

**Cassowary Coast Regional Council**

**Local Heritage Places**

**May 2013**



# Cassowary Coast Regional Council Local Heritage Places

Prepared by the Cassowary Coast Regional Council for the Cassowary Coast Regional Council Planning Scheme.

May 2013

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## **Introduction**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information supporting the list of local heritage places included in heritage overlay in the Cassowary Coast Regional Council Planning Scheme. The report provides a history, description and statement of heritage significance for every place included on the list.

### **Scope of report**

The list of local heritage places includes places of local heritage significance in the Cassowary Coast Regional Council local government area.

The list of local heritage places has been compiled from places of potential local heritage significance identified through the Statewide Heritage Survey carried out by the Department of Environment and Resource Management in 2008, as well as places nominated by local historical societies who were consulted as part of the preparation of the list of local heritage places.

### **Consultation**

Public consultation was carried out by the Department of Environment of Resource Management as part of the Statewide Heritage Survey. During the initial compilation of the list of local heritage places and the drafting of this report, consultation was carried out with the Region's local historical societies as well as other residents and organisations with specific knowledge of certain places.

Targeted consultation was carried out with the owners of properties included in the list of local heritage places in February - March 2013. The list was also subject to full public consultation as part of the draft Cassowary Coast Regional Council Planning Scheme in ###.

### **Contents**

This report details the history, description and statement of heritage significance for each of the places on the list of local heritage places. The list of local heritage places is provided in full in Appendix A to this report.

## **Place No. 1 - Cutten Brothers' Graves**

**Place Name:** Cutten Brothers' Graves  
**Address:** Holt Court, Bingil Bay  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 556 NR6580

### **Heritage significance**

The Cutten Brothers' Graves are important in demonstrating the evolution of Queensland's history. They are associated with the Cutten family who were the first European settlers in the Bingil Bay area and whose activities, resourcefulness, entrepreneurialism and disappointments contribute to our understanding of early settlement in Far North Queensland. The Cutten Brothers built a substantial horticultural empire between 1882 and 1926, and were Australia's largest producers of coffee at the turn of the twentieth century. They used shipping routes to transport their produce beyond the local area to other parts of Queensland and Australia until World War I.

Structural evidence of the Cuttens' activities has been erased by cyclones, particular the 1918 cyclone which devastated both Mission Beach and Bingil Bay, and by the subdivision and subsequent development of their original selection. The Graves, located on a portion of the original selection, is the only remaining evidence of the Cutten family in the district.

The Cutten Brothers' Graves have important symbolic association with the Cutten family and with the development of Far North Queensland. The Cuttens were highly regarded in the local community, the largest growers of coffee in Australia at the turn of the twentieth century and had commercial influence well beyond the local area.

### **History**

Frederick Cutten and his 3 younger sons, Herbert, Leonard and Sidney, immigrated to Queensland from England in 1869. They were followed by his wife Margaret, his eldest son James and his 4 daughters Margaret, Jessie, Florence and Alice in 1870. Frederick Cutten used the Lands Department Land Grant for new arrivals to purchase in the Darling Downs and establish a weatherboard cottage and fencing. Soon after, the sons undertook ventures that eventually lead the family to northern Queensland. Leonard Cutten headed to the Palmer Goldfields though quickly returned infected with malaria, while James Cutten became a Government Authorised Surveyor and worked near Rockhampton in the mid 1870s. As a result, the family moved their breeding ewes to Central Queensland and took up a property called "Comet Downs". However, their lack of droving experience and the hostility of the landscape meant this venture ultimately failed. The brothers moved further north - Leonard and Sidney undertaking work as fencers and yard builders in Winton and then as pit sawyers in Croydon and Georgetown. James and Herbert subsequently joined them in the pit sawing business, and they resolved to search for suitable farming land further north.

In 1884 the brothers applied to the district Lands Office to purchase land in Clump Point. However, they were not successful until 1888 when they obtained land at Bingil Bay. They took up multiple selections in the region under family names thus establishing a large holding. They named their property "Bicton", after a property in Devon, England, and immediately set about clearing land and planting banana and pineapple crops. The Cutten brothers became well known for using local Aboriginal labour from a camp situated on the foreshore to help them with clearing and cultivation. They dismissed fears other settlers had of Aboriginal hostility after the crew of the wrecked brig Maria were attacked and killed in 1872. This decision allowed them to increase their production rapidly and relatively cheaply.

Initially, the Cuttens planted quick growing crops such as bananas and pineapples. As part of their obligations to clear and develop their land, the Cuttens family established a homestead and moved into a new house on the property in 1886. In the midst of the expansion and activity, Frederick Cutten, who had contracted tropical fever previously, died on 7 July 1889. He was buried "near the edge of a magnificent bluff on the southern side of the property looking over the forests."

The plantation expanded to include bananas, pineapples, mangos, lime, lemon, orange, cumquats, coconuts and mangos, as well as tobacco, ginger, spices pepper, cocoa, Jack fruit and vanilla imported from India. They also imported coffee and tea from Ceylon in 1890 via Mr Robert Connon, a planter from Ceylon who worked with the Cuttens at Bicton for about 3 and a half years. James Cuttens surveying skills influenced the way the plantations were laid out, particularly the tea plantation on the banks of Cedar Creek.

The Cutten's coffee plantation was particularly successful and during the 1890s they enlarged their plantings and were, at that time, the largest coffee growers in Australia. They installed a coffee mill and Bicton Coffee became a popular brand on the market, yet suffered when the government opened the coffee market to imports from countries with low labour costs, and with the removal of South Sea Islander labours.

The Cuttens developed onsite equipment and transportation facilities, and a marketing brand for their produce called XIL. They constructed a stone breakwater at Clump Point to help them transport goods to the south, and they used the summit of Bicton Hill as a ship lookout. The Cuttens were dependent on ships stopping to collect their produce. This transportation infrastructure was crucial to the survival of their business. They also constructed a 2 storey packing shed, a sawmill, a case mill and an 800 yard wooden railway line (and bridge) over Bingil Bay Creek from the sawmill to the stone wharf.

Despite these successes, the family suffered a number of setbacks and changes that influenced the way Bicton was managed and developed prior to 1918. A cyclone in 1890 damaged the crops and wrecked the homestead. This forced Leonard, Herbert and Sidney to return to pit sawing in order to raise sufficient money to rebuild. In 1902 a severe drought resulted in damage and loss to the Cutten's orchards. Jessie Cutten died on 14 December 1904 and was interred at the Geraldton Cemetery. In 1907, James Cutten married May Tudehope and sold his partnership in Bicton to Herbert, Leonard and Sidney. Mrs Cutten died 25 September 1908 and was buried with Frederick in the Bicton Cemetery. From 1910, the brothers began to experience labour shortages (because Chinese farmers began paying local workers in opium). In 1911, another cyclone damaged crops and necessitated mortgaging some of the property. In 1913, Florence Cutten's sons from her marriage to Charles Alexander bought part of the Bicton estate to work; she had returned to Bicton after Charles died of Miners' Phthisis. The advent of World War I resulted in ships being taken off the run and the closure of the Cutten's trading route. Finally, on 10 March 1918 a severe cyclone swept over Far North Queensland. Ranked as one of the worst cyclones in Queensland's history, this cyclone all but wiped out nearby Innisfail where only 12 houses were left standing. The storm generated a cyclonic tidal wave along the Bingil Bay and Mission Beach area which obliterated the Aboriginal mission at South Mission Beach and completely destroyed the Cutten empire at Bingil Bay.

The remaining Cuttens did not replant the farm but instead built a house overlooking the ocean. Sidney Cutten died 21 March 1923. Although he wanted to be buried at Bicton, bad weather resulted in his interment at the Innisfail Cemetery. Eventually, permission was obtained from authorities to exhume both Sidney and Jessie's bodies and they were moved to the family cemetery at Bicton.

In 1926, the farm was subdivided to sell for £20 a block. However, most of the land went to the Johnstone Shire Council.

Herbert Cutten died in private hospital at Innisfail 22 February 1930. His remains were taken to Clump Point where he was laid to rest in the family cemetery at Bicton. His obituary, published in the Johnstone River Advocate, recalled the feats of the entire Cutten family. The last of the Cutten brothers, Leonard Cutten, died on 5 July 1930. He was also buried at the Bicton Cemetery.

The remaining sections of the property were then run by Florence Alexander and her sons. They ran dairy cattle and created banana farms on the land. Charles Alexander and his wife ran a guest house near the beach. Florence died in 1952, and in 1958, the remaining Cutten and Alexander lands were divided into smaller lots. In 1979, the land on which the cemetery stands was gazetted as a nature reserve.

## **Description**

The Cutten Brothers' Graves is a family cemetery located in the corner of nature reserve in Bingil Bay, on a portion of the Cuttens' original selection. The nature reserve backs onto the edge of Clump Mountain National Park.



3 graves and a memorial stone are enclosed from the nature reserve by a rolled steel fence. There is an access gate in the centre of the fencing, and the site is enclosed from the gorge at rear and the adjoining residential block by mesh panel fencing.

There is no symmetry or specific pattern to the graves arrangement, however, all of the graves face east. The 3 graves each consist of a concrete bed/platform and headstone. In general the carvings are clear but worn. There is some evidence of mould/lichen on the surface, and of erosion and cracking.

The grave for Frederick and Margaret Cutten has no surrounds. At either end of the rectangular platform, there are eroded concrete footings that may have formerly supported grave surrounds. The platform has 6 small decorative raised concrete squares - 4 in each corner and 2 on the central edges. There are additional concrete footings adjacent to this grave, which suggests there may have been another slab next to the remaining section. The headstone is a decorative arch - possibly symbolising triumph over death. The inscription on the headstone reads:

*In memory  
of  
Frederick Cutten  
Born London, England  
26 June 1818  
Died 7 July 1889  
And his wife Margaret  
Also of London  
Born 21 March 1828  
Died 25 September 1908*

Directly behind this grave lies the concrete platform and headstone of Emily Jessie Cutten. A rolled surrounding fence is inlaid into the edge of the concrete platform. The headstone is a smaller arch than the one used for Frederick and Margaret Cutten and there is evidence of blistering towards the top of the arch. However, the tip of the arch is missing, possibly eroded, and the iron braces are visible. The carving reads:

*Emily Jessie Cutten  
1904*

The third grave has no surrounds and is also a concrete platform. There is evidence of cracking across the middle of the platform. It has decorative raised concrete squares identical to the grave for Fredrick and Margaret Cutten - 4 in each corner 2 two on the central edges. The headstone is in the shape of a half-raised tablet with decorative spirals on either edge, potentially symbolising progressive development and movement. A stone affixed to the front of the tablet reads:

*To the memory of  
Jessie Cutten 1855 - 1904  
H.F. Cutten 1855 - 1930  
L.M. Cutten 1856 - 1930  
S.B. Cutten 1858 - 1923.  
Resting.*

The memorial stone has a metal plaque fixed to the front and faces north. It reads:.

#### *Cuttens' Graves.*

*Most members of the Cutten family whose property was called "Bicton" are buried here. Three brothers, James, Leonard and Herbert, originally settled locally in 1882 moving to Bicton 2 years later. Other members of the family then followed and for nearly 40 years their farm was well known for the tropical and citrus fruits which were transported south by ship. In 1918 a major set back accoutred with a cyclone wiping out much of the plantation. Coffee was successfully grown and manufactured here and many years' later tea seedlings were taken from the site to be planted at "Nerada" in the Palmerston area. Hebert Cutten was a great friend of E.J. Banfield - it was he who read the burial service when Mrs Cutten senior died. Both Jessie and Sidney died in Innisfail but their bodies were exhumed for later burial here. This is the final resting place for Frederick Cutten (father) (1889); Jessie (1904), Mrs Cutten (1908); Sidney (1923); Herbert (February 1930) and Leonard (July, 1930). The*

*other members of the family not buried here are James, the original settler, who died in Brisbane in 1930; Margaret Dun in Dalby in 1948; Alice Carne in Brisbane in 1952; and Florence Alexander in Tully 1952."*

## **Images**



**Frederick & Margaret Cutten**



**Jessie, Herbert, Leonard & Sidney Cutten**





Emily Cutten

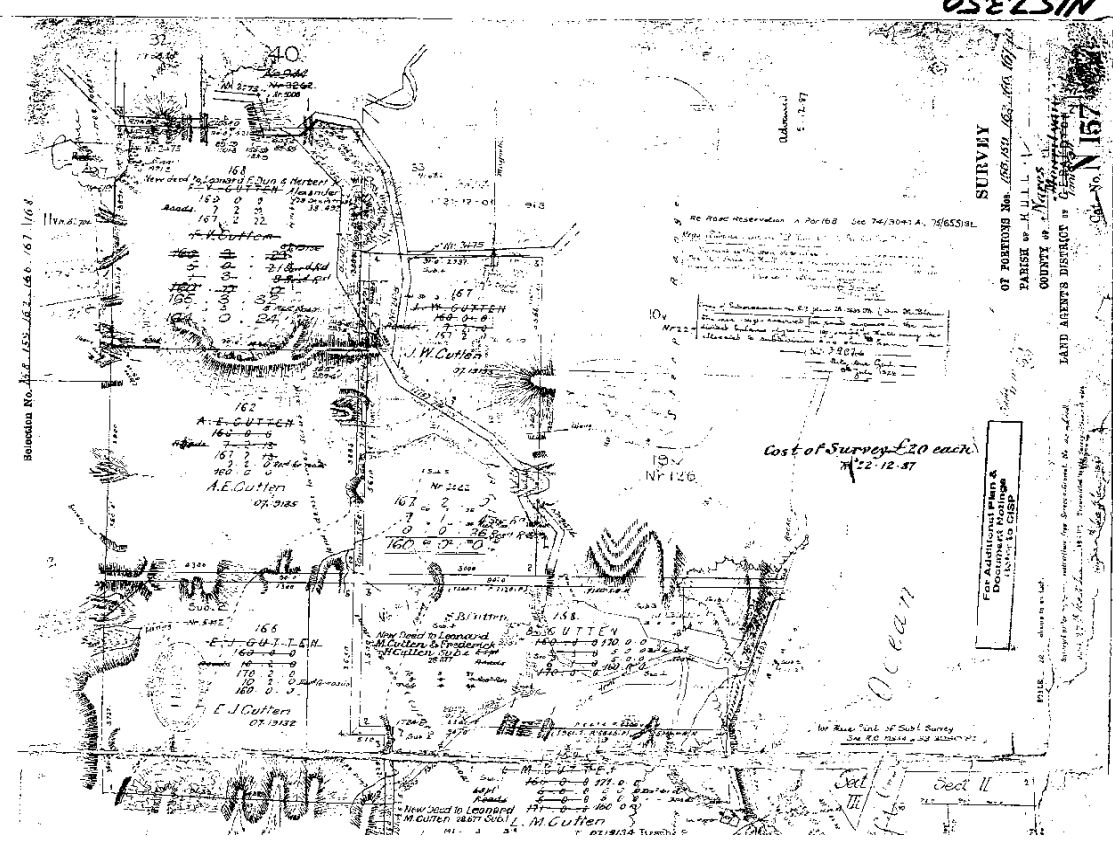




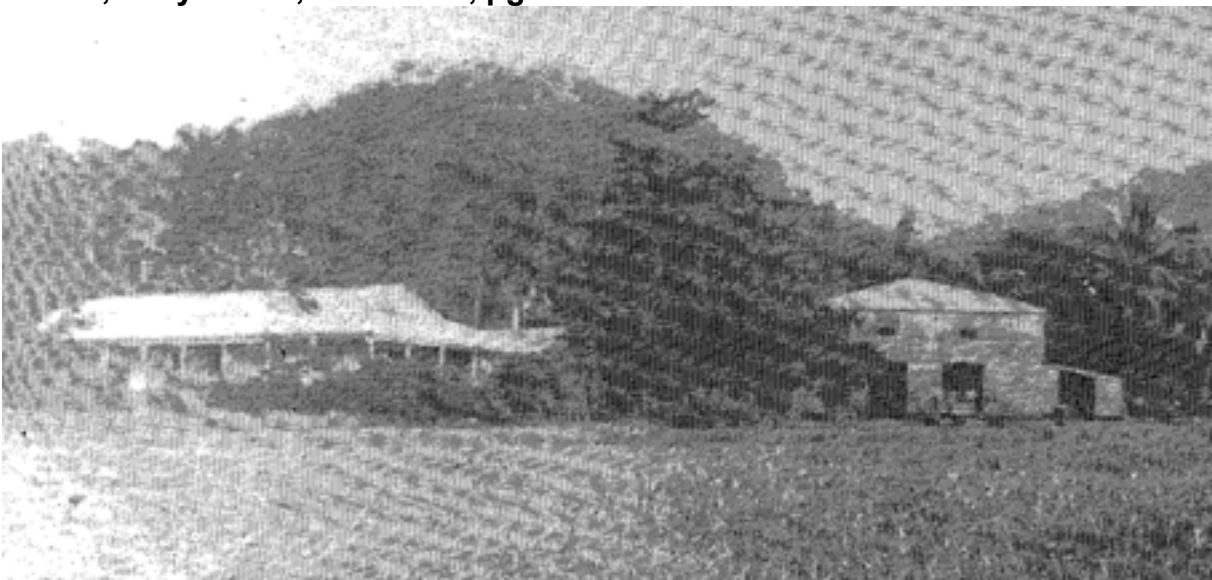
**Memorial stone**



# Map of Cutten Brothers property



Bicton, Tully Times, June 1988, pg.83



**Breakwater, Cutten Coconuts, 1895, Taylor pg.10**



**Herbert, Leonard and Sidney Cutten, 1912**



Cutten Coconuts, 1902, Taylor pg. 25

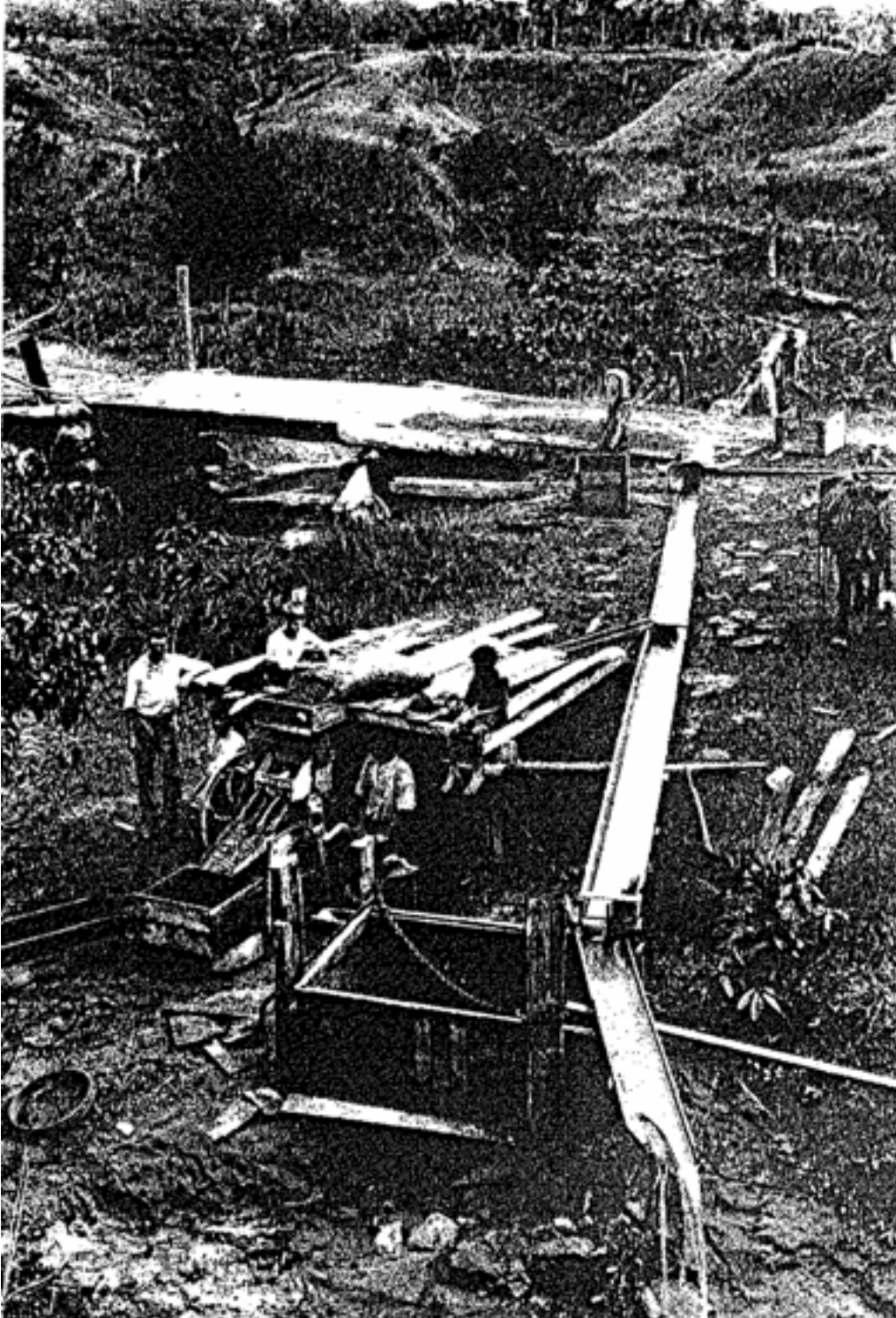


Cutten logging to sawmill, 1902, Taylor pg. 20





Cutten Coffee Mill, Taylor pg. 89



## References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 2 - Ninney Rise and John Büss Memorial**

**Place Name:** Ninney Rise and John Büss Memorial  
**Address:** 405 Alexander Drive and Esplanade, Bingil Bay  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 539 NR6887, Lot 1 ROAD0 & Lot A RP730263

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A

### QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992 Entry in the Heritage Register State Heritage Place



Place ID	<b>602499</b>
Name	<b>Ninney Rise and John Büssst Memorial</b>
Former name(s) / other	John and Alison Büssst's Residence
Location	405 Alexander Drive and Esplanade BINGIL BAY 4854
RPO	Lot 539 NR6887                      Lot 1 ROAD0 Lot A RP730263
Local authority	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
Boundary Description	See attached map
Other Listings	

#### Heritage Significance

Ninney Rise and John Büssst Memorial is a place that satisfies one or more of the criteria specified in s.35(1) of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 as evidenced by, but not exclusive to, the following statement of cultural heritage significance, based on criteria A, E and H.

<b>Criterion A</b>	Ninney Rise is significant as the base from which the artist and environmentalist John Büssst organized the 'Save the Reef' and other important environmental campaigns during the 1960s and early 1970s. Set within the landscape being fought for, it was a meeting place for the campaigners and scientists involved with him in these efforts and became a focal point for all their struggles. These deeply contentious campaigns were supported by local and international scientists and aimed to protect the Great Barrier Reef and the area's tropical rainforests from development and mining pressures. As influential in the formation of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and to the eventual declaration of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area, these campaigns demonstrate the history of Queensland's environmental conservation movement with Büssst's home at Bingil Bay a key place associated with this activism.
<b>Criterion E</b>	Ninney Rise, its park-like grounds within a strikingly beautiful area of coastal lowland rainforest and the property's views to the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area have great aesthetic significance. The outlook from the place takes in this marine environment, which is now recognised for the outstanding natural universal values that John Büssst fought to protect during the 1960s before these values had been widely recognised and appreciated.
<b>Criterion H</b>	A home and a focal point for the early environmental conservation movement in Queensland, Ninney Rise is closely associated with the artist and eco-campaigner John Büssst who designed and built it in c1960. He worked intimately with the Australian Conservation Foundation, the Queensland Littoral Society (Australian Marine Conservation Society) and the Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society in the campaign to save the Great Barrier Reef. Büssst's environmental activism illustrated his transition from being an artist interested in the aesthetics of nature to a conservationist promoting the ecological reasons to conserve the natural environment. The inscription on the memorial to John Büssst near Ninney Point reflects his appreciation for art, nature and conservation.

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### History

Ninney Rise at picturesque Bingil Bay north of Mission Beach in northern Queensland was built in c1960 by artist and environmentalist John Horatio Büss, using locally made bricks and locally sourced bamboo. He lived in the house with his wife Alison until his death in 1971. It was from here that Büss master-minded a passionate, determined and ultimately successful campaign to protect Queensland's Great Barrier Reef and its tropical rainforests from development and mining pressures and exploitation.

Ninney Rise and its grounds are located on what had been part of a 160 acre (64.75ha) block first taken up in the name of Sidney B Cutten in 1884. The Cutten family were the area's first non-Indigenous settlers and became well known horticulturists. They built their family home, Bicton House, on the site now occupied by Ninney Rise, retaining it until the late 1930s.

Mission Beach, Bingil Bay, and Dunk and Bedarra Islands remained relatively undeveloped during the first half of the twentieth century, due to their isolation and frequent destructive cyclones. These factors ensured that the area retained much of its outstanding natural beauty which, along with idyllic accounts from Queensland author EJ Banfield, attracted artists and naturalists to the area including John Büss and his sister Phyllis, who leased the south-eastern corner of Bedarra Island in 1940 and later purchased almost the whole island (apart from 15 acres (6ha) owned by artist Noel Wood).

John Büss's interest in art, architecture and advocacy began in his youth, which he spent in Victoria. After attending Wesley College, he studied at Melbourne University. He then shared a house with Arthur Munday and future Prime Minister Harold Holt, before Büss and Munday studied art with draughtsman-turned-painter Justus Jörgensen, who was influential in Melbourne art circles (according to information communicated in July 2005 by Sigmund Jörgensen, the son of Justus). In 1934 Büss followed Jörgensen to Eltham, an outer suburb of Melbourne, which had attracted artists since the early 1900s, to help build the community of painters, sculptors, musicians and crafts-people later known as Monsalvat. Their architectural vision included the use of natural and local materials, such as pisé de terre and mud bricks. As one of Monsalvat's builders, Büss acquired skills in creative and organic building. This artistic background and its associated philosophies influenced Büss's building practices when he moved to north Queensland with his sister in 1940: his first house (since demolished) on Bedarra Island being constructed with hand-made mud bricks.

After 1947 Büss subdivided his Bedarra Island land and sold 86 acres (34.8ha) of it, according to the book *Discovering the Family Islands* by JG Porter (1983: 43). Phyllis returned to Melbourne and John married Alison Shaw Fitchett who joined him on Bedarra in the early 1950s. In 1957 John and Alison Büss sold their home on Bedarra Island and moved to Bingil Bay where they purchased Bicton House, the old Cutten family home, on just less than 10 acres (4ha) which extended to the beach with views over the Coral Sea and Great Barrier Reef. They also acquired portion 19V to the north, a 154 acre (62.3ha) block that included extensive areas of tropical lowland rainforest and the rocky headland known as Ninney Point. In the late 1950s or early 1960s the Büsss demolished Bicton House and erected a new residence on the site, according to Patricia Clare's *The Struggle for the Great Barrier Reef* (1971: 90).

John Büss designed their new home to be strong enough to withstand cyclones, and utilised locally sourced materials. He employed a local builder to erect the shell of the building using bricks from the Silkwood Brickworks, and then used bamboo, an exotic that had been planted in the district in the nineteenth century, to create decorative ceiling features, architraves and fittings throughout the residence and to make furniture. Patricia Clare, who visited the Büsss's new home at Bingil Bay in the 1960s, later wrote:

"The white house stood on its own cliff, the rainforest behind it, and in front the satin shine of blue water stretching away to where the reefs of lime lay hidden. It was the traditional Australian country

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house, a core of rooms surrounded by wide verandahs, with a roof like a shady hat pulled down over the lot ... Büssst had built it ... [as] a fortress, built of brick and reinforced concrete to outlast the cyclones which periodically smashed into this coast... [explaining] ... 'I am not interested in making anything that won't last for a thousand years.' We stepped off the verandah ... into a room with ceiling lined in a sort of bamboo parquetry." (1971: 90.)

Büssst's artistic individualism and interest in the aesthetics of nature and in using nature in art and architecture gradually evolved into an awareness of the ecological reasons for conserving the natural world, and in the 1960s, to environmental activism.

During the late 1950s and 1960s, Queensland's coastal environments were under threat from rapid development stimulated by a boom in resource exploitation. Büssst observed large areas of rainforest being felled for sugar and banana cultivation and cattle, with subsequent wet season rain pouring topsoil out into the ocean. This resulted in pesticides, nutrients and phosphates being flushed out to sea and onto the Great Barrier Reef, which was also under pressure from unsustainable fishing practices and infestations of the crown-of-thorns starfish (*Acanthaster planci*).

Büssst was a founding member, Chairman and Secretary of the Committee for the Preservation of Tropical Rainforest. In 1965 he convinced the Federal government to engage rainforest scientists Dr Leonard Webb and Geoff Tracey to undertake the first systematic vegetation survey of north Queensland's rainforests. According to a Wet Tropics Management Authority 'Chronology of the Protection and Management of the Wet Tropics of Queensland World Heritage Area' (2007) and personal communication with Geoff Tracey, the 1966 survey resulted in: the first ever scientific reference to the international significance of Queensland's lowland rainforests; the first proposal for protection of the full range of North Queensland forests; and the first actual protection of lowland tropical Queensland rainforest. Webb and Tracey, who stayed with Büssst at his Bingil Bay house to do all their work on medicinal drugs from rainforest plants, were pioneers in Australian rainforest ecology and conservation. They promoted the conservation of lowland rainforest through the establishment of national parks and were joined by the Büsssts in their campaign.

John Büssst's Great Barrier Reef campaign received much publicity and has been well documented in Australian ecology and conservation literature. Following public notice of a cane grower's intention to harvest coral from 84 acres (33.9ha) of supposedly dead reef (as a cheap source of agricultural lime) in 1967, Büssst lodged an objection and gathered evidence to prove that Ellison Reef was alive. The ensuing battle involved a number of influential environmentalist groups including the: Australian Conservation Foundation, Queensland Wildlife Preservation Society, the Queensland Littoral Society (renamed the Australian Marine Conservation Society), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (US). Büssst also circulated an objection (addressed to the Minister for Mines) to the Premier and the Ministers for Tourism and Conservation and the Director-General of the Queensland Government Tourist Bureau. He attracted wide press coverage for the case and enlisted the help of his long-time friend Prime Minister Harold Holt who, after being introduced to Bingil Bay by John Büssst, built a holiday home nearby. Six months after the hearings in the Innisfail Courthouse, Queensland Mines Minister Ron Camm rejected the mining application. This landmark case set a precedent for not mining the reef, brought the question of exploiting the Reef's resources into the public arena and served as a cornerstone for the conservation movement in Queensland.

Büssst's other major battle involved protecting the Great Barrier Reef from oil drilling. By September 1967 the Queensland Government had leased 80,920 square miles (nearly 21 million hectares) of the Great Barrier Reef to companies that intended to drill there for oil. Büssst wrote to both Harold Holt and Opposition Leader Gough Whitlam proposing a moratorium on drilling on the reef and their support for a tropical marine science research centre for Townsville. The ensuing campaign was highly political,

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with Büssst and his supporters linking the leases to the State government through the shareholdings in Exoil No Liability held by a number of ministers as well as the Queensland Premier, Joh Bjelke Petersen. The campaign broadened and pressed for the Commonwealth to wrest control of the reef from the state. Despite failing health, Büssst worked with trade unions and parliamentarians, notably Senator George Georges, to pressure the state Government and the oil companies. He planned, and widely publicized, the issue of a writ on the Queensland Government on the grounds that it had colluded with business to promote drilling. Public support grew and the 'Save the Reef' campaign attracted support from both sides of politics. The campaign became international as Büssst dispatched up to 4,000 letters around the globe. In March 1970 an oil tanker ran aground in the Torres Strait and an alarmed federal government upgraded the Inquiry to a Royal Commission into mining in the Great Barrier Reef. In the meantime legislation was drafted for sovereign control over underwater resources on the Continental Shelf.

During these hard-fought campaigns waged during the 1960s to conserve Queensland's Great Barrier Reef and its tropical rainforests, Büssst's house at Bingil Bay, Ninney Rise, became a centre for the movement. It hosted a range of influential visitors, including: politicians such as Harold Holt; noteworthy scientists such as marine biologist Dr Don McMichael, Japanese ornithologist Dr Jiro Kikkawa, rainforest ecologists Webb and Tracey, and United States marine collector and littoral zoologist Eddie Hegerl and his dive team; numerous conservation workers; and author Judith Wright. Wright, the inaugural president of the Wildlife Preservation Society of Queensland in 1962, was intimately involved in the activism and documented it in her book *The Coral Battleground* (West Melbourne, VIC: Thomas Nelson [Australia], 1977), which she dedicated to Büssst. In a letter to Wisenet in the 1990s Wright described Büssst as 'the man whose energy and devotion had first sparked off, and largely continued' the fight to save the reef. (Also refer to *South of my days: a biography of Judith Wright*, by Veronica Brady. Pymble, NSW: Angus & Robertson, 1998.)

Büssst died in 1971 as he prepared his evidence for the Royal Commission. Wright composed the words for a memorial plaque at Bingil Bay overlooking the ocean just below Ninney Point, to commemorate his passionate commitment to conservation and nature. Four years later the Commonwealth took over management of the Great Barrier Reef with the establishment of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Act and the world's largest marine protected area.

Alison Büssst subdivided the land around Ninney Rise at Bingil Bay in 1975 and donated the northern rainforest headland around Ninney Point to the State as Lot 115 NPW 502. Four years later she sold the house to an American conservationist, Kate Tode.

Kate Tode and friend, Jean Rentoul, moved into Ninney Rise in October 1979. Mrs Tode conserved the Büssst's home and built an additional level above the garage at the northern end of the house. During the early 1980s she also arranged for the construction of a tool storage shed and driveway, the installation of a swimming pool, and re-tiled the bathrooms and kitchen. In 1982 Tode excised 3.8 hectares of the property, which she donated to the State. This was gazetted as National Park 1828 (now part of the Ciump Mountain National Park) on 17 March 1984. At her death on 22 February 1990, Tode bequeathed the remainder of the property (including the house) to the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS). Ninney Rise passed to her executors in late 1993 and was handed over to QPWS in 1995.

In the early 2000s QPWS proposed to sell the property, however conservation groups successfully objected to various Queensland Ministers on the grounds that the place retained significant cultural and natural heritage values. In 2008, QPWS undertook some repairs to the building, mainly the verandah ceilings, floor and foundations. John and Alison Büssst's former Bingil Bay residence remains the property of the people of Queensland.

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Entry in the Heritage Register

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### Description

#### Ninney Rise

Ninney Rise is located on a 1.98 hectare block just south of Ninney Point at Bingil Bay approximately 160 kilometres south of Cairns and 35 kilometres south of Innisfail. The property comprises a main residence, separate garage, and extensive grounds that include indigenous rain forest and a landscaped garden with swimming pool, walkways and driveways. The site is bounded by Clump Mountain National Park to the north, an esplanade and Bingil Bay to the east, and residential properties to the south and west.

The house is accessed via an ascending driveway which winds northward from Alexandra Drive through park-like grounds with some mature trees. Adjacent to the house and covering the northern third of the lot is lush tropical lowland rainforest. The house and grounds, including an in-ground pool at the southern end of the house, are only 20 metres from the foreshore of Bingil Bay, and provide views to the Coral Sea. About 50 metres to the west of the house there is a concrete-block, hipped-roof structure containing garage with work area and water closet. Neither the swimming pool nor the garage is considered to contribute to the cultural heritage significance of the place.

The core of the house is T-shaped in plan and is aligned roughly north-south with the long eastern side facing the ocean.

The house is low-set with a core of load-bearing brickwork walls supporting a concrete ring beam to which the timber-framed roof, clad in metal sheeting, is fixed. The hipped roof extends over the core to form the verandah roof, which is supported by a concrete verandah plate on steel posts fixed to the suspended concrete verandah floor slab. The verandah slab is supported at its edge by concrete piers. At each corner of the verandah a brick supporting wall extends diagonally from the corner of the brick house foundations to the outside edge of the verandah slab. Three sets of concrete steps lead from the verandah to the garden: two on the front (eastern side) and one on the western side. The verandah floor and stairs are finished with tiles and the verandah ceiling is lined with split bamboo.

The walls of the core are of cavity brick, laid on edge in stretcher bond with a header brick every two or three bricks. The brick work pattern is a variation of the Rat-trap or Chinese bond with the bricks laid on edge, and laid with two stretcher bricks then one header brick joining the two skins of the wall together making an approximately 50 millimetre cavity. The walls are painted on the outside and rendered on the inside. Many of the exterior window and door frames are of painted timber but some have been replaced with aluminium frames and flyscreens.

Midway along the western side of the core a single-storeyed, hipped-roofed wing joins at right angles. This has a skillion extension on the northern side. At the northern end of the core adjoining what was formerly the northern verandah, there is a two-storeyed, hipped roof structure, consisting of a ground floor former garage above which is a later addition.

The layout of the house comprises a living room at the southern end, shaded by verandah on three sides, with glassed doors opening to the verandahs on the east and west and a picture window to the south. A hallway extends north from the living room. Off this hall, facing the sea is a bedroom with an ensuite bathroom, dining room, and kitchen. The dining room and kitchen also have doors opening to the east (front) verandah. The former northern verandah beyond the kitchen is now a breezeway and storage area, and a laundry has been created on the west verandah near the northern corner.

The rear (west) wing is accessed via a short hall at right angles to the main hallway. Opening off this secondary hall is a small bedroom to the south; a bathroom to the north; and a studio or bedroom to

## QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992

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the west. This studio/bedroom has an ensuite bathroom accommodated under the skillion-roofed extension. The studio's main light comes from the south. From the secondary hall, between the two bathrooms, there is access to a small porch and beyond this to a brick-enclosed courtyard with an arched entry in the western wall.

With the exception of the kitchen, laundry and bathrooms, rooms have split bamboo ceilings with ceiling lights and fans set in patterned cane or bamboo panels. Architraves and skirtings are also of bamboo, as is the door into the studio. This use of split bamboo is a particularly striking feature of the house. A long strip of what appears to be batik is set into the studio ceiling. The interior timber-framed floor is lined generally with timber boards.

The northern two-storeyed section of the house consists of a large store room and garage on the ground floor with a living area, bedroom and bathroom on the upper level, accessed via an internal timber staircase. It is lined throughout with plasterboard.

### Büsst Memorial

The Büsst Memorial is located on road reserve just below Ninney Point, close to the beach, approximately 200m north of John and Alison Büsst's former home, Ninney Rise. It comprises a small brass plaque attached to a natural rock formation, with the plaque facing the ocean. The inscription on the plaque reads:

IN MEMORY

Of

JOHN H BÜSST

DIED 5 - 4 - 1971

ARTIST AND LOVER OF BEAUTY

WHO FOUGHT

THAT MAN AND NATURE

MIGHT SURVIVE



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Images

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Ninney Rise -house from driveway

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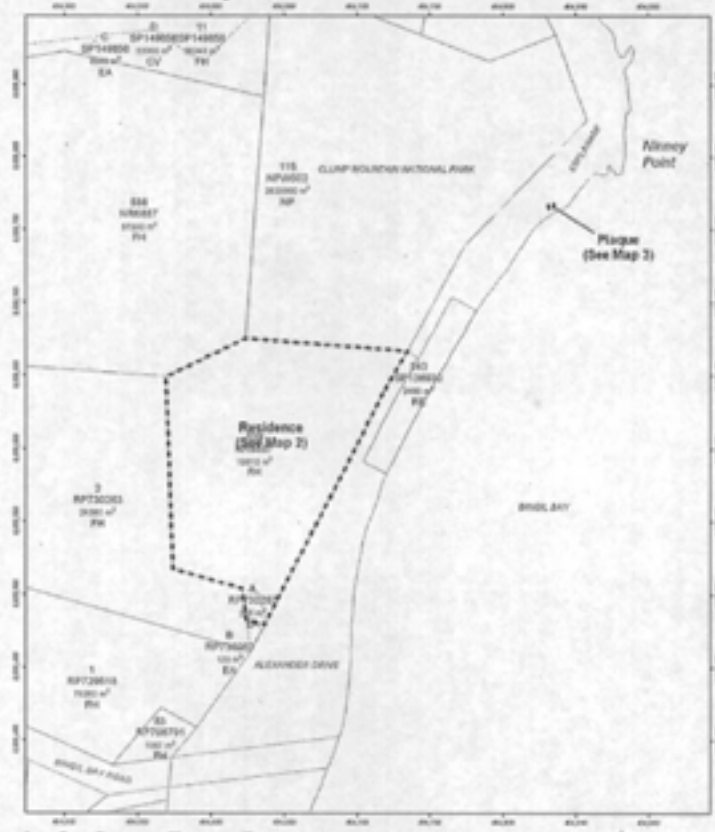
Ninney Rise - view of house from south, including veranda

**QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992**  
 Entry in the Heritage Register  
 State Heritage Place



Heritage Register Boundary

**Ninney Rise and John Büsst Memorial 602499**



**Map 1**  
 Boundary Overview

**Map 1: Boundary Overview**  
 This map shows the boundary of the State Heritage Place, Ninney Rise and John Büsst Memorial, as defined in the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. The map is based on the Queensland Heritage Register (QHR) and the Queensland Heritage Inventory (QHI). The map is not to scale and is for information only. It does not constitute a legal document. For more information, please contact the Queensland Heritage Council.

- Legend**
- Heritage register boundary
  - Endpoints
  - Other
  - Planned
  - Existing

Ninney Rise and John Büssst Memorial 602499



**Map 2**  
Detail - Residence

Scale: 1:1,000

Legend

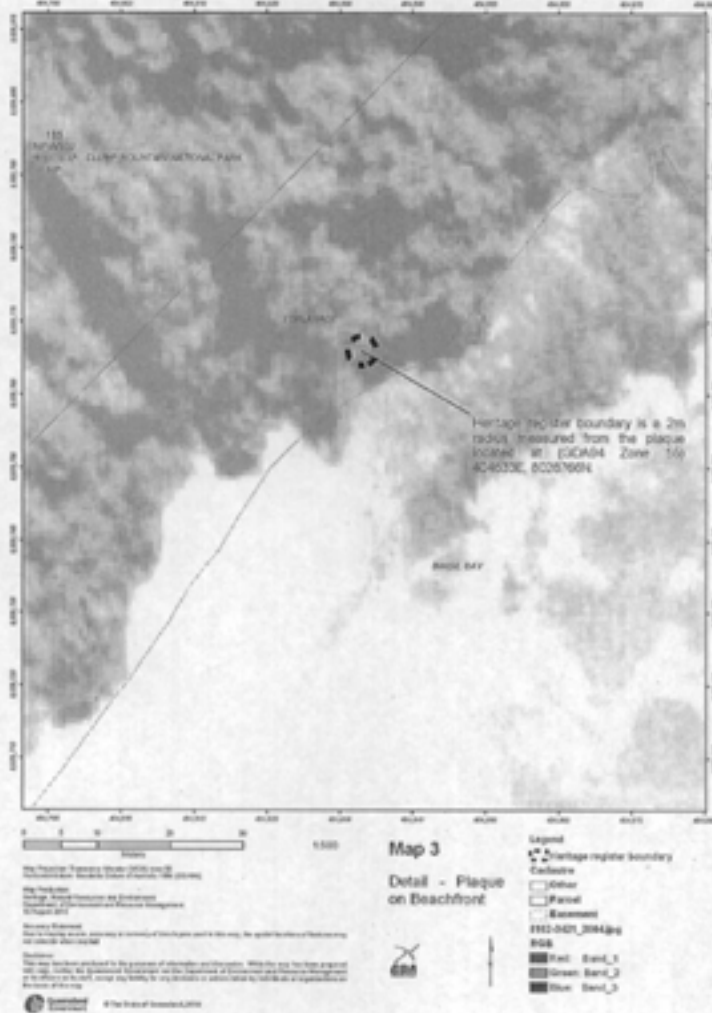
- Heritage register boundary
- Other
- Parcel
- Boundary
- IN2-0421\_004.jpg
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- IN2-0421\_004.jpg
- IN2-0421\_004.jpg

Source: Queensland Government, Queensland Heritage Register, Queensland Heritage Act 1992

**QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992**  
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**Ninney Rise and John Büsst Memorial 602499**



## QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992

Entry in the Heritage Register

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**Process Statement:** At its meeting of 6 August 2010, the Strategic Register Committee as delegate of the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to enter Ninney Rise and John Büsst Memorial, 405 Alexander Drive and Esplanade, Bingil Bay in the Queensland heritage register as a State heritage place, because it satisfies one or more of the cultural heritage criteria specified in s.35(1) of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.

**Note:** This document has been prepared on the basis of current information, and assessed under the criteria in the Queensland Heritage Act. This document may be reassessed if further evidence becomes available. The statement of significance specifies the most important heritage values of the place. The purpose of this document is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration. This does not negate the need for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, or Cultural Heritage Branch consultation, before any action is taken which may affect the significance of the place.

## **Place No. 3 - Cardwell Cemetery**

**Place Name:** Cardwell Cemetery  
**Address:** Gregory Street, Cardwell  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 161 C1047

### **Heritage significance**

The Cardwell cemetery is the oldest cemetery on the tropical coast and the oldest monuments in the cemetery predate those found in Townsville. Cardwell's early years as a frontier port and township are reflected by the monuments to people born overseas and to the young children of people who played a part in the growth of the township.

### **History**

The township of Cardwell was established in 1864 when George Elphinstone Dalrymple and his landing party arrived and established a small township.

The cemetery was established in 1864 and was administered by a Board of Trustees until its management was taken over by the Cardwell Shire Council in 1947. The Board of Trustees had been unable to maintain the cemetery satisfactorily, and had sought to have the Shire Council take over the management of the cemetery for many years leading up to 1947.

There are no records showing how the location of the cemetery was decided.

There are no records for burials conducted between 1930 and 1947, with these records having been lost. Earlier records include grave numbers from 1874 onwards, however there is no plan showing the sites to which these numbers refer.

The oldest headstone in the cemetery is that of John Ogilvy Lloyd who died on 21 October 1865. There are no written records associated with this gravesite. The first headstone belonging to a person born in Cardwell is that of James Henry Whitfield who died on 5 February 1873 aged 14 months.

Since the earliest burials were not numbered in the written record, it is surmised that a new system of administration was instituted after Cardwell's first decade. With the passing of time, the administration of the cemetery became more formally organised.

The oldest gravestones are all of a yellowish stone which appears to be sandstone. This has weathered and discoloured to make many of the old inscriptions difficult to read. The next type of material to be used was grey granite. Marble began to be used in the late nineteenth century. There are also 3 wooden crosses in the cemetery, 2 of which are still standing. There are 3 graves with monuments composed of ceramic tiles which are white in colour. These are all from the later half of the twentieth century.

### **Description**

The cemetery in Cardwell lies to the north-east of the Cardwell Township. The older, southern section of the cemetery contains burials prior to 1947 and burials grouped by religious denomination. The burials prior to 1947 are located in 3 separate areas within the southern section and the graves are not ordered or orientated in the same way as for the burials carried out after 1947.

The burials grouped by religious denomination are contained in rows running in an east-west direction, as are the more recent burials contained in the northern section of the cemetery.

**Images**

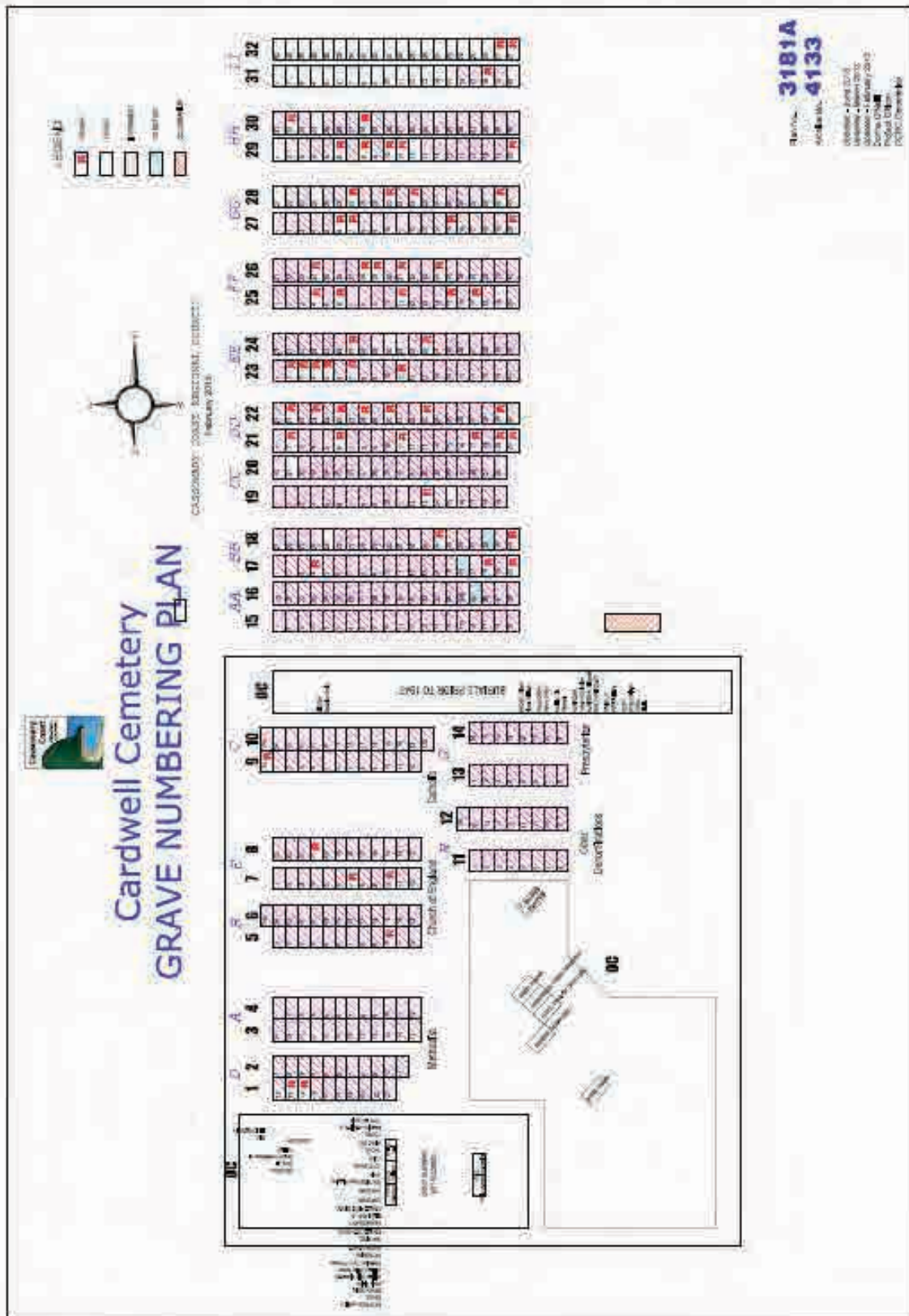








# Cemetery plan



## References

Pedley, H. *A Survey of the Cardwell Cemetery*, 1988.

## **Place No. 4 - Cardwell Court House and Gaol**

**Place Name:** Cardwell Court House and Gaol  
**Address:** 51 Victoria Street, Cardwell  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 142 C1041

### **Heritage significance**

The Cardwell Court House and Gaol are important in showing the evolution of the township of Cardwell and the development of its central community infrastructure.

### **History**

#### **Cardwell Court House**

The Cardwell Court House was built in the early to mid 1870s where the Cardwell police station is presently located. The original Court House building was a large 2 storey building and it served as the local court house/police station as well as a customs house. The Cardwell Divisional Board met in this building as well until it was damaged by the 1890 cyclone, at which time a new hall was built for local government purposes.

In the 1880s the Police Magistrate position was transferred to Innisfail, and from then on a Police Magistrate from other towns would visit at regular intervals. Other functions undertaken by the Police Magistrate and at the Court House were transferred to other centres in the same period.

The building was badly damaged in the 1890 cyclone, and due to its infrequent use it was not immediately rebuilt. It wasn't until sometime after 1898 that a smaller building was constructed to replace the original court house. This building was built using timber salvaged from the original building and continued to serve as the Cardwell Court House, even though there was no resident Police Magistrate so it was not used on a daily basis. The building was known as the "Cowley matchbox", after Sir Alfred Cowley, the local member for the Cardwell region at the time and the main instigator of the style in which the Court House was rebuilt.

The new building comprises 2 rooms, with one used as an office and the larger room used for the courtroom.

The Court House building was moved 90 degrees on its side in the 1930s to accommodate the construction of a new police residence at the site. The building continued to be used as offices for the police and for associated matters until the construction of a new police station in 1988, at which time the building was considered surplus to requirements and removed to the rear of the police reserve site.

In 1993, the former Cardwell Shire Council purchased the Cardwell Court House and moved it to its current location.

#### **Gaol**

Police lock ups were common and essential features of police stations, particularly in regional areas. In most cases, these comprised a small timber building containing a number of cells, but in smaller areas the accused may have been chained to a large tree or post.

The first gaol in Cardwell was built by James Thorn Snr, who was contracted to build a 2 cell lock up by 14 November 1864. By 1872, this building was dilapidated. A second lock up was built as part of a police barracks built within the government precinct between 1870 and 1873. Having the gaol within the police barracks was not considered suitable by the policeman or his wife, and therefore this gaol was not used after 1907.

The gaol building the subject of this report was constructed in 1907. It was originally located on the Police Reserve towards Bowen Street, but appears to have been relocated elsewhere on the wider government reserve at a later date.

The gaol building is typical of this style of building in the period in which it was constructed. Many other lock ups of an almost identical form were constructed in numerous places around Queensland.

In 1988 the gaol building was considered surplus to requirements and was sold to the former Cardwell Shire Council. The building was moved to the Cardwell sportsgrounds for use by the Cardwell Tennis Club as a storage facility. When the Tennis Club did not have a use for it, the building was removed to the Cardwell Shire Council Depot at Gregory Street.

In approximately 2005, the Gaol was moved to its current location.

## **Description**

The Cardwell Court House and Gaol buildings are located to the rear of the Cardwell Divisional Board Building (JC Hubinger Memorial Museum).

### **Court House Building**

The Cardwell Court House building was built in approximately 1891, following the destruction of the original Court House building in the 1890 cyclone. The building is constructed from the surviving material from the first Court House Building and is a very simple building, comprising 2 rooms and elevated on low stumps with a verandah to the front.

The building has exposed timber studs on all sides of the building and its appearance is unlike most other court houses of the nineteenth century period in regional Queensland.

### **Gaol**

The former police lock up in Cardwell is a small timber building comprising a single cell and covered verandah.

## **Images**

### **Court House**





**Court House and Gaol**



**Gaol**





## **References**

Allom Lovell Architects Brisbane, *Cardwell Post & Telegraph Office, Court House and Lock Up*, 2001.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, *Statewide Heritage Survey Information*, 2011.

Pedley, H. *The Magistrate's Courthouse, Cardwell*, 2000.

Pedley, H. *The Old Lock-Up and Police Buildings, Cardwell*, 2001.

## **Place No. 5 - Cardwell Divisional Board Building (JC Hubinger Memorial Museum)**

**Place Name:** Cardwell Divisional Board Building (JC Hubinger Memorial Museum)  
**Address:** 51 Victoria Street, Cardwell  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 142 C1041

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.



## Appendix A

### QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992

Entry in the Heritage Register  
State Heritage



Place ID	<b>601768</b>
Name	<b>Cardwell Divisional Board Hall (former) and Honour Board</b>
Former name(s) / other	JC Hubinger Memorial Museum JC Hubinger Museum JC Hubinger Memorial Hall
Location	51 Victoria Street CARDWELL 4816
RPD	Lot 142 C1041
Local authority	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
Boundary Description	The heritage register boundary is to encompass the whole of Lot 142 on C1041. The modern toilet block and ramp, plus the old courthouse and lock-up, are not of state heritage significance. Refer to the attached boundary map (no. 1) and site plan.
Other Listings	Local Planning Scheme - Non-Ind Hert Overlay

#### Heritage Significance

**Cardwell Divisional Board Hall (former) and Honour Board** is a place that satisfies one or more of the criteria specified in s.35(1) of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992 as evidenced by, but not exclusive to, the following statement of cultural heritage significance, based on criteria A, D, E and G.

<b>Criterion A</b>	<p>The Cardwell Divisional Board Hall (former), originally constructed in 1892, is important in demonstrating the origins and development of local government in Queensland. Very few purpose-built divisional board halls survive in Queensland, and the hall's simple form and small scale are indicative of the role and limited resources of the early divisional boards. The hall's location is also important surviving evidence of the administrative role of Cardwell as the main town in the Cardwell Shire prior to the 1920s.</p> <p>The World War I (WWI) memorial honour board is a record of Queensland's involvement in a major world event. WWI memorials, including honour boards, are a tribute to those who served, and those who died, from a particular community. Often the focus of ANZAC Day ceremonies, they are an important element of Queensland's towns and cities and are also important in demonstrating a common pattern of commemoration across Queensland and Australia.</p>
<b>Criterion D</b>	<p>The Cardwell WWI honour board is an excellent example of its type. It is located in a prominent position within the hall and is an opulent example for a small community. It is made of fine quality marble and employs classical architectural elements to display, in a dignified and sombre manner, a list of 26 men and 2 nurses who served from the local community. The listing of nurses on an honour board is rare in Queensland.</p>
<b>Criterion E</b>	<p>The Cardwell WWI honour board is important for its aesthetic significance as a thoughtfully designed, classically composed tablet, finely crafted using contrasting rouge and white marble with gilded and leaded lettering. Prominently displayed at the stage end of the hall, it provides a dignified focus for the remembrance of those involved in this major world event.</p>

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### Criterion G

The Cardwell Divisional Board Hall (former) has a long and special connection with the people of the Cardwell District. Its numerous public functions as an administrative centre, theatre, Queensland Country Women's Association Hall, ANZAC Day ceremonial site, reception venue, library and museum have generated strong community associations. Community attachment to the hall ensured its survival in the late 1980s when it was threatened with demolition, and also ensured that it was rebuilt after cyclone Yasi in 2011.

Local attachment to the hall's honour board reflects the wider reverence felt for such memorials across Australia. As a focus for ANZAC Day ceremonies it is highly valued by the community for its spiritual, symbolic, cultural and social associations.

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# QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992

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### History

The Cardwell Divisional Board Hall was originally constructed in 1892 and is located within an early government precinct on Victoria Street, Cardwell. Very few purpose-built divisional board halls or offices survive in Queensland. The timber building became the Cardwell Shire Hall in 1903, and a marble honour board was added in 1922. After the Cardwell Shire Council's administrative functions moved to Tully in 1929 the hall was used by the Queensland Country Women's Association (QCWA) and later the Returned Sailors' Soldiers' and Airmen's Imperial League of Australia (RSSAILA) before becoming a library from 1989-2008. It is now part of the Cardwell Bush Telegraph Heritage Centre and is called the JC Hubinger Museum.

European settlement of the Cardwell district began in January 1864 when a small party landed at Rockingham Bay.[1] The expedition was a private initiative led by George AFE Dalrymple and backed by the Queensland Government. Dalrymple hoped to establish the first Queensland port north of Bowen, which he had helped establish in 1861, and a viable route between the coast and his pastoral run Valley of Lagoons, which was taken up in 1863.[2] Between February and April 1864 Dalrymple journeyed to Valley of Lagoons and returned to the coast, establishing a dray road later called the Dalrymple Gap Track.[3] Initially known as Port Hinchinbrook, the new town was declared a port of entry in May 1864,[4] but Governor Bowen later changed the name to Cardwell, in honour of Edward Cardwell, the then British Secretary of State for the Colonies.[5]

Section 42 of the new town, between Victoria, Balliol, Bowen and Clitheroe Streets, was set aside for government purposes, and included the school, a police reserve, the Post and Telegraph Office, and later the Divisional Board Hall. The district was promoted by both Governor Bowen and Dalrymple, and initially it began to prosper. Money was provided for upgrading the Dalrymple Gap Track in 1864-65[6] and in the early 1870s a large jetty and a courthouse were built at Cardwell. However, Cardwell's potential as a sheltered, deep water port was never realised. The presence of the Cardwell Range behind the town hindered access to the interior and offshore shallows hampered larger ships. Cardwell was soon overshadowed by Townsville, which was declared a port of entry in 1865. From 1869 the goldfields of the Gilbert and Etheridge provided a stimulus for several years, as Cardwell became the terminus for the gold escort, but there was little shipping trade. By 1876 Cardwell's population was still only 150.

