

Early Junee sketch

The East Side

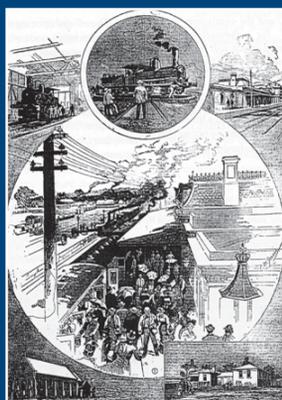
Junee is a town created by the railway, but divided by the rails.

When the Great Southern Railway was built from Sydney to Albury, only one town was newly built on a greenfields site; the town was Junee.

When the railway reached the site of Junee on 6th July, 1878, an informal settlement had already formed. In that year the NSW Government seized a 40 acre site on the eastern side of the rail line on which to form an official town.

Governments move slowly & it was not until June 1883 that the new town, named Loftus after the Governor of the day, was proclaimed.

The site was then surveyed & put up for auction. The residents disliked the name & petitioned for it to be changed to Junee, which it was in 1885.



Junee t & c journal

From 1876 on, people had selected land adjacent to the new town site. Chief of these was Christopher Crawley, who selected 320 acres on the east & 520 acres on the west. It was on this western selection that the earliest settlement began. However, as Crawley was very reluctant to sell land, preferring to lease, two others leapt into the breach, George Dobbins opened his development on the south-east of the new town in 1881 & Thomas Hammond opened his on the opposite side of the line in 1883.

They were only too happy to sell & here the early town grew fastest.

The division by the rail line into 'east side' and 'west side' had already begun & is perpetuated today, with even development on each side of the tracks.

15. St Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Corner Denison and Lisgar Streets. Designed by Wagga Wagga Architect, W J Monks, this church was erected in 1904/05, the contractor being G H Mutch and Co. of Junee. Its simple leadlight windows in pastel art colours and its iron belfry are notable decorative features.

16. Maud Terrace

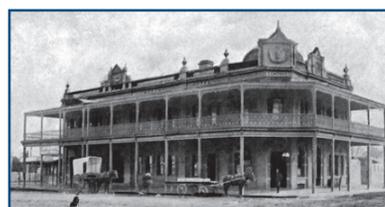
43, 45, 47, 49 Lisgar Street. George Dobbins, developer, entrepreneur and builder, constructed this terrace in 1886 as his residence and as a letting opportunity, calling it after his daughter. This escapee from Paddington shows how to make the very best use of a single block of ground. Land was in short supply and very expensive in the early settlement days in Junee. Dobbins was very active in town life, was a member of the first Council and Mayor on seven occasions. The central pediment gives the name and date of building, while the flowery caste iron balustrade gives a note of faded charm. The building is now derelict & likely to be demolished.



Bank of NSW



Commercial Hotel



Loftus Hotel

17. NSW FB Fire Station

Lisgar Street Built in red brick, with painted plaster decoration, the Fire Station was completed in 1914.

18. Residence

35 Lisgar Street. Originally known as 'Spring Hill House', this residence and surgery was built in about 1885 for Dr Horace Button, long time GP and resident in Junee. It continued to be a doctor's residence until 2005 when Dr J L Potts, a well loved GP for 47 years, died. The original iron fence on a brick plinth is unusual for this town and adds interest to the streetscape.

19. Office Building (Former Bank Building)

Corner Lisgar and Lorne Streets. When built in 1894, this former Bank of NSW had a double storey verandah and balcony over the footpath, with cast iron balustrade and frieze. An elaborate pediment marked the corner entrance. A fire in the adjoining Doyle's Hall in 1914 destroyed the balcony and part of the first floor. After the fire, the building was extended to take in the Hall site and the upper floor re-built in 1915. Instead of a verandah, heavy curved hoods shaded the windows and entrance, but were removed at a later date.

20. Junee Real Estate

81 Lorne Street. The former banking chamber and residence for the Commercial Banking Co. of Sydney, this restrained Neo-Georgian building was erected c.1925.

21. Commercial Hotel

Corner Lorne and Waratah Streets. The first hotel building of 1882 was a small timber and iron structure, which was re-built c.1898 by W Doyle as a double storey hotel, with verandah over the footpath and balcony above. A fire in 1914, which burnt the associated Doyle's Assembly Room and several shops, also damaged the hotel. Partly re-built and refurbished in 1915 by G H Mutch & Co, with a higher facade and a plaster decorated parapet, several shops were included in the new part of the building. The elegant cast iron balustrade and frieze is from the local Pioneer Foundry.

