



Musgrave

Sources:

Cooktown and Cape York:

[Musgrave Roadhouse](#)

Musgrave Roadhouse: [The History](#)

Queensland Heritage Register:

[Musgrave Telegraph Station](#)

[\(former\)](#)

Wikipedia: [Musgrave, Queensland](#)

Situated within the Cook Shire locality of Yarraden, 340 kilometres northwest of Cairns and 116 kilometres northwest of Laura on the Peninsula Development Road in Yadaneru and Lama Lama country, the former Musgrave Telegraph Station was named after Queensland Governor Sir Anthony Musgrave and dates back to 1886.

The presence of hostile Aboriginal groups during the early years saw holes for firearms made in the walls around the station's verandah to fight off attacks on the building. Because it was unsafe to venture outside at night, the building's centre was filled with water tanks.

Musgrave, along with Palmerville, Fairview, Coen, Mein, Moreton, McDonnell and Paterson, was a repeater station on the overland telegraph line between Mount Surprise and the tip of Cape York.

All the Cape York stations were pre-cut and framed in Brisbane, with battery banks and a generator to power the telegraph line.

The Postmaster General's Department closed some stations on the line in the late 1920s because of high maintenance costs and low traffic. Musgrave closed in June 1929, but the site remains a link in microwave and optic fibre networks.

Fred Shepard, who owned Lilyvale Station and was acquiring the leases on the Artemis and Mary Valley stations, bought Musgrave off the PMG Department as a freehold property in 1931. His widow and family continued to operate the property after Shepard died in 1952. Although the estate was later divided, Musgrave's location, about halfway between Cairns and "The Tip", and the increasing number of travellers prompted the family to turn the former homestead into a roadhouse. The building served meals and drinks until a new cafe and accommodation opened in 1980. Members of the Shepard family still own and operate the business.