Despite the lack of development, the government established a number of services in Cardwell, thereby becoming the main industry in the town and guaranteeing its continued existence. By the mid 1870s a pilot's quarters, police barracks and lock-up, a Lands Office, combined Court/Customs House, Telegraph Office [QHR 600392], sub-collector's (of customs) residence and provisional school existed at Cardwell.[7]

The town also became the centre of local government for the district when the Cardwell Divisional Board was created in 1884, breaking away from the Hinchinbrook Divisional Board. Local government in Queensland evolved in several phases. The first phase, 1859-79, was a system of permissive municipal incorporation, where local residents could petition for the establishment of a local authority, under the Municipalities Act 1858, (NSW), and later the Queensland Municipal Institutions Act 1864 and Provincial Councils Act 1864. By 1878, 18 towns and cities had been incorporated in Queensland.[8] Regional areas were serviced only in part by a system of Road Boards, which had been established under the Department of Works. Consequently, the central government was regularly required to legislate on local community issues. The subsequent pressure on members of the Legislative Assembly to secure resources for their electorate led to widespread accusations of corruption.[9]

The second phase of local government was shaped by the Local Government Act 1878, and the Divisional Boards Act 1879, following expansion of closer settlement in Queensland. Instead of citizens

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petitioning for local government, the colonial government imposed local government on citizens. The 1878 Act established towns, cities and shires (the latter being closely settled areas close to towns or cities); while the 1879 Act created divisional boards to cover rural Queensland outside the towns, cities and shires.[10] Each division was governed by a board of no less than 3 and no more than 9 members.[11] Pugh's Almanac for 1880 listed a total 62 divisional boards (elected and appointed up to 23 February 1880), while 77 boards were listed the following year. The initial divisions often proved ineffective (largely due to size) and were progressively revised so that by 1902 there were 116 divisional boards throughout Queensland. Divisional boards either built halls or offices, or used pre-existing premises. Of the divisional boards listed in 1902, only 38 were reported as meeting at a divisional hall.[12]

The third phase saw the abolition of divisional boards and the older form of shire by the Local Authorities Act 1902, which created a simpler system of towns, cities and shires. The divisional boards became shire councils on 31 March 1903.

When the Cardwell Divisional Board was proclaimed it covered an area of 7000 square miles (18,130 square kilometres), from Mourilyan Harbour to Haycock Island and inland in a south-west direction towards Charters Towers.[13] Although the authority contained 500 rateable properties and at least 212 ratepayers, only 1 nomination was received for the 8 available elected positions (6 members and 2 auditors). The positions were eventually filled by Governor appointment (upon the recommendation of the police magistrate) but the sheer size of the division, seasonal difficulties and the business demands of the board members meant that meetings were difficult to organise and attendance rates were often poor.[14] In 1891 the population of Cardwell was only 139.

The new Cardwell Divisional Board met in the 2-storey 1870s courthouse in Cardwell, the first Thursday of every other month, until the building was badly damaged in a March 1890 cyclone. The replacement courthouse was much smaller, necessitating the construction of a new public building for divisional board meetings and other community functions. This was erected on the allotment to the north-west of the courthouse in 1892-93, as a dual-purpose facility. The amount spent on the new hall, as reported in the Cardwell Divisional Board's accounts covering 1 January 1892 to 30 June 1893, was £320/3/10.[15] Inside the hall, a stage and associated facilities were provided at the south-west end, and a work and storage room existed as a rear annex until the late 1980s.

In 1903 the Cardwell Divisional Board became the Cardwell Shire Council and the hall continued in use as the shire chambers. In April 1922 the Honor [sic] Board Committee wrote to the Shire Council for permission to have the honour roll erected, either in the hall or on the verandah. Councillor Blackman moved that 'permission be granted to place the slab on the wall at the back of the stage and alongside the machine gun'.[16] The roll of honour, listing those men and women of the district who had served, and 2 men who had been killed, in World War I, was carved into a heavy marble honour board by Melrose and Fenwick of Townsville. A special structure was required to transport the honour board and the Cardwell Shire Council agreed to pay for the installation.[17] The foundations of the supporting timber frame went into the ground under the stage and the 'particularly fine Roll of Honor [sic]' was officially unveiled by Premier EG Theodore in May 1922.[18] Another Cardwell World War I memorial, a column by Melrose and Fenwick, was also built in the early 1920s and stands near the jetty.

Despite Cardwell's early promise, its time as the administrative heart of the Cardwell Shire was almost over. During the 1920s Cardwell was economically eclipsed by the sugar-mill town of Tully, surveyed in 1924. The suggestion 'would it not be fitting to name the streets of the Tully town after those who made the supreme sacrifice and those who were prepared to sacrifice their lives for their country?' was published in the 'Cairns Post' in January 1927, and Tully's streets were named after those listed on the roll of honour in the Cardwell hall.[19] In 1929 the administration of Cardwell Shire was transferred to

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Tully, where a new shire hall was soon constructed. The Cardwell Shire later became part of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council, based in Innisfail, in 2008. However, the honour board remained in the Cardwell hall, and in 1931 Tully had to be content with a photograph of the honour board being shown at its ANZAC Day service.[20]

After the Cardwell Shire Council vacated the hall, it was leased to the QCWA, effective from 12 July 1929. The QCWA applied to the Railway Department for electric light to be extended to the hall, but this does not seem to have occurred before 1936.[21] In 1931 the QCWA also moved the timber front doors of the hall to the rear of the building. Despite the QCWA lease, the hall was still used for ceremonies by the Cardwell sub-branch of the RSSILA[22] before being gifted by the Cardwell Shire to the sub-branch as the 'Diggers Memorial Hall' at midnight, New Year's Eve 1945-46.[23]

Other community uses of the former divisional hall over the years have included entertaining visiting politicians, electioneering, auctions of properties forfeited for non-payment of rates, and dances. During World War II, a section of the Tully Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) was billeted in the hall during a recruiting visit in April 1942.[24] Musical and theatrical productions were also held at the hall, some of which left graffiti of their visits on the walls of staging rooms - the oldest is by the Musical Carlsons, who played there on 22 June 1925.

By the 1980s the condition of the well-used hall had deteriorated and concerns were raised about its future. Community sentiment strongly supported its retention, even though a new community centre was proposed for Cardwell. Following public representations it was decided to restore the hall as a 1988 Bicentennial Project, jointly funded by the Cardwell Shire Council, the Queensland Government and the Australian Bicentennial Authority. The works included restumping, re-flooring and demolition of the original rear annex due to extensive dry-rot. Proposals to move the honour board at this time were opposed by the community.

The hall was officially reopened in January 1989 as the JC Hubinger Memorial Library. It was named in honour of Johann Christian Hubinger, who was Chairman of the Cardwell Divisional Board and the Cardwell Shire Council 15 times. [25] In the early 1890s Hubinger, a German migrant to Queensland, was listed in Pugh's Almanac as a butcher, baker, storekeeper and insurance agent for South British in Cardwell.

By 1989 the form of the hall appeared essentially the same as it had in 1911;[26] except that the cross bracing pattern in the balustrading had changed; the verandah posts had lost their decorative capitals; handrails had been added to the stairs; the timber framework of the small gable in the front verandah had been sheeted over and the finial removed; a concrete ramp had been added to access the side of the front verandah and the picket fence had been removed. Four of the 6 sash windows on each side of the hall were also replaced with casement windows at some stage.

The JC Hubinger Memorial Library also functioned as a museum, and the local Returned and Services League used the stage area for a display of memorabilia and photographs. Cardwell's former courthouse and 1907 lock-up were relocated to the rear of the former divisional hall by 2003. The library moved to a new location in Balliol Street in 2008, but the hall continued to function as a museum within the Cardwell Bush Telegraph Heritage Centre, which includes the former courthouse, lock-up and Post and Telegraph Office. The hall was also used for the annual ANZAC Day dawn service until it was heavily damaged by Cyclone Yasi in February 2011.

Due to public support for retaining the hall, and for keeping the honour board there, it was extensively rebuilt in its original form, retaining original fabric in the stage area. The honour board was remounted on its original supporting frame and the hall was officially reopened on 20 October 2012.

## QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992

Entry in the Heritage Register

State Heritage



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Few other divisional board halls survive in Queensland, as most were simple timber buildings that were demolished or sold as local government facilities were upgraded. Other known surviving divisional board halls or offices are located in Nundah (Toombul Divisional Board, built 1891, QHR 600272), Strathpine (Pine Divisional Board, built 1889, QHR 600768), Gayndah (Rawbelle Divisional Board), and at the Caboolture Historical Village (Caboolture Divisional Board, built 1883, later moved).

## QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992

Entry in the Heritage Register  
State Heritage



### Description

The former Cardwell Divisional Board Hall is located at the southern end of the Cardwell business district on the main street, Victoria Street, adjacent to the former Telegraph Office [QHR 600392]. Facing north-east toward, and across the road from, the beach and the Coral Sea, the hall is centrally positioned on its allotment, set back from all boundaries.

The hall is a modest, symmetrical, single storey timber building, low-set on timber stumps, clad in weatherboards, with a hipped roof of corrugated metal sheeting and eaves lined with timber battens. Its front verandah has a skillion roof with central gable supported on pairs of posts demarcating the entrance, and a cross-braced balustrade. Openings are symmetrically positioned around the building with: double-hung sash windows on the front elevation either side of a pair of panelled entrance doors; 6 windows to each side elevation - 4 pairs of casement windows between double-hung sash windows at each end; and 2 pairs of panelled doors at the rear. The rainwater disposal system comprises slotted quad gutter and pvc downpipes.

The hall interior is lined with beaded tongue-and-groove boards and houses a raised timber stage at the rear, flanked by 2 small rooms, and a room in the north-east corner near the entrance formed by partial height partitions. At the entrance, a portion of the ceiling is flat with the remaining covered ceiling featuring timber fretwork roses and steel tie-rods. Varnished timber stairs with matching railings lead from the hall to the stage where a large rouge and white marble memorial honour board listing the names of 26 men and 2 nurses from Cardwell who served in World War I is fixed to the rear wall. The honour board features simplified classical architectural elements (columns, entablature, and pediment) and is prominently positioned within the hall, supported on a substantial timber frame. Loose furniture in the hall includes the original table used by the Cardwell Divisional Board. This table, the honour board and the original stage area of the hall are of particular heritage significance, as is the scale and form of the hall itself.

Within the grounds, 2 large trees are located along the boundary with the former telegraph office. A concrete access ramp located on the north-west side of the verandah provides access to both the street and to a detached toilet facility. These structures are not of cultural heritage significance. Behind the hall are two detached timber structures (a former courthouse and a former lock-up) that do not form part of this heritage listing but are of local heritage significance.

### References

- [1] 'New Northern Settlement at Rockingham Bay', *The Argus* (Melbourne), 11 May 1864, p.5 .
- [2] 'Dalrymple, George Augustus' *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/dalrymple-george-augustus-3357>.
- [3] At this time the distance from Cardwell southwest to the Valley of Lagoons by the new road was reported as 96 miles (155km). 'Rockingham Bay', *The Mercury* (Hobart), 2 August 1864, p.3.
- [4] 'The Government Gazette', *Rockhampton Bulletin and Central Queensland Advertiser*, 2 June 1864, p.2
- [5] Edward Cardwell later reorganised the British Army, among other reforms ending peacetime flogging and the purchase of officers' commissions.
- [6] Stone bridge, Dalrymple Gap Track, QHR 600393. The Dalrymple Gap Track was superseded in 1872 by a new route to the Herbert River through Victoria Pass (the Cardwell Gap).
- [7] Allom Lovell Architects, April 2001. Post and Telegraph Office, Court House and Lock Up: A Conservation Plan for Gutteridge Haskins Davey, Brisbane, p.7.
- [8] Blake, T; Bennett, H; and Davies, H; 2007. Queensland Historical Thematic Framework, report for the EPA (Draft), p.133.

## QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992

Entry in the Heritage Register

State Heritage



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- [9] Morrison, AA. 1952. Local Government in Queensland. Smith and Paterson, Brisbane, p.17.
- [10] Blake, Bennett and Davies, Queensland Historical Thematic Framework, pp. 133-134.
- [11] Harris, CP. 1978. Local government and regionalism in Queensland, 1859-1977. Centre for Research on Federal Financial Relations, ANU, Canberra. p.17
- [12] Pugh's Almanac, 1880, 1881, 1902. (By 1902, the Toombul Divisional Board supposedly met in an 'office', but this surviving building is also a hall; the numbers of halls built thus may be higher than 38).
- [13] Jones, D. 1961. Cardwell Shire Story. Jacaranda Press for Cardwell Shire Council, Brisbane, p.250.
- [14] Jones, Cardwell Shire Story, pp. 250-251.
- [15] Queensland Government Gazette, Volume 57, 1892; Vol 59, 1893; Volume 60, 1893.
- [16] 'Cardwell Shire Council' Townsville Daily Bulletin, 27 April 1922, p.3. The machine gun would have been a war trophy, one of many distributed to small towns. Most such trophies have since disappeared from public view.
- [17] 'Cardwell Shire Council', Townsville Daily Bulletin, 23 September 1922, p.10. Although marble honour boards are not rare in Queensland, the majority of Queensland World War I honour boards were built of timber or metal. Refer to the Queensland War Memorial Register, at <http://www.qldwarmemorials.com.au/Pages/Home.aspx>.
- [18] 'Cardwell Notes', Townsville Daily Bulletin, 24 May 1922, p.2.
- [19] 'In Memory. Naming of Tully Streets', Cairns Post, 25 January 1927, p.10.
- [20] 'ANZAC Day. Cardwell Shire Observance', Cairns Post, 17 April 1931, p.5.
- [21] 'Cardwell and Tully', The Brisbane Courier, 2 October 1929, p.13; 'Light for Hall, Cardwell CWA', Cairns Post, 24 February 1936, p.9.
- [22] 'Cardwell celebration', Cairns Post, 12 November 1938, p.11.
- [23] 'Cardwell Diggers Acquire a Hall', Townsville Daily Bulletin, 9 January 1946, p.5.
- [24] 'Cardwell Notes', Townsville Daily Bulletin, 10 April 1942, p.4.
- [25] Information Board at the JC Hubinger Memorial Library, August 2008.
- [26] Photograph, John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland. 'Cardwell Shire Council Chambers, Cardwell 1911', Negative 65910; and 'Cardwell Shire Library, Queensland 1989', Image pls00045.
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Images



Elevation to road



Hall from stage

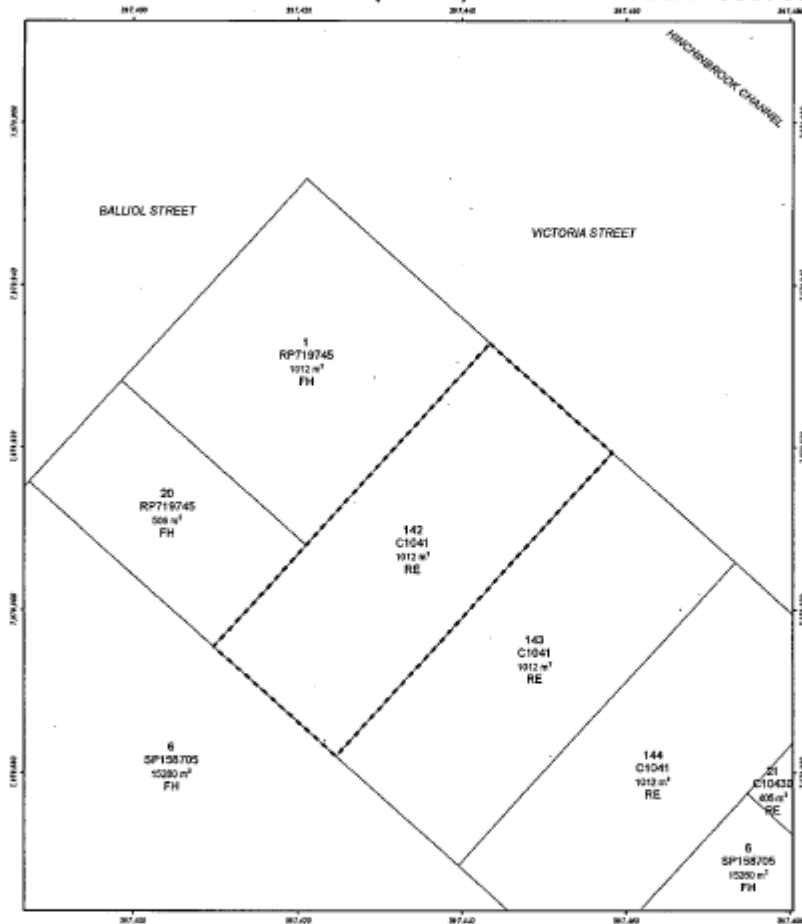


**QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992**  
 Entry in the Heritage Register  
 State Heritage



**Heritage Register Boundary**

**Cardwell Divisional Board Hall (former) and Honour Board 601768**



**Map 1**  
 Heritage boundary overview

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator (MGA Zone 55)  
 National datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia 1984 (GDA84)

Map Production:  
 Heritage Department of Environment and Heritage Protection  
 18 January 2012

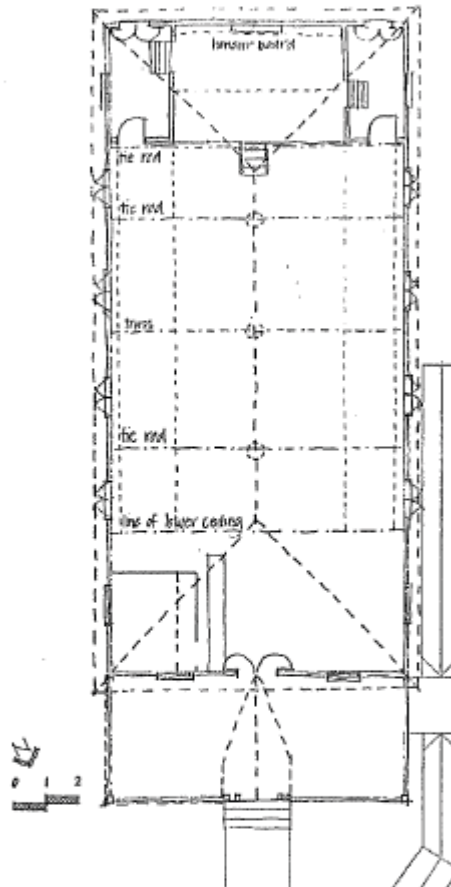
Accuracy Statement:  
 Due to varying source, accuracy or currency of data inputs used in this map, the specifications of features may not include measurements.

Disclaimer:  
 This map has been produced for the purposes of information and discussion. While the map has been prepared with care, it is the Queensland Government and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection or its officers or its staff, accept any liability for any decisions or actions taken by individuals or organisations on the basis of this map.

**Legend**

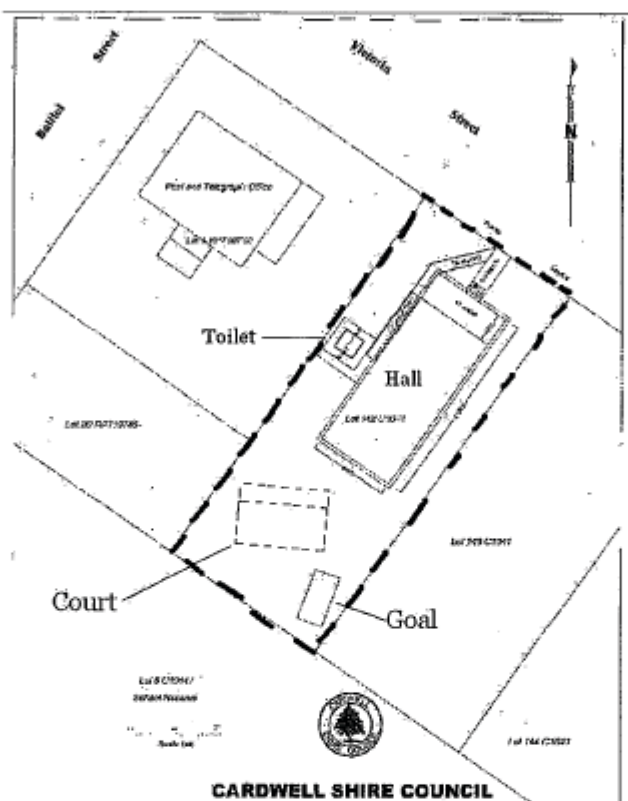
- Heritage register boundary
- Cadastre
- Parcel
- Easement

**Site Plans**



Floor plan of building (2013).

**QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992**  
Entry in the Heritage Register  
State Heritage



— Proposed Heritage Boundary

Site plan with boundary.

**QUEENSLAND HERITAGE ACT 1992**  
Entry in the Heritage Register  
State Heritage



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**Process Statement:** At its meeting of 21 March 2013 the Queensland Heritage Council resolved to enter the Cardwell Divisional Board Hall (former) and Honour Board, 51 Victoria Street, Cardwell, in the Queensland Heritage Register as a State Heritage Place, because it satisfies one or more of the cultural heritage criteria contained in the Queensland Heritage Act 1992.

**Note:** This document has been prepared on the basis of current information, and assessed under the criteria in the Queensland Heritage Act. This document may be reassessed if further evidence becomes available. The statement of significance specifies the most important heritage values of the place. The purpose of this document is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration. This does not negate the need for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, or Cultural Heritage Branch consultation, before any action is taken which may affect the significance of the place.

## **Place No. 6 - Cardwell Post Office - Residence (former)**

**Place Name:** Cardwell Post Office - Residence (former)  
**Address:** 53 Victoria Street, Cardwell  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 RP719745

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.


### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A

 Queensland Government	
<b>Cardwell Post Office - Residence (former)</b>	
<b>Place Details</b>	
Place ID	600392
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	Cardwell Post Office - Residence (former)
Alternative Name	Post and Telegraph Office Post Office Telegraph Office
Place Classification	Built
Place Category	Communications
Place Type	Post and Telegraph Office
Themes	5.1 Moving goods, people and information / 5.7 Telecommunications 5.1 Moving goods, people and information / 5.8 Postal services
Register Entry Date	21/10/1992
<b>Location</b>	
Address	53 Victoria Street
Town / Suburb	CARDWELL
Post Code	4816
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL
<b>Cultural Significance</b>	
Principal Period of Significance	1870s (fabric) 1870s-1980s (historical, social)
Criterion A:	It is important in demonstrating the evolution and pattern of Queensland's history in particular the establishment of Cardwell, initially as the port for North Queensland, and the expansion of telegraphic communication in Queensland.
Criterion B:	It demonstrates rare aspects of Queensland's cultural heritage. In particular, it is one of the oldest and one of the few extant telegraph/post office buildings erected c1869 - c1885. The Former Post Office, Cardwell is one of few remaining prefabricated telegraph/post office buildings, and is one of the oldest timber buildings, in North Queensland.
Criterion D:	The configuration of the building with its four room core and detached kitchen block and roof form demonstrates the principal characteristics of a common telegraph/post office building design type, used from c1869 - c1885 and of an 1860s-1870s government building.
Criterion E:	The place is important in exhibiting a range of aesthetic characteristics valued by the community, in particular the contribution of the buildings and grounds, through siting, scale, form and planting, to the Victoria Street streetscape and Cardwell townscape and the intactness, in particular the plan, form and interiors of this timber and iron building.
Criterion G:	As a premises which operated as a Post Office from 1870 until 1983, it has a strong association with the Cardwell community.



## History

### History

This single storeyed timber building was erected in 1870 as the Telegraph Office in Cardwell. Designed by the Colonial Works office, the Superintendent of Roads and Buildings at the time was Charles Tiffin. The contract for the building was let to George McCallum of Brisbane. Records indicate that the building was prefabricated in Brisbane and shipped to Cardwell where it was erected on the present site. It is considered to be one of the earliest examples of prefabricated post office buildings, reflecting the need to erect substantial Government buildings in remote settlements where structures were otherwise relatively unsophisticated. The Cardwell town reserve was proclaimed in July 1864, and Cardwell was settled with a great deal of confidence and Government support for its future role in the development of North Queensland, as it had a deep, sheltered harbour. A substantial government infrastructure was established in Cardwell, including a pilot's quarters, police barracks and lockup, customs house and sub-collector's residence, lands office, and telegraph station, which reflected this enthusiasm. A Post Office was opened in Cardwell in 1864, the first Post Master also officiating as the District Registrar, Sub Collector of Customs, Clerk of Petty Sessions and Harbour Master. The telegraph office and the police station were among a group of government buildings erected on Section 42 of the town reserve, also referred to as the Government reserve. Tenders were called for the erection of a telegraph office in Cardwell in October 1869, and the office opened in 1870. A combined post and telegraph office was established soon after, and the majority of Post Masters from 1870-1893 were employees of the Electric Telegraph Department. It was made an official post office in 1893, as part of a state-wide move to make official all post offices at telegraph offices. The erection of a telegraph office in Cardwell coincided with the expansion of the telegraph service in Queensland. The establishment of a telegraph line from Bowen to the Gulf of Carpentaria was considered desirable for two main reasons; to serve the settlers in the area, and there was the possibility of joining the proposed overseas cable from Java. The telegraph line reached Cardwell in December 1869. Tenders had been called in September 1869 for the erection of telegraph lines from Cardwell to Gibberton and then to the Gulf of Carpentaria, and the two sections were completed in 1871 and 1872 respectively. Although the overseas cable joined the South Australia Overland Telegraph line at Darwin in 1872, the line from Cardwell successfully served the settlers in the Gulf region. The port of Cardwell never developed into an important port for North Queensland, as access between the harbour and the hinterland was obstructed by the mountain range to the west of the town. Townsville became the principal access point for inland travel, and rapidly bypassed Cardwell in growth and development. The configuration of the building with four core rooms and detached kitchen was the most common form of timber telegraph/post office buildings in the nineteenth century. The Cardwell office appears to have been the first of approximately thirty buildings erected in this form during the period 1869-1885. The design of the building required adaptation to suit the tropical climatic conditions. The timber shingles on the roof rotted, and by 1890 had been covered with iron. In 1904 the shingles were removed and iron roof replaced. The building had been constructed on low stumps without ant caps, and had been infested with termites by the 1890s. Renovation of the building in 1897 included the replacement of some floorboards and restumping the building on higher stumps with ant caps. A chimney and fireplace erected as part of the original building were removed. The verandahs were progressively enclosed to include a bedroom, bathroom, and extension of the office. The original detached kitchen appears to

have been demolished and replaced by a larger kitchen by 1896. The kitchen was linked via a covered walkway to the main building by 1904. The post office was made an unofficial post office in 1966, and sold by the Commonwealth Government in 1967. It was acquired by Mr Bill Wilson, a former Cardwell Post Master, and it continued to serve as an unofficial post office until c1983 when a new post office was opened in Cardwell. The building has been used as residence in recent years and was acquired by the present owners in 1988.

**Description**  
Description

The former Cardwell Post Office is located on the southern corner of Victoria Street, the main street of Cardwell, and Balliol Street opposite the foreshore fronting the entrance to Hinchinbrook Channel. It is part of a precinct of government buildings, including the former Shire Hall, Police Station and residence, former Court House, CWA building and Cardwell State School. The building is a single-storeyed timber structure, consisting of four rooms with a central corridor, surrounded by verandahs to all four sides with a kitchen house at the rear connected by an enclosed walkway. The building has a hipped corrugated iron roof, with a break in pitch to the verandahs. There are some concrete stumps, but most are of timber. The northeast verandah, and much of the northwest, has been enclosed with corrugated fibrous cement sheeting and has both timber sash and aluminium sliding windows. The western verandah corner is enclosed with chamferboard, part of the southeast has also been enclosed with chamferboard to form a bathroom, and the other verandahs have been enclosed with glass louvres and fibrous cement sheeting. The kitchen house is of single-skin chamferboard with sash windows and a hipped corrugated iron roof. The single-skin building has weatherboard to the verandah walls with beaded horizontal boarding to the inside face of the two northeast rooms. Internal walls have vertical boarding and tie rods have been inserted connecting the top plates of opposite walls. Ceilings are boarded, with the outer edge being raked to the walls. Doors are timber panelled, with the front and back doors having glass fanlights. The northern room was used as the post office and retains some early timber fixtures including shelving and drawers. This room has a counter, with a timber battened panel above, opening to the enclosed northern corner verandah. The eastern room has a large louvred window in the northeast wall, and a timber fireplace surround attached to the southeast wall over an enclosed doorway. Both rear rooms have tall casement windows, and verandahs have unlined ceilings. A Coconut Palm is located at the northern corner of the site, another Palm is to the west of the building, and a Mango tree is at the south of the site. The property has a timber post and rail fence with wire infill to both street frontages. A weatherboard toilet is located to the south, and a timber tankstand with concrete stumps is located to the northwest, of the kitchen house. A Telecom Substation adjoins the southwest boundary.

**Element**

Element Name	Cardwell Post Office - Residence (former)
Designer Name	Colonial Architect's Office
Design Period	Late 19th century (1870s - 1890s)
Builder Name	McCallum, George
Construction Period	1870 - 1870
Construction Method	Pre-fabricated
Fabric (Exterior Structure)	Timber + weatherboard
Fabric (Roof)	Metal sheeting - corrugated iron

Roof Form

Hipped

Place Components

Kitchen/Kitchen house

Post & Telegraph Office

Trees/Plantings

Residential accommodation - post master's house/quarters

Fence/Wall - perimeter

Counter

Toilet block/Earth closet/Water closet

Tank stand

### Images



Description

3. (Former) Cardwell Post Office - Residence\_2009

Media Author

Pat Hodgson

Media Date

01/06/2009

Copyright

DERM



Description:	4. (Former) Cardwell Post Office - Residence_2009.
Media Author:	Pat Hodgson
Media Date:	01/06/2009
Copyright:	DERM

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Last updated: 04 April 2011

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## **Place No. 7 - Cardwell School of Arts**

**Place Name:** Cardwell School of Arts  
**Address:** 2 Balliol Street, Cardwell  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 2 RP718979

### **Heritage significance**

The Cardwell School of Arts is important in showing how the Cardwell community responded to its cultural needs in the past.

### **History**

The School of Arts building was built in 1922 on Balliol Street, facing the Cardwell Post Office.

School of Arts were established in communities where the local community joined with a State government department or agency to drive the construction of a school of arts building and set up the administration committee. The Innisfail Memorial School of Arts was established in 1930, the Cairns School of Arts was established in 1886 and the Babinda School of Arts was established in 1915. By 1894 there were 46 Schools of Arts in Queensland.

The building has had a variety of uses over the years. The CWA held meetings in the building until they moved to their current location in 1929. The RSL have also used the building at times and Sunday school was held there. During the Second World War, the building was used by the armed forces.

In the 1950s, the building was used for night school classes and community meetings. In the mid 1950s, the building was used as a library, and this use for the building continued until 1988 when the library was opened in the Cardwell Divisional Board Building.

The School of Arts program in Queensland was phased out from 1960 when an Act of parliament was passed providing for the winding up of the School of Arts program. From this date, any remaining Schools of Arts were taken over by the local Council, if this had not already occurred.

The Cardwell School of Arts building was moved to the Cardwell Sportsground in the late 1980s. At the sportsground, the building was used for a variety of community uses such as the clubhouse for the Fishing and Judo Clubs.

In 2009, the building was moved to its current location, which is within 25 metres of where it was originally located. The building has also been reorientated, with the front entrance of the building facing the adjacent library rather than the street.

### **Description**

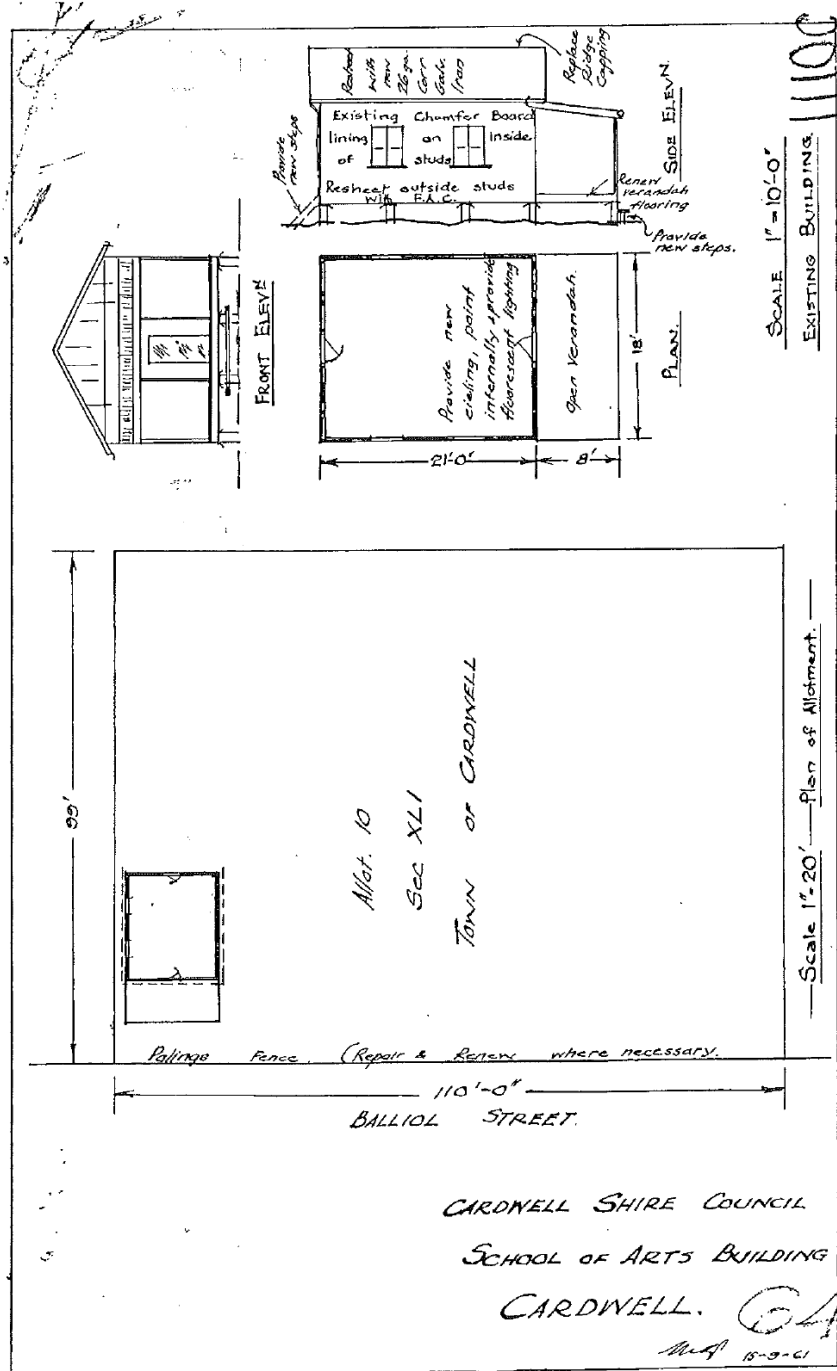
The Cardwell School of Arts building is a small rectangular shaped timber building measuring 8.32 metres x 5.22 metres, with a 1.22 metre x 1.6 metre covered porch.

A new awning was added to the building following Cyclone Yasi in 2011. The building also now includes a ramp to allow disabled access.

While the building appears to have largely retained its original form, many of the original building materials have been replaced with newer materials over the years.

Images





## References

- Ihle, C. *Personal Communication*, 22 June 2009.
- Pedley, H. *School of Arts Building, Cardwell*, 2005.
- Pedley, H. *School of Arts Building, Cardwell*, 2006.

## **Place No. 8 - Cardwell Station Building**

**Place Name:** Cardwell Station Building  
**Address:** Bowen Street, Cardwell  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 193 SP121989

### **Heritage significance**

The Cardwell station building is significant as Cardwell was one of the last settlements to be linked by rail on the North Coast route beyond Townsville.

It is also an unusual combination of a small precast concrete station building with a curved platform shade characteristic of far North Coast Railway architecture.

### **History**

Cardwell has its origins in the establishment of a port at Rockingham Bay in 1864. It was one of the last settlements to be connected with the North Coast Railway between Cairns and Townsville, the sections Lilypond to Cardwell and Feluga to Cardwell being opened on 10 December 1924.

The passenger station, refreshment rooms and goods shed were all built in 1924 and quarters were added the following year.

The complex was at its most extensive in the 1960s, incorporating a loading bank, cattle yard and elevated pontoon tanks. However all of these elements have now been removed.

The Cardwell railway station was closed in January 1998 and the Station Building remains unused. In 2003, a new platform structure and associated toilet block were erected and the Station reopened for limited use. The new platform and toilet block are adjacent to the Station Building, however they do not form part of the Cardwell Station Building for the purposes of this heritage register.

### **Description**

The Cardwell Station Building is a standard design E6 series precast concrete building. The platform shed has a curved roof semi-cantilevered and strutted timber frame design which is characteristic of the far north coastal station buildings. There is an open waiting room with bench seats, a ticket window and concrete floor tiles. The Station Building includes an office and a female toilet.



## Images



## References

Buchanan Architects, *North Coast Line - Townsville to Cairns - Section 2 - Survey of Individual Places*, 2002.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, *Statewide Heritage Survey Information*, 2011.

## **Place No. 9 - Coral Sea Battle Memorial Park**

**Place Name:** Coral Sea Battle Memorial Park  
**Address:** 2 Coral Sea Drive, Cardwell, Cardwell  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 51 CWL3583

### **Heritage significance**

The Coral Sea Battle Memorial Park is a living memorial to the men and women connected to the Coral Sea Battle and enshrines the high regard held for the gallant men and women who courageously defended Australia against Japanese invasion during World War II. The Park is unique for its closeness to the site of the battle and the ships lying sunk on the seabed 500 miles to the east of Cardwell

### **History**

The Battle of the Coral Sea was the first naval battle where surface ships did not exchange a shot. All losses were inflicted by carrier-based aircraft. The success of the allied troops in this battle ultimately resulted in the Japanese abandoning plans to invade Port Moresby. Invasion of Port Moresby would have provided the Japanese with a base to stage attacks and an invasion on Australian soil.

The Coral Sea Battle Memorial Park was established by Cardwell Shire Council and opened by the Government of Queensland's Sir James Ramsay on 29 March 1984.

### **Description**

The main feature of the Coral Sea Battle Memorial Park is a memorial garden with plaque wall commemorating the Coral Sea Battle. There are also some memorials to individuals and to shipwrecks, plane crashes and particular units that were involved in the battle of Coral Sea. The involvement of US forces is also commemorated.

The plaque wall contains the following words:

*"The Coral Sea Battle Memorial Park commemorates the Coral Sea battle during WWII when American and Allied forces defeated the Japanese in an air and sea battle to save Australia. It is also a lasting memorial and those who lost their lives defending this nation."*

Images









## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Pedley, H, *Coral Sea Battle*, 1997.

## **Place No. 10 - Graves**

**Place Name:** Graves  
**Address:** Meunga Creek Caravan Park, 12 Ellerbeck Road, Cardwell  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 5 RP745421

### **Heritage significance**

The Graves are the final resting place of John Murray and 2 of his children and are important for recognising and commemorating the contributions of Inspector John Murray in maintaining law and order in the early days of Cardwell.

### **History**

John Murray was born on 23 February 1827 at "George Field", Langholme, Dumfriesshire, Scotland.

John Murray joined the Native Police as Lieutenant on 17 February 1852. John Murray served in this position in Traylan, followed by Port Curtis, Rockhampton, Coopers Plains and then Port Curtis again before being sent to Cardwell in 1865. Having by then reached the rank of Inspector, John Murray was sent to the Cardwell district to enquire into and report on the desertion of 2 detachments of troopers who served under the previous police Lieutenant. He was withdrawn after a few months but later returned to resume police duties. The troop he led was located on the southern bank of Attie Creek, a tributary of Meunga Creek.

In 1858, John Murray married Rachel Little, who was born in South Africa. They were married at "Rosedale", which was the Little family property located in the Port Curtis district. They had 7 children, with only 5 reaching maturity.

In 1870, John Murray resigned from the Native Police and established a property on the southern bank of Meunga Creek, above the present Bruce Highway. He named this property 'Kirtleton'.

Upon the death of John Murray on 30 July 1876, he was buried on his property Kirtleton. He was buried beside 2 of his children. His daughter, Elizabeth Mary died on 25 May 1871 at age 2. His son, Robert Reid Murray, died on 7 September 1871 aged 5 weeks.

The headstones on the graves of John, Elizabeth and Robert Murray remain in their original location within what is now the Meunga Creek Caravan Park.

His wife and remaining children moved to back to Rosedale after his death.

### **Description**

The Graves comprise 2 headstones marking the graves of John Murray and 2 of his children.

John Murray died on 30 July 1876 when he was 49 years old. The 2 children buried beside him are Elizabeth Mary Murray who died on 25 May 1872 aged 2 years old, and Robert Reid Murray who died on 7 September 1874 aged 5 weeks.



Images







## **References**

Author unknown, *Book 3. The 5<sup>th</sup> offspring Sub-Inspector John Murray*, date unknown.

Pedley, H. *The Old Lock-Up and Police Buildings, Cardwell*, 2001.

## **Place No. 11 - Stone Bridge, Dalrymple Gap Track**

**Place Name:** Stone Bridge, Dalrymple Gap Track  
**Address:** Valley of Lagoons Road, Cardwell  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 BRDGE25  
**Coordinates:** Easting: 402685 Northing: 7965362

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A



# Queensland Government

## Stone Bridge, Dalrymple Gap Track

### Place Details

Place ID	600393
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	Stone Bridge, Dalrymple Gap Track
Place Classification	Built
Place Category	Transport - Road
Place Type	Bridge - road
Themes	5 Moving goods, people and information / 5.2 Using draught animals
Register Entry Date	21/10/1992

### Location

Address	Valley of Lagoons Road
Town / Suburb	CARDWELL
Post Code	4816
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	1860s (fabric) 1865-1872 (historical main period of use of road)
Criterion A	The Stone Bridge, a culvert on the early dray road over Dalrymple's Gap, is important in illustrating the early development of this area in the mid-1860s when the connection of pastoral properties on the Tableland with the coast and the establishment of a port were vital to permit development. The bridge has an association with the life and work of George Dalrymple an early explorer in North Queensland.
Criterion B	It is rare as the oldest remaining stone bridge/culvert in Queensland and the earliest surviving civil engineering work in mainland North Queensland.
Criterion D	The bridge remains substantially intact, and is an excellent example of mid-19th century culvert construction in difficult terrain.
Criterion E	The place has aesthetic value, and the picturesque scenery made accessible to the visitor by the establishment of the road in 1864-65, has been admired since the earliest days of European settlement, being a popular site for picnics in the 1870s.

### History

History	The stone and brick culvert near Dalrymple Gap, south of Cardwell, was constructed in late 1864/early 1865, and is understood to have been part of the first major civil engineering work undertaken in North Queensland: the construction of the Dalrymple Gap Track linking Cardwell to its hinterland and the Valley of Lagoons on the upper Burdekin River. In 1863, explorer George Elphinstone Dalrymple, in partnership with Arthur and Walter Scott, had taken up the Valley of Lagoons-run, which was separated from the coast by two densely forested mountain ranges - the eastern range now known as Cardwell Range, and the Inner Seaview Range. Early in 1864 Dalrymple, with Queensland government sanction though not
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funding, sailed from Port Denison (Bowen) to Rockingham Bay/Port Hinchinbrook, where he established a settlement to be named Cardwell, then turned his attention to finding a dray route west to the interior and the Valley of Lagoons. After an initial unsuccessful attempt to penetrate the Cardwell Range near Meunga Creek, Dalrymple discovered an Aboriginal path leading directly to what became known as Dalrymple Gap, between Mount Leach and Mount Arthur Scott, about 10 miles south of the settlement at Port Hinchinbrook. Beyond lay the Herbert River valley, and beyond this the Seaview Range, which was crossed with considerable difficulty to reach the Valley of Lagoons on the Burdekin. On their return journey, Dalrymple's party cleared, and in parts formed, a rough dray track to the coast. In the second half of 1864, the Queensland government allocated £2,000 to fund further work on the road. In late 1864, a government road party was dispatched to Cardwell. On arrival, Dalrymple proceeded with Mr Conlan, the road party overseer, to mark out the route to be formed through Dalrymple's Gap to the Vale of Herbert station, reducing the length of road from 36 miles to 28 miles. Mr Conlan and party then worked on the ascent of Dalrymple Gap on the coast side. The western side of the route was let out in three sections, each of 1½ miles, to hasten completion of the project. By 20 January 1865, the government road party had completed a road of easy gradient from the bottom to the top of the pass on the coast side. It is probable that the bridge was constructed during this period, because Dalrymple reported in a letter of 22 February 1865 that work on the road would be completed by the end of March, including the felling of timber, removal of obstructions, and crossings of creeks made, including the construction of 'substantial culverts' where necessary. The Dalrymple Gap Track had its heaviest use in the period 1864-1872. In the late 1860s and early 1870s pastoralists and sugar-growers took up the Herbert River valley, and by early 1871 nearly 100 people were resident on the Herbert. A bridle track was found from the Herbert to Cardwell via Cardwell Gap (then Victoria Pass), which subsequently was formed into a dray road. After this opened in October 1872 there was little need for the much steeper route over Dalrymple Gap, although Cardwell Divisional Board funded occasional maintenance work until the early 1890s. The Queensland Forest Service has managed the Dalrymple Gap Track since 1987. Most of the track, including the stone bridge/culvert, was included within the Lumholtz National Park gazetted in 1992. It remains a popular bushwalking track. The bridge underwent conservation work in 2001.

**Description**

Description

The stone bridge on the Dalrymple Gap Track is situated on the eastern side of Cardwell Range approximately 200 metres from Dalrymple's Gap, on the old road between Cardwell and the Valley of Lagoons. It traverses the deep, narrow valley of Dampier Creek, at about the 300 metres contour, and in form is a brick-lined culvert set in a stonework embankment. The embankment measures approximately 6 metres wide at the top [the road surface] by 20 metres long, and is 5.5 metres high on the upstream side and 7 metres high on the downstream side. It is constructed of stone rubble and soft mortar, and has a single circular conduit of approximately 1.5 metres in diameter to carry water under the roadway during the wet season. This conduit is lined with a double layer of bricks.

**Element**

Element Name

Stone Bridge, Dalrymple Gap Track

Design Period

Mid-19th century (1840s - 1860s)

Construction Period

1864 - 1865

Construction Method	Coursed stone - rubble
Fabric (Exterior Structure)	Stone
Place Components	Culvert - stream Embankment - road

#### Images



Description	1. Stone Bridge, Dalrymple Gap Track
Media Author	
Media Date	
Copyright	DERM



Description 2, Stone Bridge, Dalrymple Gap Track  
Media Author  
Media Date  
Copyright DERM

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Last updated: 04 April 2011

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## **Place No. 12 - Walters Jervoise Scott Memorial**

**Place Name:** Walters Jervoise Scott Memorial  
**Address:** 145 Victoria Street, Cardwell  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 79 C1046

### **Heritage significance**

The Walters Jervoise Scott Memorial is a permanent reminder of the part that Walter Jervoise Scott played in the beginnings of Cardwell and the Herbert River District.

### **History**

Walter Jervoise Scott was born in England on 2 April 1835 and arrived in Australia in 1862. Scott, 2 of his brothers and other shareholders took up the land called the Valley of Lagoons in 1863. By 1864, 25,000 sheep and cattle were being pastured on the station.

The Valley of Lagoons station was located over the Cardwell Ranges, inland from Cardwell. George Elphinstone Dalrymple, a stakeholder in the Station, led the landing party to Cardwell in 1864 to establish an outlet for the Station.

Scott died on 28 June 1890 aged 55 from a heart condition at the Valley of Lagoons station and was buried there at the place called Pelican Lake Station. Scott's family sent a headstone made from Aberdeen Granite from Scotland to be placed on his grave. The stone was too heavy for the bullocks to pull up and over the Dalrymple Gap Track to the Station, so it was left in Cardwell. Another smaller stone was sent from Scotland and placed on his grave.

The original stone was placed in front of the Anglican Church where it remains at the present time.

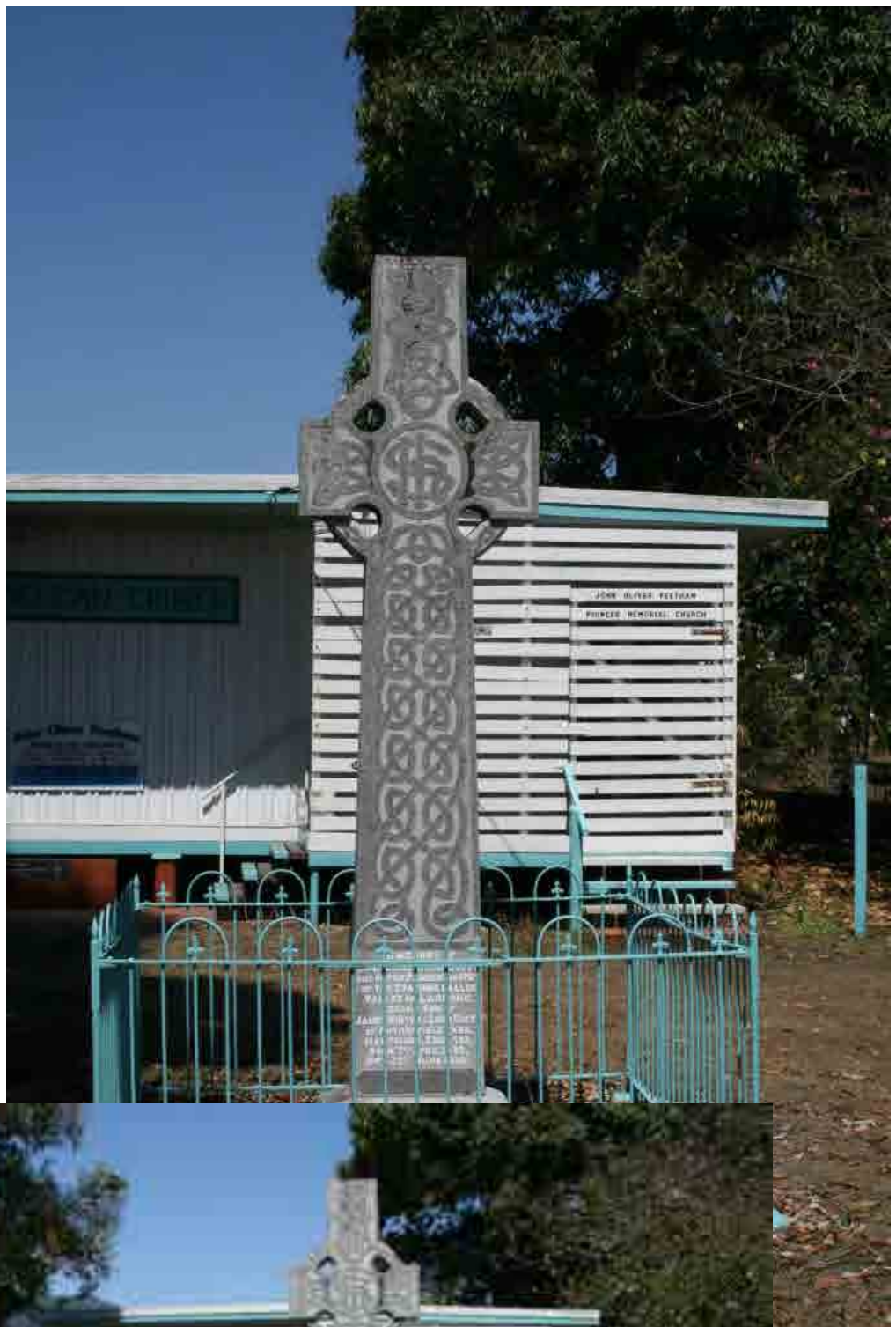
### **Description**

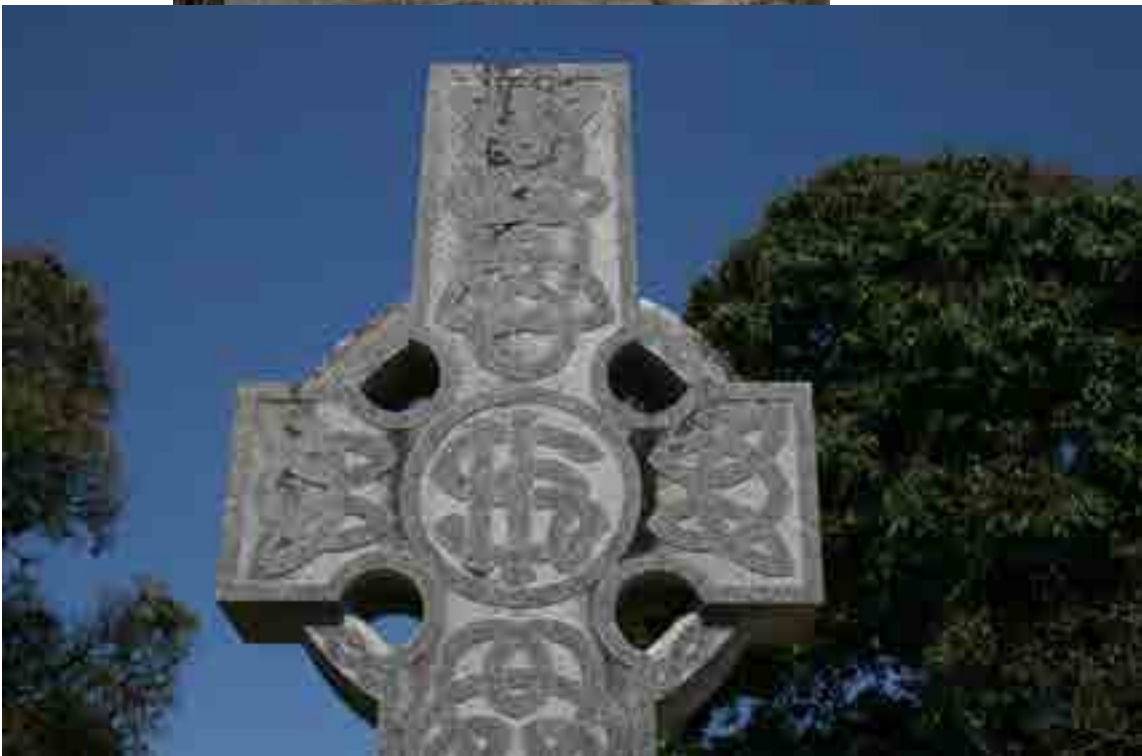
A dressed marble stone memorial cross 4 metres high x 0.6 metres x 0.3 metres. The memorial cross is mounted in a 1 metre x 0.5 metre concrete plinth immediately adjacent to the highway within the front yard of the Anglican Church.

The memorial reads:

*"In memory of Walter Jervoise Scott. One of the Pioneers in 1864 of the Stations called Valley of Lagoons. Second son of James Winter & Lucy Scott of Rotherfield Park, Hampshire, England. Born 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1835, Died 29<sup>th</sup> June 1890."*

Images





## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Island Coast News, *From the Past: Scott's Stone*, Issue 5, July 1995.

Pedley, H. *A Survey of the Cardwell Cemetery*, 1988.

## Place No. 13 - North Johnstone River Bridge

**Place Name:** North Johnstone River Bridge  
**Address:** North of the end of Old Ferry Road, Daradgee  
**Coordinates:** X: 146° 0' 35.79552" Y: -17° 29' 38.740164"  
Datum GDA 94

### Heritage significance

The North Johnstone River Bridge provided a major river crossing between Innisfail and Cairns and was the last structure built to complete the North Coast Railway line between Brisbane and Cairns. It was also the site of the official opening celebrations for the whole line.

The bridge is significant in engineering terms for having the longest riveted through Pratt truss spans in Queensland until 1957 when the Inkerman Bridge over the Burdekin River at Home Hill was completed.

### History

In 1910 the *North Coast Railways Act* was passed which authorised the construction of additional railway to link Brisbane and Cairns along the east coast. Prior to that, the line from Brisbane only ran to Rockhampton.

The last section of this railway link to be completed was Innisfail to Babinda, with the very last structure of the whole route the bridge over the Johnstone River at Daradgee.

In September 1922, construction of the bridge over the North Johnstone River commenced.

In December 1924, the bridge was completed by floating the main spans into position, and opened for traffic in time for the official opening of the North Coast line at the site. The official opening of the North Coast Railway line took place at Daradgee on 8 December 1924 when Premier Theodore opened the regulator to allow the first train to officially cross the bridge.

Modifications were carried out to the portal and sway bracing in 1977-1978.

## **Description**

The bridge is a single straight track constructed of steel/cast iron/concrete with through Pratt trusses of a 61 metre maximum span.

The truss girder spans are supported on 1 concrete pier, 3 cylinder piers, 1 concrete abutment, 1 timber abutment and 2 timber piers.

The maximum span of the bridge is 61 metres and its total length is 158.5 metres.

The bridge retains its original piers and spans with bracing modified for electrification.

The main span of this bridge was the largest Pratt truss span of any rail bridge in Queensland at the time of its construction (200 feet in 1924).

Images







## **References**

Buchanan Architects, *North Coast Line - Townsville to Cairns - Section 1 - Introduction, History, Compliance Issues: A report for QR*, 2002.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, *Statewide Heritage Survey Information*, 2011.