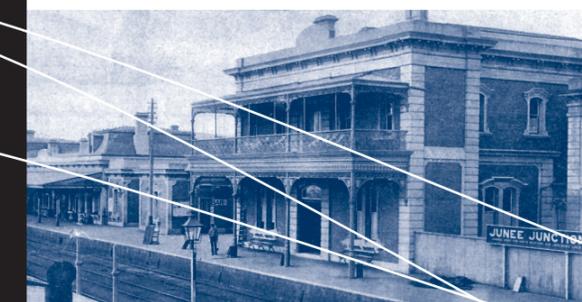
22. Loftus Hotel

Humphrys Street. One of the town's most impressive buildings, the Loftus Hotel was called after the original name of the town, one quickly abandoned in favour of Junee, actually the name of the small village west of the present town.

The first hotel was a single storey structure on the Main Street/Humphrys Street corner. It was completed in six weeks in order to secure a liquor licence from a rival hotel being built in Broadway. Trade flourished for J J Edmonds, the proprietor, and in 1896 he commissioned Albury architects Gordon & Gordon to design the present building. It is an impressive and complex

building, drawing on the more Italianate elements of the Beaux Arts style popular at the time. The interior was equally lavish and boasted bathrooms and flushing toilets, not common then. Several sitting rooms and two dining rooms added to the comfort of guests. The original hotel was demolished c. 1906 and the hotel extended on the Main Street side to reach its present form. The extensive and lofty verandah over the footpath, with a balcony to the first floor trimmed with a cast iron balustrade from the Pioneer Foundry, adds to the visual pleasures given by this late Victorian masterpiece.

The present owner is progressively restoring the building after some years of neglect.



Junee

heritage walk

DISCOVER HERITAGE

Thank you to David Walster of Junee who has provided his time and knowledge to compile this walking tour. Text by David and photos from the Walster Family Archive



For More Information
Junee Visitor Information Centre
181 Lorne Street, Junee
Ph 02 6924 4682
visitors@junee.nsw.gov.au



east of the tracks

1. Junee Railway Station and Refreshment Rooms

The original Railway Station was a small timber building on the western side of the rail line. In 1882 it burned down and plans were drawn up for a much larger and grander Station and Refreshment Rooms. Designed in the French Renaissance manner; one of the most popular international styles of the day, the building construction began in 1883 and opened in March 1885.

The Railway Station and Refreshment Rooms complex is still a most impressive group of buildings today, but try to imagine just how astonishing and indeed bizarre they must have looked when first completed. The town, as such, did not exist and the first land sales had just taken place.

There was the beginnings of a town, a couple of modest hotels, some humble timber shops, plus a large number of tents and shacks, all surrounded by partly cleared farm land and the original bush. To the traveller of the day, this complex must have seemed a haven of comfort and sophistication, a city station and hotel transported to the wilds of the Australian bush.

Internally, the Refreshment Room was a large, lofty and elegant room, lit by gaslight and with especially imported furniture. Upstairs were three sitting rooms, 'furnished with great taste and with some handsome and expensive pictures', to quote a contemporary report. It also had a number of bedrooms, bathrooms and flushing water closets - the bedrooms fitted with 'handsome suites'. A far cry from the country hotel, where a bowl and ewer of water, with a chamber pot under the bed, was all that was offered. To support the new sanitary arrangements and to provide for drinking water, it was necessary to harvest as much water as possible and store it. Two large underground tanks were built, plus twenty iron tanks in the roof of the Refreshment Rooms, to supply water to the upstairs rooms. One large tank, in the middle of the station square eventually became covered with a garden plot and forgotten, until 2002 when Council works uncovered it. With a domed brick top, it is still in sound condition. A plaque shows its position. Take time to wander about the complex and view the fine cast iron columns and brackets, the plaster detailing to windows and doors, and the hammer beam roof canopy to the concourse.



Junee Post Office



Junee Railway Station



Junee Court House

from the Pioneer Foundry, Junee. After about 1910, this became the Station Master's residence. It is now a private home.

5. Residence – Former Bank Building

Corner Belmore and Lorne Streets Originally built as the State Savings Bank of NSW this single storey building, consisting of the banking chamber, was completed in 1914, in the Neo-Georgian style. After the failure of the Bank under the Jack Lang Government, the building closed. The building was enlarged in 1938, by adding a second storey residence, with further extensions to the southern side. It has now been converted into a handsome private residence.



Junee Post Office

Junee Railway Station

Junee Court House

Junee School of Arts

Junee Council Chambers

Junee Masonic Temple

Junee Former School of Arts and Library

Junee Community Centre

Junee Salvation Army Citadel

Junee Junee Shire Council

Junee Junee Shire Regional Library

Junee St Andrews Presbyterian Church

Junee Maud Terrace

Junee NSW FB Fire Station

Junee Residence

Junee Office Building (Former Bank Building)

Junee Junee Real Estate

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