Island where the school was situated until 1921. The playground and weather shed were on the western side.

**Walk in the direction of the river.** The house on the corner of Wharf St. and Main St. was the puntman's cottage. This Victorian style weatherboard residence has been raised. The decorative barge board and brackets are still intact. Mr. Pund was the ferryman in 1920s.

Look left and up-stream. On the riverbank is where the fishing fleet tie up. You may wish to walk along this gravel road to view the fishing boats otherwise cross the road and turn right into Wharf St.

**4. See the old punt ramp** where the ferry pulled into the bank. The corresponding ramp can be seen on the opposite side of the river. The ferry began running in 1879.

**5. Continue down Wharf St.** At the end of the street is the site of the Pelican island store owned by George



*The fishing fleet at Jerseyville.*

Robinson. The public wharf was opposite where ocean going ships tied up. Wharf St. was originally known as Emma St. in the first subdivision of Robinson's land. (Emma nee Barnett, was the wife of George Robinson). The wharf was a busy centre for passengers and produce. It was here German Internees in 1915 disembarked from the Yulgilbar and walked to Trial Bay Gaol where they were interned until 1917.

**6. No 3 is where the puntsman lived** who manned the last ferry in 1976. Joe Clarke took the last ferry across the river when the bridge opened for traffic.

***Retrace your steps to Main St.***

**On the corner** of Main and Wharf Streets is the site of the Pelican Island Hotel. This hotel was trading by 1887 and the first licensee was Robert Perrett. The hotel burnt down in 1940s.

1-9-2008