## **Place No. 14 - Banfield Memorial Reserve and Grave**

**Place Name:** Banfield Memorial Reserve and Grave  
**Address:** Dunk Island  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 15 CWL2387

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A



Queensland Government

### Banfield Memorial Reserve and Grave

#### Place Details

Place ID:	602755
Registration Type:	State Heritage
Place Name:	Banfield Memorial Reserve and Grave
Place Classification:	Built
Place Category:	Burial Ground
Place Type:	Cairn
Themes:	2 Exploiting, utilising and transforming the land / 2.6 Protecting and conserving the environment 1 Peopling places / 1.4 Family and marking the phases of life 2 Exploiting, utilising and transforming the land / 2.9 Valuing and appreciating the environment and landscapes
Register Entry Date:	06/08/2010

#### Location

Town / Suburb:	DUNK ISLAND
LGA:	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

#### Cultural Significance

Criterion A	<p>Banfield Memorial Reserve and Grave is located on Dunk Island, which lies within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The place memorialises Queensland naturalist Edmund James Banfield (1852-1923), the first European settler on Dunk Island and a nationally and internationally renowned author whose work to protect the indigenous flora and fauna of the Family Islands group (of which Dunk Island is a part) is important to the early evolution of nature conservation in Queensland. His contribution to what today may be called early 'eco tourism' is equally valuable. Both his grave (1923), marked by a cairn made of local stone, and the reserve around it (created in 1971), which was part of his former selection and now supports the rainforest habitat he so eloquently recorded in his renowned books, are memorials to Banfield and his drive to protect the natural environment.</p>
Criterion H	<p>The memorial reserve and grave has a special association with E] Banfield (1852-1923), who contributed significantly to our understanding of tropical environments and habitats between 1897 and 1923, as well as regarding the Aboriginal Traditional Owners of the Family Islands before they were removed to various Queensland mission settlements in the early twentieth century. His published accounts of Dunk Island's natural and cultural environment established his reputation as a committed naturalist who contributed to the development of early nature reserves in far north Queensland, and became texts celebrated by romantics, escapists, naturalists and scientists. His work inspired national and international naturalists, artists and authors to travel to north Queensland, particularly to the islands of the Great Barrier Reef, and to work or conduct further research in the area.</p>

#### History

Situated on Dunk Island in far north Queensland, the grave was made in 1923 for the remains of the renowned author and naturalist, EJ or Ted Banfield. The cairn erected over it soon after and the memorial reserve established around it in 1971, honour the man popularly known as 'The Beachcomber' for his set of internationally successful books about its native flora and fauna. In the early twentieth century Banfield made a significant contribution to the conservation of not only Dunk Island but the entire Family Islands group situated off the coast from Mission Beach, of which it is a part, as well as popularising a particular kind of tourism in this part of the Great Barrier Reef that would later be termed eco-tourism. Edmund (Ted) James Banfield was born on 4 September 1852 in Liverpool, England. His family emigrated to Australia in 1858 after his father found a job printing a news-sheet on the Ararat goldfields in Victoria. Ted Banfield eventually followed his father into journalism, but his particular passions were the study of nature and reading. He was strongly influenced by the writings of Henry David Thoreau (1817 - 1862), an American philosopher, essayist and poet whose most famous book was *Walden or Life in the Woods* published in 1854 and whose best known essay was *On the Duty of Civil Disobedience* first published in 1849. Thoreau became well known for his ideas about living close to nature and developing self-reliance within it, as well as those pertaining to the deficiencies of state power. Banfield later credited his reading of Thoreau's work with giving him the impetus to search out new experiences. In 1882, after working at newspapers in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth, Banfield accepted a job as sub-editor of the *Townsville Daily Bulletin*. This position brought him into contact with prominent north Queensland separationists such as Robert Philp, Thomas Hollis Hopkins and Thankful Willmetts. He became a passionate supporter of the separation movement and dedicated much of his own time to writing supportive editorials. In 1884 he travelled to England to seek specialist medical treatment for an eye injured in childhood. To pay for his fare with the British-India Steam Navigation Company he wrote a series, entitled 'Homeward Bound', of seven articles promoting the northern sea route to England via the Torres Strait. While in England Banfield met Bertha Golding, who in 1886 emigrated to Townsville where they married. Banfield continued his support of the north Queensland separation movement through the organisation of fund-raising functions; however during the 1890s his health deteriorated. To aid his recuperation, in 1896 the Banfields camped with friends on Dunk Island, the most northerly of the Family Islands group off Mission Beach. His renewed strength from this experience inspired him to look for a home among the Family Islands group, finally settling on Dunk Island where in September he leased a small area for 30 years at a nominal annual rental. Diagnosed as tubercular and suffering nervous collapse, Banfield resigned from the North Queensland Newspaper Co. and he and his wife moved to the island on 26 September 1897, initially for a six month trial. They and a manservant were the only Europeans in residence on the island; camping in tents and later clearing a small portion of land for a prefabricated hut and a plantation. With greatly improved health Banfield settled into improving the property, constructing a home using timber obtained from the Cutten Brothers timber mill at Bingil Bay on the mainland, and planting sprouting coconuts to form a long avenue of palms from the house down to the beach. On 4 January 1900 he applied for and was granted a selection of 320 acres on the western side of Dunk Island. When the selection was surveyed in mid-1899 improvements already comprised a house within a fenced yard, overlooking Brammo Bay to the north-west, and five other structures including a hut and fowl house. To the south of the house was a large swamp; to the north and surrounded by dense scrub there was a cleared cultivation area with coconut palms. In 1905

improvements to the property were valued at £390, and comprised: an iron-roofed, timber-clad house with wooden floors and detached kitchen with thatched roofed; a laundry clad and floored with hardwood; an iron-roofed storehouse with a hardwood frame and flooring; a stockyard; a goat and fowl shed; an extent of post and wire fencing and wire netting; 95 citrus trees; and six acres of land cleared for cultivation. From early 1896 Banfield kept a daily record of his life on Dunk Island. He observed the rhythms of the island, paying particular attention to the indigenous flora and fauna and to the way the local Aborigines interacted with the environment. The Bandjiri and Djiru people were the traditional owners of the Family Islands, and Banfield developed a close relationship with them, observing their customs and way of life, and learning from them about the island habitat. He also recorded the Aboriginal names for various features, places, flora and fauna on the island and commissioned a survey plan of the island marked with this nomenclature. His recording of these details was particularly timely, as the local Aboriginal population was removed to missions in the early twentieth century (possibly the Hull River Settlement before 1916, and then to Palm Island). Sir Matthew Nathan, Governor of Queensland from December 1920 to September 1925, took an interest in Banfield's work on Dunk Island. Nathan had a particular interest in the study of the Great Barrier Reef, as well as local history and the origin of place names in Queensland and was involved from 1922 in the planning, organisation and financing of the British Great Barrier Reef expedition of 1928 to 1929. Banfield began to focus on protecting distinct bird habitats and this concern for birds prompted him to write to Robert Philp, premier of Queensland from 1899 to 1903 and from 1907 to 1908, and propose that the Family Islands be declared a sanctuary for them. He offered to support this proposal by assuming the role of Honorary Warden of the Isles in order to uphold the aims of the Native Birds Protection Act 1877, as discussed in the 1983 book *A Different Drummer: The Story of EJ Banfield, Beachcomber of Dunk Island* by M Noonan. The islands were proclaimed a Reserve for the Protection and Preservation of Native Birds on 10 May 1905, and Banfield was gazetted as Honorary Ranger on 24 June 1905. Banfield maintained a steady writing schedule, documenting his experiences and observations, and selling publications to supplement his meagre income. In addition to articles promoting the separation movement, he also wrote *Within the Barrier: Tourist Guide to the North Queensland Coast* which was commissioned by the Queensland Government and published in 1907 by Thankful Willmetts and Sons. In 1908 he published *Confessions of a Beachcomber* which proved to be his most successful work and was translated widely (St Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 1994). Part diary, anthropological study, natural science notebook and homage to the island, *Confessions* was dubbed a 'classic for naturalists' by *Nature* magazine and Banfield became widely known as 'The Beachcomber'. He wrote three other books that focused on Dunk Island: *My Tropic Isle* (London: Fisher Unwin, 1911); *Tropic Days* (New York: Brentano's, 1919) and *Last Leaves from Dunk Island* (Sydney: Angus and Robertson, 1925), which was published posthumously in 1925 and edited by naturalist Alexander Hugh Chisholm, publisher and author of many books on Australia's flora and fauna between 1922 and 1966. *Last Leaves* contained detailed observations about the impact of the devastating 1918 cyclone on the island and surrounding area. Many of the writing contained in these books had been published as articles in the *Townsville Daily Bulletin*, the *North Queensland Register* and the *Queensland Geographical Journal*. At the time of his death due to appendicitis in 1923, at the age of 70, Banfield was a well known author, his passing being reported in *The Argus* and the *Sydney Morning Herald*. At the 1929 Australian Writers Festival, Chisholm noted that

Banfield's work had 'won a chorus of posthumous approval from every part of the world'. His writings captured the imagination of artists, naturalists, recluses and tourists both in Australia and internationally - many of whom visited the island both during his lifetime (including the Australian Governor-General Ronald Munro Ferguson and his wife Lady Helen Munro Ferguson in 1920), and after his death. Spenser McTaggart Hopkins, the son of separatist Thomas Hollis Hopkins, buried Banfield on his Dunk Island section, on elevated ground north of the house, and erected a cairn over the grave. He also commissioned a marble tablet for the cairn, inscribed with a quote from Thoreau. Bertha Banfield lived for another ten years, spending her time between Townsville and Victoria. When she died in 1933, Spenser Hopkins placed her ashes by her husband's grave and added a second tablet to the cairn. The grave has remained intact on Dunk Island despite changing ownership and land use. After Banfield's death his Dunk Island property was transferred to his wife Bertha Banfield, then in 1931 to her and Spenser McTaggart Hopkins as tenants in common, and after Bertha's death, to Hopkins as sole owner. During this period a manager was installed to oversee the increasing number of tourists visiting the island. Photographs from the 1920s indicate that the land between the house and the beach had been cleared; tent accommodation had been erected in the grounds; and cattle were being run on the property. In 1936 the non-alienated parts of Dunk Island or about two thirds of its area, which Banfield had worked passionately to protect, was proclaimed as a reserve for national park and is now part of the Family Islands National Park. The remaining part of Dunk Island focussed on Brammo Bay to the north was developed as a tourist resort from the 1930s. Apparently a Captain Robert Brassey purchased the Banfield property in 1934 and by 1937 a number of small, prefabricated, low-set, fibrous-cement clad cottages had been constructed by the family on the grassed area between the Banfield house and the beach. Close to the beach a modest, semi-enclosed timber structure with a hipped roof of corrugated iron served as the hotel bar. During World War II the Royal Australian Air Force used these facilities and also constructed an airstrip, a radar station and swing bridge on the property. Title to 107 acres (43ha) at the northern end of Banfield's selection was transferred to Hugo Brassey (son of Capt. R Brassey) in 1948. From 1946 he had leased out the resort. In 1957 title to the property was acquired by Gordon and Kathleen Stynes, who refurbished the resort and upgraded the airstrip. In 1963-64, Avis Rent-A-Car took over the resort and began marketing the island to international tourists. During the 1970s P&O Resorts, through their company Great Barrier Reef Hotels Pty, and Trans Australian Airlines (TAA, later to become Australian Airlines) purchased and redeveloped the resort. The only structure known to survive from Banfield's time on the island is the cairn marking his grave and that of his wife. On 28 January 1971, an Order-in-Council gazetted a block of 47.9 perches (1212 sqm) of land surrounding Banfield's grave as a Reserve for Museum (Banfield Memorial) Purposes, with the University College of Townsville, later James Cook University, appointed as trustee. Mr Eric McIlree, Chairman and Managing Director of Avis Rent-a-Car had surrendered the land to the Crown, having had it surveyed in October 1967. Although various proposals to establish a museum as a tribute to Banfield's contribution to Australian literature and nature conservation were discussed, nothing has eventuated. The reserve remains under James Cook University trusteeship.

**Description**  
Description

Banfield's Grave is located within a clearing on a memorial museum reserve on Dunk Island, a small island which lies four kilometres off the east coast of far north Queensland opposite South Mission Beach.

The grave and its cairn are situated on elevated ground approximately 500 metres north-east of the main resort complex on Brammo Bay, between the current resort staff quarters and Gooortchur Creek (an Aboriginal place name translated as Trumpet Shell and listed in *Last Leaves from Dunk Island*). Promoted as an historic attraction, the grave site is accessed from the resort via a narrow inclining concrete path with supporting directional signage. The path, lined with dense vegetation, leads to a rainforest clearing that is roughly square-shaped in plan with the grave, marked by a cairn, situated in the centre. An old mango tree (which is evident in early photographs) is located to the south of the western approach. Earlier approaches from the north and east are no longer accessible. Within the clearing are four large ceramic plant pots in each of the corners, and two timber seats, which are not of cultural heritage significance. The cairn is constructed of random rubble and mortar in the shape of a rudimentary triangular prism with oyster and other shells embedded in the mortar. It is orientated east-west, with the apex inclined to the east. Two marble tablets are embedded in the eastern face. The tablet memorialising Edmund Banfield is rectangular in shape with a convex upper edge and is inscribed with his name, birth place and date, death place and date, and a quote from Henry David Thoreau, as follows: Edmund James Banfield The Beachcomber Born Liverpool, England, 4th September 1852 Died Dunk Island, 2nd June 1923 If a man does not keep pace with his companions perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears. Beneath this a rectangular memorial tablet for Bertha Banfield is inscribed as follows: Also Bertha Banfield Dearlly beloved and honoured wife Born at Liverpool 19th JanY 1858 Died 6th August 1933 Whither thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge — where thou diest, will I die and There will I be buried. Aligned with the eastern face of the cairn, and surrounding it on its north, south and west sides is a bed of white quartz pebbles contained within an edging of granite rocks. Adjacent to the eastern face of the cairn are two objects - a giant clam shell and a stone bowl. The bed and objects are not evident in early photographs and therefore not of cultural heritage significance. Beyond the clearing in which the cairn is located, the reserve is covered with dense rainforest re-growth.

#### Element

Element Name	Banfield Memorial Reserve and Grave
Construction Period	1923-1933
Fabric (Exterior Structure)	Stone

#### Images



Description	Cairn marking grave of renowned naturalist and author, Edmund James Banfield and his wife Bertha.
Media Author	Ray Supple
Media Date	15/05/2008
Copyright	DERM

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Last updated: 04 April 2011

## **Place No. 15 - El Arish Railway Station**

**Place Name:** El Arish Railway Station  
**Address:** Chauvel Street, El Arish  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 5 CP852253

### **Heritage significance**

The El Arish Railway Station formed an important part of the North Coast railway and was important for the movement of goods and people into and out of El Arish and across the Region. The people of El Arish relied upon the Railway Station for their local industries and it formed part the social fabric of the El Arish Township, joining the people of El Arish with other parts of the Region and the State.

The railway was a vital link for the pioneers of El Arish.

### **History**

The El Arish Railway Station was built in 1922, following the construction of the railway line through El Arish sometime around 1919. The first train came through the station in December 1923.

The Station was used as a working railway station until 1992 when it was closed by Queensland Rail. At the time, Queensland Rail considered moving the Station building up to the Tablelands, but lobbying by the local community saw the building donated to the community and moved away from the railway line. While the building remains on Queensland Rail land, it is owned by Council and has been turned so that the platform side of the building faces Chauvel Street.

Upon the closing of the railway station and the moving of the Station building, the building was used as a community centre until approximately 2000, at which time it was handed over to the El Arish Sport and Recreational Association Incorporated to manage. Up to the present time, it has been used for the base for the El Arish Historical Society and is now known as the El Arish History Station.

### **Description**

The El Arish Railway Station is a timber weatherboard building with new iron sheeting on its roof. It is a small lowset B4 (Northern) design with a curved platform shade characteristic of northern coastal line stations.

The original ticket office with sash-window ticket booth remains. The building has colonial sash windows and four panel doors made of silky oak.

The building has been turned around and been moved approximately 20 metres away from the railway line.

The building has been improved and modified over the years, with the building recently being painted blue-grey with maroon trim and new a balustrade added. An original seat from the Railway Station remains at what was the platform side of the building.



## Images



## References

Buchanan Architects, *North Coast Line - Townsville to Cairns - Section 2 - Survey of Individual Places*, 2002.

Carman, M and King, L, Personal Communication, 22 November 2012.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, *Statewide Heritage Survey Information*, 2011.

Jones, D, *Hurricane Lamps and Blue Umbrellas*, 1973.

## **Place No. 16 - El Arish Tavern**

**Place Name:** El Arish Tavern  
**Address:** 38 Chauvel Street, El Arish  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 & 2 E7294

### **Heritage significance**

The El Arish Tavern was built in 1927 and is a good example of an early wooden hotel in North Queensland. The building has been fully renovated and now displays a substantial range of memorabilia and antiques, including tools, equipment and furniture.

The Tavern forms part of El Arish's identity, having "always been there" and being a central part of the town's social interactions.

### **History**

The El Arish Tavern was built in 1927 by the Dear family.

The Dear family catered for the railway tea rooms and had a cane farm at Edmonton before relocating to El Arish. When they first moved to El Arish, the Dears ran the "Ranch", a dormitory for ballot holders where these returned soldiers could stay until they had built accommodation on their own land. The Ranch was opposite the railway station where the golf course is now. The Dear family then built a grocery store across the road from the tavern site on Ryrie Street, which subsequently became the town's first police station.

The Dear family built and moved into the Tavern upon selling the grocery store and it was originally named "Dear's El Arish Hotel".

Over the years, the building has always operated as a tavern/hotel.

### **Description**

The El Arish Tavern is located on the corner of Chauvel and Ryrie Streets, opposite the rail line and in close proximity to the El Arish Railway Station.

The El Arish Tavern is a classical timber Queenslander pub. The pub suffered considerable damage during Cyclone Larry in 2006, and has undergone substantial renovations. The balustrading on the verandah has been replaced and the facade is now fibro. The tavern has been repainted, and the colours have changed at least twice. New extensions and a possible residence are visible at the rear of the building.

Despite these renovations, the exterior of the building appears largely the same as when it was built. However, there have been some fairly substantial internal modifications.

## Images



*Image provided by the El Arish Historical Society*

## References

Carman, M and King, L, Personal Communication, 22 November 2012.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 17 - RSL Memorial Hall**

**Place Name:** RSL Memorial Hall  
**Address:** 17 Royston Street, El Arish  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 12 RP745957

### **Heritage significance**

The RSL Memorial Hall has special significance to the residents of El Arish, having been built for the people of El Arish by returned soldiers settling in the area, and has served as a focal point for community activities and interaction in the El Arish Township since it was built in 1930.

### **History**

The RSL Memorial Hall was built in 1930 and opened on 11 October 1930. The Hall was opened with a fancy dress ball, and the stage was still being finished the afternoon before the ball. The Hall was built by local builders using timber donated by local millers.

El Arish was established as a returned services settlement, with 75 original ballot holders registered in April 1922. The RSL Memorial Hall was built using funds levied from the proceeds of the local farmers' cane harvests. Almost all the local farmers were returned soldiers. Therefore, the Hall was truly a Hall built by and for returned soldiers, and has always been a RSL Memorial Hall.

Over the years, the Hall served as a central place for social functions and activities in El Arish. The Hall was also the base for the El Arish sub-branch of the RSL.

The Hall served as a movie theatre, regularly showing movies from some time before WWII until the last movie was screened in 1966.

The Hall became dilapidated in the 1970s and the RSL was faced with either demolishing the building or spending a significant amount of money on its restoration. The community successfully lobbied for it not to be demolished, and as a result the Hall was relinquished by the RSL and handed back to the community. It was at this time that the Hall's association with the RSL ended.

Significant renovations and restoration works were carried out on the hall in the early 1980s by the community to remedy the dilapidated state of the building upon its relinquishment by the RSL.

The building is located on a reserve which is held in trust for the El Arish community by 3 trustees who are all descendants of original ballot holders. The Hall is managed by the El Arish Sport and Recreational Association Incorporated, who are in the process of becoming the new trustees of the reserve.

The Hall is still regularly used as a community hall used for functions and events and serves a variety of purposes for the people of El Arish.

### **Description**

The building has been substantially modified over the years, including the replacement of the original timber façade with the existing tin one. However, the building appears to have largely maintained its original form.

In 1947 the western extension to the building was added and an eastern extension was added in 1983 when the eastern wall needed to be replaced. A new kitchen was also added during the extensive renovations

and restoration works carried out in the early 1980s, which replaced a small food preparation area located under the stage.

Images





*Society*

*Image provided by the El Arish Historical*

## **References**

Carman, M and King, L, Personal Communication, 22 November 2012.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 18 - Kennedy Camp Site VI**

**Place Name:** Kennedy Camp Site VI  
**Address:** Ellerbeck Road, Ellerbeck  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 4 RP746981

### **Heritage significance**

Kennedy Camp Site VI is important for commemorating the ill-fated expedition undertaken by Edmund Kenney in 1848. While the Kennedy expedition failed to reach its goal, the heroic story of endeavour has become legend.

### **History**

In 1848 the New South Wales government placed its assistant surveyor, Edmund Kennedy, in charge of an expedition to explore Cape York Peninsula.

Kennedy arrived at Tam O Shanter Point at the northern end of Rockingham Bay on 24 May 1848. He initially headed south and then west to skirt swamps close to the coast and passed between 1 and 2 miles north of the present site of Cardwell on 26 June 1848. In travelling south, the expedition crossed major watercourses, including the Hull, Tully and Murray Rivers. At each creek the group unloaded the carts and the dray, made a punt out of one cart and ferried the supplies across. The horses and sheep had to swim.

In his journal, Kennedy numbered his camp sites in sequence. His sixth camp (Camp VI) was at Meunga Creek, just north of what is now Cardwell. From here the expedition was finally able to turn north. At Camp VI, one of Kennedy's party, William Costigan, blazed and marked a tree with a "K". This "Kennedy Tree" was well known to Cardwell's early pioneers and was marked on early survey plans. The tree was felled during works on the Queensland Rail railway corridor, however it is believed to have been located within 300 metres of the Camp.

The inland track was hard going with boulders and hillocks, crossed by scrubby creeks and the expedition had to abandon the carts and dray.

Kennedy continued to head northward but the expedition was plagued with difficulties. After establishing a depot on the Pascoe River, Kennedy and 5 others, including an aboriginal man, left to reach Cape York where a relief ship was expected. The aboriginal man was the only person to survive the expedition, following a skirmish with local aboriginals that resulted in the killing of Kennedy and the others in his party.

Frank Jenkin donated one hectare of his property "Kirtleton" to Cardwell Shire Council in 1987. This land contains the area of Kennedy's Camp VI. The land was donated so it could serve as a permanent public memorial to Kennedy's expedition.

### **Description**

Kennedy Camp Site VI is located 100 metres north of Ellerbeck Road and 40 metres west of the railway line. The site comprises a mown clearing established next to a dirt track reported to be on the site where



Kennedy camped. The camp site is commemorated with a brass memorial plaque set on a piece of rock. The site is sign posted and contains a covered picnic table.

Images





## **References**

Cardwell Shire Council, *Centenary of Cardwell: 100 Years 1864-1964*, 1964.

Community Bi-Centennial Committee of the Shire of Cardwell, *The Original Concept: the Edmund Kennedy Memorial Walking Track*, date unknown.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, *Statewide Heritage Survey Information*, 2011.

## **Place No. 19 - Former Feluga Catholic Church**

**Place Name:** Former Feluga Catholic Church  
**Address:** 140 Feluga Road, Feluga  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 RP709276

### **Heritage significance**

The Former Feluga Catholic Church is important in demonstrating both the pattern of settlement associated with the growth of North Queensland's sugar industry and an aspect of the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Far North Queensland.

The Church illustrates how the growth of the North Queensland sugar industry during the interwar period generated prosperity in small communities, enabling parishioners to construct their places of worship in masonry, rather than the more usual timber.

The substantial, rendered masonry church remains largely intact and is a distinctive landmark with aesthetic qualities associated with its traditional Catholic Church features.

### **History**

Many of the early settlers of Feluga were of Irish origin. In the early days of Feluga, Mass was conducted by a visiting priest in a resident's home. When the Feluga Hall was constructed in 1926, this became the venue for Mass whenever a priest would visit.

As early as 1926, the local community started fund raising to build their own Church and fund raising was well under way by 1934. Local Bill Tynan donated a quarter acre of land for the Church and visiting priest, Father Gerard Toney from Innisfail, was an advocate for the establishment of a church in the area.

The Feluga farmers built the Church in 1935, using the variety of skills that they shared, including those of stone-mason and plasterer. Father Joseph Phelan from Cairns supervised the ferro-concrete construction.

The Feluga Catholic Church, dedicated to St Rita, was blessed and opened on 14 July 1935.

Mass was celebrated every other Sunday by the Tully priest who alternated visits between the Feluga and Lower Tully Churches.

The decision was made to close the Church in 1984. The upgrading of the Bruce Highway meant that it was easier for parishioners to attend Mass in Tully than for 2 priests to travel to the country churches for their own Mass. The final Mass was held on 25 November 1984. However, for some years the Church continued to be used for special celebrations such as weddings.

The Church was sold on 5 March 1992 and has since been converted into flats.

### **Description**

The Church is constructed from concrete with a small portico which has 2 Greek style columns. It has double timber entrance doors which are painted white.

The building has been renovated to comprise 3 separate dwellings, and modifications have been made to the building both internally and externally to facilitate this current use.

**Images**





## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Cardwell Shire Council Pictorial Museum, *Feluga*, date unknown.

Vandeleur, E. *Steps Along The Way*, 2003.

## **Place No. 20 - Garners Beach Burial Ground**

**Place Name:** Garners Beach Burial Ground  
**Address:** Garners Beach Road, Garners Beach  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 4 SP252413  
**Coordinates:** Easting: 404792 Northing: 8030193

## **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A



Queensland Government

### Garners Beach Burial Ground

#### Place Details:

Place ID	601627
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	Garners Beach Burial Ground
Alternative Name	Clump Point Private Cemetery Garners Beach Cemetery Wilford Hill
Place Classification	Built
Place Category	Burial Ground
Place Type	Cemetery - private
Themes	1 Peopling places / 1.4 Family and marking the phases of life
Register Entry Date	23/04/1999

#### Location

Address	Garners Beach Road
Town / Suburb	BINGIL BAY
Post Code	4654
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

#### Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	1930s-1960s (fabric, historical use for burials)
Criterion A	Garners Beach Burial Ground has a close association with the work of the Garner family - farmers, boat builders and boat operators - in developing the Clump Point district as a fruit producing region in the early 20th century.
Criterion H	The family was well-known and highly regarded in the local community, and in their boat building and boat operating activities, in particular, made a significant contribution to the development of the area.

#### History

History	Garners Beach Burial Ground is associated with the settlement of the Muff Creek area, just north of Clump Point and Bingil Bay, by the Garner family, who held the land around Muff Creek from 1911 to the early 1970s. The first of the Garner family to be associated with the beach were Edward Thomas Garner, his wife Edith Fay Johnson, and their 3 children. Edward and Edith and their first child, Edward Henry, emigrated to New South Wales c1889. ET Garner was a seaman, and had spent most of his life working on boats, or building them. It is thought that he came to Queensland in 1889 from Sydney, when he brought up to Townsville for the Hayles brothers, the boat with which they commenced their ferry service to Magnetic Island. Garner stayed in North Queensland and took up timber-getting. This occupation brought him to the Clump Point district, where he cut logs from the hills behind Mission Beach. By c1900 the Garner family had settled in Cardwell, and in the early 1900s were
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engaged in ferrying stores, plants and equipment for the Chinese who were establishing banana plantations along the Hull River, and lightering plantation produce to the coastal steamers offshore, for transport to southern markets. In 1905 they took up a selection on the Murray River and established a sawmill there, producing packing cases for the banana trade. In 1909 they moved to Bingil Bay, where ET Garner, his son EH Garner, his nephew Arthur Garner of Mundoo, and his son-in-law Adolph [Lou] Wildsoet, erected and managed a sawmill for the Cutten family on their Bixton Plantation near Clump Point. The sawmill did not prove profitable for the Cuttens. They soon sold it, and the Garner family looked around for a selection of their own in the district. Late in 1910, ET Garner made application to select portion 10v, parish of Hull, a block of just under 160 acres along Muff Creek, with a coastal frontage [now known as Garner's Beach], extending from a promontory on the coast just north of Middle Beach, northwest to Cedar Creek. Much of this block was covered by dense tropical jungle or bloodwood, tea tree and mahogany forest. It had been surveyed and thrown open to selection in 1905, when the Maria Creek district was opened up for the banana trade. Selected by F Dillon in 1905, it was forfeited by 1906, and offered for selection again in 1910 as an Agricultural Farm. In December 1910, ET Garner was granted a 20 year lease on the block from 1 January 1911, and was issued with a license to occupy it as an Agricultural Farm [AF 755]. On the Muff Creek selection, the ET Garners were joined by the families of their son Edward Henry and daughter Elizabeth Ann Wildsoet, and by Arthur Garner. The Garner-Wildsoet families cleared the land and grew bananas for export by sea. Several shipping companies - Adelaide Steamship, Howard Smith and AUSN lines - regularly picked up plantation produce off the various beaches or stream-mouths. The Garners built several boats on their Muff Creek selection - some as long as 60 feet long, with steam or oil engines - and were heavily involved with lightering activity on Muff, Maria and Liverpool Creeks. They transported intending settlers, goods and supplies upstream, and farm produce downstream and out to the shipping company boats offshore. The family also attended to some of the navigation lights in the area. When sugar farms were established in the hinterland in the early 1910s, the Garners commenced lime production, blasting coral from King's Reef with gellignite. This was burnt at Garner's Beach, and transported by boat to South Johnstone, for sale to sugar cane farmers. By late 1915, over 40 acres of the Garner selection had been felled and was under cultivation: 30 acres under bananas, 8 acres under citrus fruits, and 3 acres under pineapples; with a further 5 acres felled, burnt and partly cleared. Much of the unskilled work was done by local Aborigines, who were paid in food and tools, apparently to everyone's mutual satisfaction. Four 4-roomed houses of silky oak with galvanised iron roofs [prefabricated buildings shipped from Townsville] had been constructed, and improvements included outbuildings and a lime kiln. The property was known as Wilford Hill - presumably named after Wilford Hill, Nottingham, England where Edward Thomas and Edith Fay were married in 1886. During the First World War [1914-1918], only ET Garner, his wife and youngest daughter [Nellie] remained at the beach. Arthur Garner joined the AIF and served at Gallipoli, and EH Garner and his family left the beach to take up timber-hauling work near Silkwood. The principal shipping companies, with many of their vessels commandeered for war purposes, curtailed their coastal trade, and Clump Point settlers like the Garners lost access to southern markets. However, until the completion of the Brisbane to Cairns railway in 1924, ET Garner still found work for his boats, which his daughter helped him to run. For a while the coastal steamers continued to call at the wharf in Maria Creek established by the Adelaide Steamship Company c1904, and the Garner boats ferried

the cargoes of most of the Clump Point growers from their beaches to the wharf. The loss of markets was compounded by a severe cyclone in 1918, which devastated the district, destroying houses, plantations, boats and a newly completed government wharf near Clump Point. The ET Garner's house, built halfway up Wilford Hill, was swept away. By the early 1920s, ET Garner had acquired adjoining selection no.1174, and was resident there from at least 1921 to 1924. By late 1925, the Garners had returned to portion 10v, where they had about 800 citrus trees and 12 acres under bananas. There was a 5-roomed house on the property, 5 small accommodation huts, and a cow bail and yards. It is understood that the galvanised iron huts were erected in the 1920s as fishing/holiday accommodation for use by the Garner family, their visitors and paying holiday-makers, but served a more charitable purpose during the 1930s. JG Tierney, who married into the Garner family, later recalled: Many years later as I moved to different areas in the North with my wife and family I would work with men who, when told that my wife was a Garner from Garners Beach, would tell me of the fond memories of good times they had spent at Garners Beach and I started to realise that there was a story to the family that I didn't know and was never mentioned by them. As I understand it, during the 1930s depression some people who came on hard times were welcome to stay at the beach and as the area was nearly self-supporting nobody went hungry and after a period of time as they sorted themselves out would move on and continue with their lives. In 1931, ET Garner applied for an extension of his lease on Agricultural Farm no.755 [portion 10v]. This was approved and extended to 30 years from 1 January 1911. A January 1931 inspection of the property concluded that it was a Very well improved farm, recently extra good improvements effected for Dairying. By mid-1935, the property was being managed by Lou Wildsoet and his sons. On 24 August 1935, Edith Garner, aged 67 years, died at Wilford Hill. She was buried the following day near her home, in what is now known as Garner's Beach Burial Ground, the first interment there. ET Garner retired to Tully, and in 1937 his lease on AF755 was transferred to his son, who in 1941 obtained title to the land as freehold. The second interment at Garner's Beach was that of Catherine Mary Garner [ne. Wildsoet], wife of EH Garner, who died on 1 January 1937 at Tully District Hospital following a car accident, and was buried at Wilford Hill the next day. A late 1930s photograph indicates that a barbed wire fence once delineated the boundary of the burial ground. By October 1939, EH Garner was making little use of Wilford Hill other than to run a few dairy cattle, devoting most of his time to operating a hire boat, taking fishing parties to the Barrier Reef. He was also rafting logs to Dunk Island for trans-shipping. During the Second World War [1939-45] several of EH Garner's children served with the armed forces. After the war his sons returned to Garner's Beach, built a 45 foot boat they called the Day Spring, and into the 1950s continued taking boating parties around the Reef. ET Garner died at Tully District Hospital on 4 July 1945, aged 86 years, and was buried the next day at the Clump Point Private Cemetery. This was the third burial at Garner's Beach. From 1951, the Garner family began to subdivide portion 10v, and in the late 1950s/early 1960s several holiday homes were constructed near Garner's Beach, including the retreat of Australian Treasurer and later Prime Minister, Harold Holt. The Holt residence was located near the Garner graves. In the 1960s two more members of the Garner family were laid to rest at Garner's Beach: Edward Henry Garner, who died at the Innisfail District Hospital on 27 March 1965, aged almost 77 years; and Edward Christian Garner, son of Edward Henry Garner and Catherine Mary Wildsoet, who died at the Innisfail District Hospital on 18 August 1968, aged 59 years. Following EH Garner's death, title to nearly 26 acres at Garner's Beach, which

Included the burial ground, was transferred in 1965 to his son and daughter-in-law, Stanley Douglas Garner and Elsie Norma Garner. They in turn sold the property, including the burial ground, to the Kenny family in 1972.

## Description

### Description

Garner's Beach, lying southeast-northwest, is situated in a large bay between Ninney and Murdering Points, a couple of kilometres north of Bingil Bay. Middle Beach separates Garner's Beach from Bingil Bay. The southeastern end of Garner's Beach forms a small bay, where the Garner family established their settlement. The beach is about a kilometre in length with a rocky outcrop at the northwest end. Past these rocks is another small beach [Carstairs], also terminated by a rocky outcrop, and north of this is Figtree Beach, bounded by Muff Creek to the south and Maria Creek to the north. Kurrimine Beach lies on the north side of Maria Creek. The burial ground is located on private property about halfway up a promontory [Wilford Hill] at the southeastern end of Garner's Beach, and is accessed from Garner's Beach Road. The site is approximately 200 metres from the flat where most of the early 20th century settlement occurred, and occupies a small area 12 metres by 13 metres, defined by, and partly including, vehicular tracks in use on the property. The burial ground contains the graves of five members of the Garner family: Edith Fay Garner [buried 25 August 1935], Catherine Mary Garner [buried 2 January 1937], Thomas Edward Garner [buried 5 July 1945], Edward Henry Garner [buried 29 March 1965], and Edward Christian Garner [buried 20 August 1968]. The graves are located in close proximity to each other, and face west. Four of the graves share a common concrete grave kerbing, 250mm high by 150mm wide, which has remnant evidence of a simple worked metal surround. The grave of Edward Christian Garner lies immediately east of the other graves, and has a separate concrete surround with concrete corner posts with chain metal strung between them. Each of the graves has a concrete headstone, with a marble plaque attached. The headstones of the three men buried here each displays a sequence of three symbols, in bas-relief and painted black, at the top of the headstone: a ship's wheel, a Christian cross, and a ship's anchor.

## Element

Element Name	Garner's Beach Burial Ground
Design Period	Interwar period (1919 - 1930s)
Construction Period	1935 - 1968
Place Components	Headstone Burial/Grave Grave surrounds/railings

## Images



Description	Post Cyclone Yasi Image
Media Author	Sandi Robb
Media Date	29/08/2011
Copyright	Unrestricted



Description	1. Garners Beach Burial Ground (circa 1971)
Media Author	Col Garner 1996

Media Date :

Copyright :

Author :



Description :

2. Garners Beach Burial Ground (circa 1971)

Media Author :

Col Garner 1998

Media Date :

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Author :

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Last updated: 04 April 2011

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## **Place No. 21 - McCowat's Farm**

**Place Name:** McCowat's Farm  
**Address:** 6 Mamu Road, Garradunga  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 RP718192

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A



# Queensland Government

## McCowat's Farm

### Place Details

Place ID	600632
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	McCowat's Farm
Alternative Name	Koodla
Place Classification	Landscape Built
Place Category	Farming - Agriculture/Dairying/Grazing/Horticulture
Place Type	Plantation
Themes	2 Exploiting, utilising and transforming the land / 2.6 Protecting and conserving the environment 2 Exploiting, utilising and transforming the land / 2.4 Agricultural activities
Register Entry Date	21/10/1992

### Location

Address	McCowat Road
Town / Suburb	GARRADUNGA
Post Code	4860
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	1920s (historical)
Criterion A	McCowat's Farm is important in demonstrating the development of the sugar industry in north Queensland, particularly in the Johnstone district.
Criterion B	The combination of main residence, cane barracks, early workers cottage and remnant rainforest vegetation represent a rare, uncommon or endangered aspect of Queensland's cultural heritage.
Criterion D	The complex of farm buildings, specifically the residence, cottage, implement shed and cane barracks, demonstrate the principal characteristics of sugar cane farms.
Criterion E	The place has aesthetic value, in particular the high-set Queensland bungalow style residence and the surrounding remnant rainforest vegetation.

### History

History	McCowat's Farm comprises a residence, cottage, barracks, implement shed and remnant rainforest, representing the surviving core of a 120 acre cane farm operated by Thomas McCowat from 1926/7. The farm was subsequently subdivided into its current size for Thomas McCowat's retirement. In the early 20th century Garradunga, a small settlement in the northern part of the Johnstone district on the former main road linking Innisfail with Cairns, was a sugar production area. Innisfail (known as Geraldton until 1911), was founded as the port of Geraldton in 1880 by Thomas H Fitzgerald.
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who had arrived on the banks of the Johnstone River to grow sugar cane on a 10,000 hectare land grant funded by the Catholic Bishop Brisbane and All Hallows' Sisters of Mercy. Others arrived soon after and a community was soon established with an economy based firmly on sugar production. A number of sugar mills operated in the Johnstone district: the Innisfail Estate Sugar Mill began crushing in 1881 but was closed by 1885; the Queensland Sugar Company's Innishowen Mill commenced on the Queensland Estate in 1883 and closed in 1891; Goondi Mill first crushed in 1885 and closed in 1886; the Mourilyan Mill opened in 1884; and the one of the South Johnstone Mill was established in 1916. Both the Mourilyan and South Johnstone mills are still operating. During the early 1920s Garradunga became a staging point for the transport of goods and passengers travelling north/south by rail until the section of the North Coast Rail Line between Garradunga and Innisfail was completed in 1924. The Goondi Mill 2 foot gauge tramway, which connected the cane fields of the Johnstone district with the Mill near Innisfail, provided a temporary transport link connecting a 'missing section' of the north coast railway between Garradunga and Daradgee. The rail link transported a large number of passengers in the early 1920s (108,458 during 1921-22) but passenger use declined dramatically due to the advent of motorcars and during the Depression. By 1935 passenger use had dropped to 5-6,000 per year. The rail continued to provide an important transport link between the cane farms, the mills and the port at Mourilyan. In 1929, 92% of goods carried on the tramway were sugar or cane. The opening of the Brisbane to Cairns railway line took place in 1924 with the completion of the north Johnstone Bridge. This gave further impetus to the development of the Johnstone Shire. In the 1920s the district was producing record yields of sugar, and the prosperity engendered by this is reflected in the many substantial buildings erected in the district in the 1920s and 30s. Between 1920 and 1930 the total population of the Shire ballooned from 5,549 to 18,088 people. The number of recorded dwellings also rose during this time, from 700 to 3,130. Sugar production was regarded as the mainstay of production and white settlement on the north Queensland coastline. Thomas McCowat immigrated to Australia in 1904, aged 20, having been brought up at a Presbyterian orphanage in Scotland. He worked in the Presbyterian Ministry in Toowoomba before serving as the Presbyterian Minister in Herberton in 1909 and 1910. On 7 July 1909 he married Mary Barrie Outerson, a recent arrival from Musselburgh, Scotland. Mary reputedly suffered from tuberculosis and died on 13 March 1923 in the Herberton Hospital. Thomas and Mary had two children, aged 8 and 10 when Mary died. It was during Mary's illness that Thomas left the Ministry and worked as a fettler on the railway in Johnstone Shire, to fund Mary's hospice. Thomas married Alice Robina Bonar, a descendant of a mining family living in Herberton, in 1924. They had one child, Alice, in 1925. According to family oral history, as a result of Mary's health issues, Thomas was determined to provide comfortable living arrangements for his second wife. Thomas and Alice McCowat purchased 120 acres from Mr Ramlock, in 2 instalments on 16 July 1926 and 28 January 1927, for a total of £247, although family oral history indicates that the McCowat's had been farming in the Johnstone district in the 1920s prior to the purchase of McCowat's Farm. They named the residence Koodla, an Aboriginal word meaning shady place and continued the farms operation in sugar production. A Mr Purdy, builder, from Innisfail, had erected the main section of the house in 1920 but what is now the kitchen/bathroom annexe appears to be an early style workers cottage, which was possibly erected at an earlier time. It appears that the annexe was joined to the main house when it was built in 1920. The residence was located on what was then the main road between Cairns and Innisfail. In 1936 the residence (main



section and annexe) was dismantled and re-erected approximately 1 km away on its present site, which was the centre of McCowat's Farm, at a cost of £145 by carpenter F Shellback. The McCowat's lived in the cottage at the rear of the property when the main residence was moved to its present location. The cottage is of similar construction to the kitchen/bathroom annexe to the main residence, being a typical three room gable roof cottage. It is recorded as being constructed prior to 1920, and used as the original canecutters' barracks. The verandah was enclosed in 1936, presumably when the McCowat's lived in it. The barracks, typical of five roomed canecutters' barracks, and the implement shed, were erected in 1930. The barracks accommodated canecutters working on the McCowat's property and also was rented out to cutters working on nearby properties. Thomas McCowat managed the property until he died in 1963. The farm was subdivided sometime prior to Thomas McCowat's death, and the block containing the residence, cottage, barracks and rainforest is currently owned by his daughter, Miss Allie McCowat. The remnant rainforest on McCowat's Farm is a rare type of vegetation, classified by Paul Sattler and Rebecca Williams in The Conservation Status of Queensland's Bioregional Ecosystems as 7.8.1, complex mesophyll vine forest that grows on very wet and wet lowlands and foothills, on basalt derived soils in the Wet Tropical coast. Its biodiversity status is recorded by the Wet Tropics Management Authority as 'of concern' and is known to contain a number of rare or endangered floral species and is a known cassowary habitat. It is estimated that only 10-30% of the original extent of this type of vegetation survives, due to extensive clearing for agriculture. The lowland basalt soils were favoured for agricultural production as they had the optimum growing conditions of rainfall, fertility, topography and temperature.

## Description

### Description

McCowat's Farm comprises 9.032 hectares of land approximately 2 kilometres west of Garradunga, a small settlement in the northern part of the Johnstone district on the former main road linking Innisfail with Cairns. The surrounding land use is mainly cane farms and the North Coast rail line passes near the north eastern corner of the property. Approximately two-thirds of the property is rainforest. The main buildings and structures on the farm include the main residence, the cottage, the former cane barracks, and the implement shed. The residence is a high set four room bungalow with wrap around verandah on four sides. It has a rear annex showing typical elements of a raised two room workers cottage. A symmetrical staircase with dowel railings leads from the ground to a porch coming off the front verandah. The wrap around verandah has two rail dowel balustrades on the north, south, and west sides. The east side of the verandah is enclosed with casement windows and corrugated iron. Storage areas, clad in corrugated iron with two sash windows each, are contained on the south-east and south-west corners of the verandah. There is a 1980s addition of toilet and shower in the centre of the west side of the verandah. Aluminum blinds are fixed externally on the north, east and west sides of the verandah and there a wall of lattice is present as the northern ground floor wall. The main section of the residence has exposed-stud framing lined internally with vertically jointed tongue and groove timber. Internal ceilings are lined, with unlined external verandah ceilings. Internally there are four rooms (3 bedrooms and a sitting room) and a hall. Internal doors have paired rectangular panels above and below the waist and are reportedly constructed of solid oak. The external doors, two doors leading from each of the three bedrooms to the verandah, are French doors, low waisted with 2 rectangular glass top panels and fanlights. The two doors of the rear bedroom have extra security measures consisting of metal wire

sliding doors. There are no doors leading to the verandah from the living room. Italian Muranese glass has reportedly been used for fanlights, casement windows and colonial windows. The house sits on concrete stumps and there is a concrete floor underneath. The roof of the main residence and annexe is galvanised iron. The house is oriented north. A small gabled annex to the main residence contains a kitchen, living area and bathroom and is joined to the rear verandah of the main residence by a short footbridge. The rear north eastern corner of the annex contains the bathroom and a set of stairs exits the annex at the rear, or south side of the building. The annex is externally clad in corrugated iron and the kitchen/living area is internally lined with pine boarding and hardboard. Only the partition walls in the bathroom are lined internally. Records indicate the framing of the annex is Pendar, a local rainforest hardwood. It is externally clad in corrugated iron and has two window shades and aluminum fixed blinds over sash windows on the eastern side. A range of original furniture is present inside the residence, including dining tables, one constructed of large panels of oak, two double and one single cast iron bed, wardrobes and dressing tables, a baby's folding feeding chair and claw bath ensemble. An iron tank sits above a corrugated iron clad shed containing a shower room at the rear of the west side of the annex. To the south east of the annexe is a dog's grave marked with a cross shaped headstone and a lily garden. Oral history indicates a number of family dogs are buried here. Five hundred metres to the south west of the main residence is the cottage. This is a low set three roomed gable roofed cottage with enclosed front verandahs. External walls are clad with fibrous cement sheeting and internally the walls are clad in a combination of fibrous cement and corrugated iron with timber floors. A corrugated iron lean-to is attached to the west side of the building. The cottage is raised on short concrete stumps. Three concrete steps lead to the front door. Ornamental cast iron work is attached to the base of the front wall. Three panel casement windows are present either side of the front door and there are three four panel sash windows on each side of the cottage. The implement shed is located to the west of the main residence. It is constructed of bush timber and clad in corrugated iron. A range of agricultural machinery is contained within the shed, including items such as a 1930s Caterpillar tractor and other old tractors, corn grinders, cane planters and an icy ball refrigerator. The cane barracks are a long, low-set building located at the front (northern) end of the property. They are constructed of bush posts with hardwood rails, clad in corrugated iron with no internal lining. The external iron has been painted red and the roof is galvanized iron. A bedroom wing runs east/west containing five bedrooms with internal partitions of corrugated iron, each opening onto a north facing verandah. Each room has a window on the southern side consisting of timber frames lined with corrugated iron, hinged as awning sashes. The north/south wing contains one large room which forms the kitchen and dining area, which also opens onto the northern verandah. A large 10-person table constructed of 2 boards, each 55 cm wide, is present in the dining area. The rainforest covers approximately two thirds of the property and forms an impression of a green curtain to the west of the farming complex. Typical species that make up this type of rainforest are described as *Acmena graveolens*, *Alstonia scholaris*, *Archontopheonix alexandrae*, *Argyrodendron peralatum*, *Bacchousia bancroftii*, *Bellschmidia tooram*, *Castanospermum australe*, *Cryptocarya corrugata*, *C. grandis*, *C. hypospodia*, *C. mackinnoniana*, *Diploglottissmithii*, *Dysoxylum papuanum*, *D. parasiticum*, *D. pettigrewianum*, *Elaeocarpus angustifolius*, *Endiandra palmerstonii*, *E. pubens*, *E. sankeyana*, *Ficus racemosa*, *F. septica*, *Gmelina fasciculiflora*, *Helici nortoniana*, *Intsia bijuga*, *Musgravea heterophylla*, *Myristica muelleri*, *Palaquium galactoxylum*, *Syzygium cormiflorum* and *S.kuranda*. Miss

McCowat reports that no tracks are present into the rainforest on her property as this is the best way to preserve the rainforest flora and fauna.

**Element**

Element Name	McCowat's Farm
Design Period	Interwar period (1919 - 1930s)
Construction Period	1920 - 1936
Place Components	Trees - remnant scrub Trees of social, historic or special significance Barracks - workers Farmhouse Furniture/Fittings Residential accommodation - workers' quarters

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Information about places in the Queensland Heritage Register is maintained by the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM) under the Queensland Heritage Act 1992. Information available here is only part of the full Register entry and should not be taken as an official entry. Absence does not mean a particular place is not in the Register.

[Certified copies](#) of the full entries in the Register are available for a fee.

You can also [search the full Register](#) for a fee to find out if a place or parcel of land is listed or otherwise affected by the Act.

Last updated: 04 April 2011

## **Place No. 22 - Thorsborne Trail**

**Place Name:** Thorsborne Trail  
**Address:** Hinchinbrook Island  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 436 NPW697

### **Heritage significance**

The Thorsborne Trail is significant due to the special association of the Region's residents with its natural and environmental values.

### **History**

Thorsborne Trail is named after the late Arthur Thorsborne. Thorsborne and his wife, Margaret, shared a lifelong interest in nature conservation that included monitoring pied (Torresian) imperial pigeons, which migrate to nest on local islands in summer.

The American B-24 Liberator bomber crashed on the Island's Mount Straloch's southern slopes on 18 December 1942. The bomber, known as the "Texas Terror", crashed during a violent storm, killing all 12 people on board. Fresh from the factory and heading for the battlefields of Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands, the B-24 was being flown from Amberley to the bomber base at Iron Range in Far North Queensland.

In February 2011, Cyclone Yasi shifted tons of sand to uncover the remains of an old sailing ship in Ramsay Bay. The sailing ship was the brigantine "Belle" and was lost 130 years ago while attempting to recover cedar that had washed ashore from another wrecked vessel, the "Merchant". In total, 5 ships have been wrecked in that same area.

### **Description**

Thorsborne Trail is 32 kilometres in length and runs along Hinchinbrook Island's east coast. The track provides views of the Island's cloud covered mountains, reaching 1000 metres, its bays and rocky headlands and the native vegetation present on the Island, ranging from rainforest, eucalypt forest to mangroves. It is not a graded or hardened walking track and access to the track is limited through a permit system managed by the Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing.

Hinchinbrook Island is one of Australia's largest national parks and is within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area. The Island is separated from the mainland by the scenic Hinchinbrook Channel.

## Images







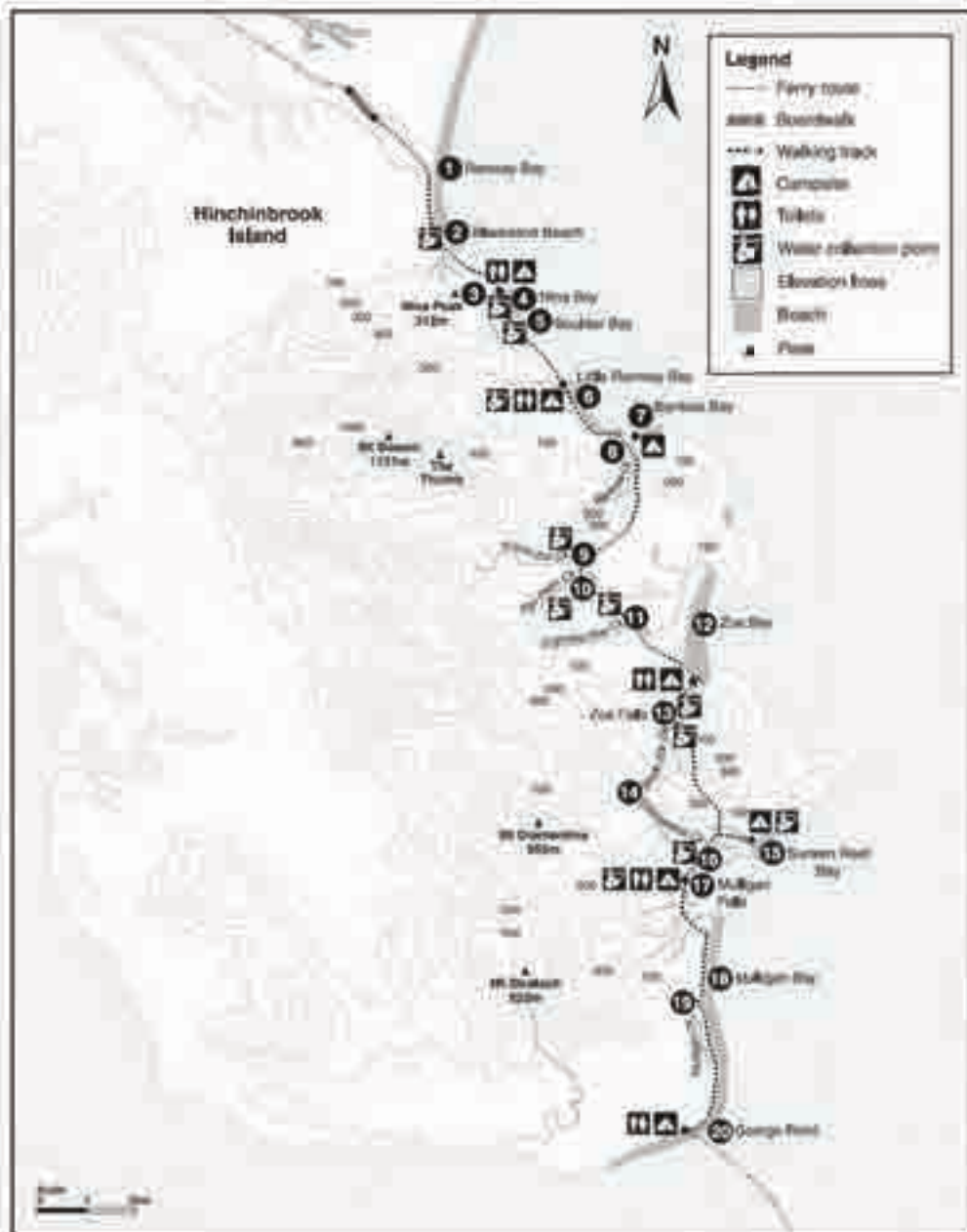






*The above images were provided by Jennifer Downs*

## Thorsborne Trail



Queensland Government

## References

Department of National Parks, Recreation, Sport and Racing, Website, Thorsborne Trail, Hinchinbrook Island National Park, <http://www.npsr.qld.gov.au/parks/hinchinbrook-thorsborne/>.

Photographs provided by Jennifer Downs.

## **Place No. 23 - Ambulance Station**

**Place Name:** Ambulance Station  
**Address:** 54 Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 206 I2811

### **Heritage significance**

The building is important in showing the evolution of the township of Innisfail and the development of its central community infrastructure. In addition, the building is important from an aesthetic perspective, and forms part of an important group of buildings on the riverfront along with the Masonic Temple and Fire Station.

### **History**

The Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade's Innisfail Centre started off as an Honorary Centre attached to the Cairns QATB some time prior to 1911 and was situated in a disused shop in Edith Street. The Honorary Centre became a Sub Centre in 1911. After many years of pressure from the people of Innisfail, the Sub Centre became self governing in 1917 when the Innisfail Centre of the QATB was created.

During the 1930s the Centre Committee considered establishing a new centre. During the 1932/1933 financial year a parcel of land in the Innisfail Township was gazetted as an ambulance reserve. This land was subject to flooding and unsuitable for this purpose. During the 1935/1936 financial year, the Centre Committee purchased a freehold lot containing the old Commonwealth Hotel, the present site of the Ambulance Station.

The building was designed by architects Hill and Taylor and was built by Van Leeuwen Bros in 1937. The cost of the new building amounted to £3,783, 16 shillings and 11 pence (\$7,567.70).

### **Description**

The building comprises 2 storeys and is made from reinforced concrete. It has a tiled roof, a symmetrical façade with two projecting gables and is a simple unornamented building except for corbelled gable ends. The central driveways have casement windows above, with 1 driveway filled in by a modern office. On the first floor, French doors open onto semi circular balconies with wrought iron balustrades. The ground floor has sash windows with aluminium window shades.

## Images



## References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

Toogood, B, "A look at the Innisfail Ambulance", *Innisfail and District Historical Society Stories from Innisfail's Past*, Volume 3, 1987.

## **Place No. 24 - Anzac Memorial Park**

**Place Name:** Anzac Memorial Park  
**Address:** 85 Edith Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lots 1-13 I28147

### **Heritage significance**

Anzac Memorial Park is a prominent landmark forming an entrance gateway for traffic entering Innisfail from the north. This site has the potential to provide archaeological information on the former Geraldton State School.

### **History**

The park is the former site of the Geraldton State School. It was gazetted as the school reserve on 4 January 1887. The first school buildings, including a teacher's residence were built by Allan MacGregor, a contractor based in Cairns. The total cost of the buildings was 710 pounds, of which the local community contributed 170 pounds. Geraldton's first teacher was Thomas E White and it was the second teacher Patrick J Lyons, who reportedly planted the large rain tree on Edith Street. The school operated from 1 July 1887 until it was moved to Emily Street on 21 January 1906. It was renamed the Innisfail State School on 6 April 1913.

The park was established as a War Memorial in 1918. It contains a bandstand, King George V Memorial gate built in 1936, and the palm trees along Ernest Street planted by Sir Donald Bradman and the Australian Cricket Team in 1931.

### **Description**

Originally the State School Reserve, the site was established as a War Memorial in 1918. The bandstand was built in 1923, the King George V Memorial gate was built in 1936 and the palm trees were planted along Ernest Street by Sir Donald Bradman and members of the Australian Cricket Team in 1931. The Rain Tree on Edith Street, and the Hoop Pine and Two Kauri Trees on Grace Street are all notable trees.

**Images**













## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## **Place No. 25 - Casa Fotea Building**

**Place Name:** Casa Fotea Building  
**Address:** 46 Ernest Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lots 1 & 2 RP709862

### **Heritage significance**

This building forms an important part of the Ernest Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.

### **History**

The building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom. The Foteas were bakers in Innisfail, however anecdotal evidence indicates that this building was never a bakery.

### **Description**

The building is 2 storeyed and made from reinforced concrete. It has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style. The building has an art deco ornament on the parapet and large shopfront windows. The upper storey has casement windows with cantilever concrete window shades.

The windows on the ground floor have been removed and air conditioning units installed (brackets are evident although windows are currently boarded up). The original first floor windows on the northern side of the building have been replaced with aluminium windows.

## Images



## References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## **Place No. 26 - Couchman House**

**Place Name:** Couchman House  
**Address:** 106 Rankin Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 702 I2811

### **Heritage significance**

Couchman House is the oldest house in Innisfail, having been built in 1883. It is one of only a very few houses in Innisfail to survive the 1918 cyclone intact.

The house is also important aesthetically, with an attractive appearance complementing other historically and aesthetically important buildings along Rankin Street.

Further, the house is an important part of the history of the township of Innisfail, being built and resided in by important persons who played a significant role in the development of the township and the region.

### **History**

Couchman House was built in 1883 by Edwin James Couchman. Couchman arrived in Innisfail (then Geraldton) in 1881 from Glasgow in Scotland. Couchman was a young man recently qualified as an engineer who was brought to Geraldton to build the Mourilyan Sugar Mill. Couchman also erected the first hospital buildings for the Innisfail public hospital between 1885 and 1886.

The house was unusually strongly built, with just on twice as heavy base construction as was normal for the period. The original floor plates can still be viewed under the house.

The house was used as a doctors surgery for many years following WWI by a Dr Edwards who also resided at the premises. Dr Edwards also operated a private hospital from the house for a short period.

### **Description**

Couchman House is a timber house constructed in 1883, which means it has survived many cyclones. Despite undergoing extensive renovations in the 1980s, the house retains the original lounge walls, 19<sup>th</sup> century 4 panel doors and French windows, original verandah floor, carved door head decorations and glass doorhandles.

Many alterations have been made to the house over the years, with the external doors being located in at least 9 different places. The house has included a Doctor's waiting room, a surgery, an instrument room and at one time a flat on the southern side.

A portico carport and circular drive have been added to the front of the property. The timber for the portico was sourced from 1886 hardwood from the old Goondi Sugar Mill. Also, a basement car park and undercover area has been excavated under the house.

In recent times, the house has fallen into disrepair, and as a result certain original internal features have been lost, such as the carved door head decorations and glass doorhandles.

## Images



## References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Jones, D, *Hurricane Lamps and Blue Umbrellas*, 1973.

Taylor, RJ, "Restoring Innisfail's Oldest House", *Innisfail and District Historical Society Stories from Innisfail's Past*, Volume 5, 1989.

## **Place No. 27 - Former St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church**

**Place Name:** Former St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church  
**Address:** 114 Rankin Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 808 I2812

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A



# Queensland Government

## St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church

### Place Details

Place ID	602332
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church
Alternative Name	St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Place Classification	Built
Place Category	Religion/Worship
Place Type	Church
Themes	8 Creating social and cultural institutions / 8.6 Commemorating significant events 8 Creating social and cultural institutions / 8.1 Worshipping and religious institutions
Register Entry Date	12/12/2003

### Location

Address	114 Rankin Street
Town / Suburb	INNISFAIL
Post Code	4860
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

### Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	1960s (historical) 1960s (fabric) ongoing (social)
Criterion A	Located on the site of and incorporating the first Presbyterian Church in Innisfail, St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church demonstrates the pattern of development of the Presbyterian community in the region and the commitment to memorialize war dead.
Criterion E	St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church at Innisfail has aesthetic significance as an outstanding and distinctive example of the use of local timbers and craftsmanship in a design reflecting the world-wide influence of the work of American architect Frank Lloyd Wright's ideas on organic architecture. As a tall, A-frame building located on the crest of a ridge overlooking the Johnstone River, St Andrew's Presbyterian Church is a landmark in Innisfail.
Criterion F	It also has special association with far north Queensland architect Eddie H Orbin as an outstanding and intact example of his innovative and highly inventive work.
Criterion G	St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church is valued by the community for its townscape and memorial significance.
Criterion H	It also has special association with far north Queensland architect Eddie H Orbin as an outstanding and intact example of his innovative and highly inventive work.

### History

History	St Andrew's Memorial Church is a striking, A-frame building erected on Rankin Street to the design of far North Queensland architect, Eddie H Orbin. It was constructed for the Presbyterian community of
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Innisfail in 1961 on the site of, and incorporating part of, an earlier church building. Its innovative design makes a significant contribution to the townscape of Innisfail. Prior to the first regular Presbyterian Church service conducted in the old Court House in October 1913, Innisfail's monthly services were conducted in the Oddfellows Hall in Owen Street by Mr Charles Fixter, who travelled from Mirwinni. The first committee meeting was held January 1914 and during 1916 the present church site was purchased from Mary Graham. After a £500 bequest was left by Peter Margach for the building fund it was decided that a church should be built. The church construction was commenced early in 1918 but the framework was flattened during a cyclone in March. The building contractor, Frank Robson, replaced the framework and the church was completed and officially opened in November 1918. In 1925, the ground under the church was excavated and a concrete hall built by Peter Van Leeuwen, made possible from another bequest of £499 from Mary Kate Margach. This hall 36' x 26' was later enlarged by an additional 24' and formed the foundation of the new building. In 1959, a successful stewardship campaign was conducted in which the people pledged to support the church, and as a result, it was decided to proceed with the erection of a church to the Glory of God and as a memorial to those who had paid the supreme sacrifice in World Wars I and II and during the Korean campaign. The church was designed in 1959 by Eddie H Oribin while in association with SG Barnes. Eddie Oribin was born in Cairns in 1927. In 1953 he became a registered architect and formed a partnership with SG Barnes in Cairns, where they undertook residential and commercial work and church commissions. After Barnes' death in 1959, Oribin continued his work until 1973 when the office was closed down. Other churches designed by Oribin include the Gordonvale Church of England, Proserpine Church of England and the Mareeba Methodist Church. St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church at Innisfail was designed to incorporate part of the concrete floor and walls of the of the old church erected in 1918, which housed the Sunday School kindergarten. Plans for the new church were submitted to the Presbytery by Rev Andrew Leslie McKay of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Cairns, following approval by the Innisfail congregation. The cost estimate was £18,000 with furnishings to cost £2,000. Tendering for the new church opened on 2 November 1959, closing on 29 January 1960. The successful contractor was local builder AG Pepper. On the 18 May 1960 a new addenda was issued altering the design of the rear wall. Originally Oribin had intended a full length laminated cross extending from the apex to the ground within a glazed diamond gridded frame. Particular grids were to be infilled with hexagonally shaped sashes and small triangular panels of coloured glass. The replacement of the rear wall design was intended to be temporary to alleviate costs and was to be eventually rebuilt as designed - a priority subordinated by the damages requiring repair following cyclone Winifred. The building was opened and the memorial tablet unveiled on 4 November 1961 by Rev AL McKay as Moderator of the newly formed Presbytery of Carpentaria (separated from the Presbytery of Townsville in August that year). The building as reported in the local press at the time was in the form of a traditional tent, constructed of fabricated steel 'A' frames with the main church floor being supported on the cross arm of the 'A' with the hall below. The exterior of the building was completely roofed from apex to ground with ribbed aluminium sheeting with three dormer windows on each side for light and ventilation. The seating capacity of the church was 200 with additional choir seating of 30 and the new hall was almost doubled in size. All materials used in the building were purchased locally or through local agents and all work carried out was by the local tradesmen. The church furnishings comprised 24 silky oak polished pews, maple communion table and

chairs, polished lectern, marble baptismal font and a polished maple, plate glass sliding door hymn book press. Installed on the choir floor was a double manual Hammond electric organ with tone cabinet and book rests for the choir. Internally the building was lined with diagonally sheeted tulip oaks walls in a natural finish, polished Johnstone River hardwood floor in the church with blue carpeting the full length of the center aisle, and blue rubber flooring to all staircases. The chancel end of the church featured a patterned screen wall with green glass inserts and a softly illuminated gold finished cross surmounting a polished copper flower bowl. Natural light was provided by triangular side dormer windows positioned between the main trusses, triangular front windows surrounding a triangular brickwork panel and three triangular tinted fibreglass rooflights. By night it was lit by indirect fluorescent lights housed in pelmets along the side wall and spot lights in the lighting baffles at the apex. The hall was furnished with laminate covered kitchen cabinets and lit with fluorescent lighting. The minister's vestry was located at the north-west corner with polished table, chairs and telephone. An open side vestibule located below the three dormer windows to the northern side of the nave completes the ground floor and is suitable for entrance to the building in wet weather. In 1976-77, the Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches amalgamated as the Uniting Church of Australasia. This formally changed the title of the church from Presbyterian to Uniting Church. On 1 February 1986, cyclone Winifred crossed the Queensland coast causing damage to the church and forcing the congregation to attend services at the East Innisfail State Primary School while the proceeds from fundraising were put towards church repairs. However, rather than repair the church, the cost of which was estimated as extremely high, the Uniting Church gave the building to the Johnstone Shire Council in exchange for a block of land in Scullen Avenue. Using the insurance money collected as a result of the cyclone damage, the congregation erected a new church on this site. When the Uniting Church finally moved to their newly constructed church in Scullen Avenue, mobile items including the pews, cross and altar were moved also. The Oribin-designed church remained unused until 1988, when a separate Presbyterian congregation, which had separated from the Uniting Church, approached the Council to purchase it. Repairs to the church were undertaken by the new congregation through fund raising and voluntary labour, utilizing many sources from Cairns to Innisfail. The largest challenge was repairing the damage to the roof and internal ceiling sheeting incurred during cyclone Winifred. At this period the illuminated cross which had been located on the roof ridge almost 20 metres above the ground, was removed due to maintenance difficulties. Its whereabouts is unknown. The church was described in *Austral Eden: 200 years of Australian architecture* (1999) by Patrick Bingham Hall as the isoscelean masterpiece of an ever-resourceful maverick architect.

## Description

### Description

St Andrew's Presbyterian church is located on a cut and fill platform on a sloping site on the western side of Rankin Street overlooking the Johnstone River. Rankin Street contains several important civic buildings including the Town Hall and the Catholic Church and the Hospital. With the exception of some minor changes to the ground floor and the removal of furniture, the church is very much as described in the local press at its opening ceremony. St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church is of A-frame design with a rectangular plan form and is located well above street level, accessed by stairs punctuated by large diamond shaped planter boxes. Pairs of doors under large suspended, tiered awnings provide entry to the church either side of the eastern wall. The eastern wall

is of a folded triangular form with bricks laid on the diagonal, housed within a triangulated band of perimeter windows and decorated with a diamond shaped leadlight window with a burning tree motif. The western wall houses sash windows to the kitchen and sanctuary and is clad in timber cabin mould chamfer boards. The steeply pitched roof of the building is clad in ribbed aluminium sheeting with three dormer windows on the north and south sides between the trusses. Where the roof meets the ground, large concrete footings or stormwater drains and planter boxes form the transition. Three triangular roof lights are positioned above the dormer windows at the apex. The lobby occupies the eastern end of the building where a pair of symmetrical staircases against the side walls lead to the church above and the mezzanine floor for the choir above that. At ground level, access to the hall is via a single, central door opening. The hall is a single volume with an open kitchen at its western end. It has high level windows on the southern boundary and pairs of french doors opening onto the open vestibule along its northern side. The stairs to the chancel and the former vestry (converted to toilet facilities) are located at the northwestern corner of this floor. The eastern end of the open vestibule has been more recently enclosed to form a new vestry. The hall floor is a painted concrete slab; the ceiling is lined with battened fibrous cement sheeting, revealing the timber floor structure for the church above. The church walls are lined with vertically-jointed tongue and groove tulip oak boards laid diagonally, radiating out from the apex with center infill panels at the intersection in a dark stained sheet material. Lighting pelmets lining the side walls are decorated with a triangular motif and have triangular cut outs in the base to allow light to wash both up and down the walls. Suspended lighting baffles at the apex filter light from the roof lights above. The chancel has a screen, altar, lectern and planter that also incorporate triangular forms. Behind the screen is a single flight of stairs to the ground floor. The original furniture (including pews and communion table) has been removed to the present Innisfail Uniting Church and the original royal blue carpet and rubber matting (representing the corporate colour of the former Presbyterian Church) has been replaced. A manse is located at the rear of the site and is accessed from a driveway along the northern boundary of the property. It has a rectangular plan form and is highset on stumps and framed, clad and lined in timber. It has a hipped corrugated iron roof and enclosed, encircling verandahs. The manse is leased as a private residence and was not inspected in detail. It is not considered to contribute to the cultural heritage significance of the place.

#### Element

Element Name	St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church
Designer Name	Oribin, Eddie
Design Period	Post-WWII (1940s - 1960s)
Builder Name	Pepper, AG
Construction Period	1961 - 1961
Construction Method	Frame - combination
Fabric (Exterior Structure)	Brick
Fabric (Roof)	Metal sheeting - aluminium
Roof Form	A-frame
Place Components	Church Stained glass window/s Church hall/Sunday School hall

#### Images



Description St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church  
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Media Date  
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Description St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church  
Media Author

Media Date

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Last updated: 04 April 2011

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## **Place No. 28 - Greek Orthodox Church**

**Place Name:** Greek Orthodox Church  
**Address:** 131-133 Ernest Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 919 RP892096

### **Heritage significance**

The Greek Orthodox Church is important for showing the contribution and evolution of the Greek community in Innisfail and the region.

### **History**

The earliest Greeks to come to the Innisfail district were cane cutters and café proprietors. Over time, members of the Greek community branched out into other businesses, such as bakeries and hotels.

By 1925, the Greek community had formed an association, called the Hellenic Society of Queensland. This was one of the earliest Greek associations formed in Australia outside a metropolitan area.

In the 1930s, Innisfail became the centre of the Greek community in Far North Queensland.

The Church was constructed in 1935 using donations. It was the second Greek Orthodox Church in Queensland and the sixth Greek Orthodox Church in Australia. It was also the first Greek Orthodox Church to be dedicated outside a capital city in Australia.

Due to deterioration, the Church was rebuilt in 1970.

Over the years, all the furnishings for the Church, including all the Icons, chandeliers and candelabras, have been donated by past and present members.

The Church services the Greek community from Mossman in the north, south to Cardwell and west to Mareeba, with a membership of 130 and a total involvement of 500.

### **Description**

The Church is of brick construction, with double timber doors and concrete columns. 3 glass arched windows sit above the door, with the middle one containing a cross. A cross sits on the apex of the building.

An extension of the building enclosed with timber louvres sits adjacent to the main church building.

**Images**





## **References**

Jones, D, *Hurricane Lamps and Blue Umbrellas*, 1973.

Taifalos, S, "The Greek Community", *Innisfail and District Historical Society Stories from Innisfail's Past*, Volume 14, 1998.



## **Place No. 29 - Innisfail Cemetery (including John Hynes Grave and Memorial)**

**Place Name:** Innisfail Cemetery (including John Hynes Grave and Memorial)  
**Address:** Cnr Bruce Highway and Scullen Avenue, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lots 82 & 154 I281103 and Lots 2 & 4 RP711087

### **Heritage significance**

The Innisfail Cemetery demonstrates an unusual pattern of settlement in the Johnstone River District where Irish, Chinese and Pacific Islanders dominated the region in the last 2 decades of the nineteenth century. During the twentieth century, Sicilian immigration to the Johnstone River sugar industry was a significant deviation from the dominant pattern of migration into North Queensland from Piedmont, Lombardy and the Veneto. These migration patterns have had a strong influence on the fabric of the place.

The cemetery contains an unusually high historical preponderance of Roman Catholic graves. This demonstrates the early influence of James Quinn, Bishop of Queensland, on the settlement of this region. Quinn supported Thomas Henry Fitzgerald, the person regarded as the founder of Innisfail, in establishing the Innisfail sugar plantation and mill. The significant Italian immigration of the early twentieth century is also clearly reflected by the burials and the layout of the cemetery.

The cemetery's almost bare "Aliens" sections (parts of Sections 4, 7, 8 and 11) have potential to yield further information, especially about people from Asia and the Pacific who were indentured to work in the sugar industry.

The cemetery's preponderance of tiled gravestones, including unusually large bench-type monuments, along with its large, Sicilian-style mausoleums, is important in illustrating a particular social custom of Italian immigrants, who are a significant immigrant group in Queensland's history.

### **History**

#### **Cemetery land**

The Queensland Government created the Geraldton Cemetery Reserve (Lot 82 on CP I281103) with an area of 4.4520 hectares on 25 July 1885. At the same time it gazetted the appointment of a Cemetery Trust for the Parish of Johnstone. This comprised C.E. Adams, E.J. Couchman, A.O. Jones, F.E. Nash and M. O'Donohue. It is unclear when the first burials took place. The Cemetery Register is not comprehensive and gravestones have been found that do not correspond to any entry. The earliest gravestone listed in the Register dates from 1891. This is the grave of Gladys Couchman, aged 20 months.

The Shire of Johnstone acquired a Council on 30 December 1902 but its most important population centre only became known as Innisfail in 1910 after a Russian ship, heading to Geraldton in Western Australia, arrived by mistake at Cardwell. A Shire meeting quickly chose another name - Innisfail, in honour of the early settler Thomas Henry Fitzgerald who had used this name for his mill and plantation.

In February 1944, Council acquired Lot 154 (CP I281103) adjoining the reserve to the south, as a Cemetery Extension. This added 2.045 hectares to the place. The date suggests that the addition might have been war related, but no military cemetery was established and military burials are integrated into all chronologically relevant parts of the cemetery. The War Memorial is sited within the original reserve.

In November 1953 Council extended the cemetery by adding adjacent freehold Lots 2 and 4 (RP711087) which form the corner of Scullen Avenue and Downing Street. In combination these added a further 2.21 hectares to the cemetery.

## **Special layout and physical attributes**

Initial burials were in Sections 1 and 2 of the cemetery, fronting River Avenue. These sections are on very low ground and Innisfail has a very high rainfall, meaning that its rivers and creeks frequently flood. After a particularly damaging flood, probably in 1918, all gravestones from these sections were moved to higher ground in Sections 4 and 5. Section 3, which also fronts River Avenue, is higher and its gravestones have not been moved.

At this stage, while a small amount of granite and marble was used for headstones, most gravestones were made of concrete. Historically, concrete has been highly favoured in Innisfail where, after the terrible cyclone of 1918, those responsible for large public buildings valued its strength and plasticity. In the cemetery it had the advantage of economy but it did not wear well.

In the 1930s some families began to use tiles on their graves. Tiles are common in southern European cemeteries. In Australia, many cemeteries experimented with them, especially in the 1930s, but Innisfail has adopted them with great enthusiasm. An estimated 70% of graves from 1940 on are covered with tiles.

Another striking feature of the Innisfail cemetery is the use of large, usually tiled, mausoleums, known locally as chapels. It appears that all but one (Croatian) of these is occupied by an Italian, usually Sicilian, families. The earliest date from the 1970s and new ones are still being built - apparently speculatively.

Due to the difficulties associated with the use of mechanical diggers in amongst established graves and the fact that hand-digging of graves is no longer favoured, as well as concerns about possible subsidence, more burials are now in new sections rather than filling in spaces near family members in the older areas. To save space, some of the new sections only permit grave markers rather than headstones. Another recent change (c.2002) has been an agreement between Council and the churches that denominational segregation is no longer necessary. This has, if anything increased the intensity of some ethnic clusters.

## **Settlement patterns**

Overall, burials in the Innisfail Cemetery reflect the number and strength of ethnic groups in the district. The area that became the Johnstone Shire was originally inhabited by 5 groups of Mamu speaking Aboriginal people - the Waribara in the ranges of the North Johnstone, the Bargirgabara near the coast between the North Johnstone and Russell Rivers, the Dulgubara towards the head of the South Johnstone River, the Dyiribara on the lowlands and the Mandubara towards Liverpool Creek.

There are no obvious Indigenous gravestones in the oldest parts of the cemetery, but it is possible that some local people are buried in unmarked graves in the Alien portions of Sections 4, 7 and 8. There is a strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence in modern Innisfail and this is reflected in the newer sections of the cemetery. Family names may be seen on graves in all the newer areas but, since the elimination of denominational boundaries, Indigenous families have tended, where possible, to cluster their graves. Recent Aboriginal burials may be identified by the length of time that elapses between the burial and the erection of a headstone. This time is the period of mourning for the interred.

Chinese came to the region as early as 1881. Among the first to arrive was Ah Chong and his team of scrub fellers. In 1883, when storekeepers See Poy and Lan Quai arrived in Geraldton, Chinese navvies were already working on the Mourilyan Tramway. By 1884 they were reportedly forming contract cane cutting teams. Geraldton's Ah Ching, See Poy and Tam Sie dominated the district's banana industry in that decade.

The level of early Chinese settlement is not reflected in burial areas of the period. A Chinese grave was located in Section 4. This was one of only 2 gravestones extant in the Alien portion of the section. However Section 5, denominationally Church of England, holds a considerable number of Chinese graves including that of Tue Chung Han (1925) wife of Tom See Poy. In newer parts of the cemetery, Chinese burials continue to be predominantly Anglican.

Pacific Islanders formed the backbone of the plantation labour force and later became the first independent sugar farmers in the region. Some men accompanied Thomas Henry Fitzgerald, when he arrived to establish Johnstone's first plantation in 1880. New recruits arrived by sea from 1885. Islanders had a high

mortality rate in the sugar industry, but it is likely that most would have been buried on their plantations, along with Malay, Japanese and Javanese sugar workers. We know that there were cemeteries on Goondi and Mourilyan plantations until the twentieth century. There were also burial grounds at Innishowen Plantation and at Flying Fish Point.

The first Islander grave noted in the cemetery was the second of the 2 burial sites in the Alien portion of Section 4. It is entirely possible that other Islanders were buried here and in the Alien portions of Sections 7 and 8. However, many of the sugar workers were enthusiastic converts to Christianity and so would have been interred in their denominational sections.

The sugar industry attracted a chain of Italian immigrants that commenced in the 1890s. By 1916 Italian cane cutters dominated the Johnstone River harvest and Italians owned about a quarter of all the sugar farms. Until the 1920s most Italians migrated from northern Italy, but during the 1920s a new chain from Catania (Sicily) settled around Mourilyan, Moresby and Eubenangee in the Johnstone Shire. This group came to dominate Italian ethnicity in and around Innisfail. In 1923 Italians owned 41% of sugar farms in the Johnstone Shire and in 1927, Italian, Maltese and Spanish cane cutters made up all but 19 of the 246 cane cutters for the season.

After a fall-off in the 1940s, the Australian-Italian immigration agreement of 1951 and a period of recruiting by the Australian Sugar Producers' Association from 1955, many more Italians settled in Innisfail. Immigration dropped off after the Bonegilla riots of 1961, a trend that was strongly encouraged by the demise of hand-cutting which was complete in 1973. In 1996 there were only 536 Italian-born in South Johnstone, but the Italian, especially Sicilian, ethnicity factor in Innisfail remains very high. It is likely that Sicilian families influenced the move towards tiled grave markers. More recently there are whole areas in the cemetery that have been taken over almost exclusively by very large Italian gravestones and the chapel-style mausoleums mentioned above.

## **Religious denominations**

The importance of Catholicism in the Johnstone Shire has also influenced the physical development of the cemetery. While the first European settlers in the region were the timber-getters Leopold Stamp and Heinrich Scheu, the person regarded as having established a settlement in the region was the Irishman, Thomas Henry Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald formed a company with James Quinn, Bishop of Queensland, to apply for 8 selections in February 1880. Bishop Quinn's intention was to foster Irish immigration in this newly opened territory. Further selections followed and the names of 11 Sisters of Mercy appear on the deeds. Their purchases were underwritten by a wealthy Irish immigrant, Florence O'Reilly.

Early Irish immigration combined (often uneasily) with Italian settlement to give Innisfail an unusually high (for Queensland) Roman Catholic population. Other churches paid little attention to the region until the population diversified. The Catholic Church had been active for 15 years before members of the Church of England set up their first building fund. Regular Presbyterian services began in 1913 but this denomination only acquired a church in 1918 (in time for the cyclone). The Methodists brought a church building in from Chillagoe in 1930. A Greek Orthodox Church was consecrated in 1935.

In 2008 about 40% of people living in the 4860 postcode district were Catholic compared with 28% for Queensland as a whole. The next largest denominational group was Church of England with 21%. This is reflected in the denominational distribution of the cemetery. Of the surviving cemetery sections, 4 are reserved for Church of England burials, 5 for Presbyterians (though 3 of these are extremely small) and 14 are reserved for Roman Catholics. These do not include the 3 Mausoleum sections which are not reserved for any particular denomination but are used solely by Catholics.

## **Description**

The Innisfail Cemetery is situated on 8.7 hectares of land bounded by River Avenue roughly to the east, Scullen Avenue to the south, Downing Street to the west, Bamboo Creek on the northeast corner and vacant or agricultural land between the Creek and Downing Street. The cemetery is not fenced.

The first burials were in Sections 1 and 2, which face east on to River Avenue from the centre and north of the cemetery. This land is very low and, after serious floods, probably following the 1918 cyclone, the gravestones were moved into Sections 4 and 5. These moved gravestones are recognisable because of their placement in untidy rows. The gravestones include a small amount of granite and marble, but many of the graves are in concrete. Time has treated them badly. The concrete has eroded and most graves are very dirty. The dirty colour is the result of an extremely wet climate that encourages mould combined with bagasse from the sugar farms and mills.

The Roman Catholic Section 3 is the oldest intact section. The grave markers here include that of Annie Mellick, whose Muslim husband, Abraham Selim Mellick, buried her in 1924. 4 years later he donated a marble font to the new Mother of Good Counsel Church in her honour. Here too is John Hynes, an Irish trade unionist who was shot on the picket line during the South Johnstone Mill strike in 1927. Also here is Martin O'Donohue, who arrived in Innisfail in 1883 as Shire Clerk and, after a public service career in various parts of the north, died in Innisfail in his 90s in 1926. The gravestones in Section 3 include the earliest (1930s) experiments in tiles. 2 of these can be seen immediately behind the Hynes grave.

Behind River Avenue the land appears to have been built up. Steps lead from Scullen Avenue to the first Columbarium Wall. This still has some empty niches, left that way because the crematoriums change to bigger cinerary receptacle made them unusable. Next to this is the War Memorial and flag staff. Because of the removal of the graves from Sections 1 and 2, this important memorial, which sits on top of a slope, faces directly on to River Avenue.

Section 4 is at the north end of the second row. The front part of this was reserved for Roman Catholic burials and includes some of the first ornate tiled grave markers, like the one for José Paronella, Spanish founder of Paronella Park. The rear portion of Section 4 received Alien coffins. Most of this latter section is bare, presumably because most of the "Aliens" - Aborigines, Islanders and a variety of Asians - could not afford permanent gravestones. Only 2 graves remain visible in this area. One of these is Chinese and the other appears to belong to an Islander. No Muslim burial sites were found in the cemetery.

The Church of England Section 5 contains a number of Chinese graves. There were, of course, many prosperous Chinese citizens in Innisfail almost from its establishment. Some of these were Christian before leaving China, others converted in Queensland. Christian Chinese would be unlikely to send the bones of their dead back to China. For example Tom See Poy's wife and children were buried with Anglican rites and Chung Han (Mrs See Poy's) grave is in this section. In later decades, when less prosperous Chinese immigrant families became more settled, it was not necessary to be a merchant to be buried in style. Little Fang Yuen lies in Section 5 in an undated grave. George Hing's tribute to his young wife Lucy Amelia who died in 1948 is also here.

The Presbyterian Section 6 has a mix of generally simple tiled and untiled graves. The rear portion of this section has been reserved as a "Public" burial area. The area contains only 1 memorial. This is for the explorer and prospector John Dickie who died in Innisfail in 1924 and was buried in Plot 17, Row 15 Section 6. His monument was erected by Council at a much later date.

Sections 7, 8 and 8A are on the Downing Street side of the Cemetery, in front of the Cemetery Workshop. A narrow strip of land across the eastern end of Sections 7 and 8 is reserved for "Aliens". By this time most of the simpler graves were being tiled in the domestic style current at the time. Section 12 (Church of England) is behind Section 8A. Possibly this was excised from the underutilised Presbyterian area, as its number does not align with its position.

Further chronological confusion occurs in Roman Catholic Sections 9 and 10 in which the graves in 9 appear to be the more recent. Section 9 has a considerable number of Greek graves - no section of the cemetery was reserved for Orthodox burials. Section 10 has older Roman Catholic graves, mainly Italian. These sections are almost entirely tiled and the gravestones are noticeably larger than most of those in earlier sections. An interesting exception is the recently inserted (1982) grave of Colin Blackman, which is constructed of concrete and decorated with Aboriginal symbols.

The move to larger gravestones reaches its highest point in the Roman Catholic Sections 11 and 11A. Here the graves are crowded together as each one almost completely fills its plot. The few graves that are not tiled provide excellent examples of the problems encountered by bare concrete. The Cemetery Plan shows

a narrow strip of land on the east end of Section 11 as being reserved for "Aliens". There is no sign of it being so used.

To the north of Sections 11 and 11A stand the first groups of Chapels in Sections 23 and 24. These are mausoleums that echo the great monuments seen in some Sicilian cemeteries such as Palermo Cemetery, and which reflect both old and new styles. The Innisfail samples reveal differences in taste, skills, economic circumstances and Council regulations. Nevertheless, they are often impressive.

The earliest of the chapels date from the 1970s. All are about 12 feet wide by 9 feet deep. The ceilings are around 8 feet high, but the external height varies according to the pitch of the roof and the style of fascia. The chapels in Sections 23 and 24 mainly have flat roofs, though 3 have gables in Colourbond or similar. Most of them are tiled on the outside, though there is one plastered exterior and a few finished in red brick. Some have marble facings to the front wall and all of the buildings have aluminium framed glass doors. Some have matching windows and others use the window spaces for memorial plaques. Many have panels left blank for future interments.

There are 40 chapels in Section 24 and a further 8 in Section 23. The latter are all built in red brick. Of the 48 chapels, 47 are Italian-owned and 1 is Croatian. It is notable that while all graves face in the customary easterly direction, the main group of chapels face south. Inside the buildings on each side is either a tiled bench or a floor to ceiling tiled section that covers the burial sites. Between the benches or walls are shrines with flowers, religious ornaments and photographs of the deceased.

To the west of the row of sections that terminate in the chapels are another 10 sections, only 5 of which are reserved for individual denominations. There is 1 Presbyterian, 2 Roman Catholics and 2 Church of England. These graves provide excellent examples of the use of tiles on simple graves.

At the western end of the cemetery all sections are "Public" - that is non-denominational. Sections 16 and 20 appear to contain a broad cross section of the people of Innisfail. However, some groups in this diverse society have tried to cluster wherever possible. This clustering is sometimes the result of differing funerary traditions. Section 25, near the Dillon Memorial Steps on the south west end of the cemetery, is the result of Council's attempt to move to using grave markers rather than headstones. Section 27 has recently been opened up on the same basis. While some families have accepted the change, Sections 26 and 28 demonstrate strong resistance.

Section 26 contains mainly indigenous graves. It is said that Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders have a strong preference to be buried as groups, regardless of denominational affiliation. Traditionally they use only a white wooden cross or picket fence to mark graves at the time of burial. These should be replaced with a full headstone when the appropriate period of mourning has passed. This is in contrast to Pacific Islanders whose graves are to be found throughout the cemetery.

Section 28, similarly open to all, is in fact dominated by large tiled graves and mausoleums owned by Sicilian families. Yet another group of chapels is being constructed to the west of these at the rear of the cemetery. It would appear that these are the work of a speculative builder. They have been prebuilt in brick with tiled fascias with the intention that purchasing families will make such changes and enhancements as they think necessary when the need arises. They are built back-to-back in groups of 8 so that each 8 pack has 4 buildings facing east and 4 facing west.

Also at the rear of the cemetery are 2 Columbarium Walls, one to the west and one to the east of the cemetery. These have niches that are double the size of Columbarium Wall One and many of the niches are being purchased by Italian families. Both sides of each wall are used - a fact that has given rise to some discussion about whether the plaques should all have faced east.

Images





**Moved graves**



**Concrete graves**





**Use of tiles**







Annie Mellick grave



**John Hynes grave**



**John Hynes epitaph**



**War Memorial**



**Paronella grave**



**"Aliens" graves**



**"Alien" Chinese grave**



"Alien" Islander grave



Chung Han grave



Fang Yuen grave



Lucy Hing grave





**John Dickie grave**



**Section 8**



**Section 9 - Greek graves**



**Section 10 - Old Italian section**



## Section 10 - Aboriginal grave



## Section 11



Section 11A





## Public graves



## Dillon Memorial Steps



**Grave markers**



**Binjuda grave**



**Use of pickets**



**Hurlock grave**





**Section 28**



**Chapels**



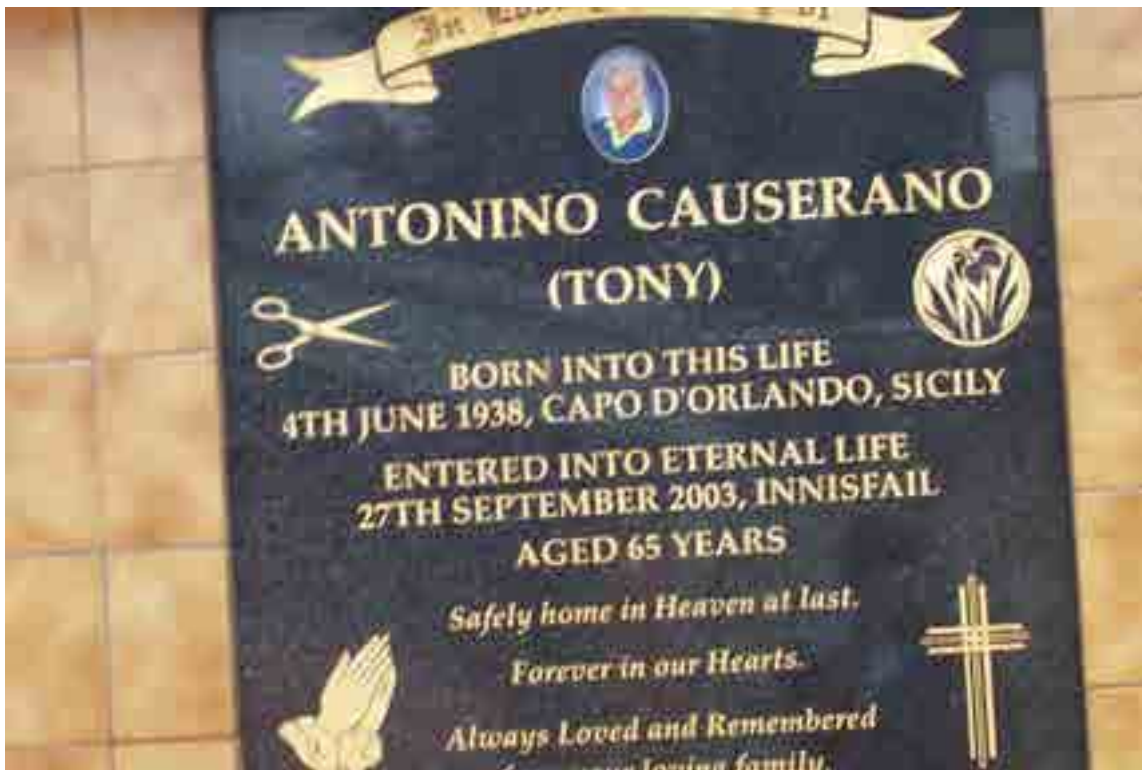


**Chapel interior**



**Columbarium walls**







**Military grave**



**Infant's grave**



Graves - various













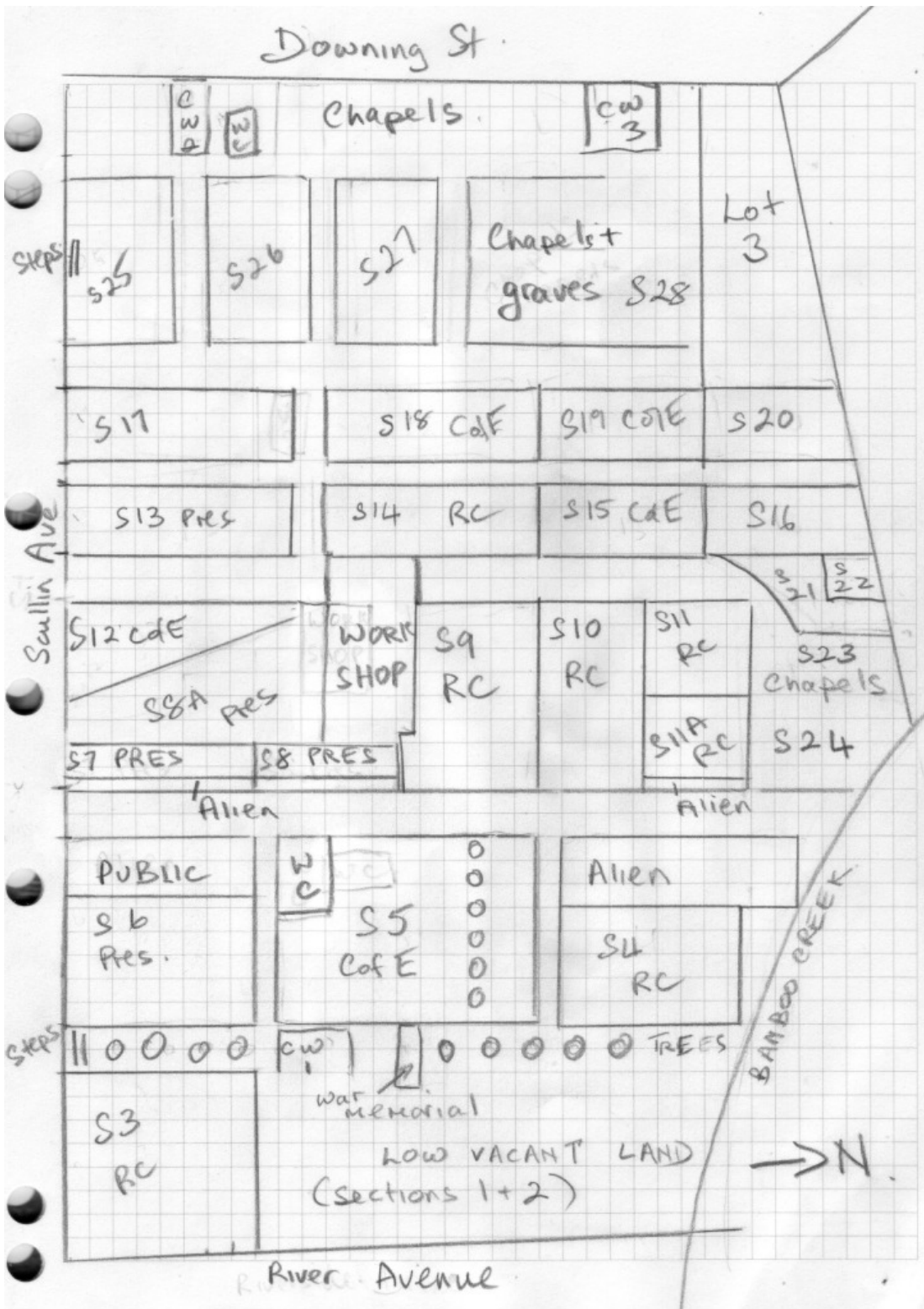






Cemetery sketches





**References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 30 - Innisfail Fire Station**

**Place Name:** Innisfail Fire Station  
**Address:** 50 Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 8 I281182

### **Heritage significance**

The Innisfail Fire Station is important in showing the evolution of the township of Innisfail and the development of its central community infrastructure. In addition, the building is important from an aesthetic perspective, and forms part of an important group of buildings on the riverfront along with the Masonic Temple and Ambulance Station.

### **History**

The Innisfail Fire Brigade was an early community association which formed as a voluntary fire brigade in 1888. In 1935 the Voluntary brigade was replaced by the Auxiliary Brigade, located in Owen Street.

A site for a new fire station was acquired in 1936 on Fitzgerald Esplanade. The new station was designed by Hill and Taylor and was constructed using day labour - 2 married men were employed for every single man. In 1937, the station was officially opened.

In 1962 a smoke was room constructed. This was replaced with a new smoke room in 1986 after the old room was condemned in 1985.

Adjoining land was purchased to provide a link to Grace Street in 1972 which was used until 1980. In 1980, the DOC's house on the site was demolished, and in 1981 extensions to the station were completed.

### **Description**

There are a number of buildings and ancillary structures on the lot the subject of this listing. However, it is only the original main fire station building that is considered to be of local heritage significance as outlined above. Therefore, the original main fire station building is the only part of the site forming part of this listing.

The Innisfail Fire Station is a 2 storey, reinforced concrete building of inter war classical style. It has a symmetrical façade, large semi circular arched openings with modern aluminium window frames in the centre, traditional casements with window shades at the sides, a flat parapet, cantilever awning and covered vehicle driveways at the side.

The residence on the corner block next to the fire station was removed to make way for improved facilities in 1980-1981.

The open plan office space on the first floor used to be a kitchen area where the double glass doors remain extant. This area still retains evidence of the building's original structure through architraves, windows, window glass and doorways.

The current foyer area and adjoining offices are located within an enclosed verandah.

The store room was formerly the bathroom and contains a timber fireman's pole which is now enclosed by a timber barrier. The floor around the pole is closed in to prevent noise from the downstairs area penetrating the upstairs offices.

The back verandah contains the mailroom which is entered from the verandah. The mail boxes are accessible from the storeroom. The back verandah has a lined ceiling.



The windows on the lower storey have original awnings. The lower storey is built in piers and the internal walls were reconstructed in besser block which replaced the former asbestos cement sheeting used for the walls.

The fire tower was replaced in the 1960s.

The rear yard was reconfigured and many of the small buildings were removed at this point. The old garage has been replaced by a variety of iron sheeting sheds and garages.

The front garage area/engine bay appears relatively unchanged. This area currently contains the original "wheeled extension ladder" which came from Ipswich in the 1950s.

The veranda across the façade was added to protect the building from severe weather, and the original façade remains largely unchanged.

## **Images**





**Upstairs rear verandah**



**Window at front verandah area**



**Original residence upstairs**



**Upper end of fireman's pole**



**Original "Wheeled Extension Ladder"**



**Downstairs town water pressure gauge**



**Rear of building**



**Rear of building - original section**



Rear of building - new section



Photo of original fire station



## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998

## Place No. 31 - Innisfail Heritage Precinct

**Place Name:** Innisfail Heritage Precinct  
**Address:** Area bounded by Grace Street, Owen Street, Fitzgerald Esplanade and McGowan Drive, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Various

### Heritage significance

The buildings in this precinct contribute to the streetscapes within this precinct, which are comprised almost entirely of significant art deco style buildings constructed during the 1920s and 1930s. The concentration of art deco buildings from this era within the Innisfail Heritage Precinct makes the Innisfail town centre unique. The buildings are also important for showing the evolution of the Innisfail town centre and the commercial activities undertaken by its residents.

Even if a property located within this precinct is not specifically mentioned in the description of this place or shown in the images below, it still is significant in that it has the potential to contribute to the streetscape and enhance the art deco and historical values of adjacent and surrounding properties.

### History

Innisfail was devastated by flood in 1913, and then by cyclone in 1918. Therefore, many of the town's original timber buildings were destroyed. However, despite these setbacks, the town prospered due to the success of the Johnstone region's sugar industry. The prosperity of the sugar industry is reflected in the number, scale and style of many buildings constructed in the town during the 1920s and 1930s. Today, many of these buildings continue to make up a unique town centre containing an unusual collection of concrete buildings dating from this period.

### Description

The Innisfail Heritage Precinct includes the following buildings:

#### **ANZ Centre**

Location: 14-20 Rankin Street (Lot 17 SP154702).

Significance: An important hilltop building at the Edith and Rankin Streets intersection, contributing to the almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

History: This prime commercial property opposite the Post Office was originally purchased by a speculator named Taylor. It was later acquired by Tam Sie, a successful merchant, who eventually sold the property to Charles Nolan, the founder of Nolan's Limited. The building was constructed in 1923 by the general merchants, Nolan's Limited and was later sold to JC Penneys and then Coles.

Description: This building is single stored and of reinforced concrete construction. The building has a flat parapet relieved by raised panels with classical pediments and a suspending awning. The building has been modified at street level with modern shop frontages comprising blank walls and large aluminium doors and windows. Some detail has been removed from the parapet to accommodate the ANZ corporate logo.



## **Blue Bird Cafe**

Location: 38 Rankin Street (Lot 2 RP700489).

Significance: This building makes an important contribution to the almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

History: This is one of the concrete construction buildings built during the prosperous boom in the 1920s and 1930s. The building was constructed as a café which, during the Mano Nera era in Far North Queensland, was run by Greeks. It was the meeting place where farmers had their lunch when they went to town to get money for the gangs.

Description: This building is 2 storeys and of reinforced concrete construction with a symmetrical façade. The building is notable for its distinctive styling, reflective of the inter war modernist style, and eclectic details. The building has a crenulated parapet with the words "Blue Bird Café" in relief. The Moorish arch balconies are supported by Tuscan columns with semi-circular arched windows on the first floor. The building has a suspended awning and has been modified at street level for modern shop fronts. The exterior of the first floor of the building appears to be intact with only the minor intrusion of an air conditioner in the wall.

## **Duffin House/Arcidiacono House**

Location: 41 Rankin Street (Lot 317 I2811).

Significance: This building makes an important contribution to the row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

History: The land was purchased by Burns Phillip & Co Limited at Crown Auction on 24 August 1883. On 11 July 1939 it was purchased by Charles James Duffin, who commissioned the building which remains on site today. The building was built out of concrete post and beam on the basement and street levels, but the first floor level was built with Silky Oak wall framing timber and Johnstone river hardwood flooring. The top level was not completed and was used as a laundry. The building was named "Duffin House" and was completed in 1941.

Charlie Duffin operated a chemist business serving the Innisfail community from the 1920s to the 1950s. Charlie and his wife and children lived above his shop in Rankin Street until their new house in East Innisfail was built in approximately 1932. Charlie and his wife (Miss Omara) had 3 daughters (Betty, Margaret and Thelma) and an adopted son (Graeme). He was the President of the Innisfail Chamber of Commerce and the incoming President of the Rotary Club.

On 11 April 1950 the property was purchased by Orazanio Arciadacono and renamed "Arciadacono House". The property remained in Mr Arciadacono's ownership until it was sold as a deceased estate on 18 October 1973.

The property was purchased by its current owners on 18 December 2003.

Description: This is a large prominent building of the Spanish Mission art deco style, inspired by the 1920s American art deco movement. It comprises 3 storeys and a basement, and is of reinforced concrete construction with a symmetrical façade. The building has a flat parapet with a notable art deco ornament as a central feature. The building has a suspended first floor balcony and awning, Mediterranean tiled balcony roof supported on concrete posts with fanciful vaguely Egyptian capitals and wrought iron balustrade on the first floor. The building has been modified at street level for shop frontages with large windows.

The building was repainted from its original colours some time after 1978, and then again in approximately 2011. The roof over the flats has been replaced and a new roof structure was built over the top level laundry area.

Inside the ceiling of Flat 3, above the electrical switchboard, there is some graffiti "K. Kennedy 1941". It is unknown who this person was and whether they were a builder or electrician working on the building.

### **Former AS Mellick Building**

Location: 29-37 Rankin Street (Lot 15 I28140 and Lot 1 RP710656).

Significance: The Former AS Mellick Building was Innisfail's first substantial concrete structure and one of the earliest reinforced concrete commercial buildings in Australia. Although unroofed and badly damaged during the 1918 cyclone, the basement was used as a shelter and the core of the building survived. The remaining concrete arches in the basement, concrete walls and concealed concrete parapet contribute significantly to our understanding of how reinforced concrete became a principle building material in the cyclone-prone Far North, and how Innisfail developed as a town whose commercial buildings were almost exclusively built from reinforced concrete.

The establishment and construction of the AS Mellick Building demonstrates the important influence migrants played in the commercial development of non-metropolitan Queensland. Lebanese (Syrian) traders, often underwritten, or at least supplied, by Lebanese merchants in Redfern, New South Wales, eventually established businesses in most north Queensland towns including Townsville, Hughenden, Cairns, Innisfail, Charters Towers and Winton.

History: Although cement had been used since Roman times, reinforced concrete was not used successfully until 1854, but was still then used predominantly for foundations and ornamental and architectural features. In the late 1800s, Queensland builders were using concrete primarily for bridges and aqueducts. The transition to building commercial premises with reinforced concrete took longer. By 1905 Melbourne engineers, Monash and Anderson, were building 2 concrete storage buildings for the Australian Mortgage Land and Finance Company in Melbourne. Later in 1905, Monash constructed 2 buildings in Olive Lane, Melbourne using American reinforced concrete technology to build without brick cladding. Only 2 years later, Abraham Selim Mellick used day labour to build himself a substantial reinforced concrete shop on land held by Stanton and Aziz Melick in Rankin Street, Innisfail.

Abraham Selim Mellick was a Lebanese migrant who moved to Australia with his brother Habib in 1900. Lebanese migrants first came to Australia in significant numbers in the late 1880s and early 1890s where they were known popularly as "Afghans" and officially classified as Asians. Most Lebanese immigrants went into commerce; with the wealthier families establishing large businesses. Constantine (Stanton) and Aziz Melick, who arrived in Sydney in 1888, opened one of a number of Lebanese-owned fabric, warehousing and manufacturing businesses in or near Elizabeth Street, Redfern. By 1900 they were among the largest and most established suppliers to the Australian Manchester trade and supplied itinerant drapery and Manchester hawkers and often trained and helped new arrivals to get them started. Later, they became major suppliers to the network of Lebanese owned businesses that spread throughout regional and rural areas.

Abraham Selim Mellick immediately started work as a hawker of Manchester goods over the Blue Mountains, and after 12 months, the brothers moved to Townsville where Abraham hawked for another uncle, John David Mellick. Young Abraham's commercial territory extended from Bowen to Cairns and in February 1902 he decided to move to Geraldton. At this stage Geraldton had a population of 250 Europeans and "several hundred Chinese, Javanese, Japanese, Malays and Kanakas". Mellick opened his first fancy goods business in a small shop which was part of a block built by Tam Sie on the corner of Rankin Street and the Esplanade (MacGowan Drive). In 1906/7 he moved his business to what would become 29-37 Rankin Street and built a reinforced concrete "Emporium" with living quarters at the rear and a large basement underneath.

It is unclear why Mellick made the unusual and innovative decision to build his emporium from reinforced concrete. His daughter, Miss Thelma Mellick, recalled that her father was very proud of his building and would likely have investigated the best possible modern construction methods. Certainly his life to that time would suggest that he was eminently capable of such research and innovation.

The Rankin Street land sloped sharply back towards the river. Mellick's shop front on to Rankin Street extended through Lot 15 and about half of Lot 14. The basement filled the slope below the shop. The living quarters were at the rear and Mellick lived there with his small family and, after Annie's death in 1913, with his daughter Esme. Bank agencies rented space at the northern end of the building. The business prospered and Mellick built up his position in the town.

On 10 March 1918 an unnamed cyclone virtually destroyed Innisfail. The eye passed directly over the town between 9 and 10pm destroying many of its buildings. The winds that then came from the opposite direction destroyed the rest. As houses and shops collapsed, the townsfolk sought shelter in the few surviving safe havens. Many people crowded into the basement of Nolan's building in Rankin Street and into the Shire Hall. 2 hundred people packed into the basement of Mellick's reinforced concrete store. It is estimated that 37 Europeans were killed and the number of non-European fatalities was not recorded. Over 400 Europeans were severely injured. Every building in Innisfail was either demolished or damaged. The only two commercial buildings that survived in the business centre were Nolan's and Mellick's concrete stores.

When the town began to rebuild, it did not escape notice that the survival (though not without damage) of Mellick's and Nolan's buildings was due to their reinforced concrete construction. Mellick's iron roof and shop front were gone, but his walls still stood and his basement had probably saved many lives. This had a profound effect on the rebuilding of Innisfail. Builder preference and Council influence following the gazettal of the CBD as a "First Class Area" in 1925 encouraged the use of reinforced concrete. 59 of the 61 significant buildings erected in the CBD between the wars were made of reinforced concrete. These include the dominant Mother of Good Counsel Church (1928) and the new Shire Hall (1937). While the use of concrete was not innovative by the 1930s, its use to build an entire town centre was unique.

After the cyclone, Abraham Mellick set about restoring, and indeed improving, his Emporium. Even though he received no insurance payout or government assistance, a photograph taken around 1923 shows the store with the living area built above the basement, extended to provide a view over the river. This was built over a cloister-like passage from Rankin Street on the Edith Street side. Concrete stairs allowed access from the rear of the building. In 1919, Mellick leased a small part of the shop to the Commercial Bank of Sydney, which remained a tenant until 1931. He transferred a part interest in the property to Habib in 1924, the year that Abraham Mellick married Leinda Malik. The couple eventually had 4 children, Sam, Thelma, Habib and Hazel. They lived above the store until the end of 1926 by which time 2 of the children had been born.

The family became increasingly prosperous and heavily involved in the commercial and civic affairs of Innisfail, but problems arose at the end of the decade when Habib married and decided to live in Sydney. In order for him to take his share with him, Mellick was forced to sell the property. The Mellick family continued to operate a drapery in rented premises. Abraham Selim Mellick lost his sight in 1968 and died in Innisfail in 1982 at the age of 98.

Description: The building comprises 4 shop fronts and 2 additional basement entrances onto Rankin Street. It is approximately 20 metres long and the façade consists of a high striped aluminium parapet covering a classical concrete parapet that originally supported concrete urns. Mr Vandeleur states that parts of the original parapet were "sliced off" to fit the new one. Below the parapet is a suspended awning above large aluminium framed windows and tiled walls.

The building is on a site that slopes towards the river. The basement runs under most of the building except the part that is built over the side passage. At its deepest part the building is approximately 30 metres deep. The base of the front section of the building along its northern side is exposed reinforced concrete and has windows and 1 door set into it. The building above is covered in modern cladding and is pierced by 5 small windows. The passage that runs the complete depth of the building is approximately 1.8 metres wide. Under the rear section of the building on the Grace Street or northern side and its outside edge is lined with concrete arches so that the passage resembles a cloister. ARC steel mesh has been stretched between the arches and there is an iron gate at the river end.

The rear (river side) of the building has 3 different depths. The Grace Street or northern end, which was where the Mellick family lived, has a depth of approximately 30 metres and is approximately 10 metres wide. It would appear to have been topped by a verandah which has now been enclosed with aluminium framed windows. The rear walls are clad with Hardy Plank (or similar). Mr Vandeleur stated that this has been fixed over the original timber cladding. The central part of the building is approximately 18 metres deep and 5 metres wide and the shop in this central part can be accessed by a set of concrete steps. This section has also been clad with Hardy Plank. The southern or furthest section from Grace Street is approximately 14 metres deep and 15 metres wide. The upper shop here can be accessed by a set of modern stairs. A large roller door has been set into the rear wall. The southern end of the building is connected to the next building with a party wall.

The roof line is barely visible from any angle. A pre-cyclone photograph shows a single gable of corrugated iron, however this roof was blown away in 1918. It can be assumed that the current roof is of corrugated iron and that the gable form was used to facilitate run-off in this very wet climate. It was common for builders of commercial premises in Far North Queensland to hide the gable roofs that were essential for the climate behind parapets. It is likely that the last store, Carama Hair and Beauty, has a skillion roof that begins below the end of the gable. This has been assumed from the existence of windows high in the wall on the Carama side of the Sports Store. Inside the shops, very little of the original form can be discerned under a variety of claddings and false ceilings. However, the stairway connecting the upper floor at the back of Vandeleur and Todd's office with the basement has not been renovated. Sportz Look has the original high timber ceiling, exposed beams and high windows.

Underneath the whole of the building (other than the "cloister" overhang) run the basements. Vandeleur and Todd have retained the basement under the former Mellick residence. They have installed some light timber shelving and store legal records there. This is the most changed part of the basement as it had been converted into three flats. The tongue and groove partitions and part partitions obscure the original structure. The basement under the front part of Vandeleur and Todd has been taken over by another business. Some of the massive timber beams can be seen here, though a couple have been replaced by steel. In this part of the basement you can also see the supporting concrete arches, some filled in, each about 0.45 metres thick. It was not possible to inspect the unused basement beneath the last 2 shops.

The front exterior of the building is unsightly due to the metal and tile cladding and the interiors that comprised the original shop have no integrity. However, the interior of Sportz Look, which has avoided the installation of a false ceiling, has retained more of its original character. Its timber ceiling and small, high windows provide an indication of the likely appearance of the 1920s store.

### **Former Bank of NSW Building**

Location: 55 Rankin Street (Lot 1 RP710464).

Significance: This building contributes to the row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

History: This is one of the concrete construction buildings built during the prosperous boom in the 1920s and 1930s.

Description: This building is 2 storeyed and of reinforced concrete construction with a symmetrical façade. The building has a classical balustrade and pediment with the words "Est. 1817" in escutcheon. The building has a flat parapet, large windows at street level and shades over the door and windows.

### **Former Commonwealth Bank Building**

Location: 1 Edith Street (Lot 2 RP708253).

Significance: This building is a good example of the restrained classical style of design used by the Commonwealth Bank to establish their "presence" throughout Australia. It is one of a number of fine public and commercial buildings in Innisfail, which includes churches and banks.

As part of the townscape of Innisfail, the building is designed to address the intersection overlooking the Johnstone River.

History: The building was originally designed and constructed as a single storey bank building. A second storey is believed to have been added in 1939 and was used as quarters for single bank employees. The land on which the building now stands is the site of the original Customs House which was destroyed in the 1918 cyclone.

Description: The building is a 2 storeyed rendered masonry building with a hipped corrugated iron roof which is crowned with a ventilator. The building addresses its corner position with a curved portico entrance and 2 Tuscan columns addressing the intersection. The restrained classical decoration is moulded with panels below the windows, keystones and exaggerated string courses. The upper level has been altered with the insertion of aluminium windows.

### **Former National Bank of Australasia Building**

Location: 56 Rankin Street (Lot 4 RP700486).

Significance: This building contributes to the almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

History: This is one of the concrete construction buildings built during the prosperous boom in the 1920s and 1930s. The parapet was originally embossed with the name "National Bank of Australasia Limited" which has since been removed. The building was also previously occupied by the Commercial Bank of Australia.

Description: The building is 2 storeyed and of reinforced concrete construction with a symmetrical façade and small openings. In the inter-war modernist style, the building has a flat parapet with a very simple ornament. The words "National Bank of Australasia Limited" are faintly visible. The building has sliding windows with shades between low relief pilasters on the parapet and a suspended awning. The building has been modified at street level for modern shop frontages.

### **Former Queensland National Bank Building**

Location: 39 Rankin Street (Lot 316 I2811).

**Significance:** This building contributes to the row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

**History:** This is the former site of the Queensland National Bank Limited. The Bank was established in Brisbane in 1872. It opened a branch at Geraldton (later Innisfail) on 20 February 1886. This property in Rankin Street was purchased for 400 pounds and a timber bank and residence was erected on the site.

**Description:** The building is a 2 storeyed reinforced concrete building with a symmetrical façade. The building is of very simple inter-war modernist style with giant fluted pilasters and small openings. The building has a flat parapet, aluminium hopper windows and cantilever concrete shades over the door and windows.

### **Former Spanos House**

**Location:** 11-17 Rankin Street (Lot 313 I2811).

**Significance:** This building contributes to the almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

**History:** This is one of the concrete construction buildings built during the prosperous boom in the 1920s and 1930s.

**Description:** The building has 2 storeys with a basement and is made from reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style. The building has a stepped parapet with art deco ornament and has been modified at street level to incorporate a modern shop front. The first floor has also been altered, with a doorway having been filled in with concrete block and a window added in its place. The building has a modern awning over the footpath supported by large round posts.

### **Hotel Grand Central Building**

**Location:** 20 Edith Street (Lot 22 SP114061).

**Significance:** The Hotel Grand Central Building is a large prominent building and a focal point in an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

**History:** This building was constructed in 1930. It was totally refurbished in 1996.

**Description:** The building is a 2 storeyed reinforced concrete building with a symmetrical façade. In the inter-war classical style, the building has a flat parapet with a central pediment and acroteria containing the words "Hotel Grand Central". The building has a new second storey concrete verandah with imposing stylised round Tuscan columns and a modern street level shopfront. The building was totally refurbished in 1996 and the only original detail on the building is the parapet.

### **Innisfail Court House**

**Location:** 10 Edith Street (Lot 4 I281133).

**Significance:** A very important hilltop building dominating the Edith and Rankin Streets intersection and forming the climax of an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Owen Street. This is one of the best examples of a brick Court House resulting from the works scheme. The building's original interior is largely intact.

See also the cultural significance of the building as detailed as part of its entry on the Queensland Heritage Register.

**History:** During the 1930s depression, a government-initiated works scheme was established to create employment. This involved the employment of architects, foremen, labourers and the use of local materials in the design and construction of government buildings such as the Innisfail Court House. For further information, see the information supporting the entry of the building on the Queensland Heritage Register.

**Description:** The building is a large imposing building, 2 storeyed and brick with cream render. The building is of inter-war classical style, with façade gables with broken pediments. The building has Tuscan colonnades with square columns and masonry balustrades on the ground floor. The building has round columns and wrought iron balustrades on the first floor and a curbed portico with 2 giant ionic columns address the intersection. For further information, see the information supporting the entry of the building on the Queensland Heritage Register.

### **Innisfail Memorial School of Arts Building**

**Location:** 9 Edith Street (Lot 21 I28169).

**Significance:** This building has a remarkably intact shopfront at street level. While it is an isolated building, it provides a visual link between the Court House and the former Commonwealth Bank building.

**History:** The building was designed by the architect G V Rees and was constructed in 1930 by John Doyle. The building currently houses the Innisfail Historical Society and Historical Museum.

**Description:** The building comprises 2 storeys and a basement, and is of reinforced concrete construction with a symmetrical façade. Stylistically it is an example of the inter war modernist style, with a stepped parapet, suspended awning with original panelling detail, 12 pane sash windows, concrete window shades supported by consoles and original lead lighting and joinery in shopfront windows. The building retains many of its original features including shop front with original lead light windows, stairway and internal partitions.

### **J Rizzo Building**

**Location:** 33 Edith Street (Lot 5 RP700487).

**Significance:** The columns are notable as the only decorative cast iron work visible in the commercial centre of Innisfail.

**History:** The building was constructed in 1935.

**Description:** The J Rizzo Building is a large prominent building comprising two storeys and basement and made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter war classical style. The building has a flat parapet with a central arched pediment containing the words "1935 J Rizzo". There is an enclosed timber verandah projecting over the footpath on the first floor and supported on cast iron columns at street level. The building has a modern street level shopfront but the façade retains its original cast iron veranda posts and parapet.

### **National Bank/Commercial Banking Company Building**

**Location:** 17 Edith Street (Lots 1 & 4 RP707905).

**Significance:** This building is a prominent hilltop building at the Edith and Rankin Streets intersection.

**History:** The building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom. It was occupied in

the past by the Commercial Banking Company and the National Australia Bank.



Description: The building comprises 2 storeys and a basement and is made of reinforced concrete. It has a curved façade addressing the intersection and is of inter-war modernist style. The building has a flat parapet raised at the intersection with minimal ornament. The building has casement windows with large window shades on the first floor and suspended awnings at 3 levels. The exterior of the building has been modified to incorporate a modern street level shopfront and the portico entrance on the corner has been blocked and replaced by a display window.

### **Queens Hotel**

Location: 74-78 Rankin Street (Lot 603 I2811).

Significance: Adjacent to the Shire Hall, the building makes an important contribution to the almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

History: The hotel was built by the Van Leeuwen Bros in the 1930s. The hotel was owned by Mr See Poy in the 1950s.

Description: The building comprises 3 storeys and a basement and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style, with a flat parapet containing a central art deco ornament. The building has a curved modernist balcony, casement windows and corrugated iron window shades on the second floor. There is a timber verandah on the first floor and small street level windows.

### **Regent Arcade**

Location: 26-32 Edith Street (Lot 509 I2811).

Significance: The Regent Arcade is a prominent and attractive building and a focal point in an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

History: The building formerly housed the Regent Theatre owned by Mrs Tam Sie. Reportedly, it cost £21,000 to build and it was opened by the Chairman of the Johnstone Shire Council, Cr E Hall, in April 1930.

Band concerts were held in the Regent Theatre every Sunday night. The Theatre screened movies on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday nights. During the day the seats were stacked to the sides and a miniature golf course was laid out on the floor.

The building was converted into an arcade in 1977. Further refurbishment was completed in July 1992. The building was officially reopened by the then Chairman of the Johnstone Shire Council, Cr Ross Overton, on 14 August 1992.

Description: The building is single storeyed and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style, with an elaborate arched parapet containing an art deco ornament and words the words "Regent Arcade" in relief. The building has its original suspended awning. The building was refurbished in 1992 and has a modern street level shopfront and a new stylised modernist colonnade. The original lettering for the "Theatre" has been altered to reflect the building's current use as an arcade.

### **Rigano Building**

Location: 51-53 Edith Street (Lot 2 RP708688).

Significance: The Rigano Building is a prominent and distinctive building.

History: This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom. Today the building has shop fronts at street level whilst the first and second floors appear to be occupied as flats.

Description: The building has 3 storeys and a basement and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade projecting over the footpath to the street alignment and is of inter-war modernist style. The building has a flat parapet with a curved art deco façade but little ornament. The square columns on the street give strong vertical movement to the full height of the façade. The building has been altered to include a modern street level shopfront and aluminium windows upstairs.

### **Robertson Bros Building**

Location: 42-44 Rankin Street (Lot 0 SP116343).

Significance: This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

History: The Robertson Bros Building is one of the concrete buildings built during the prosperous 1920s and 1930s.

Description: The building has 2 storeys and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style. The parapet is divided into 3 bays with a raised central curved pediment and the words "Established 1916 Robertson Bros" in relief. The building has classical semi-circular arched windows on the first floor and a suspended awning. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

### **Shire Hall**

Location: 70 Rankin Street (Lot 4 I281121).

Significance: The Shire Hall is a large important building forming a dominant landmark in the Rankin Street streetscape and the focal point of an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

See also the cultural significance of the building as detailed as part of its entry on the Queensland Heritage Register.

History: The Johnstone Shire Hall was designed by the architectural partners Hill and Taylor who were prominent local architects in North Queensland between World War I and World War II. The building was built by the Van Leeuwen Brothers in 1938.

The land on which the building is constructed was originally occupied by the first Divisional Board Hall. Built by James Hart Andrews in 1885, the building was destroyed by fire in March 1891. Over the years the Johnstone Shire has had 4 Shire Halls, 3 of which have burned to the ground.

For further information, see the information supporting the entry of the building on the Queensland Heritage Register.

**Description:** The building comprises 3 storeys and a basement and is of reinforced concrete construction. The building has a notable and distinctive elaborate symmetrical façade and is of the inter-war modernist style. The building's tall, complex parapet is divided into three bays with towers and art deco ornamental panels. The building has a cantilever canopy with original art deco ornament. The first floor balcony has a wrought iron balustrade and the building has its original semi-circular arched street level openings with art deco leadlight panels. For further information, see the information supporting the entry of the building on the Queensland Heritage Register.

### **Shop**

**Location:** 14 Edith Street (Lot 11 SP188495).

**Significance:** This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

**History:** This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom. It originally housed a Greek café, later the Empire Café, before being refurbished and turned into a butcher shop. The building has most recently been used for Brandor business services.

**Description:** The building is single storeyed and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style, with a square-stepped parapet and a suspended awning. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

### **Shop**

**Location:** 16-18 Edith Street (Lot 2 RP715634).

**Significance:** This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

**History:** The building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom. At one time the parapet was adorned with the sign "Dick's the Live Draper".

**Description:** The building is single storeyed and made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style, with a double arched parapet and a suspended awning with conspicuous air conditioners. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

### **Shop**

**Location:** 21 Edith Street (Lot 4 RP708283).

**Significance:** This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

**History:** The building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

**Description:** The building has 2 storeys and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style, with a tall arched parapet containing minimal art deco ornament. It has small casement windows and a suspended awning. The original verandah roof has been removed and the building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

### **Shop**

Location: 25 Edith Street (Lot 3 RP708283).

Significance: This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

History: The building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

Description: The building has 2 storeys and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style. It has a tall arched parapet with art deco ornament. The building has casement windows with a coloured ornamental pattern and a suspended awning. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

### **Shop**

Location: 29-31 Edith Street (Lot 1 RP708283).

Significance: This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

History: This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

Description: The building has 2 storeys and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war classic style, with central broken pediment and pilasters and cornices on the parapet. The semi-circular arched window shape is repeated on the parapet. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront and aluminium windows on the first floor, and the suspended awning has been clad in modern sheet metal.

### **Shop**

Location: 34-38 Edith Street (Lot 508 I2811).

Significance: This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

History: The building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

Description: The building is single storeyed and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style. It has a stepped gabled parapet and a suspended awning. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

### **Shop**

Location: 40 Edith Street (Lot 1 RP707193).

Significance: This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

History: This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

Description: The building is single storeyed and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style. It has a flat parapet with art deco ornament and a suspended awning. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

## **Shops**

Location: Location: 46-48 Edith Street (Lot 1 RP700483 and Lot 1 RP706457).

Significance: This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

History: This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom. It was built for Boyett and Revelchione, Solicitors after the 1918 cyclone.

Description: The building has two storeys and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style. It has a plain flat parapet and a suspended awning. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront. The original parapet remains but has been significantly altered.

## **Shop**

Location: 52 Edith Street (Lot 2 RP706457 and Lot 1 RP700482).

Significance: This building is part of an important hilltop group of buildings at the Edith and Owen Streets intersection, forming an entrance gateway for Innisfail's inner retail shopping and business precinct, and commencing an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

The intact shopfront details are rare in Innisfail and very important.

History: This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

Description: The building is single storeyed and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style, with an art deco ornament on the parapet and a suspended awning. While part of the street level of the building has been modernised, part has intact original window details including leadlight panels that have been painted over.

## **Shops**

Location: 62 Edith Street (Lot 2 RP700482).

Significance: This building is part of an important hilltop group of buildings at the Edith and Owen Streets intersection, forming an entrance gateway for Innisfail's inner retail shopping and business precinct, and commencing an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

History: The building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom. The words "General Merchants" appear on the parapet.

Description: The building is single storeyed and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has the words "General Merchants" on the parapet and is of inter-war modernist style, with a triangular pediment facing the intersection and a suspended awning. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

## **Shops**

Location: 17 Owen Street (Lot 3 RP700482).

Significance: This building is part of an important hilltop group of buildings at the Edith and Owen Streets intersection, forming an entrance gateway for Innisfail's inner retail shopping and business precinct, and commencing an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up Edith Street from Owen Street to Rankin Street.

History: The building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

Description: The building is single storeyed and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style, with a very simple parapet with a large box awning. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

## **Shops**

Location: 19-25 Rankin Street (Lot 2 RP710656).

Significance: The original shop front of this building is significant as one of only a few surviving intact shopfronts at street level.

History: The building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

Description: The building has 2 storeys and a basement and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade and is of inter-war modernist style. It has a tall stepped parapet with art deco ornament. There is a timber verandah over the footpath which has been enclosed with glass louvers. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront, however sections of the shop front are original (e.g. leadlight windows). The original painted art deco panels survive above the windows.

## **Shop**

Location: 46 Rankin Street (Lot 2 RP700488).

Significance: This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

History: This building is one of the concrete buildings built during the prosperous 1920s and 1930s.

Description: The building has 2 storeys and is made of reinforced concrete. The building has a symmetrical façade with small openings and is of inter-war modernist style. It has a gabled parapet with trabeated window openings on the first floor. The words "Duffins Building" are faintly visible. The building has a suspended awning and has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

## **Shop**

Location: 60 Rankin Street (Lot 3 RP700486).

Significance: This building contributes to an almost uninterrupted row of significant buildings extending up the hill from Edith Street to Grace Street.

History: The building is one of the concrete buildings built during the prosperous 1920s and 1930s. It was occupied previously by the Australian and New Zealand Banking Corporation and Esanda Finance.

Description: The building has 2 storeys and is made of reinforced concrete. It has a symmetrical façade, a panelled gable projecting over the footpath and glass louver infill on the second storey verandah. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

### **White Horse Hotel**

Location: 69-73 Edith Street (Lot 1 RP737391).

Significance: The White Horse Hotel is a very important hilltop building dominating the Edith and Owen Streets intersection, and forming an entrance gateway for Innisfail's inner retail shopping and business precinct.

History: The earliest recorded building on this site is a boarding house; however the 1902 Slater's Almanac states that the site was occupied by the White Horse Hotel owned by A Wakelam. It is however, the present building's association with the McIlrath Family that contributes to its cultural significance.

Tom McIlrath, a young Irish immigrant, married Miss Hannah Hearn and took over the running of the White Horse Hotel. Tom and his family operated the hotel intermittently until 1921 and then continuously until his death in 1947. The building was renovated in the 1940s. After Tom's death, his descendants Harry and May Elliot (nee McIlrath) took over the hotel's licence from 1952 and then Bill and Mimi Ede (nee McIlrath) until January 1965. The hotel was then sold to Innisfail Stores which closed in December 1993.

The building sheltered many townspeople during the 1913 flood. In 1918, parts of it survived the cyclone. Apparently part of the hill underneath was removed and the hotel was re-built with two storeys.

Description: The White Horse Hotel is a prominent building with 2 storeys and of reinforced concrete construction on the ground floor with a timber framed first floor. The building has a concrete façade and verandah frontage with very distinctive art deco ornament on paired posts, valancing and balustrades. The building has an elaborate façade with the words "McIlrath's" and the picture of a white horse addressing the intersection. The building has been modified to include a modern street frontage.

**Images**

**ANZ Centre**



**Blue Bird Café**





Duffin House/Arcidiacono House



Former AS Mellick Building





**Former Bank of NSW Building**



**Former Commonwealth Bank Building**



**Former National Bank of Australasia Building**



**Former Queensland National Bank Building**



**Former Spanos House**



**Hotel Grand Central Building**



**Innisfail Court House**



**Innisfail Memorial School of Arts Building**



**J Rizzo Building**



**National Bank/Commercial Banking Company Building**





**Queens Hotel**



**Regent Arcade**



**Rigano Building**



**Robertson Bros Building**



**Shire Hall**



**Shop - 14 Edith Street**



Shop - 16-18 Edith Street



Shop - 21 Edith Street



Shop - 25 Edith Street



Shop - 29-31 Edith Street



Shop - 34-38 Edith Street



Shop - 40 Edith Street



**Shops - 46-48 Edith Street**



**Shop - 52 Edith Street**



**Shops - 62 Edith Street**





**Shops - 17 Owen Street**



**Shops - 19-25 Rankin Street**



Shop - 46 Rankin Street



Shop - 60 Rankin Street



**White Horse Hotel**



**Various**







## **References**

Bourke, D, Letter to Cassowary Coast Regional Council, 14 March 2013.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## **Place No. 32 - Innisfail Hospital and Ancillary Buildings**

**Place Name:** Innisfail Hospital and Ancillary Buildings  
**Address:** Rankin Street (74 Fitzgerald Esplanade), Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 I2812

### **Heritage significance**

The Innisfail Hospital and Ancillary Buildings are important in showing the evolution of the township of Innisfail and the development of its central community infrastructure.

### **History**

On the first town map of Innisfail (then Geraldton), drawn up by the Queensland Government Surveyor Ernest Moreton Warreker in 1882, an area of 4 acres, 3 roods and 12½ perches was set aside as reserve R58 for the hospital.

The need for the provision of hospital facilities became urgent and in 1885, as a temporary measure, a tent hospital was erected on the grounds and a medical officer was appointed.

Construction of the hospital commenced in 1886 and was to be built in 3 stages. The first stage was for the European hospital. This was built by E Couchman. The second stage was for the surgeon's residence and the dead house. The third stage was for the Polynesian hospital.

By 1888, the cost of operating the 4 Polynesian hospitals in Queensland was exhausting the Pacific Islanders fund. Despite efforts to keep it open, the Polynesian hospital in Innisfail closed in 1890, the last Polynesian hospital in Queensland.

The nurses' quarters were constructed in 1916.

In 1921, it was noted that the hospital was too small and outmoded. Therefore, construction of a new hospital commenced in 1928. The men's ward and women's wing (Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4) were opened in 1930. A maternity ward was also opened in 1930.

The nurses' quarters became too inadequate in housing the larger number of nursing staff so a larger and more modern building was constructed for this purpose, opening in 1948. A portion of this building was removed and re-erected as quarters for nurses on night duty in 1961.

In the late 1940s a boiler house was constructed on the corner of Emily and Rankin Streets. This boiler house remains in its original location. The construction of the boiler house, including a steam generating plant, saw the conversion of hot water heating and sterilizing equipment changed over to steam from electricity which represented an updating of hospital facilities.

In 1950 the Innisfail Hospital Committee agreed to lease a portion of the site to the Red Cross Society to build rooms upon. The Red Cross building that was constructed as a result remains on site on the corner of Emily Street and Fitzgerald Esplanade.

The medical superintendent's residence was built in the early 1950s which remains on site on the corner of Rankin and Alice Streets. This building has been well maintained and undergone some more recent modifications.

A new main hospital and administration building was opened in 1962.

During the period 1971 to 1980 many parts of the hospital and services were upgraded due to general deterioration or insufficiency. Planning for the redevelopment of the hospital commenced in this period.

The last of the old wooden buildings to be removed was the old night nurses quarters, which was removed in 1981.

Phase I of the redevelopment of the hospital commenced in 1983. This involved the building of a new maternity ward and aged care facilities.

Phase II of the redevelopment of the hospital officially opened in 1989. This involved the upgrade of the hospital's kitchen and laundry facilities, as well as the demolition of Wards 3 and 4.

In 1989, the boiler house was closed and the conversion from steam to gas/electricity power was implemented throughout the hospital.

In early 2005 work commenced on the redevelopment of the main hospital building, in late 2005 the demolition of the main hospital and administration building commenced. Construction of the new main hospital building started in early 2006 and was completed in March 2007. The new main hospital building was officially opened on 31 July 2008.

## **Description**

The Innisfail Hospital Complex is comprised of older and modern buildings. The older buildings consist of the nurses quarters constructed in 1948, the boiler house constructed in the late 1940s, the medical superintendent's residence built in the early 1950s and the Red Cross building estimated to have been constructed in the 1950s.

## **Images**



**View from Fitzgerald Esplanade**

**Nurses Quarters built 1948**









**Boiler House built in the late 1940s**





**Medical Superintendent's Residence built in the early 1950s**





**Red Cross building built in the 1950s (estimated)**





**Maternity ward built in the 1980s**



**Aged care building built in the 1980s**



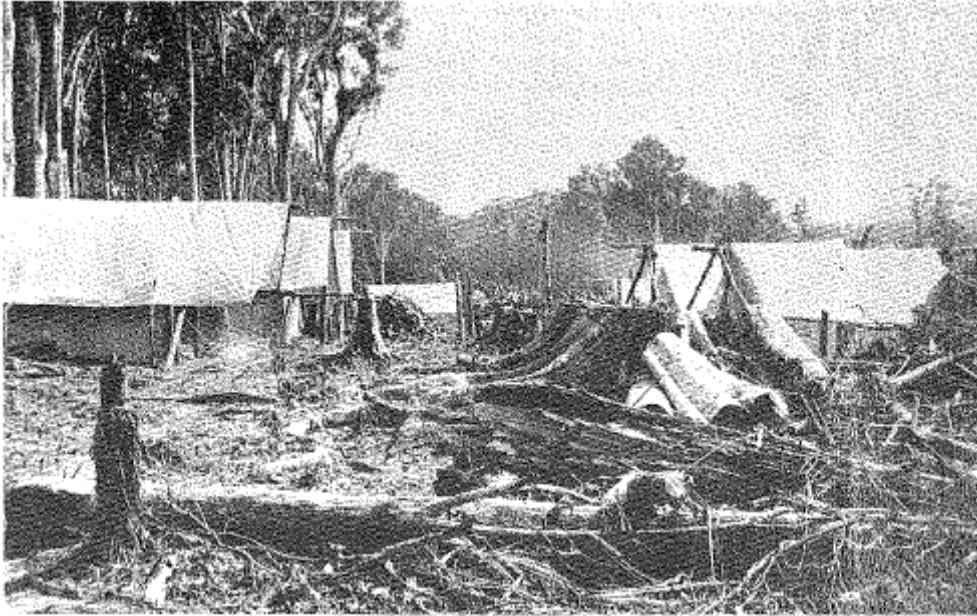
**New section of hospital built in the 1990s**







## First tent hospital – Early 1880's



## References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Innisfail Hospital, *Re-Union: Employees Past and Present of Innisfail Hospital*, 1978.

Innisfail Hospitals Board, *Annual Report 1989-1990*, 1990.

Martinuzzi, AL, "Early History of Innisfail Hospital", *Innisfail and District Historical Society Stories from Innisfail's Past*, Volume 14, 1998.

Queensland Government, *Centenary Celebrations Innisfail Hospital 1886-1986*, 1986.

## **Place No. 33 - Innisfail Railway Complex**

**Place Name:** Innisfail Railway Complex  
**Address:** Station Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 301 SP121923  
**Coordinates:** Easting: 395879 Northing: 8061990

### **Heritage significance**

The Innisfail Railway Complex is representative of other important stopping places on the North Coast Railway erected during the inter-war period including Cardwell, Tully and St Lawrence. Together with Tully and St Lawrence, it demonstrates a passing way of life for railway communities through the survival of infrastructure.

The railway was a vital link for the pioneers of the Innisfail district.

The passenger station, refreshment rooms, platform shade and signal cabin are significant railway buildings demonstrating the importance of Innisfail as an administrative centre on the North Coast Railway. The platform shade design is unusual and the freestanding refreshment rooms building are now comparatively rare. The Railway Ambulance lecture room is considered unique in Queensland.

### **History**

When construction began on the North Coast Railway, the Innisfail community lobbied for an early start in their area to allow cane to reach the South Johnstone Sugar Mill. Work started in 1919 and Innisfail was at the centre of a small isolated rail system until the North Coast Railway was completed in 1924.

There were various proposals as to precisely where the line should go, from a through route behind the Basilisk Range to leave Innisfail unserved, or to traverse the south bank of the North Johnstone River below Goondi and touch Innisfail at the local sports ground. Another site that was suggested was Charles Street near Bamboo Creek. The Innisfail Railway League fought for and achieved the present railway station site.

A coal stage was built at the site in 1919 and a passenger station was built in 1920, followed by a goods shed and engine shed in 1921.

Innisfail was an important station, being the boundary between the Cairns and Townsville districts. Train crews changed there until the early 1990s.

The existing passenger station appears to have been built in 1924 and was extended with refreshment rooms in 1925. The platform shade was added in 1926.

A railway Ambulance lecture room was built in 1930 and a railmotor ambulance service was established.

By 1962, the complex consisted of the station building, refreshment rooms, platform shade, goods shed, signal cabin, a large number of houses and quarters and a railway institute building. A workshops complex was located to the south, including a running shed, engine shed, carpenters shop, offices and store.

The refreshment rooms closed in the late 1960s, and the area was rearranged internally in 1972. The goods shed cranes were removed soon afterwards. From 1988-91, the majority of houses were sold and the workshops were demolished. By 2001, the Railway Institute building had been demolished and framed tents used as single men's quarters had been removed.

## **Description**

The passenger station is a long, lowset timber framed building with a half gable roof. The refreshment rooms are contained in a separate building of a similar design. Both buildings are weatherboard clad with corrugated iron roofs.

The passenger station building has an open entrance lobby with decorative timber valence and brackets. It has colonial sash windows with the upper sash multi-paned.

The French doors at the refreshment rooms end of the passenger station building still show Railway Ambulance signage.

The platform shade is freestanding and has 25 bays with stop-chamfered timber posts, a low pitch gabled roof, and T section steel curved brackets supporting a cantilevered timber roof frame. The spandrel ends of the platform shade are enclosed with asbestos cement following the profile of the curved steel brackets. The platform is raised with part bitumen floor and concrete edge.

The freestanding signal cabin is located at the southern end of the complex. It has an open skillion roof and contains a 6 lever Mackenzie and Holland machine.

The buildings remaining in the Innisfail Railway Complex are in a good condition.

## **Images**



Exterior of buildings

















Interior of buildings









**Signal cabin**





**Mckenzie & Holland Machine**



## Signal mechanism



## References

Buchanan Architects, North Coast Line - Townsville to Cairns - Section 2 - Survey of Individual Places, 2002.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Jones, D, *Hurricane Lamps and Blue Umbrellas*, 1973.

## **Place No. 34 - Innisfail Water Tower**

**Place Name:** Innisfail Water Tower  
**Address:** 34-36 Mourilyan Road, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lots 85 & 86 RP705576

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.



## Appendix A



Queensland Government

# Innisfail Water Tower

## Place Details

Place ID	602757
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	Innisfail Water Tower
Place Classification	Built
Place Category	Utilities - Water supply
Place Type	Water tower
Themes	6 Building settlements, towns, cities and dwellings / 6.3 Developing urban services and amenities
Register Entry Date	06/08/2010

## Location

Address	Mourilyan Street
Town / Suburb	EAST INNISFAIL
Post Code	4860
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	Interwar Period
Criterion A	Constructed in 1933-1934, the Innisfail Water Tower is associated with the early development of Innisfail's water supply infrastructure and is important in demonstrating the era of prosperity accompanying the expansion of the north Queensland sugar industry during the 1920s and 1930s and the success of the Queensland government's town water supply programs funded by the Lands Department under the auspices of its unemployment relief scheme during the 1930s. Civic projects - including water supply schemes, shire and town halls, offices and chambers, community swimming pools, roads, bridges, and street and park beautification schemes - were undertaken throughout Queensland at this period as a result of the scheme, and as a group these places are important in illustrating: a particular historical period; the impact of State government initiatives to combat the economic depression; and design

	concepts popular at the time.
Criterion D	The Innisfall Water Tower is a good and intact example of a 1930s reinforced concrete water tower, one of 15 constructed in Queensland during that period. Designed by the Irrigation and Water Supply Sub-Department of the Lands Department, it incorporates both central tower and surrounding support columns which were used on larger towers from the mid-1930s. As well as being one of the first towers with both a central tower and columns, at the time of construction the dome top on the water tank was one of the largest in the state.
Criterion E	The Innisfall Water Tower is a distinctive landmark visible from all parts of Innisfall. At the time of construction it was described as a dignified structure of imposing presence overlooking the town. Through the unemployment relief schemes, a conscious effort was made to produce concrete structures of pleasing appearance and the Innisfall Water Tower well illustrates the design elements, reflecting interwar Modernist concerns with functional simplicity, believed to impart this value.

## History

History	<p>The Innisfall Water Tower was built during 1933 and 1934 and was part of a significant infrastructure project in one of Queensland's most important sugar-growing regions. Designed by the Irrigation and Water Supply Sub-Department of the Queensland Lands Department, it is situated on Mellick's Hill at East Innisfall from where it is visible from all parts of the town making it an important landmark. In the early 1930s Innisfall was the principal town in the Johnstone Shire and an important regional service centre in one of its major sugar-producing districts. Thomas Henry Fitzgerald is credited with the town's establishment, attracted to the area because of its potential for growing sugar. With financial backing from Brisbane, he selected his Innisfall Estate in June 1880 along the Johnstone River where the present town is located. News of Fitzgerald's venture attracted other sugar companies and within four years there were three mills operating in the district. Although Fitzgerald's venture was unsuccessful, his role was recognised when in 1883 a town was surveyed and named Geraldton. The name was changed to Innisfall in 1910. By the turn of the century clearing for the town was continuing and new buildings were being erected, often in timber and iron to replace older ones. Lodges and societies were established, as were businesses including an aerated water factory, two bakers, a butcher and three new hotels. The waterfront was lined with wharves, two sawmills were established on the banks of the river and there was a ferry service across the South Johnstone River, it being the only effective way in and out of town. While the sugar industry was fuelling the growth of the area, the greatest impact on Innisfall's landscape came from the major floods and cyclones of the period. A 1918 cyclone was particularly severe and destroyed most of the buildings in the town. A large proportion of the rebuilding which took place during the 1920s and 1930s - a period of prosperity - was done using reinforced concrete to prevent such levels of destruction during future cyclonic events. Investigation and planning for a water supply scheme for Innisfall commenced in 1926. Up until this time the community relied on tank water and water vendors, and despite being one of the wettest towns in Australia in terms of rainfall, there were water shortages during the dry months of the year. In 1930 the Irrigation and Water Supply Sub-Department of the Queensland Lands Department explored options and prepared designs for a gravity scheme relying on supply from Fisher's Creek; however the Shire did not pursue funding for</p>
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It until 1932 when they renewed their application. Councillor SK Page, Chairman of the Johnstone Shire Council and Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce at the time, was a strong advocate for the scheme, which he argued would allow the formation of a fire brigade, improve public health, allow drains and streets to be flushed as well as providing water for households and public gardens. The local newspaper, the Johnstone River Advocate, reported in August of that year that a prolonged dry spell had resulted in motor traffic causing "... miniature desert storms on the dusty roads". Council's new funding application for a water supply scheme resulted in the Queensland Treasurer approving a subsidy of 15,500 plus a loan of 30,750. This new application precipitated debate about the extent of the scheme, and alternative sources of water, dissent about these matters being aired at a public meeting at the end of 1932 where alternative schemes were recommended and a petition was started. These alternative schemes were based on the opinion of a former shire engineer and some people within the community who thought savings could be made by tapping into natural springs rather than pumping from the North Johnstone River, thereby reducing the size of some of the piping. The need for a filtration plant was also questioned. The Irrigation and Water Supply Sub-Department formally responded to the criticisms of the scheme; confirming that the estimated daily consumption and cost of the scheme were comparable with water supply schemes elsewhere, and explaining that the Johnstone River would provide the most reliable water source. The Innisfail Water Supply Scheme formed part of a State government town water supply program funded through the Lands Department's works for unemployment relief effort. The scheme was conditional on the use of local labour and materials and the transportation of materials by rail. The Minister for Lands reported on the success of the government's employment initiative, which had provided loans and subsidy of 210,673 to fourteen local authorities for the installation of town water supplies, and meant that in January 1934 there were 525 men directly employed. The initiative was also indirectly helping those firms supplying the materials needed for the construction of town water supply schemes. The scheme for Innisfail differed from its proposed scheme of the 1920s in that it supplied a larger area and incorporated a filtration plant, which was considered best practice and important for preventing bacterial disease. It also comprised a low level pumping plant with two electrically powered vertical centrifugal pumps located at Stoter's farm on the Johnstone River, a filtration plant with two horizontal pumps located half a mile from the pumping plant, a 100,000 gallon water tower on Mellick's Hill at East Innisfail and a reticulation network to distribute water throughout the town. The scheme included provision of electricity to both the pumping and filtration plants from the Shire's power station. By February 1933 tenders had been invited for construction of the Innisfail pumping station and reticulation network. These were just two components of the total system which for construction purposes was divided into a number of separate tenders. With the arrival of supervising engineer Mr Mulholland in late April, the ceremonial turning of the first sod to commence construction of the scheme was held on Saturday 22 April 1933 at Stoter's Farm. Councillor Page proclaimed in Johnstone River Advocate the commencement of the scheme as a positive step in the district's progress and possibly the biggest project the district had ever seen. Work on the pumping station and laying pipes was already underway when eight tenders were received for contract No. 7, involving the construction of the 100,000 gallon reinforced concrete water tower at East Innisfail. Tenders ranged between 6898 and 5100 and were

received from as far away as Bundaberg. In June 1933 the Van Leeuwen Bros were awarded the contract with a tender of 5186/16/-, having arrived in Innisfail from Baarn in Holland in 1918. They went on to become one of the most successful construction companies in the town, being responsible for construction of the National Bank, Hotel Grand Central, Queens Hotel, Bank of New South Wales, Commonwealth Bank, Shire Hall as well as the water tower. Over the next thirteen months the progress of the water tower was regularly reported in the Johnstone River Advocate. In December 1933, a total of 19 men were employed, 14 full time and 5 part time. The columns had been concreted to a height of 14 feet (4.27 metres), the central tower to 21 feet (6.4 metres), with the 27 feet (8.23 metres) high second staging in preparation of a second lift of the columns. In January the columns were raised to a height of 29.5 feet (8.99 metres), the central tower to 35 feet (10.67 metres) and the pipes and valve pit in the tower had been set in place and tested. Despite being affected by heavy rain in April, the final concrete pour had been made to the top of the splay under the bottom of the tank, and the floor of the tank, consisting of 200 tons of concrete, was put down in a continuous pour that lasted for 19 hours. On 18 May 1934, 21 local men concreted the wall of the tank (13 feet [3.96 metres] high with a circumference of 134 feet [40.84 metres]) in a process that took 27 hours. By 6 June the dome of the tank was completed, again in one continuous pour. At 42 feet (12.8 metres) in diameter, it was one of the largest reinforced concrete domes in Queensland. All that was required to finish the job was coating the inside with bitumen and completing the parapet walls and lookout. It is not known if the current paint scheme matches the tower's original exterior finish. During the early stages of construction there was some discussion about taking advantage of the visual prominence of the structure. Advertising and a town clock were suggested, however the Shire Council decided on a lookout, the guard rail for which was erected shortly after the dome on the tank was completed. The tower was painted but the Council decided it would be too costly to illuminate. Although construction of the filtration plant had only just commenced, on Monday 27 August 1934, following testing of the system, the first property - Oroya Private Hospital in Rankin Street - was connected to the system. The availability of a reticulated water supply system also meant that the Volunteer Fire Brigade was also able to commence. Construction of the filtration plant continued into 1935 as did connections to properties. It was not until 16 December that the water supply system was officially handed over to the Johnstone Shire Council. At which time there were 548 properties connected to it pumping 200,000 gallons per day supplying 2800 people. The annual report of the Water Supply Branch of the Irrigation and Water Supply Sub-Department for the year 1933-1934 reported that "...the Water Tower forms a dignified structure of imposing appearance overlooking the town. Throughout the construction of the scheme particular care had been taken to obtain concrete structures of pleasing appearance." The Water Supply Branch was very active during the 1930s. In 1933-1934 they funded 41 projects, 22 of these being for town water supply schemes. During the 1930s, 15 of the schemes constructed included an elevated reinforced concrete water tower. Tanks were predominantly 60,000 or 100,000 to 120,000 gallons in size (272,765 litres or 454,609 litres to 545 531 litres), with Innisfail being the first 100,000 gallon (454,609 litres) tank as reported in the 1930s annual reports. The increase to this size appears to correspond to a transition to using supporting columns as well as the central tower. The tower at Emerald constructed in the early 1930s consisted of a concrete cylindrical tank on a central tower while the Gordonyale tower built in 1934

consisted of a cylindrical tank on columns; both were 60,000 gallon (272,765 litres) tanks. The towers at Gatton, Innisfail, Longreach and Ingham have both a central tower and surrounding columns. The taller of these towers also have bracing between the columns at mid height, which is not present on the Innisfail tower. The towers at Innisfail and Ingham have capitals on the columns, while the Innisfail tower also has decorative panels around its tank walls.

## Description

**Description** Located on the top of a hill in Mourilyan Road on the east side of the Johnstone River, the Innisfail Water Tower is a prominent feature on the skyline, its stylistic influences strongly reflecting the art deco character of a number of other buildings in Innisfail. Surrounded by palm trees and a low masonry fence with iron railing, the reinforced concrete structure comprises a circular tank supported on a central cylindrical tower and eight rectangular section columns. The tank wall is embellished with a continuous parapet moulding and recessed panels. Beneath the tank, arched reinforced concrete splays span between the columns. The columns are accentuated at the springing line of the splays with two rows of rectangular moulding forming decorative capitals and with plinths at their base. The current paint scheme distinguishes various components of the exterior using pale yellow as a base colour detailed with a teal blue, terracotta orange and red. Having originally incorporated a lookout, the Innisfail Water Tower still offers spectacular views over the region. Within the central tower, a half-turn stair with equal flights, constructed of concrete with a tubular metal handrail and balustrade, provides access to the tank. Three eight-light fixed metal-framed windows provide natural light to the stair landings. The concrete interior surfaces are unpainted. The balustrade around the edge of the tank top is made of tubular metal and currently supports aerials for local telecommunications companies. A frame of similar materials covers a central circular opening where a ladder from below provides access to the dome. The concrete on the dome is largely unpainted.

## Element

Element Name	Innisfail Water Tower
Style	Art Deco
Builder Name	Van Leeuwen Bros
Construction Period	1933-34
Fabric (Exterior Structure)	Concrete
Fabric (Roof)	Concrete
Roof Form	Flat

## Images



Description	View of Innisfail Water Tower from Mourilyan Road (2011).
Media Author	Cathy Browning
Media Date	30/03/2011
Copyright	DERM



Description	View of Innisfail from the water tower in 2009.
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Media Author

Media Date 17/03/2009

Copyright DERM



Description View of Innisfail Water Tower in 2007.

Media Author

Media Date 01/11/2007

Copyright DERM



Description	Water Tower 4
Media Author	
Media Date	01/11/2007
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Last updated: 04 April 2011



## **Place No. 35 - Lit Sung Goong Temple**

**Place Name:** Lit Sung Goong Temple  
**Address:** 8 Owen Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 7 I28133

### **Heritage significance**

The Lit Sung Goong Temple is a small, isolated building, prominent because of its vivid colour and distinctive styling. This building has a significant interior.

### **History**

Every north Queensland town of significant size had one or more Chinese temples in the late nineteenth century. These temples combined several functions. Each was the political symbol of a community identifying with a specific district in China, in Innisfail's case Chung Shan. Besides being a place of worship, it functioned as a secular meeting hall and as a focus for charitable and benevolent work within the community, more closely resembling a European lodge than a church. The temple attendant, besides being spiritual leader and political spokesman, was often physician and herbalist as well.

There was a substantial Chinese population in the Innisfail district from the first decades of settlement, initially involved in gold mining and then agriculture, particularly sugar cane and banana growing. During the 1880's a timber-framed temple, Lit Sung Goong, was built at the corner of Edith and Owen Streets. Like most of Innisfail's early buildings, this temple was destroyed in the great cyclone on 10 March 1918. This was 40 years after the wave of Chinese immigration to the northern gold fields peaked in the 1870s and spiritual traditions and cultural cohesiveness within the Chinese community had greatly diminished. Thus 22 years elapsed before the present temple was built in 1940 to replace the one destroyed. There is some oral evidence that another temple was built during the intervening period but this has not been confirmed.

The Lit Sung Goong Temple has very little of its predecessor's cultural significance within the Chinese community, and its role in religious observance is questionable. A leaflet available at the temple says it is still in use by a handful of worshippers, in the evening of their life. May (1984:80) says more bluntly that the new temple, "built... primarily as a tourist attraction, is not patronised by the present Chinese population. However, the temple represents the continuity of at least a vestige of Chinese cultural tradition prompted by migration from Southeast Asia and China in the last 2 decades of the nineteenth century.

### **Description**

The Lit Sung Goong Temple is single storeyed and made from reinforced concrete. It has an open entrance porch with elaborate decoration dominating the façade. The building has a transverse gabled roof and is brightly coloured.

Images





## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## **Place No. 36 - Masonic Temple**

**Place Name:** Masonic Temple  
**Address:** 52 Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 207 I2811

### **Heritage significance**

The Masonic Temple is important in showing the evolution and contribution of Freemasons in Innisfail and the region. The building is also important from an aesthetic perspective, and forms part of an important group of buildings on the riverfront along with the Ambulance Station and Fire Station.

### **History**

In the period between 1872 and 1901 there were sufficient settlers in the region, with enough Freemasons amongst those settlers, to organise the first Masonic Lodge in 1901.

The founder was George Markwell, a solicitor who organised a meeting between brethren from the region and other places such as Brisbane and New South Wales. A provisional Warrant for the lodge was issued by Bro. Sire Augustus Gregory under the Grant Lodge of England and the lodge was known as Mourilyan Lodge No. 2887 E.C. It met in temporary rooms on the Esplanade, but moved to premises in Owen Street in 1902. The Mourilyan Lodge procured land in 1908 on the hill that was once behind the Police Station, Court House and Exchange Hotel. A Masonic Hall was erected on this land in 1909.

Other Lodges were formed in the area, including David's Mark Lodge in 1909, Geraldton Lodge in 1910, Basalisk Lodge at South Johnstone in 1917 and Palmerston Lodge in 1931.

In 1917 the Innisfail Masonic Lodge No. 1160 SC was consecrated under the Grand Lodge of Scotland and rented the Mourilyan Lodge Hall.

Although the idea of a new Masonic hall in Innisfail began in 1926, it was 1940 before the old hall was sold and the present building on the Esplanade was erected.

### **Description**

The Masonic Temple has 2 storeys and is made of reinforced concrete. It has a symmetrical façade with small height windows and is of inter war modernist style. The building has an art deco ornament on the stepped parapet and a central panel with a circular window. There is a suspended awning above the door and the entrance is flanked by two lamps on Corinthian columns. There is a notable art deco concrete fence.

A unique feature of this building is that when the lights on the 2 pillars in front of the entrance are turned on they shine through the stained glass window and depict the letters GOD on the ceiling inside the upper room.

Images





## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

Wakeham, AD, "Masonic and Other Organisations in the Early Days of Innisfail", *Innisfail and District Historical Society Stories from Innisfail's Past*, Volume 5, 1989.

## Place No. 37 - Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church

**Place Name:** Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church  
**Address:** 90 Rankin Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 710 I2811

### Heritage significance

Mary, Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church, was built at a high point in the increase in Catholicism in Queensland, during a period of expansion in the sugar industry in general and growth in Innisfail in particular.

The reinforced concrete construction of the Church was a response to the town's history of cyclones which had demolished its two predecessors. Innisfail's ability to pay for such a church in the 1920s reflects the boom in the sugar industry.

Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church is a good example of an inter-war gothic style church in which the plastic qualities of concrete have been used to create details traditionally associated with ecclesiastical architecture, such as pinnacles and lancet windows.

Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church has distinctive landmark and aesthetic qualities associated with its gothic ecclesiastical architectural features. It is one of a number of important buildings sited in the main street (Rankin Street) and makes a prominent contribution to the townscape of Innisfail.

Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church is significant as an example of the work of the architects H.R. Lawrence and T.M.W. Lordon who were prominent in North Queensland in the 1920s. The church also has a strong association with Michael Martin Clancy O.S.A., Parish Priest from 1898 until his death (while working on the church wall) in 1931. Fr Clancy raised the money needed to build the church and oversaw its construction. He is buried in the Mother of Good Counsel Chapel.

### History

In 1880, when Thomas Henry Fitzgerald took up land on the Johnstone River to establish his Innisfail Sugar Plantation, he did so in partnership with James Quinn, Bishop of Queensland. Within the next few months, additional blocks of land were taken up in the names of individual Sisters of Mercy who were based at All Hallows Convent and School in Brisbane. From this time on, the Johnstone Shire has always had an unusually high (for Queensland) proportion of Roman Catholics. This was fed, in later decades, by Southern European immigrants from places like Italy, Spain and Malta. In 2008, about 40% of people living in the 4860 postcode district were Catholic compared with 28% for Queensland as a whole. The next largest denominational group was Church of England with 21%.

The Apostolic Vicariate of Queensland was established at Cooktown in 1877. Vicariates are missionary territories set up by the Vatican to take responsibility for new lands until their congregations are large enough to warrant a Diocese. Most unusually, the Cooktown Vicariate (which includes Innisfail and Cairns) lasted for 64 years. For most of this time the Far North Queensland church was run by the Augustinian Order which took over in 1884. Its Bishop was responsible only to Rome and his Order.

The Catholic Church in Innisfail is dedicated to Mary, Mother of Good Counsel (*Mater Boni Consilii*) a Marian title closely associated with the Augustinian Order which served the parish until 1993. The present church, on the corner of Grace and Rankin Streets, was the third built in Innisfail – all in close vicinity to the present site.

The first Innisfail Mother of Good Counsel Church was built on the hill in Owen Street in 1891. It had a separate bell tower next door, on the Grace Street side of the same hill. The Parish of Geraldton (later Innisfail) was declared in 1898. Termites soon attacked the church building which a cyclone rendered irreparable in 1906. The belltower survived intact and continued to serve the second, larger and stronger church until a terrible cyclone caused irreversible damage to both in 1918. Rooney & Sons of Townsville

made 2 wooden side altars for this church but these were eaten by white ants while in storage after the 1918 cyclone. Some pieces of these are said to be stored in the parish archives room.

Contemporary reports suggest that every building in Innisfail was damaged in the 1918 cyclone. Notably, the town's 2 reinforced concrete buildings, Mellick's and Nolan's, withstood the winds surprisingly well and provided shelter for some six hundred people. Michael Martin Clancy, an Augustinian who had arrived in Geraldton in 1896 and become its first Parish Priest in 1898, took note of this as he planned a new, less vulnerable, church. The Queensland Government reinforced his plans when it declared Innisfail's town centre a "First Class Area" under Clause 185 of the *Local Authority Act*. While this did not specify construction materials for buildings in the town centre, it did give the Council power to reject structures that were not likely to withstand storms and fires.

The Johnstone Shire boomed in the 1920s. Local farms harvested unprecedented amounts of sugar and the completion of the Jubilee and Daradgee Bridges in 1923 and the Brisbane to Cairns railway in 1924 encouraged development. Innisfail's prosperity was reflected in the number of important commercial buildings erected during the decade. Prosperity also allowed for very considerable fund-raising for the proposed new church, even by some non-Catholics such as the See Poy family. In addition to the usual lamington drives, concerts and card afternoons, Fr Clancy, helped by Abraham Selim Mellick, raised capital through astute investment in land and agricultural ventures. He managed to increase parish land holdings in Owen, Grace and Rankin Streets and raised approximately £12,000 between 1922 and the start of building.

Maurice Lordan of Lordan and Lawrence architectural firm in Cairns came up with a Gothic Revival design and the parish called for building tenders. Tully builder, James Riley, won the job with a tender of £17,293. He set to work in 1926 (the foundation stone was laid in August and blessed by Bishop John Heavey) but soon discovered that he had underestimated the cost. This eventually rose above £20,000. Even at this price, parish volunteers undertook some major parts of the work. For example, "Big Bill" Moran of Feluga, a qualified plasterer, slated and concreted the floor and all but one of the pillars while Frederick O'Farrell constructed the circular form of the staircase into the choir loft. Indeed, one Pietro Romano moved his family into a shack beside the church while he devoted himself to assisting the tradesmen. Inside the church Michael O'Connor donated the High Altar, made in Italy of Carrara marble, in memory of his wife. Abraham Mellick gave the marble holy water font in memory of his wife Annie.

On 5 August 1928, Australia's Apostolic Delegate, Cardinal Cattaneo, blessed and opened the church and presided over a Pontifical High Mass at the High Altar. It was an extraordinary ceremony attended by Dr (later Cardinal) Gilroy, all 3 Queensland bishops and around 1,500 other worshippers.

Over the following decades, there have understandably been a number of changes, additions and repairs to the church. In 1931 parishioners decided to build a retaining wall along Grace Street. Fr Clancy suffered a stroke while digging a trench for this wall and died soon afterwards. He was buried inside his beloved church and his tomb is marked by a large cross inlaid in the floor in front of the shrine dedicated to Mary, Mother of Good Counsel. His headstone is attached to the adjacent wall.

In the 1930s Innisfail became a major target for immigrants. By the 1939 census the parish contained 4,500 Catholics with Italians, especially Sicilians, now in the majority. 64% of Catholic families were overseas-born, about 40% being Italian. Fr Patrick Hickey, Parish Priest from 1939, arranged for Italian and Spanish speaking priests to visit Innisfail to give weekend retreats. Italian language Masses were still celebrated at Mother of Good Counsel Church in 2008.

The creation of the Diocese of Cairns in December 1941 meant that the Bishop would no longer be an Augustinian. However, a few parishes, including Innisfail, were formally assigned in perpetuity to the Augustinian Order. This meant that Mother of Good Counsel, along with other property, was canonically vested in the Order – a situation that gave rise to significant discord between the Augustinians and the Diocese later in the decade. At the same time there was a re-examination of parish boundaries, and for some decades from the mid-1940s the Johnstone Shire operated as 3 separate parishes.

In 1951 Bishop Thomas Cahill consecrated Mother of Good Counsel – officially acknowledging that the building was solid and permanent. The 6 hour ceremony was marked by 12 crosses inlaid into the walls of the church, each above a brass candle-holder. After a scare in 1957 when firemen managed to restrict a fire in the church to the altar boys' sacristy, this became a utility room. In the early 1960s, Jessica Rothnie built the Grace Street steps in memory of her husband Gordon, who died in 1962.



By the end of that decade the church was black with mould and bagasse from the cane fires. In 1970 contractor Alex Nagy of Cairns cleaned the outside of the building using a water jet with pressure up to 600 pounds per square inch. The surface was then painted for the first time. Since then, the church has been regularly cleaned and painted.

In March 1971, following the dictates of the Second Vatican Council, Fr John Lawrence Meagher O.S.A. made changes to the sanctuary (including moving the pulpit) to allow for a table of sacrifice. Cairns architectural firm, Macks and Robinson advised on the adaptation and design. Brisbane monumental masons, P.J. Lowther & Son, converted the plans into a white marble table and columns – at a cost of \$1,918. A Lowther employee, John Buckley, brought the new altar to Innisfail and supervised its installation. Fr Meagher inserted a time capsule in the hollow marble support on the lectern side before 6 men of the parish ceremoniously placed the table into position. From that time the priest said Mass at this table, facing the congregation.

Mother of Good Counsel celebrated its Golden Jubilee in accordance with post-Vatican II liturgy. The date of the jubilee was 5 August 1978, but they held the public celebrations off until the last week of September so they could coincide with the Sugar Festival

The Church's leadlight windows have been an ongoing cause of concern. During the 1980s Hans Binder and Tom Tiemey began work on their restoration. However, on 1 February 1986 Cyclone Winifred, with winds up to 220kmph, smashed nearly all of them. Tiemey, an experienced lead-lighter, and Owen Jones started the long repair job. It was difficult and expensive to match the glass – some of which had to be imported from Europe. Tiemey died shortly after he finished the last window in the utility sacristy.

3 years later in 1989, the parishioners realised that the windows could no longer be patched. Work began on reinstallation, starting with the removal of all windows and frames. Silkwood Sandblasting sandblasted the frames which the Cairns firm of Pollards then hot-dipped galvanised. A large team of volunteers repaired and replaced the leadlight glass over 3 consecutive Christmas holidays. The last window was fixed into place in time for Easter 1992.

In the meantime, another team of volunteers was restoring the (mainly) silky oak church pews. 14 of the 72 pews are believed to have survived from the original (1891) church. 2 of these are at Kuranda – the only ones that have retained their original shape. The other 14 have been reshaped to match the newer seats. The team worked on this aspect of restoration from 1987 to 1989.

In 1992 Fr Peter Hayes decided to complete the concrete wall which had remained unfinished since the death of Fr Clancy in 1931. The work took 3 years. Again donations and volunteerism played a major part. Local firms provided excavating equipment and reinforcing steel. Volunteers, including a consulting engineer, completed the job in 1995. Church historian, Elizabeth Vandeleur, states that the Clancy-Hayes Wall is regarded as a monument to the initiative and drive of Frs Clancy and Hayes and to the long tradition of voluntary labour in the parish.

The Augustinian Order pulled out of Innisfail and handed the church over to the Diocese in 1993.

In the same year, a chapel was built to the south of the sanctuary. It was blessed and dedicated to the Blessed Sacrament on 30 October 1993. It had a decorative silk backdrop painted and embroidered by Ken Smith of Cairns and a tabernacle donated by the Sisters of St Joseph of the Rockhampton Diocese after their Dysart convent closed in December 1993. The 3 parishes were reunited in 1996 – with Mary, Mother of Good Counsel, as patron.

In 1998 the Camuglia family donated steel from which the Bertuolas constructed an archway over the Grace Street steps. This year marked the centenary of the parish and, appropriately, a team of volunteer women undertook a commemorative project. They embroidered a wall hanging depicting scenes from its history. Encased in glass, this hung on the wall near the Rankin Street entrance.

Fr Clancy had promised his parishioners a church which would not, like the previous 2, succumb to a cyclone. This he provided, but only just. On 20 March 2006 Cyclone Larry devastated Innisfail. Some 30-40% of the western end of the Church suffered severe damage.

The Church lost nearly half of its windows again. The stained glass firm Cummins Stehn, which was commissioned to replace them, estimated the restoration work would involve 140 square metres of glass and 18 months of work. When inspected in June 2008 these windows were still plain glass – apparently the company has had great difficulty sourcing one of the colours. The church also lost some of its roof and a part of the vertical section of the 1928 High Altar was blown down and smashed. The table of sacrifice was also broken.

In the aftermath of the cyclone a new table of sacrifice and lectern has been constructed out of salvaged marble. The High Altar has been pared down to approximately one third of its original size. When inspected in June 2008 its Gothic pinnacles had not yet been mounted on its side columns as only one of the originals was saved and a replacement for the other had not yet arrived from Italy. The marble paving of the sanctuary has all been replaced and, because altar rails are no longer regarded as liturgically appropriate, the salvaged marble altar rails have been re-used to separate the sanctuary from the side chapel on its north and a new baptistery which has replaced the southern Blessed Sacrament Chapel. They have also been used in front of the baptistery.

## **Description**

Mary Mother of Good Counsel Church is prominently placed in the Innisfail streetscape and forms part of a group of important buildings in Rankin Street, Innisfail's main street. It is built on an east-west axis with the sanctuary at the west end.

The Church is built from reinforced concrete in inter war gothic revival style, with simple gothic details and little intricate moulding or tracery. It is an innovative example of the use of reinforced concrete for structural purposes to withstand cyclones and for decoration. The pinnacles, moulding to the gable and coping at the buttresses are all in concrete.

The Church's external dimensions are 36.57 metres x 19.2 metres. The roof is corrugated iron over hammerbeams which have been stained dark sepia. All the tracery and arched stained windows are in formed concrete and designed with stylized Gothic detailing. The main entrance gable has stained glass windows with towers rising on both side and a large pointed entrance arch. The northern tower contains the stairway to the choir loft which today is rarely used. To the south is the bell tower which contains the original bell from 1891.

Over the main entrance to the church (Rankin Street) is the older version of the Augustinian coat of arms underneath which is engraved the inscription "Tolle lege, tolle lege" - the words spoken to Augustine in a dream before his conversion. The coat of arms is surmounted by a stylised quatrefoil. The foundation stone is in this front wall.

Those windows that survived Cyclone Larry are in stained glass. Replacement stained glass has been ordered for all the lost windows. This will be in the same colours as the older glass, but in a slightly different pattern – a pattern seen as more relevant to North Queensland.

The memorial steps into the church from Grace Street (early 1960s) are overhung by a steel archway (1998) inscribed "Amen". The Clancy-Hayes Wall (1931- 1995) is topped with iron rails and marks the Rankin and Grace Street boundaries. It also extends for about 5 metres on the western side of the Church but is not on the western boundary of the land. Steps lead from this wall to the main entrance in Rankin Street. 2 plaques commemorating the seventieth anniversary of the Church are mounted on this wall.

Beside the church near Grace Street is the grave of Fr J L Meagher who died in 1982 while still Parish Priest. The Johnstone Shire Council gave permission for him to be buried in the church grounds.

Inside, the church is 35.35 metres long and 17.67 metres wide. The 12.19 metre high ceiling is panelled in fibro cement. The domed ceiling over the altar is plastered. A row of columns with Gothic arches extends the length of the church on each side of the nave. The nave is 8.53 metres wide and each of the aisles is 3.65 metres wide. The floor of the nave is made of cement paving stones with a red-stained centre strip leading to the sanctuary. The floor of the sanctuary is tiled in marble. This was entirely replaced in 2008. On either side of the High Altar, doors lead to the 2 sacristies. These date from 2008 and replace the originals lost in the cyclone.

The High Altar is Italian-made from Carrara marble. The original dated from 1928. The current (2008) altar consists of about one third of the original. The table of sacrifice and the lectern are also made of marble salvaged after Cyclone Larry. The original marble altar rails have been used on either side of the sanctuary and in front of the baptistery.

On the northern side of the Sanctuary is a shrine to Mary, Mother of Good Counsel. This has been rebuilt since Cyclone Larry. The back wall and floor are of marble tiles. Inlaid in the floor in front of Mary's shrine is a large cross indicating the tomb of Fr Michael Martin Clancy O.S.A. Geraldton priest from 1996 and first Parish Priest from 1898 to 1931. His headstone is attached to the adjacent wall. Beside it are plaques commemorating the service to the parish of the Good Samaritan Sisters from 1903 to 1992 and of the Marist Brothers from 1938 to 1983.

On the southern side of the Sanctuary is a baptistery which replaced the Blessed Sacrament Chapel which was there before the cyclone. This is also tiled in marble and contains a large new font and a baptismal pool. Part of the salvaged marble altar rail encloses the baptistery to the north and east.

12 crosses and candle-holders are inlaid into the north, south and east walls, signifying that the church has been consecrated. There are 72 pews, mainly of silky oak. 14 of these came from the first Mother of Good Counsel church (1891) but they have been re-shaped to match the 1920s pews. The Church seats about 500 people.

The marble holy water font at the entrance dates from 1928. A wall hanging depicting scenes from parish history is encased in glass and attached to the wall near the Rankin Street entrance. This commemorates the centenary of the parish in 1998.

## **Images**





**Over main entrance**



**Augustinian**



**Foundation Stone**



**Table of sacrifice**



**Old alter rails**



**Baptistery**

*The images on this page are by Dr Diane Menghetti*



**Marian Shrine**



**Clancy Headstone**

*The images on this page are by Dr Diane Menghetti*

## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 38 - Oroya House**

**Place Name:** Oroya House  
**Address:** 61 Rankin Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 2 RP733144

### **Heritage significance**

Oroya House is a prominent building on an intersection site opposite the Catholic Church, and significant for its historical association with Dr Cotter.

### **History**

The building previously housed a private hospital operated by Dr Cotter. Dr Cotter was known for his pioneer work on leptospirosis and was awarded the MBE for his services to medical research.

A timber sign saying "Cotter's Corner" has been erected by the Johnstone Shire Council in recognition of the important contribution Dr Cotter made to the Innisfail community.

### **Description**

The building is single storeyed at the Rankin Street frontage, and has 3 storeys at the rear. It is made from reinforced concrete and has a symmetrical façade projecting forward in a series of steps. The building has a complex corrugated iron roof with multiple gables, a formal entrance porch with pediment on the parapet, minimal art deco ornament on the coping and mouldings and glass louvre windows.

The building underwent considerable repairs and upgrading in 2007 with the windows being changed, while leaving the basic structure unchanged.

## Images



## References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, *Statewide Heritage Survey Information*, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## **Place No. 39 - Pioneers' Memorial**

**Place Name:** Pioneers' Memorial  
**Address:** Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 269 SP240881

### **Heritage significance**

Pioneers' Memorial is an inconspicuous monument in very attractive surroundings. It is of historical interest in demonstrating the Australian tradition of honouring the pioneer European settlers in the district.

### **History**

This monument is a memorial to the landing of the Fitzgerald party on the banks of the Johnstone River in 1879.

### **Description**

This site is located on Jack Fossey Park between the Johnstone River and Fitzgerald Esplanade. The monument comprises a pyramidal stone cairn with marble plaque and is located under large trees adjacent to a stone retaining wall with steps down to the river.

The monument contains a marble plaque commemorating this as the site where Fitzgerald's party landed in 1879 to establish Innisfail. The plaque reads:

*"THIS STONE COMMEMORATES THE LANDING IN 1879 OF THE FITZGERALD PARTY -  
THE FOUNDERS OF INNISFAIL SUGAR INDUSTRY"*

### **Images**





## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## **Place No. 40 - Pioneers of the Sugar Industry Monument (Canecutters' Memorial)**

**Place Name:** Pioneers of the Sugar Industry Monument (Canecutters' Memorial)  
**Address:** Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 269 SP240881

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A



Queensland Government

# Canecutters Memorial

## Place Details

Place ID	602041
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	Canecutters Memorial
Alternative Name	Pioneers of the Sugar Industry Monument
Place Classification	Built
Place Category	Monuments and Memorials
Place Type	Memorial/Monument
Themes	2 Exploiting, utilising and transforming the land / 2.4 Agricultural activities 8 Creating social and cultural institutions / 8.6 Commemorating significant events 1 Peopling places / 1.2 Migration from outside and within
Register Entry Date	29/04/2003

## Location

Address	Fitzgerald Esplanade
Town / Suburb	INNISFAIL
Post Code	4860
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	1950s (fabric)
Criterion A	The Canecutter's Memorial is important in demonstrating the evolution of Queensland's history as an illustration of the significance of the sugar industry in North Queensland. For many years, the growth of Innisfail and the surrounding district was reliant on the sugar industry, an industry which continues to the present day to be a crop of importance in the economy of the Johnstone Shire. Erected by the Italian community of Innisfail, the Memorial is important in demonstrating the contribution of Italian migrants to the sugar industry, both as labourers and farm owners. The subject of the Memorial, a canecutter, further demonstrates the

Criterion B	evolution of Queensland's history as a figure in the sugar industry made obsolete by the mechanisation of cane harvesting in the 1960s and 1970s. The Canecutter's Memorial demonstrates a rare aspect of Queensland's cultural heritage as an early example of a monument carrying an inscription in two languages, English and Italian. Constructed in 1959, it is a multicultural tribute to the pioneers of the sugar industry, which predates the nation-wide move towards multiculturalism later in the twentieth century.
Criterion E	The Canecutter's Memorial is important because of its aesthetic significance as a skilled example of the sculptor's art, occupying a prominent position along the Innisfail Esplanade, an open park-like area situated along the Johnstone River, and terminating long views east along Edith Street, one of the major streets of the central business district of the town.
Criterion G	The Canecutter's Memorial has a special association with the Italian community of Innisfail, whose members erected the memorial in 1959 to the pioneers of the sugar industry, many of whom were Italian. The Memorial also has a special association with the wider community of Innisfail as a tribute to the pioneers of an industry that has been of vital importance to the development and prosperity of the district.

## History

History	The Canecutter's Memorial was erected in 1959 by the Italian community of the Innisfail district to commemorate the centenary of the state of Queensland. The life-size statue of a canecutter was chosen, reflecting the importance of the sugarcane industry in the development of the district's economy. The town of Innisfail (called Geraldton until 1911) was founded in 1880 by Thomas H Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald arrived on the banks of the Johnstone River with 35 South Sea Islanders and ten Irish workers to grow sugarcane on a 10,000 hectare land grant, funded by the Catholic Bishop of Brisbane and All Hallows' Sisters of Mercy. Others arrived soon after, and a community was established with an economy based firmly on the production of sugar. In 1882 a sugar mill was built at Mourilyan in 1882, followed by the establishment of the South Johnstone mill in 1915. Sugarcane was first grown commercially in Queensland in 1864. The crop was originally grown on large plantations, using South Sea Islander labour as it was considered working in cane fields in the climatic conditions of Queensland was too prejudicial to the health of Europeans. This practice began to change in the 1880s and 1890s however when the state government adopted a policy of gradual repatriation of South Sea Islanders. Queensland sugarcane growers considered workers from the warmer parts of Europe, including Italy, to be appropriate replacement labourers. The first Italians to arrive in North Queensland landed in Townsville in 1891. A small number moved into the Johnstone area during the 1890s, although they came as tenant farmers and not labourers. The first large group of Italian nationals seeking cane cutting contracts arrived circa 1907-08. These Italian migrants were known for their determination to accept hardship and poor working conditions which, together with great economic cooperation, saw many Italian labourers gaining their own holdings. While many Italians arrived in North Queensland before the First World War, Italian immigration peaked in the years following the war. At this time conditions in Italy were such that many looked abroad to start a new life. Australia became a favoured destination in the 1920s when the United States moved to restrict immigration from Italy. The Australian and Italian Governments agreed on a chain migration system, where Italians
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already resident in Australia nominated relatives and fellow villagers, leading to the development of a chain immigration system. As a result of this system, family group pocket settlements mushroomed. The strong Italian community established in the Innisfail district before the war was strengthened further by the post-war immigration. The number of Italian migrants arriving in North Queensland peaked again in the years following World War II. Immigrants from many European countries, including Yugoslavia, Malta, Spain and Italy arrived in Australia as displaced persons, and were indentured to work in the cane fields. Of the displaced migrants, the Italians were the largest ethnic group to be employed in the sugar industry, continuing to make a significant contribution to the sugar growing communities of North Queensland, including Innisfail. In 1959 the Queensland Government suggested communities commemorate the centenary of separation from New South Wales by a structure of a permanent nature. A group from the Italian community in Innisfail decided to erect a statue. Photographs taken throughout the history of the sugar industry in the Johnstone area were submitted to Sydney artist L. Yonna who suggested a statue in the form of a canecutter. The committee formed to oversee construction wrote to the Chamber of Commerce of Carrara, Italy, requesting the submission of designs by suitable sculptors. The design of Renato Beretta, the instructor at the Carrara Academy of Arts, was selected. The monument was made in Carrara, arriving in 32 cases to be erected by an Italian migrant P Bertolani who had arrived in Australia two months previously. The monument was officially unveiled by the Premier of Queensland, the Hon F Nicklin, on 4 October 1959. It cost 5000 to construct.

## Description

### Description

The Canecutter's Memorial is located on the Innisfail Esplanade overlooking the Johnstone River at the eastern end of Edith Street. It is sited on a small sealed area set among trees and a grassed park-like area. The land to the east of the memorial slopes steeply towards the river. The white marble monument consists of an octagonal pool from which rises a square section plinth containing a water fountain and bowl on each face and topped by a life-sized statue of a man cutting cane by hand. The cane cutter wears the typical clothing of shorts and hat and wields the trademark cane knife in his right hand. Under his left arm and across his back sweeps a sheaf of standing sugar cane. Below the statue, two opposing faces of the plinth feature bas reliefs depicting cane cutters at work. That at the front of the monument carries the Latin motto 'UBI BENI IBI PATRIA', which loosely interprets to 'Where one is content, there is one's homeland'. On the other two faces are inscriptions, one in English and one in Italian. The English version reads: TO THE PIONEERS OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY DONATED BY THE ITALIAN COMMUNITY OF INNISFAIL DISTRICT ON THE FIRST CENTENARY OF THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND 1859 1959 Below these panels are cast metal water spouts in the form of water bags over metal bowls. The water then flows into fluted marble basins supported by pairs of conventional dolphins. The whole is surrounded by an octagonal metal railing made in the form of stylised cane stalks topped by tram rails and decorated with implements associated with the trade.

## Element

Element Name	Canecutters Memorial
Designer Name	Benetta, Renato
Design Period	Post-WWII (1940s - 1960s)
Construction Period	1959 - 1959
Fabric (Exterior Structure)	Stone - marble
Place Components	Statue Fence/Wall - perimeter Memorial - fountain

## Images



Description	1. Canecutters Memorial (2000)
Media Author	
Media Date	24/03/2000
Copyright	DERM



Description	2. Canecutters Memorial (2000)
Media Author:	
Media Date	24/03/2000
Copyright	DERM

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Last updated: 04 April 2011

## **Place No. 41 - See Poy House**

**Place Name:** See Poy House  
**Address:** 134 Edith Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lots 112 & 113 on I2817

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.



## Appendix A



Queensland Government

# See Poy House

## Place Details

Place ID	602759
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	See Poy House
Place Classification	Built
Place Category	Residential
Themes	1 Peopling places / 1.2 Migration from outside and within
Register Entry Date	19/11/2010

## Location

Property Name	See Poy House
Address	134 Edith Street
Town / Suburb	INNISFAIL
Post Code	4860
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	interwar period
Criterion A	See Poy House (1932), the home of Johnstone See Poy, who for more than 50 years was the general manager of Queensland's only Chinese Australian owned and operated large department store, See Poy & Sons, is important in demonstrating an aspect of the pattern of Queensland's Chinese migration history. It illustrates the way in which early Chinese migrants achieved monetary success, social standing and integration with the wider community, and contributes significantly to the understanding of a prominent Chinese Australian business family's way of life in regional Queensland.
Criterion H	See Poy House has a special association with the See Poy family, particularly Johnstone See Poy, general manager of the firm See Poy & Sons, and his wife Theodora. The See Poy's were an important Chinese Australian family in north Queensland history, operating See Poy & Sons, a major department store, for approximately 100 years following its

establishment by Taam Sze Pui (Tom See Poy). They were important members of the north Queensland community, involved in many social, sporting and philanthropic activities, many of which Johnstone and his wife hosted in this house during the more than 50 years they resided there. See Poy House - a symbol of the family's success and its desire to participate in the Innisfail community - is the last remaining link to the prominent role these Chinese Australians played in the social and economic development of north Queensland.

## History

### History

See Poy House, located on one of the main streets of Innisfail, is a substantial, high-set timber home constructed between 1929 and 1932 for Johnstone and Theodora (Dora) See Poy, second generation Chinese Australians from the prominent Innisfail-based See Poy family. The intactness of the house and its garden setting, and the association with the family's social and commercial history, are evidence of Chinese migrant prosperity and success in early twentieth century regional Queensland. With the discovery of gold on the Palmer River in 1872, Chinese men, including Taam Sze Pui (Tom See Poy, an anglicization of his name that he came to adopt), migrated to work on the Palmer goldfields, but many also established market gardens and set up businesses catering for new arrivals (Ref. 1). Chinese migrants moved between settlements and lived throughout the north on the Hodgkinson goldfields, on the Tablelands working in the timber industry and in the small settlements of Smithfield and Cairns in 1876. In 1880 the Johnstone River district was identified as suitable for agriculture and opened up for settlement and sugar production. Workers came from around the north, including Tom See Poy and other Chinese men. By 1886, the Chinese community at Geraldton (later Innisfail) had grown rapidly, almost matching the Chinese population at Cairns (the largest outside Brisbane). They worked in the sugar and banana industry, the latter rivaling sugar as the region's primary economic activity. Many Chinese men were involved in the banana industry, including Tom See Poy and Tam Sie whose early success with bananas saw them become leading businessmen investing in property and farming. In July 1883 Tom See Poy and two other Chinese men set up the Kam Who store at Mourilyan and then moved to Innisfail. A few years later, Tom bought out the others and was still operating the Innisfail store when it was damaged in the 1918 cyclone. Although Tom See Poy's initial business activities were modest, See Poy & Sons grew rapidly under the management of his children by the 1920s. Tom See Poy retired in 1925 and died the following year leaving an estate of £32 576. All but the youngest of his five children played a role in the store during their adult life. Eldest son Johnstone became the company director but his two sisters also had a significant role in the business as well. See Poy and Sons became the largest department store in north Queensland, with international connections. It catered for a wide clientele in Innisfail and beyond, selling everything from toys and shoes to groceries, furniture and cars. Under the directorship of Johnstone See Poy the business extended its floor area and increased its range of merchandise, and in 1929, purchased a car dealership (Ref. 2). The following year the firm embarked upon a significant upgrade of its existing timber store and built Innisfail's biggest department store (Ref. 3). The new two storey building was constructed of reinforced concrete - a popular modern material being increasingly used at the time because of its ability to withstand cyclones and floods. The new store was the equal

of similar establishments in other parts of Queensland, and also of the Chinese Australian owned and operated emporia that dominated the skylines of Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Shanghai between 1907 and 1931. [The emporia owned by the Chinese Australian Guo and Ma families are two examples of those operating in Hong Kong and China (Ref. 4).] At its peak See Poy & Sons was one of the foremost department stores in north Queensland (Ref. 5). The firm enjoyed significant customer loyalty and successfully withstood mercantile competition from the mail order service of McWhirters in Brisbane, from Penney's variety store, from other Innisfail stores, and from department stores situated in the large cities throughout north Queensland (Ref. 6). It continued to operate until the early 1980s, the whole See Poy family being honoured by the Queensland government in 1981 with a commemorative plaque for its contribution to retailing. During the interwar period, which was one of business expansion for See Poy & Sons, members of the See Poy family also built private residences in close proximity to their department store which was located one block east of 134 Edith Street on the north-eastern corner of the intersection of Edith and Ernest Streets. Dora See Poy's family, the See Hoe's, lived on the western side of See Poy House. In addition, two adjoining houses were built for See Poy daughters on the opposite side of Edith Street from See Poy House. See Poy House is the only residence in this former enclave of family residences that survives intact. The adjacent See Hoe house and one of the daughter's houses has been demolished while the other daughter's house has been significantly altered. See Poy House is clear evidence of the firm's success and, with the demolition of the department store, it is now the last remaining intact structure that reflects the success of this major mercantile enterprise and its Chinese Australian directors. See Poy House was constructed sometime between 1929 and 1932, with Johnstone Tom See Poy being registered as owner of the land on 15 July 1929 (Ref. 7). It originally stood on at least 0.4 ha (1 acre) of land between Gladly and Charles Streets. There were no fences separating numbers 132, 134 (Johnstone See Poy's residence) and 136 (where Dora's family, the See Hoe's, resided) on Edith Street. The street elevation of See Poy House was typical of an interwar Queensland house; however its materials and special features reflect the wealth and standing of the family (Ref. 8). It was noticeably larger than a standard house at 670 m<sup>2</sup> in area and featured specially selected timbers (black bean, white hickory and silky oak), brass fittings and leadlight windows. During construction, rough sawn hardwood timber was transported from Maryborough and dressed on site. The use of mortised joints and anchor bolts cyclone-proofed the house. Leadlight windows and 12 ft (3.65 m) high ceilings were notable features of the interior of the house. It comprised a typical room format for a large interwar house being formal dining and lounge rooms, main bedroom, bathroom, second bedroom, study and kitchen. Verandahs were located on both sides and at the rear of the house. Balustrades were solid, other than decorative timber batten panels centred beneath timber bracket arches with side openings. The battening pattern used was consistent throughout: below arched openings and on the front stair balustrade in the infill latticework. The house cost between 1 200 and 2 000. The house was the venue for family and formal events. The formal dining room with its rectangular table was generally reserved for entertaining guests such as service personnel during World War 2. For family meals, the See Poy and See Hoe families usually ate on the rear verandah. The symmetrical formal garden with concrete edged garden beds was created by Johnstone See Poy who was an enthusiastic gardener, and was also the setting for many family and community activities that gave it a profile in the community. Most of the

See Poy residences on Edith Street became venues for community functions and social events, which reflected the family's standing within the community and their inclusive and multicultural approach to staffing See Poy & Sons. Their success and high social profile enabled them to play a leadership role within the Innisfail community and traverse racial boundaries. With Johnstone at the helm of See Poy & Sons, the firm participated in local sporting activities and events. This sustained sporting interest serves as yet another illustration of the family's involvement with mainstream Queensland community life. The firm sponsored its own cricket and tennis teams to compete against staff teams from other firms in the north (Ref. 9). Although the firm did not field a football team, it donated a trophy, known as the See Poy Cup, for senior rugby league matches (Ref. 10). Keeping pace with many businessmen, Johnstone and his brother-in-law, William Sue Yek, became members of the local golf club (Ref. 11). Johnstone See Poy was a member of the Rotary Club and his wife Dora was admitted to the Inner Wheel (a subdivision for the wives of Rotary members) according to information from an interview with descendant, Herbert Sue Yek. Consequently, their home became a venue for gatherings of the members of the latter group. In 1931, Johnstone and Dora's only child died accidentally. Although they did not become parents again, they made a commitment to host the Baby Show for the local Anglican Church according to another descendant Tiger See Hoe. For many years, 134 Edith Street was the venue for this annual event. Innisfail's children gave performances within the grounds of the house entertaining a large assembled audience and presumably mothers exhibited their babies. This was a major community and charity event providing members of the Innisfail community with a further means of relating to the See Poy family. The matriarchs of the Sue Yek and Quong Chong families were See Poy daughters and their homes stood directly opposite 134 Edith Street, forming what could be described as a See Poy enclave of beautiful houses. From the 1930s onwards, the homes of the Sue Yek and Quong Chong families were frequent scenes of hospitality and conviviality for the wider community. The Sue Yek family, for instance, played host to the staff, family and friends of the See Poy Staff Club (Ref. 12). The Quong Chong family provided musical entertainment for the Chinese Consul-General during a formal visit to north Queensland, whilst the See Poy men held formal discussions with the Chinese delegation (Ref. 13). The community activities of the See Poy family continued for several decades. Johnstone's brother, Herbert See Poy's dedication to advancing the cause of the Warrina Home for the Aged was recognised with an MBE in 1980 (Ref. 14). The See Poy family made some alterations to the house over time, such as lowering some ceilings and enclosing some verandahs with windows. Dora See Poy carried out minor alterations to the living room, including the removal of a section of decorative arch. Following Johnstone's death, ownership of the house in Edith Street transferred to Dora in September 1984, and following her death the same year it passed out of the ownership of the See Poy family. The demolition of the See Poy & Sons department store and the alteration and demolition of the other family houses leaves See Poy House as the last remaining intact structure that reflects the success of this major mercantile enterprise and its Chinese Australian directors. References 1. May C. See Poy, Tom (1853?-1926). In: Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 11. Melbourne: Melbourne University Press, 1988;562-563. [Online version viewed August 2010 at <<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A110574b.htm>>.] 2. Johnstone River Advocate (JRA), 7 June 1929. 3. JRA, 7 February 1930. 4. Fitzgerald J. Big White Lie: Chinese Australians in White Australia. Sydney: University

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## Description

### Description

See Poy House is located on the western outskirts of Innisfail's central business district on a large level block on the southern side of Edith Street, the main thoroughfare through Innisfail and part of the Bruce Highway. It is a substantial, high-set timber dwelling with multiple gables set in a garden with concrete-edged beds and lawn. The orientation of the house to match that of Edith Street places it at a slight angle to the side allotment boundaries and means its south-western corner stands on or near to the western side boundary. See Poy House is clad in chamferboards and supported on timber stumps with timber lattice panels fixed between those on the perimeter. Its gabled and hipped roof, which accentuates its asymmetrical room layout, is clad in corrugated metal sheeting with eaves lined with timber battens. The gable ends feature flat sheet panels, timber brackets and timber batten trim. On the northern (Edith Street) elevation, the entrance at the eastern end is emphasised with a small gable projecting from the corner of the L-shaped verandah. A recent timber and steel stair provides access to the entrance doors in the verandah's western wall, which comprise one and a half leaves with leadlight glass in the upper panels. (These stairs are not considered of cultural heritage significance.) The verandah openings above balustrade height have been filled with banks of leadlight casements, some six-light casements and fixed glazing. There is a centre-pivoting porthole window to the entrance hall and a bay window below the central gable. All leadlight in this elevation is of a matching design. The western elevation largely comprises a verandah enclosed following a similar glazing scheme to that on the front elevation incorporating some louvre banks. The hipped roof has a louvred gablet at its apex, a scheme mirrored on the eastern elevation. The eastern elevation has a similar fenestration pattern determined by the enclosure of the verandah. A transverse gable roof at the rear of the house extends across the southern elevation, with six-light casements under each gable end facing the east and west. Beneath a wide awning supported on timber batted brackets and attached to the southern wall is a five-light casement, louvres, a semi-enclosed stair with solid balustrade and the stove recess. The house, the footprint of which is roughly square, has an asymmetrical layout. It contains a core of rooms comprising entry hall, lounge and dining rooms opening onto the now enclosed north-eastern verandah with the large main bedroom and a smaller second bedroom separated by a bathroom opening onto the enclosed western verandah or sleepout. A short hall separates the main

living and dining room from the bedrooms. At the rear of the house, a kitchen occupies the south-east corner and is separated from the study in the south-west corner by the enclosed southern verandah that now serves as a long informal living area. Throughout the house, walls and ceilings, including the raked verandah ceilings, are generally lined with painted v-jointed tongue and groove timber boards and clear finished skirtings and architraves, except in the formal living and dining rooms and the rear informal lounge where there is flat sheeting. The timber floors throughout have been clear finished. In wet areas vinyl tiles have been laid. The joinery of the core rooms is generally clear finished with early brass hardware, while the verandah joinery is painted. In the formal living and dining rooms decorative features include picture rails, metal and glass pendant light fittings and an early chair and silk floor rug. A pair of early sliding leadlight doors separates these rooms. The leadlight pattern described above is carried through in the french doors opening into the eastern enclosed verandah; however leadlight casements opening from the dining room into this space and the rear informal living area are of a different design. The serving door from the kitchen is split horizontally into two sections: the top slides up into a wall cavity while the bottom swings open on a hinge. The top leaf of the door has a leadlight panel with a similar pattern to the other dining room windows. The central hall opens off the living room and runs to the informal living room at the rear of the house providing access to the main and second bedrooms, the bathroom and the dining room along the way. The hall has a 3.5 metre high ceiling and various high-waisted three-panel doors, with timber fretwork fanlights above, open off it. A clear finished cupboard in the hall contains the original silky oak telephone stand. The main bedroom has an early pendant light fitting and two early brass wall lights in the north-east corner. The bay window contains the original bench window seat and brass window hardware. The second bedroom mirrors this decoration scheme. The enclosed western verandah serves as a third bedroom. Eight-light french doors open onto this space from the main and second bedrooms. The bathroom retains many original finishes including: green faux-marble panelling to the walls with black faux-marble jointing and skirting strips, and rubber tile flooring. Above the height of 2.4 metres painted timber boards line the walls and ceiling. The bathtub and washbasin are early fixtures, as are the towel rails. There appears to be a hidden cupboard between the bathroom and hallway. The kitchen also retains many original features including: a sink with legs, sideboard, the serving hatch and stove recess, and the linoleum floor covering with its cardboard backing. Metal bracing for a hot water service is mounted high on a wall. Similar panelling to that used in the bathroom lines the stove recess and the splashback between the sink-top and window sill. Flat sheeting lines the walls of the enclosed rear verandah to a height of about 2.5 metres above floor level. Above, the timber framing is exposed to the northern side while timber boarding lines the southern wall. Beyond this lounge is a narrow verandah with a skillion roof that incorporates a toilet, the rear stairs, and the kitchen pantry and stove recess. A slab has been laid throughout the under-croft of the house which is used for storage. Round timber stumps support the house. The front boundary is delineated by the original fence which has a rendered masonry base and posts with square caps. Attached to the posts are frames made from tubular steel that are filled with chainmesh. The yard comprises various garden beds with concrete edging set within areas of lawn. These beds wrap around the front and both sides of the house and line the front fence, parallel to it. They are generally rectangular, one metre wide and four to six metres long. A curving concrete path leads from the gate on

Edith Street to the landing of the front stairs, dividing the front yard roughly in half with the garden beds arranged symmetrically either side. Midway between the front fence and the house are two circular beds, two metres in diameter, either side of the path. In line with the rectangular beds set off from the western elevation is a circular one at the rear. Similar beds break up the area of lawn on the eastern side of the house. There is also a narrow rectangular bed located at the rear of the lot about 15 metres behind the south-east corner of the house. A recent swimming pool and entertaining area have been constructed at the rear of the house and are not considered to be of cultural heritage significance. The original garage of the south-eastern corner of the house is timber-framed and has a gabled roof. Both its roof and walls are clad in corrugated sheet steel.

## Element

Element Name	See Poy House
Design Period	Interwar period (1919 - 1930s)
Fabric (Exterior Structure)	Timber - chamferboard
Fabric (Roof)	Metal sheeting - corrugated steel
Roof Form	Gabled hip

## Keywords

Keywords	Chinese heritage
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## Images



Description Edith Street facade (northern) of See Poy House.

Media Author

Media Date 25/08/2009

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Description Eastern (side) facade of See Poy House.



Media Author	
Media Date	25/08/2009
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Last updated: 04 April 2011

## Place No. 42 - Shop

**Place Name:** Shop  
**Address:** 35 Gladly Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 15 SP154716

### Heritage significance

The Shop is an exceptionally intact building built during the 1920s and 1930s building boom. It forms an important part of the Ernest Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.

### History

This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom and was purpose built for Hastings Deering.

### Description

The building is single storeyed with an exposed brick façade and timber-framed corrugated iron clad gabled building at the rear. The building is in the inter war modernist style with a symmetrical façade, stepped parapet in 5 bays with elaborate polychrome art deco ornament. It has small steel framed windows and a suspended awning. The building retains the original street level shopfront with large windows, art deco pilasters, circular windows and glass double doors etched with the words "Hastings Deering".

The shop frontage has been modernised with powder-coated white aluminium windows.

### Images



### References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## Place No. 43 - Shop

**Place Name:** Shop  
**Address:** 69-71 Ernest Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 2 RP718439

### Heritage significance

This Shop forms an important part of the Ernest Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.

### History

This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom. It is understood that the building has always housed a butchers.

### Description

The building is single storeyed and made from reinforced concrete. It has a symmetrical façade and is of inter war modernist style. The building has a gabled parapet and suspended awning.

The building has been modernised at street level to accommodate a shop and large aluminium windows have been inserted.

### Images



## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## Place No. 44 - Shop

**Place Name:** Shop  
**Address:** 72-74 Edith Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 RP707772

### Heritage significance

This Shop forms an important part of the Edith Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.

### History

This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

### Description

The building has 2 storeys and is made from reinforced concrete. It has a symmetrical façade and is of inter war modernist style. The building has a high stepped parapet concealing a gabled roof. Its balconies have wrought iron balustrades and the building has been altered to include a large aluminium window shade over the first floor verandah. The building has a suspended awning and has been modified to include a modern shop frontage at street level.

### Images



### References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## Place No. 45 - Shops

**Place Name:** Shops  
**Address:** 66-70 Edith Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 RP721017

### Heritage significance

These Shops forms an important part of the Edith Street streetscape and contribute to Innisfail's art deco heritage.

### History

This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

### Description

The building is single storeyed and made from reinforced concrete. It has a symmetrical façade and is of inter war modernist style. The building has a flat parapet divided into 3 bays with art deco ornament. The suspended awning has original art deco ornament. The building has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

### Images



### References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## Place No. 46 - Shops

**Place Name:** Shops  
**Address:** 77 Edith Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 2 RP711731

### Heritage significance

These Shops have an interesting façade and although it is an isolated building, it still forms an important part of the Edith Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.

### History

This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

### Description

The building is single storeyed and made from reinforced concrete. It has a symmetrical façade and is of inter war modernist style. The building has a flat parapet divided into 3 bays with elaborate art deco ornament. One of the bays is covered with metal cladding. The building has a suspended awning and has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

### Images



### References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## Place No. 47 - Shops

**Place Name:** Shops  
**Address:** 20 Owen Street, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 RP710790

### Heritage significance

These shops have has an interesting façade and although it is an isolated building, it still forms an important part of the Owen Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.

### History

This building was constructed during the 1920s and 1930s building boom.

### Description

The building has 2 storeys and is made from reinforced concrete. It has a symmetrical façade and is of inter war modernist style. The building has a stepped parapet with simple art deco ornament. The building's balconies have wrought iron balustrades on the first floor. The building has a suspended awning and has been modified to include a modern street level shopfront.

### Images





## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Natural Resource Assessments Pty Ltd, *Johnstone Shire Council Cultural Heritage Study Innisfail CBD*, 1998.

## **Place No. 48 - Violets and Lace House**

**Place Name:** Violets and Lace House  
**Address:** 393 Coquette Point Road, Innisfail  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 2 RP724418

### **Heritage significance**

Violets and Lace House is important for showing the evolution of food production and distribution systems in the Innisfail region. It is also important aesthetically, with the unique 1930 Spanish/Italianate design grand house located in picturesque surrounds. The House and its surrounds has been a focal point for community social activities over the years and is an important part of the history of the township of Innisfail.

### **History**

In the 1930s the Dvorak family, who had fled their home in Vladivostok, Russia, settled at Coquette Point and built a poultry farm and orchard. Violets and Lace House was designed and built by the Dvorak family in the style of a typical Russian summer house.

There was no road and the river was used to transport the 60 tons of cement needed to build the house. The family built the house, and at the same time worked long hours in their thriving poultry farm and orchard, taking produce to town almost daily - eggs, chicken meat, and fruit. Mrs Dvorak maintained a large vegetable garden, and with the farm the family was mostly self sufficient and they lived in harmony with their landscape.

Many ingenious methods were used to maintain a good standard of living. A railway line was built from the wharf to the boat shed and on to the packing shed, a small railway trolley carried the produce to and from the pinnace. In the chicken hatching shed, a boiler was built at one end and a pipe laid under a cement floor carried steam under the floor to a chimney at the end of the shed. The heated floor warmed the eggs and young chicks.

A well 12 meters deep and stone pitched by hand was built around a small spring. The sweet water was pumped by a windmill to a hand built tank at the top of the hill, and was gravity fed back to the house for domestic use. The tank is still in use today. Many large rain tanks captured water from the house and chicken sheds for use on the farm in the dry season.

The house was built on a small rocky hill. The hill was blasted to make the foundations for the house and the stone used to build the many dry stone walls surrounding the house. The house took 3 years to build and was completed in 1935.

At the outbreak of the World War II the Dvorak sons signed up and joined the war effort. Mr Dvorak died in 1942 and the work load became too much for Mrs Dvorak so she sold the property to Mr and Mrs Harry Murray from New Ireland, New Guinea. The Dvoraks moved to Brisbane and Mrs Dvorak lived into her 90s.

Mrs Murray, who had spent most of her life in New Guinea and was greatly loved by the local people of New Ireland, had a bad fall on the front steps of the house not long after her move to Innisfail and she later died. Harry Murray married his wife's niece Mary in 1950. Mary wrote a book called Escape on Harry's life during the war and renamed the house Palm Villa. Harry Murray died in Innisfail hospital in the late 1960s.

The Cunningham family purchased the house and 17 acres of land from Mary Murray in 1970. In 1975 Yvonne started the nursery at Coquette Point. Bill Cunningham died in 1988, after a long battle with cancer.

In 2007, Yvonne continued to run the nursery as a garden centre and tries to live with the environment. The fruit orchard has been replanted, the old well again pumps water for the garden, and a water filtration system has been built to treat the run off water from the orchard and nursery before the water enters the Johnstone River.

### **Description**

The property known as Violets and Lace House was originally a farm which supplied produce to Innisfail by river. The site contains evidence of farming activities e.g., poultry farming, tramways for taking goods from the river to and from different parts of property. The current grand house was built in the 1930s. It is a Spanish/Italianate house with arches along the front verandah on both upper and lower levels. The house suffered some damage from Cyclone Larry and the roof has been replaced. The house is set in a garden which has a number of levels. The upper level is retained by stone wall. Similar walling is used at rear of the house. The garden extends to the Johnstone River. An anchor used to winch ship wrecks out of the river mouth is set up in the garden.

### **Images**





## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## Place No. 49 - Campagnolo Cane Barracks

**Place Name:** Campagnolo Cane Barracks  
**Address:** 1100 Silkwood-Japoon Road, Japoonvale  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 10 SP182730

### Heritage significance

Campagnolo Cane Barracks, constructed in 1923, is important in demonstrating the living conditions of sugar workers during the labour intensive era of manual cane-cutting in Far North Queensland's sugar industry from 1905 to the mid 1970s.

Cane barracks are a symbol of a way of life and of migration patterns that have made a significant contribution to the evolution of Far North Queensland's economy, community and environment. They are important as industry-specific buildings that were constructed as a result of the *Sugar and Shearers' Accommodation Act, 1905* and the *Workers Accommodation Acts, 1915 and 1952*. In the size and layout of the rooms and in the layout of the site, they illustrate values that were enshrined in legislation in response to the demands of European migrants for improved working conditions and entitlements.

### History

Cane barracks are Queensland sugar industry-specific buildings located on cane farms throughout Far North Queensland. They were built as a result of early twentieth century government legislation which responded to the demands of European migrants for better working conditions and stipulated the need for farm labourers' to be provided with suitable accommodation. Although barracks vary in style and materials, each can tell the story of how the sugar industry relied upon seasonal migrant labourers to manually harvest cane between 1905 and 1960s. They are, therefore, powerful symbols of a way of life that has made a significant contribution to the evolution of Far North Queensland's community and environment.

The sugar industry in north Queensland dates to the 1870s. In late 1873, the Queensland government funded an expedition to assess whether the colony's north-east coast was suitable for sugar production. Former Commissioner for Crown Lands, Kennedy District (1861-63), George Dalrymple, investigated the country between Cardwell and the Endeavour River and found several fertile coastal valleys which he considered were fit to be cultivated with sugar cane. After outbreaks of rust disease vanished in 1878, blocks of land along the Bloomfield, Daintree, Mossman, Barron, Mulgrave and Johnstone Rivers were rapidly secured by small farmers, investors and larger companies, and by 1884 a nascent (and enduring) sugar industry had been established in the region.

The early sugar industry was based on the plantation model of cane farming which consisted of independent cane farms and associated mills owned by syndicates or companies made up of investors that relied upon the use of indentured labourers. Melanesian (Pacific Islanders), Chinese, Javanese and Malay workers were among the first field labourers in Far North Queensland's sugar industry.

Falling world sugar prices in 1884 and concern about the presence of Melanesian labourers in the colony triggered a move to regulate and restructure the industry from one dominated by Melanesian labourers to a European industry. The subsequent *Pacific Island Act 1885* stipulated that importation of Pacific Islander labour was to cease in 1890 (although exceptions allowed many small farmers to continue to employ Melanesians or Chinese during the 1890s, particularly during the annual cane harvest). The *Sugar Works Guarantee Act 1893* significantly altered Queensland's sugar industry and secured the development of central milling system.

During the early phase of the sugar industry, plantation owners had justified their use of Asian and Pacific Island indentured labour on the basis that northern European men were not suited to manual labour in the harsh tropical environment. Melanesians were also cheaper labour and plantation owners had fewer obligations to their welfare. The influx of European cane growers into Far North Queensland during the late nineteenth century, however, foreshadowed a major change in the ethnic composition of field labourers. In 1901 the newly elected Commonwealth Government introduced 2 new pieces of legislation that had a

significant and lasting impact on Far North Queensland's sugar industry and labour force – the *Immigration Restriction Act* and the *Pacific Islanders Labourers Act*. The *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* specifically prohibited various classes of people from immigrating on the basis of literacy by means of a dictation test. The *Pacific Islanders Labourers Act 1901* prohibited the recruitment of Melanesians to Australia after 1904 and, allowing for certain exemptions, required the Melanesian community to be repatriated after 1906. Additional legislation, *Leases to Aliens Restrictions Act 1912* and the *Sugar Cultivation Act 1913*, forced non-European small farmers to vacate their leases. These restrictive immigration laws and regulations ensure that from 1916 onwards, only Europeans could cultivate sugar cane in Queensland.

During the annual cane harvest, more labourers than were locally available were needed to cut cane. Europeans, including a growing number of Italian, Greek, Spanish and Croatian immigrants, organised themselves into teams (known as butty gangs) to harvest the annual cane crops. The use of seasonal labourers in the cane industry continued until the development of mechanical harvesting in the 1960s, although it was not until 1976 that manual harvesting was totally phased out.

Providing accommodation for labourers was not initially widespread. During the plantation phase Melanesian labourers generally built their own humpies or huts. These were often made from grasses and cane tops and susceptible to fire. European workers, however, demanded better working conditions than the indentured Melanesians, Chinese and Japanese labourers. In response, the Queensland government introduced the *Sugar and Shearers' Accommodation Act 1905*, which prescribed minimum standards of food preparation and accommodation for workers employed in both the mills and cane fields where more than 9 sugar workers were engaged. As a result, mill owners and cane growers were required to build accommodation for their workers with many of the early barracks providing for large groups of between 24-50 men.

Under the 1905 legislation, new barracks had to be at least 50 yards from the sugar works. Existing accommodation that did not comply had to be approved by the Minister or temporary accommodation such as tents had to be provided whilst new accommodation was built. Tents with flies were considered suitable accommodation but were not permitted to remain in the one place for more than 21 days. Separate tents had to be provided for dining and separate structures for cooking.

All accommodation buildings constructed following the commencement of the 1905 Act had to comprise compartments accommodating not more than 4 persons, with not less than 240 cubic feet of air space per person (increased to 360 cubic feet in 1906). Sleeping rooms had to be separate from the cooking and serving of meals. Pacific Island labourers had to be provided with separate accommodation and dining facilities as did persons of any Asiatic race. Health and safety requirements were also prescribed including the provision of water supply, equipment, bedding and separate buildings for bathrooms and the storage of meat.

The regulations stipulated a minimum wall height of 9 feet from the floor to the top of the wall plate for sleeping accommodation with complete separation between compartments. All bunks had to be on the floor with at least 3 feet between them. The buildings could be constructed of wood, iron, brick, pise, cement or approved material with floors of wood, cement, and brick, flagstones, tiles, asphalt or other approved material.

In 1915 new legislation was passed to govern workers accommodation - the *Workers Accommodation Act 1915: An Act to Provide for the Proper and Sufficient Accommodation of Workers*. The majority of provisions in the 1905 legislation were retained and expanded upon in the 1915 legislation and included the following principal amendments:

- Temporary accommodation in the form of tents or other similar structures could be used for 12 months if existing accommodation was found to be unfit for habitation.
- Buildings used for sleeping under construction at the commencement of the Act had to be divided into compartments to accommodate no more than 3 persons but buildings erected after the Act commenced could only accommodate 2 persons per compartment.
- Each sleeping compartment had to have a minimum of 480 cubic feet per person.
- Sufficient and proper earth closets were to be provided.
- Sleeping rooms could not adjoin rooms used for cooking.
- Separate accommodation had to be provided for cooks and their assistants.
- Where cooking and the serving of meals were undertaken in the same space it had to be done at opposite ends of the room.

- The size and number of stoves was specified relative to the number of workers.
- Fibrolite was added to the list of construction materials.
- Verandahs had to be provided for each worker's room, not less than 7 feet in width and 5 feet in length for each worker.

The *Workers Accommodation Act 1952*, which is still in force, replaced the earlier legislation and was expanded to cover several other industries. Rather than provide a blueprint for barrack design or form, the Acts outlined minimum requirements and general standards to be upheld in accommodation to be regulated by regional inspectors conducting compliance checks at least every 12 months.

Although many farmers built their own barracks, others ordered pre-cut houses from building firms. Campbell Redicut Homes, for example, was established in 1903 and was one of most successful Queensland firms supplying pre-cut houses (to country districts only) in the early twentieth century. Their designs were promoted as a way to eliminate the worry and waste of trying to comply with legislative requirements of *Workers Accommodation Act of 1915-21*. Their promotional material provided plans, illustrations and detailed specifications of all components, and they supplied either a 'Redicut' or offered a complete construction service (including stretchers and tables). In 1942-3, the United Graziers' Association of Queensland used almost identical illustrations and specifications their Annual for a hut accommodating 20 workers to demonstrate a method of complying with requirements.

Barracks took on different forms depending upon interpretation of the requirements and the number of persons to be accommodated, with several different variations built throughout Far North Queensland, particularly regarding the location of the bathroom and laundry. Early barracks were often larger double barracks, many of which were located within a central mill site. After the commencement of the 1915 legislation all barracks constructed were required to have verandahs. Bedrooms were either aligned in a linear arrangement opening onto a continuous verandah which provided access to the kitchen at one end or, where there were a larger number of workers to be accommodated, this linear arrangement was mirrored with bedrooms back to back or with a passage between (although this was later reduced to avoid disputes between large numbers of men). In the Mossman district, a more vernacular form of timber cottage was also used for as a barrack design. The predominant layout of barracks found in Far North Queensland, however, was an L-shaped design with the kitchen/dining room being longer than it was wide, and at right angles to the bedrooms. Other major features consistent in cane barrack locations include tramways and sewerage pits.

Most surviving barracks in Far North Queensland have timber frames and were clad with galvanized iron, although some were clad with timber or asbestos-cement. Later barracks, particularly those built in the late 1940s and 1950s, were built from cement rendered clay or concrete block. The increased availability and permanency of these materials, combined with the number of southern European migrants constructing barracks during this period, means cement rendered clay and/or concrete block barracks are the most intact and well represented examples of cane barrack types throughout the milling districts of Far North Queensland, with a number of examples that retain specific features and dimensions stipulated by the legislation.

### **Campagnolo Cane Barracks**

The barracks was built in 1923 and has been in the Campagnolo family for a long time. Tasmanian cane cutters, who used to work for the Campagnolo family for many years, lived in the barracks for many seasons.

### **Description**

A 4 bedroom L shaped barracks. It is constructed mostly of timber with galvanised iron decking now on the south and east external walls. It has been converted into a 2 bedroom building by removing walls between the first and second and the third and fourth bedrooms. The original ablutions block has been removed and a concrete block ablutions block has been constructed on the west side of the kitchen and incorporated into the structure by extending the roof. The barracks is located close to the Campagnolo family home.

Images











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## Place No. 50 - Rungert's Cane Barracks

**Place Name:** Rungert's Cane Barracks  
**Address:** 2618 Innisfail-Japoon Road, Japoonvale  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 3 RP715656  
**Coordinates:** Easting: 387141 Northing: 8040317

### Heritage significance

Rungert's Cane Barracks, constructed in the 1940s, and is important in demonstrating the living conditions of sugar workers during the labour-intensive era of manual cane-cutting in Far North Queensland's sugar industry from 1905 to the mid 1970s.

Cane barracks are a symbol of a way of life and of migration patterns that have made a significant contribution to the evolution of Far North Queensland's economy, community and environment. They are important as industry-specific buildings that were constructed as a result of the *Sugar and Shearers' Accommodation Act, 1905* and the *Workers Accommodation Acts, 1915 and 1952*. In the size and layout of the rooms and in the layout of the site, they illustrate values that were enshrined in legislation in response to the demands of European migrants for improved working conditions and entitlements.

### History

Rungert's Cane Barracks, constructed during the 1940s, is located in Japoonvale in the South Johnstone milling district. Cane barracks are Queensland sugar industry-specific buildings located on cane farms throughout Far North Queensland. They were built as a result of early twentieth century government legislation which responded to the demands of European migrants for better working conditions and stipulated the need for farm labourers' to be provided with suitable accommodation. Although barracks vary in style and materials, each can tell the story of how the sugar industry relied upon seasonal migrant labourers to manually harvest cane between 1905 and 1960s. They are, therefore, powerful symbols of a way of life that has made a significant contribution to the evolution of Far North Queensland's community and environment.

The sugar industry in north Queensland dates to the 1870s. In late 1873, the Queensland government funded an expedition to assess whether the colony's north-east coast was suitable for sugar production. Former Commissioner for Crown Lands, Kennedy District (1861-63), George Dalrymple, investigated the country between Cardwell and the Endeavour River and found several fertile coastal valleys which he considered were fit to be cultivated with sugar cane. After outbreaks of rust disease vanished in 1878, blocks of land along the Bloomfield, Daintree, Mossman, Barron, Mulgrave and Johnstone Rivers were rapidly secured by small farmers, investors and larger companies, and by 1884 a nascent (and enduring) sugar industry had been established in the region.

The early sugar industry was based on the plantation model of cane farming which consisted of independent cane farms and associated mills owned by syndicates or companies made up of investors that relied upon the use of indentured labourers. Melanesian (Pacific Islanders), Chinese, Javanese and Malay workers were among the first field labourers in Far North Queensland's sugar industry.

Falling world sugar prices in 1884 and concern about the presence of Melanesian labourers in the colony triggered a move to regulate and restructure the industry from one dominated by Melanesian labourers to a European industry. The subsequent *Pacific Island Act 1885* stipulated that importation of Pacific Islander labour was to cease in 1890 (although exceptions allowed many small farmers to continue to employ Melanesians or Chinese during the 1890s, particularly during the annual cane harvest). The *Sugar Works Guarantee Act 1893* significantly altered Queensland's sugar industry and secured the development of central milling system.

During the early phase of the sugar industry, plantation owners had justified their use of Asian and Pacific Island indentured labour on the basis that northern European men were not suited to manual labour in the harsh tropical environment. Melanesians were also cheaper labour and plantation owners had fewer

obligations to their welfare. The influx of European cane growers into Far North Queensland during the late nineteenth century, however, foreshadowed a major change in the ethnic composition of field labourers. In 1901 the newly elected Commonwealth Government introduced 2 new pieces of legislation that had a significant and lasting impact on Far North Queensland's sugar industry and labour force – the *Immigration Restriction Act* and the *Pacific Islanders Labourers Act*. The *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* specifically prohibited various classes of people from immigrating on the basis of literacy by means of a dictation test. The *Pacific Islanders Labourers Act 1901* prohibited the recruitment of Melanesians to Australia after 1904 and, allowing for certain exemptions, required the Melanesian community to be repatriated after 1906. Additional legislation, *Leases to Aliens Restrictions Act 1912* and the *Sugar Cultivation Act 1913*, forced non-European small farmers to vacate their leases. These restrictive immigration laws and regulations ensure that from 1916 onwards, only Europeans could cultivate sugar cane in Queensland.

During the annual cane harvest, more labourers than were locally available were needed to cut cane. Europeans, including a growing number of Italian, Greek, Spanish and Croatian immigrants, organised themselves into teams (known as butty gangs) to harvest the annual cane crops. The use of seasonal labourers in the cane industry continued until the development of mechanical harvesting in the 1960s, although it was not until 1976 that manual harvesting was totally phased out.

Providing accommodation for labourers was not initially widespread. During the plantation phase Melanesian labourers generally built their own humpies or huts. These were often made from grasses and cane tops and susceptible to fire. European workers, however, demanded better working conditions than the indentured Melanesians, Chinese and Japanese labourers. In response, the Queensland government introduced the *Sugar and Shearers' Accommodation Act 1905*, which prescribed minimum standards of food preparation and accommodation for workers employed in both the mills and cane fields where more than 9 sugar workers were engaged. As a result, mill owners and cane growers were required to build accommodation for their workers with many of the early barracks providing for large groups of between 24-50 men.

Under the 1905 legislation, new barracks had to be at least 50 yards from the sugar works. Existing accommodation that did not comply had to be approved by the Minister or temporary accommodation such as tents had to be provided whilst new accommodation was built. Tents with flies were considered suitable accommodation but were not permitted to remain in the one place for more than 21 days. Separate tents had to be provided for dining and separate structures for cooking.

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Although many farmers built their own barracks, others ordered pre-cut houses from building firms. Campbell Redicut Homes, for example, was established in 1903 and was one of most successful Queensland firms supplying pre-cut houses (to country districts only) in the early twentieth century. Their designs were promoted as a way to eliminate the worry and waste of trying to comply with legislative requirements of *Workers Accommodation Act of 1915-21*. Their promotional material provided plans, illustrations and detailed specifications of all components, and they supplied either a 'Redicut' or offered a complete construction service (including stretchers and tables). In 1942-3, the United Graziers' Association of Queensland used almost identical illustrations and specifications their Annual for a hut accommodating 20 workers to demonstrate a method of complying with requirements.

Barracks took on different forms depending upon interpretation of the requirements and the number of persons to be accommodated, with several different variations built throughout Far North Queensland, particularly regarding the location of the bathroom and laundry. Early barracks were often larger double barracks, many of which were located within a central mill site. After the commencement of the 1915 legislation all barracks constructed were required to have verandahs. Bedrooms were either aligned in a linear arrangement opening onto a continuous verandah which provided access to the kitchen at one end or, where there were a larger number of workers to be accommodated, this linear arrangement was mirrored with bedrooms back to back or with a passage between (although this was later reduced to avoid disputes between large numbers of men). In the Mossman district, a more vernacular form of timber cottage was also used for as a barrack design. The predominant layout of barracks found in Far North Queensland, however, was an L-shaped design with the kitchen/dining room being longer than it was wide, and at right angles to the bedrooms. Other major features consistent in cane barrack locations include tramways and sewerage pits.

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### **Rungert's Cane Barracks**

The once heavily timbered tropical jungle at Japoonvale was transformed to cane farms in the early years of the twentieth century. Located between South Johnstone and Silkwood, Rungert's cement rendered barracks reflect the industry and a way of life that contributed significantly to the development of the region.

The Rungert family migrated to Queensland from Germany between the late nineteenth to early twentieth century. They are considered pioneers in the Japoonvale district, and their family has a long association with the sugar industry. Carl Gottfried Emiel Rungert worked as a farmer with his wife Fanny at Mundoo near Innisfail in 1903, and went onto work in Goondi from 1913-1930. During this period, early survey maps (1908) indicate Rungert had already leased land in Japoonvale. He purchased this property in 1937.

Rungert's involvement in the sugar industry included his participation in the 1911 Sugar Commission as part of the "Hiberian Group". This group included 22 men from Japoonvale who were prepared to support a new

central mill in South Johnstone. He and his son Ernest built an early 4 bedroom linear barracks from timber. Eventually it collapsed and all that remains of this early barracks is a timber kitchen table which is still stored in the extant barracks. The remaining barracks on the property was built to legislative specifications during the 1940s by the Rungert family. The barracks used to have a framed Canecutter's Agreement on the kitchen door that outlined the usage of the accommodation and cutter's responsibility.

Carl Rungert died in 1948 and his estate was divided between his 2 sons, Ernest and William (Tom), and Florence Maud Graham (wife of John Wallace Graham). The land has since been transferred through the Rungert family and is currently owned by Herbert Rungert and his brother Lesley Rungert.

## **Description**

Rungert's Barracks is an L shaped 3 bedroom cement rendered clay block structure. It is located adjacent to, and with the veranda facing, the Japoonvale–Silkwood Road on the floodplain of Liverpool Creek. A sugar tramline, which connects this and the Silkwood area with South Johnstone, is located on the west or opposite side of the Japoonvale–Silkwood Road. The paddocks surrounding the barracks are open pasture. A cement rendered laundry/bathroom is located north of and close to the barracks. The stumps and bearers of a storage shed and a well with a circular concrete cover are located approximately 15 metres south of the barracks next to the road. The nearest farm house, which contributes to the overall setting, is located on a rise above the Liverpool Creek floodplain several hundred metres west of the barracks.

The barracks is in a prominent location and is clearly recognisable as an intact cane cutters barracks.

The barracks is currently unused. Building materials and timber are stored in some of the rooms and all the bedroom windows are broken and boarded up with flat metal sheeting. The barracks is relatively unchanged since it was last used for workers' accommodation and still retains some interesting features such as clothes line and wooden hooks for hanging clothes.

Dimensions of the main components are:

- 3 bedrooms each 3.7 metres x 3.3 metres opening onto an open verandah.
- A verandah measuring 10.4 metres by 2.15 metres.
- Kitchen/dining room, including cooking recess 7.6 metres x 3.6 metres with a 1.6 metre deep stove recess.

All bedroom doors and both kitchen doors are made of v-joint timber lining boards. The main part of the building has a corrugated iron gable roof, while the stove and kitchen shelving recesses have a flat, cement rendered roof with a square cement rendered flue above the stove recess. The floors are concrete. Windows are double hung timber sash type and most of the glass is missing from them.

Internal and external wall and verandah posts are cement rendered. Exposed external walls are unpainted. There is faded yellow or fawn coloured paint on the upper half of verandah walls. At the bottom of the paint on the verandah wall outside the bedrooms there is a timber rail fixed to the wall which supports a line of pegs for hanging clothes, etc. Each bedroom has 2 sets of clothes pegs and small shelves, and there is faded green paint on the walls. There is faded and flaking blue paint on the kitchen walls. There is a stove recess at the western end of the kitchen, next to which is another recess containing a set of open shelves. Both recesses are 2 metres high. The kitchen sink is on the northern wall near the stove recess. Ceilings in both bedrooms and the kitchen are lined with fibrous cement sheeting.

The laundry/bathroom is rectangular and has a flat cement rendered concrete roof topped with a concrete water tank. Half the southern wall of this structure is open providing access to what may have been the laundry. A doorway opens from the laundry into the shower room which is on the western side of the structure.

**Images**



**End of kitchen with stove and shelving recesses**



**Laundry/bathroom topped with water tank**



**Verandah still has clothes line, hooks and paint work**



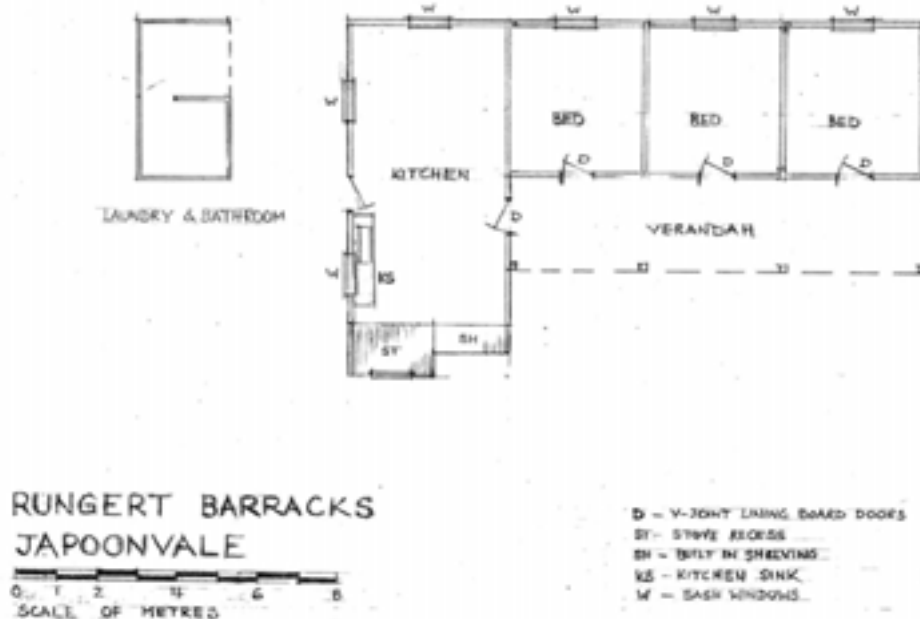
**Bedrooms are painted green and still have clothes hooks**



**Kitchen has blue paint, sink, stove and shelving recesses**



## Site and floor plans



## References

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## **Place No. 51 - Ancient aboriginal walking track along ridge**

**Place Name:** Ancient aboriginal walking track along ridge  
**Address:** Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy  
**Lot on Plan:** N/A  
**Location:** CH10300

### **Heritage significance**

Kirrama Range Road crosses a transverse ridge which was used as an Aboriginal walking track for people from the edge of the forest on the coast (Dirrenburra) to visit and share their traditional seafood with the rain forest people (Jugadooburra).

This site is significant for showing the use of tracks by local Aboriginal people to cross the Kirrama Range and share local traditional foods from neighbouring tribal groups.

### **History**

Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.

Prior to European settlement, local Aboriginal people developed tracks to cross the Kirrama Range behind Cardwell. During the 1870s, these were used as pack tracks for miners heading to the Etheridge and Gilbert goldfields, and by the gold escort. However, the steep terrain, and the declining influence of Cardwell as a port after Cairns was established in 1876, limited the use of these tracks.

At chainage 10300, the Kirrama Range Road crosses a mountain ridge used as a traditional Aboriginal walking track for access by the Dirrenburra (Edge of forest on coast people) to share fish and other seafood with the Jugadooburra (Rain forest people) in the mountains.

There are 9 traditional Aboriginal tribes with an ancient history of living, sharing and caring in the land proximate to Kirrama Range Road. Kirrama Range Road traverses the traditional tribal land of the Girramay people who consisted of 3 distinct groups characterised by the respective land topography they occupy as follows:

- Millaburra - Open plans people (southern Atherton Tablelands);
- Jugadooburra - Rain forest people (Kirrama Range Road region); and
- Dirrenburra - Edge of forest on coast people (Cardwell region).

Between 1935 and 1936, PEI staff surveyors GW Tucker and T Hein led survey parties locating the road route and spent many months camping and traversing steep slopes from the base camp in the Kennedy Valley. This steep and mountainous terrain presented another major engineering obstacle. High rainfall and an abundance of streams and waterways meant that special attention had to be paid to drainage and bridges.

In 1937, construction of the Kirrama Range Road began under supervision of PEI Northern District Engineer G.W.P. Pheasant. It was designed to be a timber road that was wide enough for trucks and large, mechanised equipment. These specifications, however, had to be achieved in steep and treacherous terrain before heavy road making plant and earth-moving equipment was available. In 2.5 years workers cleared 6.5 miles of road using a variety of methods to clear timber and hew and blast their way through the granite cliffs.

The road was estimated to have cost £250,000 in 1938. The construction of the first 13 miles (20.9 kilometres) was completed in 1941 and tropical rainforest growth in the subsequent years has assisted to provide stable batter slope angles ranging from an estimated 65 degrees to approximately 80 degrees.

The new road was initially known as the Kirrama Range Road. It started 4 miles from the Kennedy railway siding on the North Coast line and extended to a head some 13 miles from the point of commencement. It was initially 16 foot (4.88 metres) formation width, and this is still evident (although some widening has occurred due to logging use and erosion). The highest point in road was 2506 feet (764 metres) above sea-level and it was expected at the time that the road would be used as a tourist road as well as a forestry road because of its scenic attributes.

## **Description**

The Kirrama Range Road passes through what was the Cardwell State Forest and is now the Kirrama National Park, a landscape comprising rugged mountain scenery, lush tropical rainforest, waterfalls and open eucalyptus forest. The road traverses World heritage-listed national park (Murray Upper National Park and Giringun National Park). It begins on the coastal plain at Kennedy Creek in the township of Kennedy near Cardwell and continues westward over the range of the Southern Tablelands of the Herbert River district.

The ancient Aboriginal walking track is located at chainage 10300, where the road crosses a mountain ridge.

## **Images**



**Kirrama Range Road, Cardwell**

## **References**

Connell Wagner, Kirrama Range Road Planning Study Report, 2007.

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Jones, D, *Cardwell Shire Story*, 1961.

## Place No. 52 - "Bunba" Tree Site

**Place Name:** "Bunba" Tree Site  
**Address:** Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy  
**Lot on Plan:** N/A  
**Location:** CH14700

### Heritage significance

The Aboriginal name for the creek at Bridge 10 on Kirrama Range Road is Bunda which means "Fig trees here" and fig trees can still be observed at this site.

This site is important in showing the use of the area by local Aboriginal people who developed tracks to traverse the Range and share local traditional foods from neighbouring tribal groups.

### History

Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.

Prior to European settlement, local Aboriginal people developed tracks to cross the Kirrama Range behind Cardwell. During the 1870s, these were used as pack tracks for miners heading to the Etheridge and Gilbert goldfields, and by the gold escort. However, the steep terrain, and the declining influence of Cardwell as a port after Cairns was established in 1876, limited the use of these tracks.

At chainage 10300, the Kirrama Range Road crosses a mountain ridge used as a traditional Aboriginal walking track for access by the Dirrenburra (Edge of forest on coast people) to share fish and other seafood with the Jugadooburra (Rain forest people) in the mountains.

There are 9 traditional Aboriginal tribes with an ancient history of living, sharing and caring in the land proximate to Kirrama Range Road. Kirrama Range Road traverses the traditional tribal land of the Girramay people who consisted of 3 distinct groups characterised by the respective land topography they occupy as follows:

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- Dirrenburra - Edge of forest on coast people (Cardwell region).

Between 1935 and 1936, PEI staff surveyors GW Tucker and T Hein led survey parties locating the road route and spent many months camping and traversing steep slopes from the base camp in the Kennedy Valley. This steep and mountainous terrain presented another major engineering obstacle. High rainfall and an abundance of streams and waterways meant that special attention had to be paid to drainage and bridges.

In 1937, construction of the Kirrama Range Road began under supervision of PEI Northern District Engineer G.W.P. Pheasant. It was designed to be a timber road that was wide enough for trucks and large, mechanised equipment. These specifications, however, had to be achieved in steep and treacherous terrain before heavy road making plant and earth-moving equipment was available. In 2.5 years workers cleared 6.5 miles of road using a variety of methods to clear timber and hew and blast their way through the granite cliffs.

The road was estimated to have cost £250,000 in 1938. The construction of the first 13 miles (20.9 kilometres) was completed in 1941 and tropical rainforest growth in the subsequent years has assisted to provide stable batter slope angles ranging from an estimated 65 degrees to approximately 80 degrees.

The new road was initially known as the Kirrama Range Road. It started 4 miles from the Kennedy railway siding on the North Coast line and extended to a head some 13 miles from the point of commencement. It was initially 16 foot (4.88 metres) formation width, and this is still evident (although some widening has occurred due to logging use and erosion). The highest point in road was 2506 feet (764 metres) above sea-level and it was expected at the time that the road would be used as a tourist road as well as a forestry road because of its scenic attributes.

The Aboriginal name for the creek crossed by Bridge 10 along Kirrama Range Road is Bunba which means "Fig trees here" and fig trees can still be observed at this site.

## **Description**

The Kirrama Range Road passes through what was the Cardwell State Forest and is now the Kirrama National Park, a landscape comprising rugged mountain scenery, lush tropical rainforest, waterfalls and open eucalyptus forest. The road traverses World heritage-listed national park (Murray Upper National Park and Girringun National Park). It begins on the coastal plain at Kennedy Creek in the township of Kennedy near Cardwell and continues westward over the range of the Southern Tablelands of the Herbert River district.

Bridge 10 is located at chainage 14700, which crosses the creek known by the Aboriginal name "Bunba" which means "fig trees here". Fig trees can still be observed at this site.

## **Images**



**Kirrama Range Road: Bridge 10**

## **References**

Connell Wagner, Kirrama Range Road Planning Study Report, 2007.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Jones, Dorothy *Cardwell Shire Story*, 1961.

## Place No. 53 - George William Tucker Monument

**Place Name:** George William Tucker Monument  
**Address:** Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy  
**Lot on Plan:** N/A  
**Location:** CH10000

### Heritage significance

Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.

The construction of the road was championed and pursued by Cardwell-based parliamentarian Percy Pease in his role as the Minister for Lands, which encompassed the Public Estates Improvement scheme. His involvement is recognised by one of 3 roadside memorials, the others reflecting the contributions to the construction by local councillor Bryce Henry and surveyor George Tucker.

Kirrama Range Road demonstrates a high degree of technical achievement in road design and construction in a tropical environment prior to the development of heavy road making plant and earth moving equipment. The George William Tucker Monument commemorates the contribution of road surveyor George William Tucker in the establishment of the road, and who died before the road was officially opened after falling into the Jarrah Creek during construction and drowning.

### History

Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.

Prior to European settlement, local Aboriginal people developed tracks to cross the Kirrama Range behind Cardwell. During the 1870s, these were used as pack tracks for miners heading to the Etheridge and Gilbert goldfields, and by the gold escort. However, the steep terrain, and the declining influence of Cardwell as a port after Cairns was established in 1876, limited the use of these tracks.

Between 1935 and 1936 Public Estates Improvement Scheme staff surveyors GW Tucker and T Hein led survey parties locating the road route and spent many months camping and traversing steep slopes from the base camp in the Kennedy Valley. This steep and mountainous terrain presented another major engineering obstacle. High rainfall and an abundance of streams and waterways meant that special attention had to be paid to drainage and bridges.

In 1937, construction of the Kirrama Range Road began under supervision of PEI Northern District Engineer G.W.P. Pheasant. It was designed to be a timber road that was wide enough for trucks and large, mechanised equipment. These specifications, however, had to be achieved in steep and treacherous terrain before heavy road making plant and earth-moving equipment was available. In 2.5 years workers cleared 6.5 miles of road using a variety of methods to clear timber and hew and blast their way through the granite cliffs.

The road was estimated to have cost £250,000 in 1938. The construction of the first 13 miles (20.9 kilometres) was completed in 1941 and tropical rainforest growth in the subsequent years has assisted to provide stable batter slope angles ranging from an estimated 65 degrees to approximately 80 degrees.

The new road was initially known as the Kirrama Range Road. It started 4 miles from the Kennedy railway siding on the North Coast line and extended to a head some 13 miles from the point of commencement. It was initially 16 foot (4.88 metres) formation width, and this is still evident (although some widening has occurred due to logging use and erosion). The highest point in road was 2506 feet (764 metres) above sea-level and it was expected at the time that the road would be used as a tourist road as well as a forestry road because of its scenic attributes.

The Kirrama Range Road was officially opened in 1941. By this time 3 people associated with its development and construction had died: Percy Pease, Minister for Lands (1940), Brice Henry, Chairman of the Cardwell Shire Council (1940) and Surveyor George Tucker, who fell into the Jarrah Creek during construction and drowned. Each of these men, instrumental in the development of the road, were commemorated in memorials along the road. Roadside memorials made from stone and mortar were erected for Tucker and Henry, with Tucker's being situated at a particularly picturesque lookout point now known as Tucker's Lookout near the four mile lookout camp. A memorial tablet to Tucker was sunk into the face of rock at the highest point of the road.

## **Description**

The Kirrama Range Road passes through what was the Cardwell State Forest and is now the Kirrama National Park, a landscape comprising rugged mountain scenery, lush tropical rainforest, waterfalls and open eucalyptus forest. The road traverses World heritage-listed national park (Murray Upper National Park and Girringun National Park). It begins on the coastal plain at Kennedy Creek in the township of Kennedy near Cardwell and continues westward over the range of the Southern Tablelands of the Herbert River district.

The George William Tucker Monument is the first of 3 monuments of similar design located along the road. It is on the east side and 2 metres from the road and is dedicated to the surveyor of the road. The monument has been sited next to a point on the road which offers panoramic views across the coastal plain to Hinchinbrook Island and Chanel.

The Monument is a 1.9 metre high rectangular pyramid 2 metres long x 1 metres wide at its base, tapering to an overall dimension of 1.5 metres long by 1 metres wide at the top. At the front and rear of the monument are rubble stone set in concrete. The corners are rendered concrete and the sides are very rough cast concrete. A pink and green terrazzo shield 0.95 metres x 0.8 metres has been set into the front of the monument. A brass plaque with the inscription "Erected by the citizens of the Shire of Cardwell to commemorate the memory of the late George William Tucker, surveyor, 1941" has been bolted to the terrazzo shield.

## Images



## References

Connell Wagner, Kirrama Range Road Planning Study Report, 2007.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Jones, Dorothy *Cardwell Shire Story*, 1961.



## **Place No. 54 - Murray Valley Lookout (including Brice Henry Monument)**

**Place Name:** Murray Valley Lookout (including Brice Henry Monument)  
**Address:** Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy  
**Lot on Plan:** N/A  
**Location:** CH10000

### **Heritage significance**

Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.

The construction of the road was championed and pursued by Cardwell-based parliamentarian Percy Pease in his role as the Minister for Lands, which encompassed the Public Estates Improvement scheme. His involvement is recognised by one of 3 roadside memorials, the others reflecting the contributions to the construction by local councillor Brice Henry and surveyor George Tucker.

Kirrama Range Road demonstrates a high degree of technical achievement in road design and construction in a tropical environment prior to the development of heavy road making plant and earth moving equipment. The Murray Valley Lookout is the site of the Brice Henry Monument, which commemorates the contribution of Brice Henry in campaigning for the construction of the road. Henry was Chairman of the Cardwell Shire Council and died before the road was officially opened.

### **History**

Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.

Prior to European settlement, local Aboriginal people developed tracks to cross the Kirrama Range behind Cardwell. During the 1870s, these were used as pack tracks for miners heading to the Etheridge and Gilbert goldfields, and by the gold escort. However, the steep terrain, and the declining influence of Cardwell as a port after Cairns was established in 1876, limited the use of these tracks.

Timber getters were among the first settlers in Far North Queensland but the lack of access road to the rich timber resources in the Cardwell State Forest meant the trees remained untouched well into the 1920s. At this time, timber re-emerged as an important factor in the region's economy. The Cardwell Shire, buoyed by its new-found status as a transportation hub after the arrival of the railway in 1924, was keen to promote the untapped stands of cabinet timbers to the Provisional Forestry Department. In 1929, the Inglewood Camp of the Provisional Forestry Board was transferred to the Cardwell District to carry out a Class 3 Survey of Timber Reserve 329, Kirrama. The survey ran until 1931 and involved measuring and estimating the value of the Reserve's timber, and assessing the economic viability of creating an access road. 8 logging areas were defined, covering an area of 10,674 acres (4 320 hectares) as well as a new Kauri pine area of 1,942 acres (786 hectares). They also surveyed the Windy logging area.

While the survey was still in progress, Arthur E Moore's National Party Government called for tenders to remove more than 60,000,000 superfeet of timber from the area in 1930, with the proviso that tenders include a blueprint for constructing an access road over the range to facilitate the extraction. The Cardwell

Shire Council had long been desirous of a connecting road, and a reward was offered to the person who identified the most passable route. A government party, including Cardwell Shire Councillor Brice Henry, accompanied prospective tenderer Charles Lahey on a tour of the ranges to identify an acceptable route for the road. During their exploration they found extensive stands of red cedar, maple, silkwood, saffron heart, walnut, bean, kauri pine and silky oak, varieties which had the potential to stimulate local veneering and woodworking businesses. Lahey's ambitious proposal included constructing 12 miles of road up to Main Roads specifications with additional extensions in order to access timber resources on the ranges behind Tully. However, the intricate proposal required numerous government concessions which ultimately led to the tender being rejected.

Despite this setback, the Cardwell Shire Council continued to press for the development of a range road and a jetty at Oyster Point (Cardwell). In 1932, the newly elected labour government abolished the Queensland Provisional Forestry Board and forestry became a sub-department of the Department of Lands. The Minister for Lands, Percy Pease, was the member for Herbert, a north Queensland electorate, and had an interest in the timber industry. His department also oversaw the implementation of the Public Estates Improvement (PEI) scheme, a program designed specifically to boost infrastructure and employment during the depression era and to open-up access to several Timber Reserves and State Forests.

Pease's support of the Kirrama project was crucial to its implementation. In 1935 J. Ainscow, Engineer-in-Charge of the PEI scheme, and Surveyor General J.P. Harvey arrived in Cardwell to view the proposed range road and jetty site (Oyster Point). They rejected the idea of the jetty, but approved the development of the road. Between 1935 and 1936 Public Estates Improvement Scheme staff surveyors GW Tucker and T Hein led survey parties locating the road route and spent many months camping and traversing steep slopes from the base camp in the Kennedy Valley. This steep and mountainous terrain presented another major engineering obstacle. High rainfall and an abundance of streams and waterways meant that special attention had to be paid to drainage and bridges.

In 1937, construction of the Kirrama Range Road began under supervision of PEI Northern District Engineer G.W.P. Pheasant. It was designed to be a timber road that was wide enough for trucks and large, mechanised equipment. These specifications, however, had to be achieved in steep and treacherous terrain before heavy road making plant and earth-moving equipment was available. In 2.5 years workers cleared 6.5 miles of road using a variety of methods to clear timber and hew and blast their way through the granite cliffs.

The road was estimated to have cost £250,000 in 1938. The construction of the first 13 miles (20.9 kilometres) was completed in 1941 and tropical rainforest growth in the subsequent years has assisted to provide stable batter slope angles ranging from an estimated 65 degrees to approximately 80 degrees.

The new road was initially known as the Kirrama Range Road. It started 4 miles from the Kennedy railway siding on the North Coast line and extended to a head some 13 miles from the point of commencement. It was initially 16 foot (4.88 metres) formation width, and this is still evident (although some widening has occurred due to logging use and erosion). The highest point in road was 2506 feet (764 metres) above sea-level and it was expected at the time that the road would be used as a tourist road as well as a forestry road because of its scenic attributes.

The Kirrama Range Road was officially opened in 1941. By this time 3 people associated with its development and construction had died: Percy Pease, Minister for Lands (1940), Brice Henry, Chairman of the Cardwell Shire Council (1940) and Surveyor George Tucker, who fell into the Jarrah Creek during construction and drowned. Each of these men, instrumental in the development of the road, were commemorated in memorials along the road. Roadside memorials made from stone and mortar were erected for Tucker and Henry, with Henry's being situated at a picturesque lookout point now known as the Murray Valley Lookout.

## **Description**

The Kirrama Range Road passes through what was the Cardwell State Forest and is now the Kirrama National Park, a landscape comprising rugged mountain scenery, lush tropical rainforest, waterfalls and open eucalyptus forest. The road traverses World heritage-listed national park (Murray Upper National Park and Girringun National Park). It begins on the coastal plain at Kennedy Creek in the township of Kennedy

near Cardwell and continues westward over the range of the Southern Tablelands of the Herbert River district.

The Brice Henry Monument is a 1.9 metre high rectangular pyramid 2 metres long x 1 metres wide at its base, tapering to an overall dimension of 1.5 metres long by 1 metres wide at the top. At the front and rear of the monument are rubble stone set in concrete. The corners are rendered concrete and the sides are very rough cast concrete. A pink and green terrazzo shield 0.95 metres x 0.8 metres has been set into the front of the Monument. The Monument is sited on the northern side of the road adjacent to the Murray Valley Lookout. A brass plaque with the inscription "Erected by the citizens of the Shire of Cardwell to commemorate the memory of the late Brice Henry, Chairman of the Cardwell Shire Council, 1941" has been bolted to the terrazzo shield.

## **Images**



## **References**

Connell Wagner, Kirrama Range Road Planning Study Report, 2007.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Jones, Dorothy *Cardwell Shire Story*, 1961.

## **Place No. 55 - Percy Pease Monument**

**Place Name:** Percy Pease Monument  
**Address:** Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy  
**Lot on Plan:** N/A  
**Location:** South 18 deg 12.595  
East 145 deg 47.757  
CH17191

### **Heritage significance**

Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.

The construction of the road was championed and pursued by Cardwell-based parliamentarian Percy Pease in his role as the Minister for Lands, which encompassed the Public Estates Improvement scheme. His involvement is recognised by one of 3 roadside memorials, the others reflecting the contributions to the construction by local councillor Brice Henry and surveyor George Tucker.

Kirrama Range Road demonstrates a high degree of technical achievement in road design and construction in a tropical environment prior to the development of heavy road making plant and earth moving equipment. The Percy Pease Monument commemorates the contribution of Percy Pease in campaigning for the construction of the road. Percy Pease was the Minister for Lands and oversaw the Public Estates Improvement scheme. He died before the road was officially opened.

### **History**

Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.

Prior to European settlement, local Aboriginal people developed tracks to cross the Kirrama Range behind Cardwell. During the 1870s, these were used as pack tracks for miners heading to the Etheridge and Gilbert goldfields, and by the gold escort. However, the steep terrain, and the declining influence of Cardwell as a port after Cairns was established in 1876, limited the use of these tracks.

Timber getters were among the first settlers in Far North Queensland but the lack of access road to the rich timber resources in the Cardwell State Forest meant the trees remained untouched well into the 1920s. At this time, timber re-emerged as an important factor in the region's economy. The Cardwell Shire, buoyed by its new-found status as a transportation hub after the arrival of the railway in 1924, was keen to promote the untapped stands of cabinet timbers to the Provisional Forestry Department. In 1929, the Inglewood Camp of the Provisional Forestry Board was transferred to the Cardwell District to carry out a Class 3 Survey of Timber Reserve 329, Kirrama. The survey ran until 1931 and involved measuring and estimating the value of the Reserve's timber, and assessing the economic viability of creating an access road. 8 logging areas were defined, covering an area of 10,674 acres (4 320 hectares) as well as a new Kauri pine area of 1,942 acres (786 hectares). They also surveyed the Windy logging area.

While the survey was still in progress, Arthur E Moore's National Party Government called for tenders to remove more than 60,000,000 superfeet of timber from the area in 1930, with the proviso that tenders include a blueprint for constructing an access road over the range to facilitate the extraction. The Cardwell Shire Council had long been desirous of a connecting road, and a reward was offered to the person who identified the most passable route. A government party, including Cardwell Shire Councillor Brice Henry, accompanied prospective tenderer Charles Lahey on a tour of the ranges to identify an acceptable route for the road. During their exploration they found extensive stands of red cedar, maple, silkwood, saffron heart, walnut, bean, kauri pine and silky oak, varieties which had the potential to stimulate local veneering and woodworking businesses. Lahey's ambitious proposal included constructing 12 miles of road up to Main Roads specifications with additional extensions in order to access timber resources on the ranges behind Tully. However, the intricate proposal required numerous government concessions which ultimately led to the tender being rejected.

Despite this setback, the Cardwell Shire Council continued to press for the development of a range road and a jetty at Oyster Point (Cardwell). In 1932, the newly elected labour government abolished the Queensland Provisional Forestry Board and forestry became a sub-department of the Department of Lands. The Minister for Lands, Percy Pease, was the member for Herbert, a north Queensland electorate, and had an interest in the timber industry. His department also oversaw the implementation of the Public Estates Improvement (PEI) scheme, a program designed specifically to boost infrastructure and employment during the depression era and to open-up access to several Timber Reserves and State Forests.

Pease's support of the Kirrama project was crucial to its implementation. In 1935 J. Ainscow, Engineer-in-Charge of the PEI scheme, and Surveyor General J.P. Harvey arrived in Cardwell to view the proposed range road and jetty site (Oyster Point). They rejected the idea of the jetty, but approved the development of the road. Between 1935 and 1936 Public Estates Improvement Scheme staff surveyors GW Tucker and T Hein led survey parties locating the road route and spent many months camping and traversing steep slopes from the base camp in the Kennedy Valley. This steep and mountainous terrain presented another major engineering obstacle. High rainfall and an abundance of streams and waterways meant that special attention had to be paid to drainage and bridges.

In 1937, construction of the Kirrama Range Road began under supervision of PEI Northern District Engineer G.W.P. Pheasant. It was designed to be a timber road that was wide enough for trucks and large, mechanised equipment. These specifications, however, had to be achieved in steep and treacherous terrain before heavy road making plant and earth-moving equipment was available. In 2.5 years workers cleared 6.5 miles of road using a variety of methods to clear timber and hew and blast their way through the granite cliffs.

The road was estimated to have cost £250,000 in 1938. The construction of the first 13 miles (20.9 kilometres) was completed in 1941 and tropical rainforest growth in the subsequent years has assisted to provide stable batter slope angles ranging from an estimated 65 degrees to approximately 80 degrees.

The new road was initially known as the Kirrama Range Road. It started 4 miles from the Kennedy railway siding on the North Coast line and extended to a head some 13 miles from the point of commencement. It was initially 16 foot (4.88 metres) formation width, and this is still evident (although some widening has occurred due to logging use and erosion). The highest point in road was 2506 feet (764 metres) above sea-level and it was expected at the time that the road would be used as a tourist road as well as a forestry road because of its scenic attributes.

The Kirrama Range Road was officially opened in 1941. By this time 3 people associated with its development and construction had died: Percy Pease, Minister for Lands (1940), Brice Henry, Chairman of the Cardwell Shire Council (1940) and Surveyor George Tucker, who fell into the Jarrah Creek during construction and drowned. Each of these men, instrumental in the development of the road, were commemorated in memorials along the road.

The memorial to Pease consists of a memorial tablet sunk into the face of rock at the highest point of the road, now known as the Percy Pease lookout.

## **Description**

The Kirrama Range Road passes through what was the Cardwell State Forest and is now the Kirrama National Park, a landscape comprising rugged mountain scenery, lush tropical rainforest, waterfalls and open eucalyptus forest. The road traverses World heritage-listed national park (Murray Upper National Park and Girringun National Park). It begins on the coastal plain at Kennedy Creek in the township of Kennedy near Cardwell and continues westward over the range of the Southern Tablelands of the Herbert River district.

The Percy Pease Monument consists of a memorial tablet set into a rock face which was exposed where the road cuts through a rocky ridge line. The monument is on the northern side of the road.

The face of the monument is rough cast concrete with smooth cement render strips along the top, sides and centre of the monument. A pink and green terrazzo shield is set into the centre of the monument. A rectangular piece of white marble is set within the terrazzo shield, which contains the text "Erected by the citizens of the Shire of Cardwell to commemorate the memory of the late Hon Percy Pease MLA Minister for Lands and Deputy Premier of Queensland." Below the marble tablet in black in the green terrazzo is the date 1941.

## **Images**



*(Image provided by the Kirrama Range Road Support Group)*

## **References**

Connell Wagner, Kirrama Range Road Planning Study Report, 2007.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Jones, Dorothy *Cardwell Shire Story*, 1961.

Kirrama Range Road Support Group, <http://kirramarangeroadsupportgroup.weebly.com/road-desc.html>.



## **Place No. 56 - Walnut "Guaway" Tree**

**Place Name:** Walnut "Guaway" Tree  
**Address:** Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy  
**Lot on Plan:** N/A  
**Location:** CH17400

### **Heritage significance**

Beyond Bridge 10 on Kirrama Range Road there is a large tree located on the edge of the road. The diameter or trunk thickness is at least 1 metre at the base and the tree would be at least 30 metres high. The Aboriginal name for the tree is "Guaway" or walnut tree.

The tree is important to the local Aboriginal people. This site is important in showing the use of the area by local Aboriginal people who developed tracks to traverse the Range and share local traditional foods from neighbouring tribal groups.

### **History**

Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.

Prior to European settlement, local Aboriginal people developed tracks to cross the Kirrama Range behind Cardwell. During the 1870s, these were used as pack tracks for miners heading to the Etheridge and Gilbert goldfields, and by the gold escort. However, the steep terrain, and the declining influence of Cardwell as a port after Cairns was established in 1876, limited the use of these tracks.

There are 9 traditional Aboriginal tribes with an ancient history of living, sharing and caring in the land proximate to Kirrama Range Road. Kirrama Range Road traverses the traditional tribal land of the Girramay people who consisted of 3 distinct groups characterised by the respective land topography they occupy as follows:

- Millaburra - Open plans people (southern Atherton Tablelands);
- Jugadooburra - Rain forest people (Kirrama Range Road region); and
- Dirrenburra - Edge of forest on coast people (Cardwell region).

Between 1935 and 1936, PEI staff surveyors GW Tucker and T Hein led survey parties locating the road route and spent many months camping and traversing steep slopes from the base camp in the Kennedy Valley. This steep and mountainous terrain presented another major engineering obstacle. High rainfall and an abundance of streams and waterways meant that special attention had to be paid to drainage and bridges.

In 1937, construction of the Kirrama Range Road began under supervision of PEI Northern District Engineer G.W.P. Pheasant. It was designed to be a timber road that was wide enough for trucks and large, mechanised equipment. These specifications, however, had to be achieved in steep and treacherous terrain before heavy road making plant and earth-moving equipment was available. In 2.5 years workers cleared 6.5 miles of road using a variety of methods to clear timber and hew and blast their way through the granite cliffs.

The road was estimated to have cost £250,000 in 1938. The construction of the first 13 miles (20.9 kilometres) was completed in 1941 and tropical rainforest growth in the subsequent years has assisted to provide stable batter slope angles ranging from an estimated 65 degrees to approximately 80 degrees.

The new road was initially known as the Kirrama Range Road. It started 4 miles from the Kennedy railway siding on the North Coast line and extended to a head some 13 miles from the point of commencement. It was initially 16 foot (4.88 metres) formation width, and this is still evident (although some widening has occurred due to logging use and erosion). The highest point in road was 2506 feet (764 metres) above sea-level and it was expected at the time that the road would be used as a tourist road as well as a forestry road because of its scenic attributes.

## **Description**

The Kirrama Range Road passes through what was the Cardwell State Forest and is now the Kirrama National Park, a landscape comprising rugged mountain scenery, lush tropical rainforest, waterfalls and open eucalyptus forest. The road traverses World heritage-listed national park (Murray Upper National Park and Girringun National Park). It begins on the coastal plain at Kennedy Creek in the township of Kennedy near Cardwell and continues westward over the range of the Southern Tablelands of the Herbert River district.

Beyond Bridge 10 on Kirrama Range Road, there is a large tree located on the edge of the road. The diameter or trunk thickness is at least 1 metre at the base and the tree would be at least 30 metres high. The Aboriginal name for the tree is "Guaway" or walnut tree.

## **Images**



## **References**

Connell Wagner, Kirrama Range Road Planning Study Report, 2007.

Jones, Dorothy *Cardwell Shire Story*, 1961.

## **Place No. 57 - Church**

**Place Name:** Church  
**Address:** Tully-Hull Road, Lower Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 RP709345

### **Heritage significance**

The Church is important in demonstrating both the pattern of settlement associated with the growth of North Queensland's sugar industry and an aspect of the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Far North Queensland.

The Church illustrates how the growth of the North Queensland sugar industry during the interwar period generated prosperity in small communities, enabling parishioners to construct their places of worship in masonry, rather than the more usual timber.

The substantial, rendered masonry church remains largely intact and is a distinctive landmark with aesthetic qualities associated with its traditional Catholic Church features.

### **History**

It was clear in the late 1920s and 1930s that there were not enough Catholics in the Lower Tully district to warrant a resident parish priest, despite the area being populated by a large number of Catholics. Prior to the construction of the Church, mass was held monthly in the local hall and before the hall was constructed, at local residents' homes.

However, the local Catholics were determined to have their own church, and collected money for the church building over a period of some years.

By 1934, sufficient funds had been raised to make the construction of a church viable. Father Toner, the Augustinian from Innisfail, joined with Father Joe Phelan, a noted church builder, and together with a small committee they planned and built the Church. The Church was built to the same specifications as the Feluga Church.

The Church was blessed and opened the Church of Christ The King by His Lordship Bishop Heavey in 1935. The building was not large but seated approximately 100. For many years, the Church was easily filled for Mass.

After the Church was opened, Mass was celebrated every Sunday. While the residents of the Lower Tully area always gave great support to their Augustinians, there were never enough to support a resident parish priest and therefore Mass was delivered by visiting priests from other parishes.

A decline in the population of the area arising from the introduction of mechanical harvesting is blamed for a falling of attendance at the Church for Sunday Mass. Also, better roads and improvements in motor vehicle transportation made travel into Tully for Mass much easier.

In 1984, the Cairns diocese decided to sell the Church. Parishioners were advised that Masses would cease on 2 November 1984, with the last Mass to be celebrated on that day. Since then, the Church has been used for occasional celebrations such as weddings and baptisms.

In 1992 the Church was purchased by its current owners, who wish to preserve the Church as a place of worship for all Christian denominations. These owners have renamed the Church "The Chapel of the Pioneers", dedicated to the memory of all the men and women who settled and developed the lands of Lower Tully.

## **Description**

The church is constructed from concrete with a small portico which has 2 Greek style columns. It has double timber entrance doors which are painted blue and white. The building is located by itself beside the road from Tully to Tully Heads amidst the cane fields.

## **Images**





## References

Arneil, S. *Out Where the Dead Men Lie: The Augustinians in Australia 1838 - 1992*, 1992.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, *Statewide Heritage Survey Information*, 2011.

Vandeleur, E. *Steps Along The Way*, 2003.



## **Place No. 58 - Mena Creek Environmental Park**

**Place Name:** Mena Creek Environmental Park  
**Address:** Innisfail-Japoon Road, Mena Creek  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 237 NR3046

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A



Queensland Government

# Paronella Park, Mena Creek Falls and Mena Creek Environmental Park

## Place Details

Place ID	602017
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	Paronella Park, Mena Creek Falls and Mena Creek Environmental Park
Place Classification	Landscape Built
Place Category	Recreation and Entertainment
Place Type	Garden - pleasure
Themes	3 Developing secondary and tertiary industries / 3.12 Catering for tourists 2 Exploiting, utilising and transforming the land / 2.9 Valuing and appreciating the environment and landscapes 1 Peopling places / 1.2 Migration from outside and within
Register Entry Date	28/05/1999

## Location

Address	Mena Creek-Jappoon Road
Town / Suburb	MENA CREEK
Post Code	4871
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	1931-1935 (fabric), 1935, 1942-1945, 1946, 1979 (historical); 1935-ongoing (social)
Criterion A	Paronella Park, designed and constructed by Jose Paronella in the early 1930s as a 'commercial pleasure garden' and 'Spanish-style castillo', contains the remains of several rendered reinforced concrete structures and garden elements, set in approximately 5 hectares of gardens, which were inspired by the Moorish architecture and gardens of Spain. The Park is located on the northern bank of Mena Creek in an area of exceptional natural beauty, which includes the Mena Creek Falls and the Mena Creek Environmental Park on the southern bank. Paronella Park is significant as one of the earliest tourist attractions in North Queensland, which was



	constructed when the tourism industry in North Queensland was in its infancy. Paronella Park is significant for its association with the development of the tourism industry in North Queensland and the Johnstone Shire.
Criterion B	Designed as a 'commercial pleasure garden' and 'Spanish-style castillo' inspired by the Moorish architecture and gardens of Spain, Paronella Park is unique in Queensland, and is a rare and unusual example of an early tourist attraction. The hydro-electric system utilised in Paronella Park was the earliest application of hydro-electric technology in Queensland, and as such is both rare and significant as an example of creative and technical achievement, and has the potential to reveal further information about the development and application of this technology.
Criterion C	Paronella Park has suffered several disastrous floods, and one major fire, and as such has the potential to reveal further information about the original design of the Park, and its association with Jose and Margarita Paronella. Paronella Park also has the potential to reveal further information about the development of the tourism industry in North Queensland, and the role of Paronella Park in the development and social life of the local community. The hydro-electric system utilised in Paronella Park was the earliest application of hydro-electric technology in Queensland, and as such is both rare and significant as an example of creative and technical achievement, and has the potential to reveal further information about the development and application of this technology.
Criterion D	(Criterion under review)
Criterion E	Paronella Park, Mena Creek Falls and Mena Creek Environmental Park, is a place of exceptional natural beauty and has considerable aesthetic significance. The place contains substantial mature plantings and remnant rainforest, which is in stark contrast to the surrounding landscape of sugarcane. The design of Paronella Park was inspired by the Moorish architecture and gardens of Spain, and as such the park has strong aesthetic and architectural qualities. The concrete structures, which have been damaged by flood, fire and weathering, are surrounded by lush vegetation which enhances the sense of discovery, and romantic qualities of ruined structures contribute to a strong sense of place. The strong aesthetic qualities of Paronella Park are enhanced by the emphasis placed on contrast which creates a series of clearly defined spaces which enable a variety of vistas and differing perspectives, intimacy and openness, and light and shade. Paronella Park also contains a significant collection of rainforest plants, as well as 'exotic' plants.
Criterion F	The hydro-electric system utilised in Paronella Park was the earliest application of hydro-electric technology in Queensland, and as such is both rare and significant as an example of creative and technical achievement, and has the potential to reveal further information about the development and application of this technology.
Criterion G	Paronella Park is also significant for its association with the development and social life of the local community, and its role as a place of rest and recreation for servicemen during the Second World War. Paronella Park was also a place of entertainment and celebration for the local community, and as such has strong social significance.
Criterion H	Paronella Park is significant for its association with the energy and vision Jose and Margarita Paronella, who were prominent members of the local community and who made a considerable contribution to the development of Mena Creek township and Johnstone Shire. Jose and Margarita Paronella were also prominent members of the local migrant community which was integral in the development of the South Johnstone region.

Mena Creek Environmental Park and Mena Creek Falls are important for their association with Henry Noone, who was responsible for establishing a camp at the top of the falls, surveying the area and giving the land which is now the Environmental Park to the local council for use as a picnic and recreation reserve. Mena Creek was named after Noone's daughter Philomena 'Mena' Fallon. Noone was important in the establishment of the Mena Creek township, and was also integral in the establishment of the South Johnstone Sugar Mill and the development of the South Johnstone region.

## History

### History

Paronella Park comprises approximately 5 hectares of gardens. Designed and constructed by Jose Paronella in the early 1930s as a 'commercial pleasure garden', the Park contains the remains of several rendered reinforced concrete structures and garden elements which were inspired by the Moorish architecture and gardens of Spain. The Park is located on the northern bank of Mena Creek in an area of exceptional natural beauty. The entrance to the Park, and the main buildings, are located at the top of a cliff adjacent to Mena Creek Falls. The falls flow into a large rock pool which contains a small island at the eastern end, and the southern bank of the creek is reserved as an Environmental Park. Jose Paronella was born in February 1887 in La Vall de Santa Creu, a small village in the province of Catalonia in northeastern Spain. Jose was the youngest of six children, and the family lived in a two room dwelling and Jose's father tended olives for local farmers. His grandmother's tales of 'romantic Spanish castles' and the 'nobleza' profoundly influenced Jose and inspired him to eventually create his commercial pleasure garden and follies at Paronella Park. Paronella initially worked as a baker in a nearby town, but decided to move to Pamplona to seek work. Before leaving, he was betrothed to Matilda Soler from the same village. While working in Pamplona, he decided to book his passage to Australia, and to send for Matilda when he had established himself. He sailed from Genoa and arrived in Sydney in July 1913, where he boarded a steamer for North Queensland and initially worked at Mt Selwyn in the mining industry for four months. He then moved to the South Johnstone region in January 1914 and worked as a cane-cutter and later as a cook for a cane-cutting gang. Paronella found the working and climatic conditions difficult to adjust to. He did not believe in wasting time or money on 'frivolous pursuits', and eventually saved enough money to purchase a section of rainforest which he cleared and planted with sugar cane. He received much assistance from members of the local migrant community, most of whom shared a strong desire to purchase and farm their own land. Eventually Paronella sold the land for a profit, and over the next few years he purchased, improved and sold approximately 12 cane farms. Paronella also purchased a mining lease at Mt Garnet which he worked, together with several labourers, over the next few years. He was also involved in money lending. In October 1921 Jose Paronella became an Australian citizen, and was by this time comparatively wealthy. Paronella's goal was to construct a 'Spanish-style Castillo', and it was around this time that he received an extortion letter from 'The Black Hand' demanding 500. 'The Black Hand' was a branch of the Camorra of Italy and the Mafia of Sicily, and reportedly profited by prostitution, 'white-slave' trading, blackmail and extortion. 'The Black Hand' had been established in Sydney and Melbourne, and was making inroads into the successful Italian communities in the Innisfail region. In 10 years, there were

reportedly 11 murders, 30 bombings, and many blackmail and extortion attempts, Paronella was susceptible to extortion as he had been involved in tax evasion. The Innisfail district had many Spanish, Italian and Greek migrants, and Mourilyan was known at this time as 'Little Italy'. Paronella decided to return to Spain to avoid both 'The Black Hand' and the taxation officials, and to marry Matilda Soler. Paronella sailed for Spain in 1924 under the false name Jose Buxeda (his mother's maiden name) to avoid detection by the taxation officials. Unfortunately, since his departure for Australia, Jose had not written to Matilda Soler, and when he arrived unannounced he found that she had already married. Matilda's mother arranged for Jose to marry her younger sister Margarita, who had been training as a furrier in a fashion house in France, and was home on holidays. They were married in September 1925, and travelled throughout Europe on an extended honeymoon. Paronella used this opportunity to observe the architecture and gardens, including tourist parks, cinemas, ballrooms, cafes and hydro-electric schemes. In Madrid, Paronella was particularly impressed with the cafe by the water in the Botanic Gardens, and was also impressed by the work of Antonio Gaudi. In early 1926, Jose and Margarita left Europe for Australia via America, a voyage which would take 7 weeks. On arrival, Paronella was confronted by taxation officials, who had already deducted 1,000 from his savings account for unpaid taxes, and required him to produce letters attesting to his character before he was allowed through immigration. Once this problem had been addressed, Paronella purchased a cane farm at Mourilyan, near Innisfail, where he and Margarita initially settled and where their first child Teresa was born. Paronella also retained his mine at Mt Garnet. Paronella intended to find the perfect site for his 'Spanish-style Castillo' and commercial pleasure garden, and in the late 1920s visited Mena Creek. At this time Mena Creek was named Stewart Creek (the upper reach of Stewart Creek was renamed Mena Creek by the Surveyor-General in March 1954 after Henry Noone's daughter Philomena 'Mena' Fallon). The area had been established by Henry Augustine Noone who obtained a lease and established a camp (c.1914) at the top of the falls, and for two years cleared the land and felled cedar. Noone, who had emigrated from Ireland in 1888, was a trained surveyor and also worked in various capacities, including as a timber-getter. He was integral in the establishment of the South Johnstone Sugar Mill and the development of the South Johnstone Region. According to his memoirs, Noone was particularly attached to the area and decided take up 'a block or two for canefarming'. He formed a Settlement Group of 40 blocks of approximately 160 acres each, arranged for enough applicants for these blocks, and convinced the government to survey the area (based on his survey). Noone was assigned portion 56 on the southern side of the creek. Noone regularly brought his family from Innisfail to Mena Creek to camp, picnic and swim. In early 1929, due to increasing interest from campers and visitors, Noone cleared an area along the southern bank of the creek and gave it to the local council for use as a picnic and recreation reserve (this area forms the reserve on the opposite bank of the creek to Paronella Park, and was gazetted in 1947 as a recreation reserve, in 1953 as a reserve for camping purposes, and then in 1976 as a reserve for Environmental Park under the control of Johnstone Shire Council). Noone also opened the Hotel Mena and was integral in the establishment of the school, and it was around this time that Paronella visited the area and selected it as the perfect site for his 'Spanish-style Castillo' and commercial pleasure garden. At this time it was still a fairly isolated area with mill tramline and horses providing the main transport. The roads were more like tracks, and a train ran once a week to Innisfail

but the journey took three hours. By this time all of the land in the area had been taken up. Paronella convinced the owner of the land on the northern side of the creek to sell him an area of approximately 12 acres which was unsuitable for cane farming, and which fronted the creek and falls. The owner, August Koppen, agreed to a cash settlement of 120. The sale was not finalised until July 1931, however Paronella was allowed to begin clearing the land prior to possession. Paronella restricted the cost of his ambitious project to construct a 'Spanish-style Castillo' and commercial pleasure garden by using second hand and locally available materials. These materials included sand and gravel from the creek, discarded cane train tracks as reinforcement for the concrete, timber from nearby abandoned houses for the framing to the cottage and for the formwork to the concrete structures, and clay from his property for the exterior render. Some of the materials and methods Paronella used when constructing the concrete structures throughout the Park are thought to have contributed to their later deterioration and structural problems. The sand used in the concrete mix was reportedly not suitable for this type of concrete construction, the aggregate content may have been insufficient, and the rusting of the steel reinforcing rails (some of which were rusty and buckled when first used in the construction) was exacerbated by insufficient concrete coverage. Many of the concrete structures have a modular character, which has been attributed to the reuse of formwork from one structure to another. Paronella drew his plans/designs in a sand box, which the workers would refer to during the construction of each element of the Park. Paronella was strongly influenced by the Moorish architecture and gardens of Spain, and the design of Villa gardens visited during his European honeymoon. He also admired the work of Antonio Gaudi, and created garden elements inspired by those in the Alcazar Garden in Seville and the Botanic Gardens in Madrid. In particular, the 'Cafe by the Pool' was inspired by the cafe by the water in the Madrid Botanic Gardens. The exterior render was made from the clay dug from the site. Initially a cave was created in the side of a ridge in the lower section of the property, and this was gradually increased until it formed a tunnel through the ridge. This tunnel was incorporated into the design of the Park as the 'tunnel of love' connecting the 'palm grove' to the 'fernery'. The clay render was initially the rich red colour of the local soil, but this colour faded due to weathering and the buildings were soon whitewashed annually. The render was applied with a rough finish, and hand-prints are visible on the 'Cafe by the Pool'. Paronella did much of the work himself. He also employed a canecutter (who had worked as a carpenter in Malta) and the canecutter's nephew to work on the project full-time. He also made use of the large number of unemployed men who had arrived in the Innisfail region during this period, and exchanged food and shelter for labour. Paronella first constructed a stair linking the lower section of the property adjoining the rockpool to the upper section above the cliff fronting the road. This stair is now referred to as 'the grand staircase', and it was used to carry the sand, gravel and clay to the upper section, and the materials Paronella introduced to the site including cement, steel rails and timber to the lower section. Next Paronella constructed the cottage, now used as the tea rooms, overlooking the falls. This enabled him to move his wife Margarita and daughter Teresa to the property from the cane farm at Mourilyan. The cottage, which was not constructed in the Moorish inspired style used for the other structures in the Park, comprised four main rooms, an entrance foyer and bathroom, with an attic with dormer windows. The building reportedly had the first indoor plumbing in the region, and was constructed with a timber frame, stone walls (initially unrendered) and casement windows. The family

moved into the house on Christmas Eve 1931. The 'Cafe by the Pool', inspired by the cafe by the water in the Madrid Botanic Gardens, was constructed in the lower section of the property to service the picnic area adjacent to the rockpool. Margarita ran the tea rooms ('Cafe by the Pool'), and Montserrat Gabasa was employed as a housemaid, as well as assisting Margarita serve afternoon teas and helping on weekends with visitors at the gate. Eventually her brother Richard was also employed to assist Jose in the Park. Changing cubicles and toilets were constructed near the picnic area, and a tennis court and music pavilion were constructed nearby. In 1932 their second child Joseph was born. Jose then began work on the 'Spanish-style Castillo' which some considered to be a self-indulgent personal folly, but which he believed would attract tourists to the Park. The 'castle' was clearly visible from the nearby main road. The ornamental structure had several levels with external staircases, balconies, parapets and squared planter pots. Paronella maintained a small museum in the structure, and the rooftop formed a viewing platform. The castle contained a theatre/ballroom with stage, which was intended to be used as a reception centre. The entrance comprised a loggia covered in bamboo with a fountain pool stocked with goldfish. Later, a picture theatre was installed, and the room was decorated with textured walls with Spanish pictures, blue velvet drapes edged with gold braid and fringing for the windows, red curtains for the stage, canvas seats, and Black Bean timber parquet flooring. A large revolving mirror ball (made in the United States of America with 1270 mirrored facets) was installed, and coloured lights were used to create spectacle. An ice cream parlour, cafe, kitchen, bakery and laundry were also installed. By August 1932 Paronella had completed most of the planned clearing and laid out steps and pathways. Margarita had developed a love of gardening and assisted Paronella in designing the paths and gardens throughout the Park. Inspired by the Moorish architecture and gardens of Spain, and the villa gardens visited during their honeymoon, they placed particular emphasis on contrast creating a series of clearly defined spaces which enabled a variety of vistas and differing perspectives, intimacy and openness, and light and shade. With advice and assistance from the Forestry Department, tree planting began in 1932. The Department supplied the trees on condition that 'representative stands of certain species are planted and nurtured', and that they were cared for and never felled. These included Hoop and Kauri pines, and a particularly impressive avenue of Kauri pines was established. Paronella planted over 7,000 trees and the whole Park was threaded by pathways, bridges and avenues. Paronella also built a shaded orchid and fern house for Margarita to tend 'exotic' plants. It is claimed that the Botanic Gardens supplied Margarita with 50 varieties of Maidenhair ferns to propagate and form the nucleus of a collection. Paronella named the artesian spring after their daughter Teresa, and he constructed several fountains near the entrance to the 'Cafe by the Pool'. The island at the end of the rockpool was named 'Paronella Island' and a bridge was constructed so that it could be accessed for picnics, and the boundaries of the Park were screened with several varieties of bamboo. Paronella considered the Park to be a retreat and, unlike those of more arid climates, the gardens would provide an oasis not from the desert but from the acres of sugarcane which surrounded the Park. In 1933 Paronella installed a hydro-electric system which harnessed the cascade. The system used an aqueduct from the top of the Falls across to an inlet pit. The water then fell 30 feet, and was within the capacity of the turbine, an English model with variable pitch inlet valves to control the flow, which was directly coupled to a DC generator which was ex-army stock and which Paronella acquired cheaply.

Engineers from the South Johnstone Sugar Mill helped to design and install the system. The turbine and alternator were lowered onto a concrete platform built on 12 reinforced concrete piers below the cliff, and the walls and roof were then constructed around the equipment. It was the earliest application of hydro-electric technology in Queensland. The system was approved to operate in 1934, and the power was reticulated throughout the Park to operate lighting, pumps and refrigeration, and was also integral to the establishment of the picture theatre that Paronella had planned. The system also supplied power to the nearby township of Mena Creek. By this time visitors were enjoying the walks, waterfalls, afternoon teas, swimming, boating and picnics. They could play tennis or bowls, listen to music, dance in the ballroom or relax in the loggia. The last building constructed was the gatehouse (no longer extant) from which tickets and souvenirs were sold. A horse-shoe shaped wrought iron sign with the name 'Paronella Park' was installed above the entrance. By 1935, all of the major works had been completed at a cost in excess of 20,000, not accounting for labour costs. The completed Park was opened to the public in 1935. A Chamber of Commerce Conference was being held in Innisfail, and the Governor Sir Leslie Orme Wilson was in attendance. A visit to the Park was arranged as part of the itinerary, and the Governor was highly impressed and commented to journalists that 'Jose Paronella has created a place of beauty which will be a great attraction to visitors in the future. His buildings are of unique design. The Park is a credit to North Queensland. It is absolutely remarkable to see what one enterprising man can do'. By this time, access to Mena Creek from Innisfail had greatly improved. The Park proved very popular with the public. A diving board was installed over the pool, lights were strung throughout the Park, and the tennis courts became the venue for the local tennis club. However, high running costs and a series of natural disasters prevented the same degree of financial success. Although the Park was popular with locals, the tourism industry in North Queensland was in its infancy, and interstate tourists were rare. Only one company, the White Car coaches, brought tourists from Brisbane to the area. Their itinerary included a visit to the 'Spanish Castle'. As recalled by Teresa Paronella, other tourist facilities at this time included the Malanda Jungle tourist park where visitors would watch 'Aborigines climbing trees and doing corroboree dances'. Initially the Park was not a financial success, and Paronella relied on his other business interests for income. At this time Paronella had an alluvial mine at Hot Springs near Ravenshoe, and was still involved in money lending and buying and selling farms. Paronella also installed two petrol bowsers at the Park. He was more than a successful businessman, he was a creative artist and Paronella Park was his monumental work of art displaying imaginative design, architectural planning and skilled craftsmanship. The Paronella family, and their employees, also took guests on guided tours. In 1940 the first wedding reception was held, and the reception centre could seat in excess of 400 guests. 80 foot long tables were set up, and special china was ordered from Gibson and Patterson in England with a picture of the castle and falls. Several local women were employed to help Margarita with the catering. The ballroom was also made available free of charge for the annual children's fancy dress ball and the Park was made available for the annual school sports day. The Park was very popular with the local children, to the extent that the school had a rule which stated 'no going over to Paronella Park during school hours'. The turbulence of the bubbles below the hydro-electric scheme was 'like a spa', and children also sometimes fished in the pool. World War Two had a substantial effect on the Innisfail region, and many Italian members of the local community

were interned. By February 1942 Japanese forces had gained footholds in territories adjoining northern Australia which made it seem probable that the advance southwards would continue, culminating in the invasion of Australia. On 19 February 1942 the Japanese bombed Darwin, and the United States of America lost its bases in the Philippines. In April 1942 General Douglas MacArthur was appointed as Supreme Commander of the South West Pacific Area, and North Queensland became a hive of military activity. In the South Johnstone area, many women and children had already been evacuated. Jose refused to allow his wife and children to be evacuated, however he did construct an air raid shelter underneath the shed in the carpark, which was lined with timber and contained a toilet, and shelving for food, candles, lamps and blankets. Much of the local population had gone, through enlistment, evacuation or internment, and basic food and supplies were rationed. However, by April 1943 111,000 USA troops were serving in the South West Pacific Area, and by the end of that year there were over 500,000. The significance of the American presence for Paronella was that it brought immediate prosperity to the Park. Paronella Park was the ideal location for rest and recreation for both American and Australian forces. Thousands of servicemen were stationed in Cairns and throughout the Atherton Tablelands. The carpark was soon full of military vehicles, and the Americans had substantial amounts of money to spend. The Americans, with their Cairns and Innisfail girlfriends, were desperate for a respite from the war, and the Park provided swimming and other recreational activities, films, dinner and dancing that continued until the early hours of the morning. For Paronella Park, these were the boom years, and the region in general experienced a business bonanza. After the Japanese surrendered in August 1945, the servicemen gradually left the region. However, with peace came a surge of interest in North Queensland tourism, coupled with a significant increase in the numbers of local residents who owned a car, which augured well for the continued prosperity of the Park. However, by mid 1945 Jose Paronella began to show symptoms of a yet to be diagnosed illness. During a visit to Brisbane in February 1946 Jose collapsed, and returned immediately to Mena Creek, arriving just before rising floodwaters closed the roads and railway line. A cyclone had formed in the Coral Sea, and the intense depression brought widespread rain to the whole region. Loggers had been felling the last of the giant cedars in the creek's catchment area, and a large number of logs had been piled up near the creek ready for transport to the timber mill. The rising flood waters lifted some of the logs which had then lodged against the railway bridge upstream creating a dam and blocking the water flow. For the first time, the Paronella family saw the waterfall silenced. Local residents tried to drag the logs from the water, but for an hour a vast lake formed upstream, collecting more debris until the railway bridge collapsed and a fifty foot high wall of water carrying the huge logs hit Paronella Park. The assault continued for 40 minutes and the Park was devastated. The local paper reported 'Steel girders were snapped like splinters as the logs smashed down the concrete handrails and removed whole flights of steps. Another log shot over the cliff on the northern side of the swimming pool and tore off the outside of the power house snapping huge steel girders and leaving others in a twisted tangle. The water pipe leading to the turbine collapsed under the terrific pressure'. Mud, debris and trees lay everywhere, all the garden soil was washed away and the fernery and plant collection was destroyed. The local community rallied to help the Paronella family. The 'Cafe by the Pool' was abandoned as it was irreparable, and efforts were concentrated on clearing the hall of debris and repairing the damage caused by logs. To ensure that the Park could again be opened to the

public, all food services were moved to the hall, and an access road to the lower park was created so that the huge cedar logs could be cut out and hauled away. Electrical technicians from the nearby mill assisted Jose to repair the hydro electric plant. The system was changed to A/C, and the speed of the turbine was increased. Jose bought a second hand alternator from wartime disposals, and to power the carbon arc system in the cinema the A/C would be converted back to D/C. The final cost of repairs was approximately 8,000, however the Park was not insured for this type of damage. This was a period of extreme economic hardship for the family. The Park was closed to visitors for 6 months, and it was at least two years before the ravages of the flood had been completely cleared. It was during this time that Jose was diagnosed with stomach cancer. Jose Paronella died on 23 August 1948, and is buried in Innisfail cemetery. Margarita continued to operate the Park, and the property was transferred to both Margarita and Joseph Paronella in August 1954. Teresa married and moved to Brisbane, and Joseph married Valentina in 1952. Margarita died in 1967, after which time the property transferred to both Joseph and his wife Valentina. They had two sons and continued to operate the Park, with further floods occurring in 1967, 1972 and 1974. Joseph died in April 1972, and the property was transferred to his widow Valentina. Valentina married Leslie Juhas in March 1974, and the property was transferred to John and Janice Kickbusch in November 1977. In 1979 a disastrous fire swept through the Park and destroyed the hall and cafe. The Park was closed for some years, but was slowly revived by a series of caretakers and lessees, in spite of further damage caused by cyclone Winifred in 1986 and a flood in January 1994. In January 1994 Paronella Park was transferred to the current owners Mark and Judith Evans, who have undertaken considerable conservation works and continue to operate the Park as a tourist attraction. A museum has been created with the assistance of the Paronella family. An attached caravan park is not considered to be of cultural heritage significance. A pedestrian suspension bridge constructed across the top of the falls was officially opened on 17 September 1988 as a joint Johnstone Shire Council Australian Bicentennial Authority project.

## Description

### Description

Paronella Park comprises approximately 5 hectares of gardens, and contains the remains of several rendered reinforced concrete structures and garden elements which were inspired by the Moorish architecture and gardens of Spain. The Park is located on the northern bank of Mena Creek in an area of exceptional natural beauty. The entrance to the Park, and the main buildings, are located at the top of a cliff adjacent to Mena Creek Falls. The falls flow into a large rock pool which contains a small island at the eastern end, and the southern bank of the creek is reserved as the Mena Creek Environmental Park. A gravel carpark fronts Innisfail - Japoon Road, which crosses Mena Creek via a single lane concrete bridge. The entrance to the Park doubles as the pathway to the adjacent pedestrian suspension bridge which crosses the top of the falls to the Environmental Park on the southern bank. A single-storeyed gable roofed structure fronts the carpark and houses the museum collection. This structure is clad with fibrous cement sheeting and has casement windows. The Park is entered via a pathway which leads through lush vegetation to the former cottage, now operating as the tea rooms. This single-storeyed with attic structure has a steeply pitched corrugated iron hipped roof with dormer windows, and a timber frame with stone walls finished with a



rough textured render. The building is located overlooking the falls, and has a central gable porch on the southwest forming the main entrance. The building has timber framed casement windows, some with metal hoods, and an extension has been added to the rear. Internally the building has a souvenir shop and dining area at the front, with kitchen area and office at the rear. A toilet block is located to the east of the tea rooms, and a terrace to the south of the building overlooks the falls. The 'Castle' is located to the southeast of the tea rooms, and its three-storey tower is visible from the road. The structure consists of the ruins of the former ballroom/cinema and its associated facilities, and is entered from the southwest forecourt/loggia. The structure is of reinforced concrete with a rough textured render. The forecourt/loggia has a central fountain, a coloured geometric patterned concrete floor, is roofed with a pergola, and is overlooked by the three-storeyed tower. The upper floors of the tower have narrow timber framed casement windows, with a balcony to the second storey. A narrow stair accesses the roof which has a concrete balustrade with squared planters creating a battlement effect. The former foyer and ballroom are open to the sky, and reinforced concrete columns, walls, stairs, and counters demarcate the various spaces. The former kitchen area is roofed, and retains some early fittings and fixtures. A free-standing fabric structure has been erected within the area of the former ballroom to provide shaded seating. The structure has been propped in various areas, and exhibits extensive amounts of concrete deterioration. A series of paths, stone walls and concrete balustrades with squared planters are located between the tea rooms, the castle and the cliff fronting the falls. Narrow steps with concrete balustrades lead down the side of the cliff to the hydro-electric plant which houses original machinery. The plant is built into the side of the cliff and is constructed on 12 reinforced concrete piers set into the pool below. The reinforced concrete structure has rough textured rendered walls, and its roof has concrete balustrades with squared planters. Much of the hydro-electric scheme survives, including sections of aqueduct at the top of the falls, inlet pit and pipes. The eastern end of the Park is much lower, and is accessed via the 'Grand Staircase' which is accessed via a path which leads below and behind the castle. The staircase, balustrade and squared planters are constructed of concrete, with markers indicating the levels of various floods. The lower section of the Park has a picnic area fronting the end of the pool opposite the falls. This area has concrete tables, benches and balustrades with squared planters, and provides access to the pool for swimming and boating. A small island is located opposite. To the northeast of the picnic area is the former 'Cafe by the Pool' which is accessed via paths through lush vegetation which open into a large clearing. This symmetrical two-storeyed reinforced concrete structure has rough texture rendered walls with stairs either end accessing the first level which has concrete balustrades with squared planters. The second storey consists of a central room with side stair accessing its roof which also has a concrete balustrades with squared planters. The ground level has a wide central opening flanked by windows with battened timber valances. The structure overlooks a long pool with a series of fountains bordered by concrete balustrades with squared planters to the east. To the east of this is a large lawn, formerly the location of tennis courts. The remains of change rooms, toilets blocks and a music pavilion are located nearby, all of which are constructed of reinforced concrete with a rough texture render, concrete balustrades and squared planters. Paths radiate through the grounds, with the central elements being the 'Five Ways'. The paths vary in their design and materials, with some having stone edgings, concrete bridges, and concrete balustrade with squared planters. To the

north of the Five Ways is the 'Palm Grove', with the entrance to the 'Tunnel of Love' at the northern edge. The entrance has a reinforced concrete structure providing access to the tunnel which connects with the 'Fernery', which contains Giant Ferns, on the opposite side of the ridge. The Fernery consists of a gully through which flows Teresa Creek, a stone lined watercourse which is fed by Teresa Falls at the northwestern end. The 'Kauri Avenue' runs east-west and is located to the south of the Five Ways. This impressive avenue of tall Kauri Pines provides a dramatic contrast to other areas of the Park. To the southeast of the Kauri Avenue is the 'Meadow', a large open clearing, which leads into further paths. The eastern end of the Park is screened by substantial stands of bamboo, with a variety of paths providing access to Mena Creek and the other areas of the Park. The Park contains a substantial collection of rainforest plants, and these are identified with appropriate signage. The Mena Creek Environmental Park on the southern bank of Mena Creek contains a steep concrete path which accesses the southern bank of the pool from the Innisfail - Japoon Road above. A timber pontoon is located on the southern bank of the pool, and barbecue facilities are also provided. Public toilets are located at the top of the path at the edge of a lawn which fronts the road. This area also has picnic facilities, provides access to the suspension bridge, and overlooks the falls and Paronella Park on the opposite bank. Paronella Park, Mena Creek Falls and Mena Creek Environmental Park and the associated Unallocated State Land has substantial plantings and natural features, and each contributes to the overall setting for the place.

## Element

Element Name	Paronella Park, Mena Creek Falls and Mena Creek Environmental Park
Design Period	Interwar period (1919 - 1930s)
Construction Period	1931c - 1935
Place Components	Waterfall / Water feature Pathway/Walkway Tunnel - pedestrian Lake / Pond / Waterway Tree groups - avenue of Fountain Plantings - indigenous Residential accommodation - manager's house/quarters Aqueduct Kitchen/Kitchen house Theatre Toilet block/Earth closet/Water closet Steps/stairway Pavilion Picnic facilities Plantings - exotic Ballroom Changing rooms/Dressing shed Wall/s - garden Machinery/Plant/Equipment - utilities - gas/electricity supply Garden edging/balustrades/planter boxes Electricity power house Bridge - foot/pedestrian

## Images



Description	Paronella Park (1998)
Media Author	
Media Date	17/07/1998
Copyright	DERM



Description	Paronella Park
Media Author	
Media Date	
Copyright	DERM

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Last updated: 04 April 2011

## **Place No. 59 - Mena Creek Falls**

**Place Name:** Mena Creek Falls  
**Address:** Innisfail-Japoon Road, Mena Creek  
**Lot on Plan:** Adjacent to Lot 1 SP128844

### **Heritage significance**

See information for Place No. 75.

### **History**

See information for Place No. 75.

### **Description**

See information for Place No. 75.

## **Place No. 60 - Paronella Park**

**Place Name:** Paronella Park  
**Address:** Innisfail-Japoon Road, Mena Creek  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 1 SP128844

### **Heritage significance**

See information for Place No. 75.

### **History**

See information for Place No. 75.

### **Description**

See information for Place No. 75.

## **Place No. 61 - Mission Beach-Bingil Bay Progress Association Hall**

**Place Name:** Mission Beach-Bingil Bay Progress Association Hall  
**Address:** 53 Porter Promenade, Mission Beach  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 269 CP862648

### **Heritage significance**

The Mission Beach-Bingil Bay Progress Association Hall has special significance to the residents of the Mission Beach area. It was built in 1962 using volunteer labour, after significant fundraising by the local community and using donated materials. The contributions of local farmers John Parsons and Frank Rick in undertaking the construction of the Hall are of significant note.

The Hall has served as a focal point for community activities, meetings and dances in the Mission Beach area since it was built in 1962.

### **History**

The first community hall at Mission Beach was privately owned by Ted Boyett, who also owned the local post office and general store. In the late 1950s, after the hall had passed into different ownership more than once, the hall fell into disrepair and was demolished leaving no place for community meetings and dances.

In approximately 1962, the Mission Beach-Bingil Bay Progress Association decided there was an urgent need for a community hall in the area. A site was approved by the Johnstone Shire Council and Council donated some money towards the construction of a hall. The Mission Beach-Bingil Bay Progress Association Hall was built in 1962 using donated and locally sourced materials and volunteer labour. Extensive fundraising was also carried out by residents.

John Parsons was president of the Association from 1959 to 1971. He and Frank Rick were largely responsible for building the hall, even though neither of them were experienced builders, they were farmers.

The Hall was opened in 1962, with a dance held for the official opening in August 1964.

Over the years, the Hall has served the community well and has been well used. The Hall continues to be used for its original purpose and is of special significance to the residents of the Mission Beach area.

### **Description**

The Mission Beach-Bingil Bay Progress Association Hall is a rectangular shaped timber building raised on concrete stumps. It has a pitched roof, casement style windows and is clad in chamferboards.

A tin awning covers a small entrance porch accessed from 3 timber steps, with a timber cross braced fence used for the balustrading surrounding this porch area. A side door is accessed from 3 concrete steps.

The building appears to have substantially retained its original form.

## **Images**



## **References**

Rick, L. *Deputation to Cassowary Coast Regional Council*, 20 September 2012.



## Place No. 62 - Butler Family Graves

**Place Name:** Butler Family Graves  
**Address:** Middle Murray Road, Murray Upper  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 2 SP158318  
**Coordinates:** Easting: 377372 Northing: 7999547

### Heritage significance

The Butler Family Graves are important in that they are the final resting place and memorial to one of Murray Upper and Cardwell's pioneer families.

### History

Thomas Butler was born in Oxfordshire in England in 1856 and came to Australia in about 1872 with 3 of his 12 brothers. He married Mary Mulreany Miller in 1891 at Cooktown. Butler worked as a line repairer on the electric telegraph and came to Cardwell with his family in 1896. In Cardwell, Butler worked as the Postmaster and Linesman-in-charge, while Mrs Butler ran the telegraph and post office whilst he maintained the lines.

Their first son, Hugh Ramsay Butler, known as 'Rowdy', was born at Floraville on 14th September 1893. When the family moved to Cardwell, Rowdy was 3 years old and had a brother, Thomas Roman, and a sister, Florence Rhoda. 2 more brothers, Shirley Thame and Gordon Charles Ashley were born at Cardwell.

In 1902 the family moved to Murray Upper to settle on a 640 acre grazing property which was previously owned by Leopold Stamp. Stamp called it 'Blechynden' but the Butlers changed it to 'Fringford', which as the name of the village in which Tom grew up. They raised cattle and grew citrus, bananas and other small crops. Tom was an active member of the community, serving as secretary on the committee to establish a provisional school at Murray Upper. He eventually donated land for the school and money towards the building, which was finally completed in 2004. He also served on the Shire Council in 1907, 1914 and 1916-1918.

Hugh Butler volunteered to serve in the Australian Imperial Forces in the World War I. After being sent to France on 16 July 1916, Rowdy's platoon was sent into action at Guendencourt on the Somme. On 27 November 1916, they were relieved from their posts, however Rowdy was killed by enemy fire whilst carrying a wounded colleague.

Hugh Butler's parents, sister and brothers were all buried under a mango tree on the family property, Fringford. The youngest brother Ashley, along with George Pedley, ensured that plaques were made for the graves in 1972. After Shirley's death in 1976, the property passed out of the hands of the Butler family. In 1991 Jeff and Jenny Holmes bought the property on which the graves are situated and renamed it Murray Vale. They obtained the remaining plaques for the graves of Shirley and Ashley Butler.

Outside of the immediate family, Thomas Ramsey Gardner is buried at the site. Thomas Gardner was Mary Butler's sister's husband. Chloe Grant was also buried at the site, in a plot alongside her husband Tom Grant, a local Aboriginal man who had worked for the Butler family for many years.

A plaque was commissioned to commemorate Hugh Ramsay, who was buried in France. When Tully was formed in 1927, the streets were named after servicemen of World War I. The main street was called Butler Street in honour of Hugh Butler - he was the only long-term local resident to be killed in the war. Hugh's name also appears on the cenotaph in Cardwell and on the Honour Roll located on the stage in the Cardwell Divisional Board Building (now the JC Hubinger Museum).

## **Description**

The Butler Family Graves are located on the edge of cane fields on a cane farm in Murray Upper. They are accessed via a small farm road from the back of the main house that runs directly past the grave area. Although there is no formal sitting for the graveyard, the site is clearly marked by a large mango tree that sits behind the grave area. The current owner has placed timber posts around the perimeter as a marker to ensure the graves are not driven over by farm machinery. These posts are deteriorating. The graves are arranged in 2 rows of 5 plaques/headstones. Although not raised headstones, each grave site is marked by a rectangular concrete block which is inlaid with either marble with lead lettering or slate with lead lettering. Hugh Ramsey Butler's plaque is a memorial only, as his remains are buried in France.

## **Images**













## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 63 - Murrigal Cemetery**

**Place Name:** Murrigal Cemetery  
**Address:** Bruce Highway, Murrigal  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 26 CWL1585

### **Heritage significance**

The Murrigal Cemetery is the final resting place of many members of the Henry family who were among the original European settlers north of the Tully River.

The Cemetery is also significant for its role in the history and evolution of European settlement in the Tully region.

### **History**

From the 1870s, settlement of the region spread north from Cardwell. Among the early settlers of the Corduroy Creek area (now known as Murrigal) were the Henry family.

Isaac Henry, along with James Tyson and Edward Hewitt, took up large areas of sugar country near the Tully River in 1879. His wife and their young family joined him in 1881. Mrs Henry was the first white woman to settle north of the Tully River. Their first home in Murrigal was a grass hut.

Isaac Henry's brother, James Henry was the first Methodist Local Preacher in the district.

Although the sugar growing venture was not successful, the Henry's remained in the district and became a prominent family in the community.

Murrigal was originally known as Corduroy Creek, but its name was changed on completion of the North Coast Railway due to the presence of another Corduroy in Queensland.

In 1892, Isaac Henry and his brother James identified the need for a cemetery closer to their homes, as the Cardwell cemetery was located too far away to the south.

James Henry was the first person buried in the cemetery, being buried there in September 1907. It appears that at this time the first survey for the cemetery was being carried out. During this survey, it was found that the position of the burial was not in accordance with the regulations governing cemeteries. In order to bring the grave into line with this regulation, a double plot was allotted for the grave and it was enclosed by James Henry's son, Arthur Henry. This then became a guide to the position of the later burials.

Trustees administered the cemetery until the local Council took over responsibility. Families with a history of settlement in the area and with forebears there continued to be buried in Murrigal Cemetery after Tully was settled in 1925.

A number of the Henry's are buried in the cemetery, including Isaac Henry who was buried there in March 1922. Another prominent local family buried in the Cemetery are the Curtis family. The Curtis family were also early settlers of the Murray Upper area.

In December 2012, Cemetery records show a total of 34 persons as being buried at the Cemetery. The most recent burial occurred on 5 May 2011.



## **Description**

Murrigal Cemetery is a small cemetery located adjacent to the Bruce Highway. The Cemetery contains a small number of burials, with only 34 burials recorded in December 2012. 44 burial plots have been allocated/identified at the Cemetery.

The headstones take a variety of different forms, reflective of the date they were commissioned. Burials appear to be grouped by family origin rather than religious denomination. 2 prominent local families buried at the Cemetery are the Henry and Curtis families.

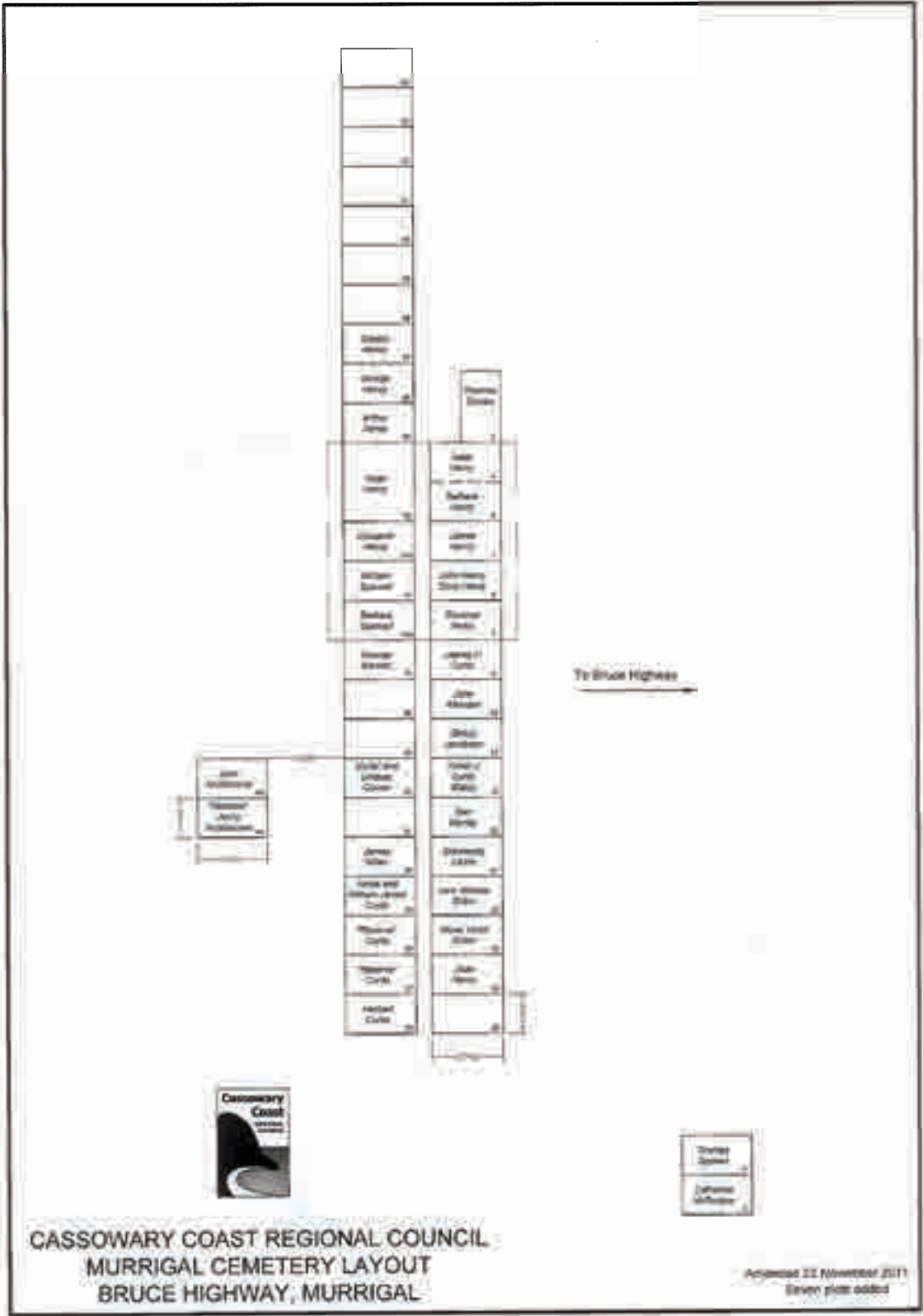
## **Images**











**References**

Sparvell, B. *The Murrigal Cemetery*, date unknown.

## Place No. 64 - Casey's Cane Barracks

**Place Name:** Casey's Cane Barracks  
**Address:** Murdering Point Road, Silkwood  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 185 RP741767

### Heritage significance

Casey's Cane Barracks, constructed in the 1940s/1950s, are important in demonstrating the living conditions of sugar workers during the labour-intensive era of manual cane-cutting in Far North Queensland's sugar industry from 1905 to the mid 1970s.

Cane barracks are a symbol of a way of life and of migration patterns that have made a significant contribution to the evolution of Far North Queensland's economy, community and environment. They are important as industry-specific buildings that were constructed as a result of the *Sugar and Shearers' Accommodation Act, 1905* and the *Workers Accommodation Acts, 1915 and 1952*. In the size and layout of the rooms and in the layout of the site, they illustrate values that were enshrined in legislation in response to the demands of European migrants for improved working conditions and entitlements.

### History

Cane barracks are Queensland sugar industry-specific buildings located on cane farms throughout Far North Queensland. They were built as a result of early twentieth century government legislation which responded to the demands of European migrants for better working conditions and stipulated the need for farm labourers' to be provided with suitable accommodation. Although barracks vary in style and materials, each can tell the story of how the sugar industry relied upon seasonal migrant labourers to manually harvest cane between 1905 and 1960s. They are, therefore, powerful symbols of a way of life that has made a significant contribution to the evolution of Far North Queensland's community and environment.

The sugar industry in north Queensland dates to the 1870s. In late 1873, the Queensland government funded an expedition to assess whether the colony's north-east coast was suitable for sugar production. Former Commissioner for Crown Lands, Kennedy District (1861-63), George Dalrymple, investigated the country between Cardwell and the Endeavour River and found several fertile coastal valleys which he considered were fit to be cultivated with sugar cane. After outbreaks of rust disease vanished in 1878, blocks of land along the Bloomfield, Daintree, Mossman, Barron, Mulgrave and Johnstone Rivers were rapidly secured by small farmers, investors and larger companies, and by 1884 a nascent (and enduring) sugar industry had been established in the region.

The early sugar industry was based on the plantation model of cane farming which consisted of independent cane farms and associated mills owned by syndicates or companies made up of investors that relied upon the use of indentured labourers. Melanesian (Pacific Islanders), Chinese, Javanese and Malay workers were among the first field labourers in Far North Queensland's sugar industry.

Falling world sugar prices in 1884 and concern about the presence of Melanesian labourers in the colony triggered a move to regulate and restructure the industry from one dominated by Melanesian labourers to a European industry. The subsequent *Pacific Island Act 1885* stipulated that importation of Pacific Islander labour was to cease in 1890 (although exceptions allowed many small farmers to continue to employ Melanesians or Chinese during the 1890s, particularly during the annual cane harvest). The *Sugar Works Guarantee Act 1893* significantly altered Queensland's sugar industry and secured the development of central milling system.

During the early phase of the sugar industry, plantation owners had justified their use of Asian and Pacific Island indentured labour on the basis that northern European men were not suited to manual labour in the harsh tropical environment. Melanesians were also cheaper labour and plantation owners had fewer obligations to their welfare. The influx of European cane growers into Far North Queensland during the late nineteenth century, however, foreshadowed a major change in the ethnic composition of field labourers. In 1901 the newly elected Commonwealth Government introduced 2 new pieces of legislation that had a

significant and lasting impact on Far North Queensland's sugar industry and labour force – the *Immigration Restriction Act* and the *Pacific Islanders Labourers Act*. The *Immigration Restriction Act 1901* specifically prohibited various classes of people from immigrating on the basis of literacy by means of a dictation test. The *Pacific Islanders Labourers Act 1901* prohibited the recruitment of Melanesians to Australia after 1904 and, allowing for certain exemptions, required the Melanesian community to be repatriated after 1906. Additional legislation, *Leases to Aliens Restrictions Act 1912* and the *Sugar Cultivation Act 1913*, forced non-European small farmers to vacate their leases. These restrictive immigration laws and regulations ensure that from 1916 onwards, only Europeans could cultivate sugar cane in Queensland.

During the annual cane harvest, more labourers than were locally available were needed to cut cane. Europeans, including a growing number of Italian, Greek, Spanish and Croatian immigrants, organised themselves into teams (known as butty gangs) to harvest the annual cane crops. The use of seasonal labourers in the cane industry continued until the development of mechanical harvesting in the 1960s, although it was not until 1976 that manual harvesting was totally phased out.

Providing accommodation for labourers was not initially widespread. During the plantation phase Melanesian labourers generally built their own humpies or huts. These were often made from grasses and cane tops and susceptible to fire. European workers, however, demanded better working conditions than the indentured Melanesians, Chinese and Japanese labourers. In response, the Queensland government introduced the *Sugar and Shearers' Accommodation Act 1905*, which prescribed minimum standards of food preparation and accommodation for workers employed in both the mills and cane fields where more than 9 sugar workers were engaged. As a result, mill owners and cane growers were required to build accommodation for their workers with many of the early barracks providing for large groups of between 24-50 men.

Under the 1905 legislation, new barracks had to be at least 50 yards from the sugar works. Existing accommodation that did not comply had to be approved by the Minister or temporary accommodation such as tents had to be provided whilst new accommodation was built. Tents with flies were considered suitable accommodation but were not permitted to remain in the one place for more than 21 days. Separate tents had to be provided for dining and separate structures for cooking.

All accommodation buildings constructed following the commencement of the 1905 Act had to comprise compartments accommodating not more than 4 persons, with not less than 240 cubic feet of air space per person (increased to 360 cubic feet in 1906). Sleeping rooms had to be separate from the cooking and serving of meals. Pacific Island labourers had to be provided with separate accommodation and dining facilities as did persons of any Asiatic race. Health and safety requirements were also prescribed including the provision of water supply, equipment, bedding and separate buildings for bathrooms and the storage of meat.

The regulations stipulated a minimum wall height of 9 feet from the floor to the top of the wall plate for sleeping accommodation with complete separation between compartments. All bunks had to be on the floor with at least 3 feet between them. The buildings could be constructed of wood, iron, brick, pise, cement or approved material with floors of wood, cement, and brick, flagstones, tiles, asphalt or other approved material.

In 1915 new legislation was passed to govern workers accommodation - the *Workers Accommodation Act 1915: An Act to Provide for the Proper and Sufficient Accommodation of Workers*. The majority of provisions in the 1905 legislation were retained and expanded upon in the 1915 legislation and included the following principal amendments:

- Temporary accommodation in the form of tents or other similar structures could be used for 12 months if existing accommodation was found to be unfit for habitation.
- Buildings used for sleeping under construction at the commencement of the Act had to be divided into compartments to accommodate no more than 3 persons but buildings erected after the Act commenced could only accommodate 2 persons per compartment.
- Each sleeping compartment had to have a minimum of 480 cubic feet per person.
- Sufficient and proper earth closets were to be provided.
- Sleeping rooms could not adjoin rooms used for cooking.
- Separate accommodation had to be provided for cooks and their assistants.
- Where cooking and the serving of meals were undertaken in the same space it had to be done at opposite ends of the room.

- The size and number of stoves was specified relative to the number of workers.
- Fibrolite was added to the list of construction materials.
- Verandahs had to be provided for each worker's room, not less than 7 feet in width and 5 feet in length for each worker.

The *Workers Accommodation Act 1952*, which is still in force, replaced the earlier legislation and was expanded to cover several other industries. Rather than provide a blueprint for barrack design or form, the Acts outlined minimum requirements and general standards to be upheld in accommodation to be regulated by regional inspectors conducting compliance checks at least every 12 months.

Although many farmers built their own barracks, others ordered pre-cut houses from building firms. Campbell Redicut Homes, for example, was established in 1903 and was one of most successful Queensland firms supplying pre-cut houses (to country districts only) in the early twentieth century. Their designs were promoted as a way to eliminate the worry and waste of trying to comply with legislative requirements of *Workers Accommodation Act of 1915-21*. Their promotional material provided plans, illustrations and detailed specifications of all components, and they supplied either a 'Redicut' or offered a complete construction service (including stretchers and tables). In 1942-3, the United Graziers' Association of Queensland used almost identical illustrations and specifications their Annual for a hut accommodating 20 workers to demonstrate a method of complying with requirements.

Barracks took on different forms depending upon interpretation of the requirements and the number of persons to be accommodated, with several different variations built throughout Far North Queensland, particularly regarding the location of the bathroom and laundry. Early barracks were often larger double barracks, many of which were located within a central mill site. After the commencement of the 1915 legislation all barracks constructed were required to have verandahs. Bedrooms were either aligned in a linear arrangement opening onto a continuous verandah which provided access to the kitchen at one end or, where there were a larger number of workers to be accommodated, this linear arrangement was mirrored with bedrooms back to back or with a passage between (although this was later reduced to avoid disputes between large numbers of men). In the Mossman district, a more vernacular form of timber cottage was also used for as a barrack design. The predominant layout of barracks found in Far North Queensland, however, was an L-shaped design with the kitchen/dining room being longer than it was wide, and at right angles to the bedrooms. Other major features consistent in cane barrack locations include tramways and sewerage pits.

Most surviving barracks in Far North Queensland have timber frames and were clad with galvanized iron, although some were clad with timber or asbestos-cement. Later barracks, particularly those built in the late 1940s and 1950s, were built from cement rendered clay or concrete block. The increased availability and permanency of these materials, combined with the number of southern European migrants constructing barracks during this period, means cement rendered clay and/or concrete block barracks are the most intact and well represented examples of cane barrack types throughout the milling districts of Far North Queensland, with a number of examples that retain specific features and dimensions stipulated by the legislation.

### **Casey's Cane Barracks**

Casey's Cane Barracks stands on land that was first surveyed in 1916 as part of the *Returned Soldier Settlement Act 1917*. Although several parts of the Tully-Innisfail district were surveyed during 1916, one of the first to be established was known as the Maria Creek Reserve. This new area sent cane to the South Johnstone Mill which opened in 1916, although a number of selections in the El Arish settlement later sent cane to the newly formed Tully Mill in 1925. After a number of setbacks in preparing for the new settlement, including the 1918 Innisfail cyclone, 75 blocks were eventually set aside for allocation on 20 April 1922.

The World War I Embarkation Rolls indicate Francis Casey of Biboorah (near Mareeba) left Brisbane on the HMAT Boonah on 21 October 1916 as Private 6548 of the 9 Infantry Battalion. A 1925 survey plan notes Francis L Casey was the lessee of Portion 185 in the Parish of Hull where Casey's barracks stands. His lease on Agricultural Farm no. 1629 consisted of 17.37 hectares and backed directly onto the Maria Creek in close proximity to the Maria Creek Tramway. Casey's presence in Maria Creek is confirmed by the Australian Electoral Roles of 1925 and 1930 and by the Queensland Post Office directories. Oral sources



indicate that Mr Casey was killed on the property when his foot was caught inside sleeper of a tramway and a truck of cane pinned him down. He died on 31 October 1930.

Soldiers were offered land as perpetual lease selections and had to adhere to a number of settlement guidelines and expectations. There is no record of land being transferred between Casey's death in 1930 and the 1952 Deed of Grant. The Deed of Grant for the property was granted to a Francis Lawrence Casey and it stayed in the Casey family until it was transferred to John William Hobson in 1954. Although an exact construction date is not available, the barrack style and material as well as the slightly larger dimensions suggest it was constructed in the 1940s - 1950s. Hobson held the property until 1990 and it is likely that the property continued to be used to produce sugar, although it was subdivided in 1986 to create 2 separate lots.

In 1988, Mourilyan Mill was bought by Bundaberg Sugar. In 1990, Hobson sold the property to Bundaberg Sugar, which had acquired a number of company cane farms in the Babinda and Innisfail area. In 2001, the company purchased the South Johnstone Mill and associated cane farms, including the land on which Casey's barracks is located.

## **Description**

Casey's Cane Barracks is a cement rendered 4 bedroom L shaped clay block barracks located adjacent to, and with the verandah facing, Murdering Point Road. The area around the barracks is planted with cane and a sugar tramline is located on the opposite side of the road from the barracks. A cement rendered clay block laundry/bathroom is located approximately 4 metres south-east of the barracks. The barracks is easily recognisable and in a prominent position beside Murdering Point Road.

The barracks is currently unused and has a few miscellaneous items of furniture and small equipment in the bedrooms. The barracks has a relatively recent corrugated metal roof. The gable ends are asbestos cement sheeting. There is new galvanised flat iron sheeting on top of the water tank on the laundry/bathroom.

The layout of the barracks has not changed since it was used for workers' accommodation. The 4 bedrooms are arranged in a row, each with one window and one door. The doors open onto a verandah running along the front of the bedrooms. The kitchen/dining room is joined and at right angles to the bedrooms forming an L shape. There is a door into the kitchen/dining room at one end of the verandah and a second door in the wall opposite the first. All the bedroom doors and the door from the verandah into the kitchen are 3 panel timbers. The other kitchen door is v-joint timber lining boards.

The kitchen has a stove recess in the south-west wall. The recess has a flat cement rendered roof and a square cement rendered flue. There is a kitchen sink on the south-east wall close to the stove recess and a hand basin on the south-west wall close to the stove recess. The hand basin was supplied with water from a tank that used to sit on the tank stand which is outside the kitchen on the south-west wall.

The barracks has casement windows in the bedrooms and kitchen, with the exception of a small single pane window in the stove recess. Most of the glass is missing from the windows. There are concrete floors throughout, including the verandah. The internal and external walls are all cement rendered, with some minor cracking and flaking or chipped render in a couple of places. Although there are no ceilings in any of the rooms, it appears that the kitchen and bedrooms did once have ceilings and this would have been required to make it conform to legislative requirements. There are 2 sets of hooks for hanging clothes in each bedroom.

The dimensions of the main rooms are as follows:

- The bedrooms are 3.3 metres x 3.0 metres.
- The verandah is 12.8 metres x 2.4 metres.
- The kitchen/dining room is 7.6 metres x 3.8 metres.

The laundry/bathroom located to the south-east of the barracks is also cement rendered clay block with a concrete floor. It has a flat cement rendered roof on top of which is a cement rendered water tank. The north-east half of this building was the laundry. It contains a concrete laundry trough and is open on its north-west side. The toilet and shower are on the south-west side of the building. V-joint timber lining board

doors open from the laundry into these rooms, each of which has a small single pane window. A circular concrete septic tank is located next to and south-west of the building.

**Images**



**Laundry/ bathroom is located close to the kitchen**



**Laundry/bathroom with water tank on top**



**End of line of bedrooms**



**Stove recess & tank stand on southwest wall of kitchen**



**Kitchen showing stove recess and sinks**



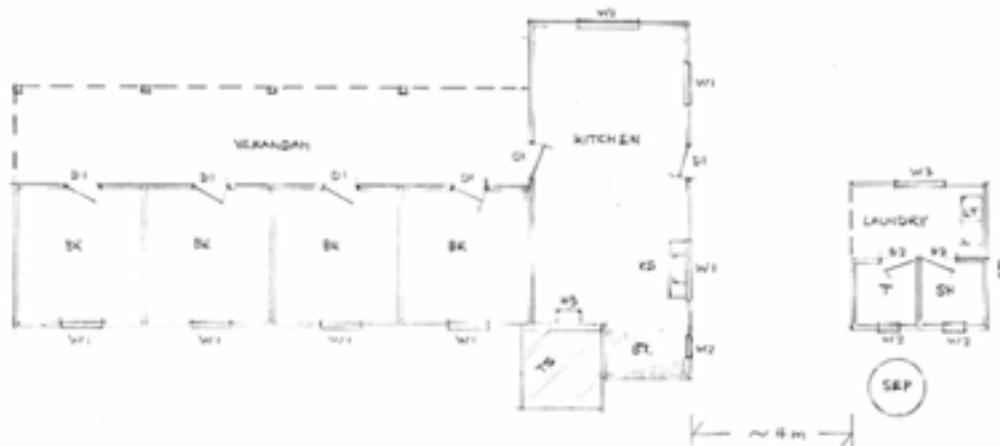
**Bedroom**

## Site and floor plans

CASEY BARRACKS  
MURDERING POINT RD., KURRAMINE BEACH

SCALE OF METRES—  
0 1 2 4 6 8

W1 - CASPIENT WINDOW	ST - STOVE ALCOVE
W2 - SHUTTERED WINDOW	TS - TRUNK STAND
W3 - SINGLE CASPIENT	LT - LAUNDRY TROUGH
D1 - PANEL DOORS	T - TOILET
D2 - V2 LINING DOORS	SH - SHOWER
KB - KITCHEN SINK	SEP - SEPTIC TANK
HB - HAND BASH	CT - CONC WATER TANK OVER LAUNDRY/TOILET
BR - BED ROOM	



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## **Place No. 65 - National Bank Building and Single Constable Barracks**

**Place Name:** National Bank Building and Single Constable Barracks  
**Address:** 7 Silkwood-Japoon Road, Silkwood  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 12 RP893472

### **Heritage significance**

The National Bank Building and Single Constable Barracks are important for showing the evolution of the Silkwood community, including the settlement of Silkwood East, following the opening of the North Coast Railway. Both buildings show changes in the way basic services were delivered to residents over the years.

### **History**

#### **National Bank Building**

The National Bank Building was built in the late 1930s by McRobbie Bros. The Building was originally situated at Silkwood West. The Bank operated on every Tuesday from 10am to 11am, but was closed on 17 August 1999. Soon after the Bank's closure, the building was moved to its present location.

The National Bank Building also provided a base for a dentist from Tully, who in the 1950s used the building once a week on the days the Bank was not open.

#### **Single Constable Barracks**

The Single Constable Barracks was erected with the new Silkwood police station in 1933. The original Silkwood police station was located at Silkwood West.

In the late 1960s, the Barracks building was purchased by Mr Norm Lo Monaco and moved onto his property. The building remained there for some time and fell into disrepair.

In 2002, the Silkwood & District Action Group requested that the building be moved to its current site, beside the National Bank Building. The Group undertook extensive work to repair and restore the building, prior to moving the building to its present location in late 2002.

### **Description**

#### **National Bank Building**

The National Bank Building is a very small timber building with iron sheeting skillion verandah. The verandah has a concrete slab floor. The building has a wooden front door on the right side of the front of the building and double shutters/windows on the left side of the front of the building.

Concrete steps lead to front door and wooden steps are constructed on the right side of the building. There is a casement window on the side of the building.

The building has a timber parapet with National Australia Bank signage and logo.

The building has been moved from its original location at Silkwood West to its present location adjacent to parkland beside the Single Constable Barracks.

## Single Constable Barracks

The Single Constable Barracks is a very small timber building raised on stumps. A small verandah sits on the left side of the building with timber steps to the ground. Glass louvre windows are on the right hand side of the front of the building facade.

## Images





## **References**

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## **Place No. 66 - Police Station**

**Place Name:** Police Station  
**Address:** 1A Silkwood-Japoon Road, Silkwood  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 293 NR808519

### **Heritage significance**

The Police Station is important in showing the evolution of the Silkwood community and the development of its central community infrastructure.

### **History**

The first resident policeman in Silkwood was Austin (Jack) Cooper, who arrived in 1921. This was before the settlement at Silkwood East where the present Police Station is located. Therefore the first police station in Silkwood was located in Silkwood West, not far from the present site of the Silkwood State School.

At the time, the main duties of the local policeman would have been to control the trafficking of opium and the selling of "sly grog". It appears that opium addiction was a real problem in the early days of Silkwood and a number of residents of Chinese origin were involved in the supply of the drug.

The present police station was constructed in 1933, following the opening of the North Coast Railway which resulted in the establishment of Silkwood East.

### **Description**

The Police Station is a wooden building with a gabled roof, casement windows and exposed timber framing on the front verandah. A set of steps provide access to the centre of the verandah leading to front double wooden doors. There is an additional verandah on the west side of the building. There is a wooden/timber cell block at rear of the property with barred windows high in the walls. The cell block is adjacent to a newer 2 storey house. There is also a free standing washroom/toilet next to the police station.

Images







## **References**

Cairns Post, *Silkwood Notes*, 4 July 1933, page 8.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, *Statewide Heritage Survey Information*, 2011.

McRobbie, W. Personal Communication, 3 January 2013.

## Place No. 67 - St John's Catholic Church

**Place Name:** St John's Catholic Church  
**Address:** Harold Street, Silkwood  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 21 SP236931

### Heritage significance

The Church of St John the Evangelist and the Shrine of the Three Saints demonstrate both an aspect of the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Far North Queensland and an unusual outcome of the chain of Sicilian migration to the Johnstone River sugar production region.

Built by Irish Australian Catholics in 1941, St John the Evangelist Church was the first new church in the new secular diocese of Cairns, where Catholics had previously been ministered to by the Augustinians who in 1877 established an Apostolic Vicariate centred on Cooktown.

The church also demonstrates, through the presence of the Shrine with statues of the Three Saints and features associated with the celebration of the Festival of the Three Saints on the first Sunday of May, the intense involvement of Sicilians, notably from Catania, from 1950. The presence of Sicilians in this region is a significant deviation from the dominant pattern of Italian migration into North Queensland from Piedmont, Lombardy and the Veneto. The festival, which has been running since 1950, was the first traditional religious/secular Italian feast celebrated in North Queensland.

The church has a strong association with Sicilian (especially *Catanesi*) communities not only in and around Silkwood but throughout North Queensland, with people travelling from throughout the region to attend the Festival each May. There is also a strong association with other places (such as Brisbane, Stanthorpe and Griffith) where Three Saints sub-committees were established. Devotion to the Saints has been demonstrated in the piety, enthusiasm and generosity of their reactions to the feast.

### History

The 1902 drought drove A.J. Daveson and his brothers, Henry and George, north from Mackay to become the first Europeans to settle around Liverpool Creek. They settled in the area in 1905 and called their house "Silkwood" after the timber on a nearby hill. As a small settlement emerged, it too was named Silkwood because the district's first postal facilities were set up at Silkwood House.

At first the township served Chinese banana growers and European timber getters, but as the northern extension of the North Coast Railway approached, it also became the site for an unusually large gang of navvies. A state sawmill, managed by L. Bertini, began work at Silkwood in 1919. The mill cut sleepers for the advancing railway line which was completed in 1924. The other major industry in the area was sugar, though the Government did not choose Silkwood as the site for the new mill built in the early 1920s; it went to Tully.

Silkwood was part of the Apostolic Vicariate of Queensland, with headquarters in Cooktown. As such, it was administered by the Augustinians whose Bishop owed obedience only to Rome and his Order. So it was an Augustinian priest, James Augustine Doyle, O.S.A., who celebrated Silkwood's first Mass at the home of Constable Tom Murray in 1924. This house and other Catholic homes in the area served until 1931 when a growing congregation forced a move into the local picture hall. At this stage Harry Cox, teacher at the Silkwood State School, built an altar and the congregation bought a set of cloth-of-gold vestments.

Most of the parishioners were Irish Australians, but the sugar industry attracted a chain of Italian immigrants during the 1920s and 1930s. While northern Italians dominate migration to North Queensland, there are pockets of southerners, especially in South Johnstone which attracted a chain of Sicilians. The majority of the Sicilians were *Catanesi* who came from a limited area between Catania and Riposto and from the small towns and villages at the foot of Mount Etna. This is the heartland of veneration of the three brothers, Saints Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino.

Among the Sicilian immigrants was Rosario Tornabene, who was born to Salvatore Tornabene and Venera Nucifora in Sant'Alfio in Catania in 1912. The family migrated to North Queensland in 1915 and both parents worked in the sugar industry. They went back to Sicily in 1922, but Rosario returned to Mourilyan to cut cane when he turned 18 in 1930. In 1936 he married Alfia Patti and the couple bought land at Silkwood. In 1939 Alfia suffered severe complications after the birth of their first child, Vera. After a dream of the Three Saints of his home town, Rosario vowed to bring their statues to Australia if his wife and child survived. They did, but fulfilment of the vow was put on hold by the outbreak of World War II.

The decision to build a church in Silkwood dates from the late 1930s. The land was purchased in 1937, with additional land purchased in 1940-1941. In June 1941 the Roman Catholic Church created the new diocese of Cairns. Silkwood became a Mass Centre and a small church was erected that year. The new church, still carrying a debt of £690, was blessed and dedicated to St John the Evangelist in 1941. While it was the first church built in the new Diocese of Cairns, Silkwood remained in the care of the Augustinians who had been responsible for the Vicariate since 1884. The last of the Augustinian bishops, John Heavey O.S.A., stood guarantor for the debt.

The Silkwood congregation built St John the Evangelist in Gothic revival style out of reinforced concrete with a galvanised iron roof. Above the main door, which at that stage was on the south side of the porch, the builders inscribed the Augustinian Coat of Arms. The floor was reinforced concrete and it was ceiled throughout. In 1941 Luigi and Domenica Favier of Warrubullen donated the High Altar, made in Innisfail from polished cabinet timber. This held the silky oak tabernacle. They built the church on an east-west axis with the altar at the eastern end. It had 6 buttresses on the southern and northern sides forming 5 bays each with casement windows topped with a Gothic-style window detail. The western end of the church featured 2 matching windows and an entrance porch. The porch had a window to the front and entry to the church was at the side.

The creation of the Cairns Diocese prompted a re-examination of parish boundaries. In 1943, local clergy drew up a plan to divide the Parish of Innisfail into 3. One of these was the Parish of Silkwood which came into being in 1946. It encompassed Silkwood (where the Parish Priest was to live), El Arish, Japoon, Moresby and Cowley and contained more than 1000 parishioners. Despite the secular bishopric set up in Cairns, the Augustinian Order which had served Innisfail since the 1890s continued to serve the 3 parishes, so Silkwood's first Parish Priest was an Augustinian.

The appointment of the Italo-American Augustinian, Alfred Natali O.S.A., was brief, but of great tactical importance. The small size of the original St John's reveals the alienation of Italian Catholics in Far North Queensland. Silkwood at that time had a population of 350 families, 85% of which were Catholic. Only 5% of them actually practiced their religion. Not only were the migrants absorbed by the heavy work of establishing their cane farms, they also felt little affinity with the Irish-Australian church of their adopted land. Fr Natali's job was to connect with other Italian speakers in an effort to persuade them to re-enter the fold.

Fr Natali arrived in Innisfail in 1946, the year in which 5 Sisters of the Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (Franciscans) arrived to create St John's parish school. He moved to Silkwood on 27 August 1947, though he was not officially the Parish Priest until 9 May 1948. He found the little church of St John in need of sponsorship and his diary for September 1947 reveals his hope that someone would donate an organ, Stations of the Cross and a bell. Mr and Mrs Thomas Curnow provided the Stations of the Cross but the organ and bell did not eventuate at this stage.

Fr Natali encouraged Italian participation in fund-raising for the school and organised an Italian Passion Play at Moresby which attracted an audience of 2000. In the meantime he encouraged Rosario Tornabene to explore ways of fulfilling his 1939 vow. South Johnstone Sicilians had never forgotten their Saints. A committee in South Johnstone regularly raised money to send to the Sicilian town of Sant'Alfio to support its Feast Day celebrations. This committee naturally took an interest in Rosario's scheme and he allocated his share of his father's vineyard in Sicily to the project. His parents organised an old artisan in Giarre to carve smaller versions of the statues in the Saints' main church in Sant'Alfio from local cherry wood.

Rosario then sponsored his cousin Alfio Zapallà to Queensland on the understanding that he accompany the statues on the ship *Sorrento*. After solving the complexities of a mistaken unloading in Sydney, Alfio and Rosario met in Brisbane and, with the statues, took the train home to Silkwood. They arrived in November

1949. After a brief stay in the Tornabene farmhouse, the statues were lodged in the presbytery to await their feast on the first Sunday of May 1950.

Fr Natali was not there for the festival. He returned to America in 1949 leaving Silkwood in the hands of the Parish Priest of South Johnstone, Patrick Duggan O.S.A, which is why the music for the first procession consisted of "Three lovely lasses from Bannion" and "It's a long way to Tipperary" played loudly through speakers attached to the presbytery gramophone.

North Queensland's first traditional religious/secular Italian feast was therefore held in honour of Saints Alfio, Filadelfo and Cirino on 7 May 1950. In the preceding weeks a group of men moved around the district collecting money to fund the event. On the big day about 100 people arrived, some carrying the traditional large candles and some dressed in green (the colour of St Alfio's tunic). After a solemn Mass the statues were brought out of the church accompanied by much shouting and loud detonations. Fireworks being too expensive, these came from home-made devices containing dynamite. Outside the church the bearers stopped to collect more donations in their red velvet bags. Then there was a short procession around the church of St John in which the collectors carried the statues, which had been screwed on to wooden planks, on their backs.

After that came the secular part of the feast provided by stalls dispensing traditional foods: *calia* (roasted chick peas) *torrone* and ice cream. Home made wine and a barbecue organised by the school committee ended the day. As the feast became an annual event, traditional games also featured – though these were abandoned as dangerous in the late 1950s. In general, the Silkwood event imitated the Sicilian feast, but discarded those parts (such as the time span and the games) that were impractical in Queensland. As in Sicily, a considerable amount of money was collected during the festival.

This gave rise to serious differences between the organisers and the diocese. The Sicilians made very public, emotional and generous donations at feast time. They made 2 types of donation. Items of jewellery, watches and so forth that were pinned to the Saints' clothing traditionally remained the property of the Saints and could not be removed. The money that they placed in the red velvet collection bags, before or during the feast, was intended to fund the next year's festivities, with the surplus put aside to build a *nicchia* or shrine to hold the Three Saints behind St John's altar. A *nicchia* would allow the statues to leave the presbytery where they could be seen at any time instead of the traditional once a year. It also implied that the name of the church would change to "St John the Evangelist and the Shrine of the Three Saints".

Bishop Cahill, on the other hand, believed that money raised in the parish should be used to run the parish. This sort of fund raising is common in Australia but virtually unknown in Italy, where the church is considered to be wealthy. In 1952, he instructed Fr Duggan to keep the red velvet collection bags when they were taken from the *vara* and brought to the altar to be blessed. Understandably, the sequestration of their donations greatly angered the devotees.

In 1952, the Augustinians withdrew from Silkwood and were replaced by an Italian-speaking Order, the *Pia Società dei Missionari di San Carlo Borromeo* or Scalabrinian Fathers). In 1953, Silkwood's first Scalabrinian priests, Frs Dante Orsi and Ignatius Militello, found themselves in the middle of the dispute. It fell to Fr Orsi to find a compromise. He was also instructed to try to tame down what some saw as noisy and irregular proceedings - up to this point there had been no formal committee to run the feast; involvement was spontaneous, enthusiastic and entirely Sicilian.

Initially, the Sicilians were intransigent. They would have a traditional feast or none at all. So Fr Orsi, as Parish Priest, basically took over the event. He involved some non-Sicilian families in the 1953 festival and increased the religious component by inserting a Novena the night before the festival and a Mass with general communion to precede the solemn Mass at which the Saints were revealed. For the first time a relic, apparently a bone, was carried in procession. On the other hand, he enhanced secular activities by bringing in a brass band. Nevertheless 1953 was a very low key festival. However, it did inspire lengthy negotiations between the priest and the Sicilians at which future ground rules were nipped out.

In 1954 the feast was organised by a formal Committee of the Three Saints in conjunction with the Parish Committee. The practice of carrying the statues was abandoned in favour of a small *vara* mounted on a *fercolo* equipped with a motor, though the motor was never used. At the request of the Bishop, Fr Orsi tried to quieten things down. The faithful agreed to stop exploding their *bombe* during the Consecration. The clergy agreed that the explosions could, however, occur during the *Gloria*. Money raised went first to

funding the following year's feast, but all donations surplus to the event went towards the maintenance and extension of the church whose building and grounds were clearly going to need improvement if the festival attracted a significant number of people. That year, when a special train ran from Cairns, stopping at a number of sugar settlements on the way, they filled the quagmire in front of the church with sand.

From the second half of the 1950s Italian vice-consuls from Cairns or Townsville always attended the festival. Bands from Innisfail and Townsville came from 1957 when the committee advertised the event as far away as Brisbane. That year fireworks replaced the *bombe* and the Catholic Daughters of Australia made sandwiches and cakes. The year's event made a serious profit of £620, some of which was sent back to Sicily to help fund the feast in Sant'Alfio. Immediately after the event, the committee began to plan not only to build the *nicchia* but also to extend the church and build an arch in front of it.

The extension added about 12 metres to the length of the church, which formed a new sanctuary. An open arch and a door into the church replaced the porch at the western end. They renovated the building inside and out and built an alcove behind and above the altar. From 1958 the Saints were permanently housed in this *nicchia*, and were taken out only at the time of the *svelata*. Mr and Mrs F. T. McRobbie donated a gold and brass tabernacle to replace the original when they married in January 1958. This was fitted into the wall below the *nicchia*. Bishop Cahill blessed the work in March 1958

Father Orsi left in 1958, replaced by another Scalabrinian, Fr Silvano Bertapelle. In the early 1960s, 2 other Scalabrinian fathers became successive Parish Priests of Silkwood. The first of these, Fr Alexander Dalpiaz, carried out the first restoration of the three statues, bringing back their original colours. The last Scalabrinian, Fr Antonio Dal Bello was replaced by Fr Frank Crane in 1968, but the Scalabrinian Provincial promised that one of their priests would attend every feast from that time on. By this time 6000 people were attending the festival each year.

During the 1960s, the feast funded a number of improvements to the church building and grounds. It is likely that a bell tower was erected at this stage as one appears in photographs taken prior to the 1970s renovations. This does not appear to be the tower in place in 2008. In 1966 it also paid for the Saint Alfio Hall which the school used whenever it was not needed for the feast. In 1969 the Three Saints bought a car for the Franciscan Sisters who ran the school. The nuns had been organising a procession of children in Sicilian national dress at every feast since 1960. The school still maintains this tradition though the Franciscans left Silkwood in 1987. A sub-committee formed in Brisbane in 1971.

In 1973 the Saints were given a new, splendid *vara* imported from Italy. Its arrival was the signal for more improvements to the church. The *vara* was too wide for the front door, so the portal had to be widened. The committee installed a mechanism to allow the statues to slide gracefully from the *nicchia* on to the *vara*. The renovations that allowed the Saints to make an appropriately fine entrance for their feast also introduced post-Vatican Two modernisation. They replaced the timber altar with a table of sacrifice which facilitated the *svelata*.

Monsignor Gino Paro, Apostolic Delegate in Australia and Papua New Guinea, joined the Bishop to celebrate Mass at the twenty-fifth Anniversary of the festival in 1975, along with the Giuseppe Verdi Choir from Brisbane. Visitors came from all over the state, with Sicilian fruit farmers in Stanthorpe among those who formed sub-committees. Politicians began to arrive from the second half of the 1970s. During the 1980s, visitors came from as far away as Adelaide and Perth and even from Italy. In this decade the committee organised a final evening ball after the fireworks.

In 1983 the Bishop of Cairns, Monsignor Torpie, unveiled a plaque on the front of the Silkwood Church in memory of deceased members of the committee. This plaque was later moved into the Zappalà chapel. During the 1980s huge attendances allowed the Committee to donate to wider charitable projects. While always supporting the Silkwood School and parish, it could now send money to Catholic hospitals in Cairns and Townsville, to the Blue Nurses (a Presbyterian organisation) in Ingham, the Villanova Home for the Aged in Innisfail and the Holy Spirit Hospital and St Vincent de Paul Society in Brisbane. In 1990, the committee built a new chapel on the side of the church. In 1993 this was dedicated to long-term President of the Committee, Alfio Zappalà.

In 1996 3 parishes, including Silkwood, re-merged to form a single parish of Innisfail under the patronage of Mary, Mother of Good Counsel. However, the festival continued to grow and to attract ever more prominent visitors. Guests from the town of Sant'Alfio came to the fiftieth anniversary in 2000. 7000 visitors packed

the public marquees and the St Alfio Hall in a town that still only had a population of 500. Despite the changes made over the years, the church was still far too small for the feast and many watched on giant television screens outside the church. When the *vara* left the church it was greeted with a 21 gun salute, while 2 planes dropped a stream of red and green petals on the crowd.

In 2008 some 1500 people processed through Silkwood on 4 May. While native-born *Catanesi* are becoming rare in Silkwood, the feast has been taken up with enthusiasm by their Australian-born descendants. It seems likely that the secular/religious Feast of the Three Saints will continue to support the Church of St John the Evangelist and the Shrine of the Three Saints into the foreseeable future.

## **Description**

St John's is a small reinforced concrete late inter-war Gothic building set on an east-west axis with the sanctuary at the east end. The roof is a corrugated iron gable without barge boards. It is topped, at the front or west end, with a Celtic cross.

The original building, from 1941, was about 14 metres long and 9 metres wide. It had 6 buttresses which formed 5 bays on each side. Each bay held outward opening timber framed casements with 6 panes on each side of the set of windows and topped with a Gothic-style glassed arch. This building now forms the west end of the church. Additions opened in March 1958 extended the number of buttresses to 10 and the overall length of the church to about 26 metres.

St John's School is built on the southern and eastern sides of the church. The Rosario Tornabene Function Room is built on to the northern end of the school buildings. The western side of the church faces Harold Street and the northern side comprises a car park and further out, the school's playing fields.

The front (west) façade features a door that is over 3 metres wide. This was installed in 1973 to allow passage of the new, bigger, *vara*. It is constructed from narrow timber boards set diagonally in 6 panels. It is topped by a Gothic-style stained glass window which features the Three Saints surrounded by blue glass window panes. On either side of the door are a pair of 6 paned casement windows topped with a Gothic motif which match the windows on the sides. There is 1 buttress on each side.

To the north of the door is a plaque which commemorates the fiftieth anniversary of the feast in Silkwood in 2000. The foundation stone, laid by Bishop Heavey in December 1940, is to the right of the door and set low in the church wall.

In front of the door is a gabled covered way supported at the front by 2 metal posts. It is roofed with corrugated iron and its ceiling is timbered. To the south of the front wall is a 4 posted bell tower topped with a Latin cross.

The northern side of the church has a recently added skillion which provides covered car parking for school and parish staff as well as shade during the festival. 5 sets of casements mark the extent of the original structure. The beginning of the 1958 section is marked by a wooden side door with a glass arch. 2 rectangular windows in striated yellow glass illuminate the sanctuary.

On the southern side of the building there are 2 bays with casements at the west end. It would appear that most, if not all, of the glass in the building was originally yellow but that it has been replaced by opaque unstained glass whenever a pane has been lost. Different types of yellow glass reflect different construction periods. At the eastern end of the south side there are 2 rectangular yellow windows to the sanctuary and a side door that mirrors the door on the opposite side of the building.

In the centre of the southern side of the church is the chapel dedicated to Alf Zappalà. This juts out from the side wall of the church and has 3 yellow rectangular louvred windows inset into the concrete and security screened. It also has an unsecured sliding aluminium window with a concrete sill. The outside entry to the chapel is through double glass aluminium framed doors with screening to the lower half.

Inside the church the floor is covered with a brown domestic tile. The sanctuary is carpeted in red and a strip of red carpet runs through the centre of the nave. There are 27 pews, the twenty-eight has been

moved into the chapel to facilitate access to the confessional. The pews appear to be made of silky oak. The ceiling is panelled in fibro cement with cover strips. The sanctuary ceiling is timbered.

The eastern end of the sanctuary is entirely timbered. The turned timber blond wood table of sacrifice with its matching lectern stands in front of a timbered panel with a niche that holds the gold and brass tabernacle donated in 1958. Above this are the timbered doors that front the *nicchia* of the Three Saints. Red velour curtains hang on either side of the *nicchia*. A crucifix is affixed to the front of its doors and a timbered canopy hangs over them. On either side of the table of sacrifice is a timber door with a glass pane at the top. These lead to the sacristies which extend the full width of the rear of the building.

At the western end of the church 2 plaques are mounted on the northern side of the front door. These commemorate the service given to Silkwood by the Scalabrinian Fathers and by the Augustinians. On the other side of the door is a plaque dedicated to the Franciscan Sisters. In the south-west corner of the church is a raised dais that contains an electric organ and votive materials. Stations of the Cross that, when donated by Mr and Mrs Thomas Curnow, were described as "monochrome" have been brightly painted.

On the southern wall, the body of the church is connected to the chapel which was added in 1990 by security screens topped with the Gothic motifs of the original external windows. The chapel is joined to the church by a security screened door. In 1993 this chapel was dedicated to the long-term president of the Three Saints Committee, Alfio Zappalà. A plaque on the southern wall records Immacolata Parisi's service to the feast and also pays tribute to deceased committee members.

The chapel has a tiled floor and a timber ceiling. There is also timber to the western wall where what would appear to be the original altar and the silky oak tabernacle is held. Over the altar hangs a painting of the Three Saints which is flanked by 2 prints portraying their sufferings. On the side walls close to the altar is a picture showing the Saints overseeing surgery (northern wall) and a votive set of photographs giving thanks for improved health (southern wall). The chapel also features a candle rack - during the feast this is replaced by much larger racks to take the traditional big candles. There is also a tribute to Rosario Tournabene.

## Images





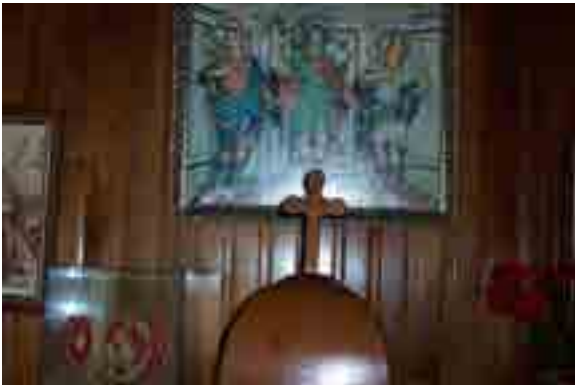
**Entrance**



**Timber door with stained glass window**



**Commemorative plaque**



**Painting over altar**

*The above images by Dr Dianne Menghetti*



**St John's before the 1978 renovations**





**St John's, late 1940s (Source unknown)**



**St John's, 1941 (Source unknown)**

## **References**

Catholic Parish Tully-Silkwood, Letter to Cassowary Coast Regional Council, 8 March 2013.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 68 - Former St Saviour's Church**

**Place Name:** Former St Saviour's Church  
**Address:** 26 Hynes Street, South Johnstone  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 5 RP704982

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A



Queensland Government

# St Saviour's Anglican Church (former)

## Place Details

Place ID	602431
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	St Saviour's Anglican Church (former)
Place Classification	Built
Place Category	Religion/Worship
Place Type	Church
Themes	3 Developing secondary and tertiary industries / 3.5 Struggling with remoteness, hardship and failure 8 Creating social and cultural institutions / 8.1 Worshipping and religious institutions
Register Entry Date	24/09/2004

## Location

Address	26 Hynes Street
Town / Suburb	SOUTH JOHNSTONE
Post Code	4859
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	1930s, 1960s (historical) ongoing (social)
Criterion A	St Saviour's Anglican Church, erected in 1938-39 to service the then expanding population of the Innisfail district, is important in demonstrating the pattern of settlement associated with the growth of North Queensland's sugar industry. In particular it illustrates how the growth of the North Queensland sugar industry during the interwar period generated prosperity in small communities such as South Johnstone, enabling parishioners to construct their places of worship in masonry rather than the more usual timber. It is important also as surviving evidence of the work of the priests of the Bush Brotherhoods of St Barnabas and St Lawrence, who served the Anglican parish of Innisfail from 1931-38.
Criterion D	The substantial, rendered masonry church in the Spanish Mission style

## Criterion H

remains largely intact. It is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of its type, and is illustrative of its era.

As a rare and surviving church building constructed by the Bush Brotherhood of St Barnabas and St Lawrence, the former St Saviour's Anglican Church, South Johnstone, has a special association with the work of the Bush Brotherhood, who were important in the Anglican Church's (Church of England) presence in remote areas of Queensland.

## History

### History

St Saviour's Church, South Johnstone was completed in 1939 to serve Church of England (Anglican from 1981) parishioners at the southern end of the parish of Innisfail. Reputedly it was designed by Arthur Brown and constructed by local builder Mose Romano. Reverend John Feetham, Anglican Bishop of North Queensland, consecrated the church on Palm Sunday, 2 April 1939. It was used for Anglican religious service until 2003 and is currently privately owned. South Johnstone is part of the Innisfail district (Innisfail was known as Geraldton until 1911). Thomas H Fitzgerald, who arrived on the banks of the Johnstone River to grow sugar cane on a 10,000 hectare land grant funded by the Catholic Bishop of Brisbane and All Hallows' Sisters of Mercy, founded the port of Geraldton in 1880. Others arrived soon after and a community was soon established with an economy firmly based on sugar production. In 1882 a sugar mill was built at Mourilyan followed by the establishment of the South Johnstone Mill in 1916. Sugar cane farming was labour intensive, and as a result the region attracted a diverse racial mix of people including Pacific Islanders, Chinese, Italians, Malays, Japanese and Javanese. The prosperity of the sugar industry became dependent on the contract labour provided by Pacific Islanders in particular. The Chinese population, mainly failed miners from the Palmer River goldrush, established market gardens on the North and South Johnstone Rivers to supply goods for the workers in the sugar industry. The first Italian migrants arrived in North Queensland in December 1891 and were soon joined by friends and relatives to establish the strong Italian farming community that continues in the Innisfail region today. The establishment of the South Johnstone Sugar Mill in 1916 provided the stimulus for the development of the town of South Johnstone. At the time of opening, 100 farmers supplied cane for the first crush, and by 1930 this had grown to 300 farms supplying cane to the South Johnstone Mill. The First World War accentuated the decline of the western mineral fields of North Queensland, and a large population shift took place to the expanding coastal sugar production areas such as the Johnstone, Tully, Mackay, Cairns and Babinda areas where miners were reportedly in demand as preferred workers for the sugar mills and farms. Census information shows a steady increase in the population of Johnstone Shire from 1901 (population 2,924) to 1925 (population 8,000)<sup>3</sup> and 1934-5 when the population was reported at 12,777. The population increase corresponds with a steady rise in sugar production in the Shire, particularly from 1924. A cyclone in 1918 destroyed many buildings in the South Johnstone area, after which buildings were constructed of solid materials such as brick and concrete where possible. The Innisfail district, including South Johnstone, prospered in the 1920s due to the success of the local sugar industry. Sugar growing and milling also supported the area through the worldwide economic depression of the early 1930s. Many of the public and commercial buildings constructed in the area during the 1920s and 1930s, including St Saviour's Church at South Johnstone, reflect the fashionable architectural and decorative

styles of the interwar period, such as Mediterranean, Spanish Mission and 'Art Deco'. The Bush Brotherhood of St Barnabas, an organisation of Anglican priests that had served the western mineral fields since its inception in Herberton in 1902, began to work in the developing coastal sugar areas after 1924. Between 1926 and 1939 the Anglican Church, aided by the Bush Brotherhoods embarked on ambitious church building schemes in the developing sugar areas of North Queensland. Seven churches, including St Saviour's, were dedicated or consecrated during this time in coastal sugar towns such as Cairns, Tully, Innisfail, Mackay and South Johnstone. The Brotherhood of St Barnabas was one of a group of Brotherhoods founded in 1896 to address the problems of providing pastoral care in the sparsely settled areas of Queensland. The Brothers were volunteers, recruited from England to work for five years in the developing colony of Queensland, travelling where they were needed, remaining unmarried for their time of service and receiving only board and lodging and an annual payment of £25 for personal items in return for their service in often difficult conditions. South Johnstone Anglicans had been under the care of the priests serving the parishes of Cairns and Geraldton [later Innisfail], since the late 1890s. The first Church of England service in Geraldton was held in the Geraldton Division Board Hall in 1898, and was conducted by priests from the Parish of Cairns. In 1899 a timber church was constructed on the corner of Alice and Rankin Streets and a rectory was built on the corner of Alice and Owen Street in 1905. In 1900 the Parish of Geraldton was separated from the Parish of Cairns. The church was moved to a bigger site on Rankin Street in 1917, but this church, along with most of the town, was destroyed by the devastating cyclone of 1918. It was replaced by St Alban's church, on the corner of Rankin and Alice Streets, which was opened and dedicated on 5 October 1929. Few Church of England rectors stayed longer than five years in the Parish of Innisfail and visiting priests such as the Bush Brotherhood were relied on heavily. From 1931 to 1933 members of the Bush Brotherhood of St Barnabas (Rev. HA Norton, Rev. EW Gribble and Rev. CG Brown) served the Parish, then members of the Bush Brotherhood of St Lawrence (Rev. NA Townsend, Rev. R Campbell and Rev. Underhill) took over the responsibility until 1938. Church records indicate that the building of St Saviour's Church was due to the efforts and enthusiasm of Brother Ray Campbell in particular. On 22 October 1935 the Church of England purchased a 1012m<sup>2</sup> block of land in South Johnstone for the erection of a daughter church to St Alban's. The site was purchased from Jose Maria for a cost of £65, and the concrete building was constructed in 1938-39 by Mose Romano at a cost of £1000. It is understood that the porch and vestry were added at a later date. The design, reputedly by Arthur Brown, was in Spanish Mission style. The Bishop of North Queensland, Reverend John Olive Feetham, who ten years earlier had conducted a similar ceremony at St Alban's, dedicated St Saviour's Anglican Church on Palm Sunday, 2 April 1939. Half of the construction cost had been paid by this time. An active St Saviour's Ladies Guild subsequently raised funds through dances and other activities to help finance the remaining debt. Bequests also contributed to reduction of the debt. Rev. EW Gribble returned as the incumbent rector in Innisfail parish from 1940 to 1945 after completing the required five years of voluntary service to the Brotherhood of St Barnabas. St Saviour's provided a place of worship for Church of England parishioners at the southern end of the parish of Innisfail, with Holy Communion celebrated regularly on Sundays and weekdays. However, from the 1940s the population of South Johnstone began to decline. St Alban's Parish Notes of March 1946, records "notes

from St Saviour's always seem to include accounts of farewell parties these days". From the 1960s the building was shared as a place of worship by minority religions in the district. One parishioner remembers the Lutheran Church holding services (twice monthly) and Sunday school in St Saviour's for around 20 years from 1969. Pastor George Rosendale, from the Lutheran Mission of Hope Valley (now Hope Vale), was one of the Ministers to serve the Lutheran congregation in South Johnstone. He was one of the first Aboriginal Lutheran pastors. The Pew Bulletin in June 2003 noted the cost and on-going maintenance issues of Parish properties and included an assessment of the Sunday ministry at St Saviour's. Because of these concerns the church was advertised for sale in July 2003 and subsequently was sold to a local business that currently uses the building as a training centre. Internal furnishings, including the altar and pews, were removed when the church was sold in August 2003. Changes to the external fabric of the building, including removal of most of the front concrete fence, removal of the external crosses, removal and replacement of the front window architrave and the installation of air conditioning units, took place between the time of the sale and February 2004.

## Description

### Description

St Saviour's is a rendered masonry building with a corrugated iron roof. It is rectangular in plan with a separately-roofed front entrance porch and a northern rear vestry wing. It faces east onto Hynes Street, the main street of South Johnstone, and the symmetrically arranged facade, with its curved parapets to the front gable and front porch, and banks of windows with semi-circular arched fanlights, along the side elevations, makes an aesthetic contribution to the streetscape. The front elevation has a six-paned timber framed casement window with semi-circular fanlight, either side of the centrally positioned front entrance porch, which is accessed from the north side via two concrete steps. The porch is enclosed with rendered masonry walls and has a flat corrugated iron roof concealed by a curved parapet, which mimics the front gable to the main building. There is a semi-circular arched window in the south wall of the porch, in-filled partly with glass and metal louvers and partly with a timber panel. The front wall of the porch until very recently had a grouped arched opening comprising three six-paned timber-framed casement windows with fanlights. The windows had been removed at the time of inspection, leaving a large open space in the wall with the central fanlight still in place. The porch gives access to the main entrance to the church, which consists of arched timber French doors. The side walls extend 15 metres from the front to the rear of the building, with three grouped arched openings consisting of three six-paned timber-framed casement windows, the central window in each group being taller than the others, and one six-paned timber-framed casement window to the rear, on each side wall. There are two single six-paned timber-framed casement windows in the rear wall. All windows, other than the louver window in the porch, have semi-circular fanlights and textured glass. There are five buttresses along each wall. A vestry wing extends 4 metres out from the northern wall at the rear of the building. There is a timber door on the eastern side of the wing, facing the street, which permits external access to the vestry. The doorway has a trim consisting of a painted red arch with a red cross above the door, inside the arch. There are three concrete steps, painted red, leading up to the door. Externally the building is painted white with red trim on the external windowsills,

fascia and on the trim below the top of the parapet. Gutters are painted green. Internally the walls are painted light green with white window frames and white ceilings. The floors of the nave, sanctuary and vestry are of concrete. There is an angled wood-panelled ceiling in the nave. Three overhead fans are suspended from the nave ceiling. The sanctuary is separated from the nave by a small step, a timber partition that drops from the ceiling, and folding timber doors. An arched opening leads through the northern wall to the vestry. A bench with a sink and laminate cupboard are against one wall of the vestry. This furniture is not significant. The western end of the vestry has been enclosed for a toilet. No original church furniture remains inside the building. The grounds consist of lawn with a gravel access driveway along the southern side of the building. A concrete path leads from the building to the gate. Two gate posts and the two external posts from the original front concrete fence remain in place and have embossed crosses. The remainder of the front fence has been replaced with cyclone wire fencing and a new gate, retaining the view of the church from the street. Neither the wire elements of the front fence nor the new green Colourbond fence along the rear and side boundary of the block have heritage significance.

## Element

Element Name	St Saviour's Anglican Church (former)
Style	Spanish Mission
Design Period	Interwar period (1919 - 1930s)
Construction Period	1938 - 1939
Construction Method	Load-bearing masonry
Fabric (Exterior Structure)	Masonry - rendered
Fabric (Roof)	Metal sheeting - corrugated iron
Roof Form	Parapet front - gabled roof behind
Place Components	Garden/Grounds Views to Church

## Images



Description	Former St Saviour's Anglican Church
Media Author	
Media Date	
Copyright	DERM



Description	Former St Saviour's Anglican Church
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Media Author	
Media Date	
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Last updated: 04 April 2011

## Place No. 69 - Hull River Settlement Site

**Place Name:** Hull River Settlement Site  
**Address:** Commodore Street, South Mission Beach  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 701 S8833

### Heritage significance

The Hull River Settlement Site contributes to our understanding of early settlement in Far North Queensland and the association with indigenous Australians. The Site has important symbolic association with the Mission Beach area and with the development of Far North Queensland.

The name Mission Beach was derived from the presence of the mission at this site.

### History

Following the 1897 Queensland Act for the Protection of Aborigines, a reserve for Aboriginal people was planned and set up by the State Government at the Hull River Settlement Site.

John Martin Kenny had been for some years a non-commissioned officer of Native Police at Cooktown and overseer in charge of the Mclvor River, an offshoot of the Cape Bedford Mission. It was he who chose the site for the settlement buildings, exposed to the full force of the onshore winds. This proved a terrible mistake when the 1918 cyclone crossed the coast.

The mission was established in 1914, with 41 Aboriginal people being bought in, many of them locals to the area. By the end of 1915, the Aboriginal population was about 400, including many from other districts. For example, 20 were from Mourilyan and 159 from the Tully and Murray River districts. In 1916, 82 Aboriginal people were removed here for "*disciplinary reasons for their relief and protection*" from Thursday Island, Cooktown, Chillagoe, Atherton, Ayr, Hughenden, Ukalanda and Stewart's Creek.

By 1916 there were about 490 Aboriginal people at the mission. Some 200 died during 1917 when malarial fever ravaged the location, so that by March 1918 there were approximately 300 people remaining.

On 10 March 1918 a cyclone crossed the coast between Cairns and Cardwell, devastating the area and completely destroying the settlement. Approximately 50 Aboriginals were killed, as well as the superintendent Kenny and his daughter.

After the cyclone in 1918, the government decided not to rebuild the Settlement. The Government health inspector who visited the area in 1918 recommended the Palm Island, 37 miles off the coast of Townsville, be designated as a reserve for Aboriginal people to replace the mission.

Structural evidence of the Settlement has been erased by cyclones, however a shelter and memorial have been erected in the location of the original Settlement site to demonstrate the position of the mission. The shelter and memorial are positioned on a reserve for memorial purposes which is only 48m<sup>2</sup> in area, a much smaller area than the original reserve for Aboriginal people.

### Description

The Hull River Settlement Site is located at the top of a hill overlooking South Mission Beach and backs onto a Nature Preservation Area.

A shelter has been erected to mark the location of the original settlement site. This shelter can be viewed from the road and is surrounded by vegetation. The single shelter stands 2.5 metres tall and has a wooden sign that hangs at the front with the words "*Old Mission Site*" on it.

Beneath the shelter lies a tile mosaic that was made by Greencorp in 1998. The colours of yellow, red and black symbolise the Aboriginal Flag while the colours of purple, blue and green represent the intensity of the cyclone destruction on this area.

Behind the shelter sits a stone memorial with a metal plaque fixed to the front that faces east. The plaque reads:

***"HULL RIVER GOVERNMENT ABORIGINAL SETTLEMENT SITE.***

*A Queensland Government aboriginal settlement was established close to this site in 1914 under the control of Superintendent Kenny. The settlement was known as a Mission and the name Mission Beach was derived from this source.*

*About 500 people were dwelling at the settlement when the severe tropical cyclone of March 10, 1918 devastated the area between Cairns and Cardwell. A number of people, including the superintendent Kenny, lost their lives in that cyclone and are buried nearby. Many of the Aboriginal people were later re-settled at Palm Island."*

*Cardwell Shire Council 2001, (Original Cardwell Shire Council, 1970)*

## **Images**







## **References**

Cardwell Shire Council, Dorothy Jones Historical Collection.

## Place No. 70 - Castrisos Building

**Place Name:** Castrisos Building  
**Address:** 30 Butler Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 2 RP892117

### Heritage significance

The Castrisos Building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.

### History

No information is available as to the history of this building. The Art Deco features of the façade suggest that the building may have been built in the late 1920s or sometime in the 1930s.

### Description

The Castrisos Building is currently used as a drapery. The decorative Art Deco façade is painted blue and yellow and is marked with the word "Castrisos Bld". The building has a tiled front and two entrance doors.

### Images



### References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 71 - Dorothy Jones Library**

**Place Name:** Dorothy Jones Library  
**Address:** 34 Bryant Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 10 T746119

### **Heritage significance**

The Dorothy Jones Library has significance to the local community as the former civic centre of Tully. It illustrates the evolution of the former Cardwell Shire Council local government area and the rise in prosperity of the sugar industry in the region, establishing Tully as the administrative centre of the Shire over Cardwell. The building was an asset to the township of Tully, having been used for a range of community activities over the years and continuing as the town's public library.

### **History**

The Cardwell Shire Council office was originally based in Cardwell but with the development and prosperity of Tully, the Shire offices were moved to the new town in 1929.

The Dorothy Jones Library building was built as the "modern" concrete Cardwell Shire Council office at Tully and was opened in July 1930. The first Council meeting was held here on 14 August 1930.

The building was an asset to the town. As well as the Council's headquarters, it was the scene of debates, brass band practices and many community meetings over the years. During World War II and because the building was concrete, the Council built an air raid shelter below the floor. A hole cut in the meeting room flooring enabled access to the space beneath where staff would go in the event of an air raid. The meeting room table covered the hole in the meantime.

In the early 1950s the Tully Public Library was established as a free library under the auspices of the Library Board of Queensland. Prior to that, a small subscription library was run by a dedicated group of readers. Since the mid 1940s, the Tully Library was accommodated within the Shire Offices in Tully, and in 1954 one of the Building's verandahs was enclosed to accommodate a permanent library space.

The Tully Library moved into its own building in the early 1960s, located on the site of the current Tully Civic Centre. The building into which the Library was located was purchased by Council from the Queensland Ambulance Transport Brigade, who had moved into a new brick building.

On 14 April 1962, the Tully Library was opened in this building and named Dorothy Jones Library. This building was demolished in 1978 to allow for the construction of the new Civic Centre. The Library was then housed on the first floor of the new Centre, where the Planning and Environmental Services Department is currently housed. This was not an ideal location as it was not accessible to anyone who could not negotiate the stairs.

The old Shire office was refurbished as part of a joint Bicentennial project undertaken by Council, the Queensland Government and the Australian Bicentennial Authority. The Library was moved there and reopened on 21 January 1989.

### **Description**

The Dorothy Jones Library is a single storey reinforced concrete building incorporating the façade and front rooms of the former Cardwell Shire Council office. The front verandah has a decorative arch and balustrades. The arch has the words "Cardwell Shire Council" inscribed above it.

Images







## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## Place No. 72 - Former Plaza Theatre

**Place Name:** Former Plaza Theatre  
**Address:** 72 Butler Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 7 RP804439

### Heritage significance

The Plaza Theatre building is an important part of the Butler Street streetscape and forms part of the history of the Tully Township, having served as the local picture theatre for 37 years.

### History

The Plaza Theatre was established by the Bergin family in 1925. The original theatre building was replaced with a more substantial structure in the 1930s, however this was destroyed by fire in 1940 and the present building was erected shortly thereafter.

The Bergins operated another theatre in Tully, called the Broadway Theatre. This theatre was also located in Butler Street but the building no longer exists.

The Plaza Theatre closed in April 1977 after it became unviable. The theatre building was used as a church for a time, but now Pacific Fasteners & Hydraulics operate from the building.

### Description

A concrete picture theatre with decorative parapet (art deco) located on Bryant Street, the main street of Tully. The building has symmetrical designs on the front façade and entrance cover/verandah. The double doors are now aluminium and glass. The colorbond roof was recently replaced. Also of interest are the concrete buttressed side walls.

### Images





## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Pedley, H, *Tully Street Names: Signs of History*, 2000.

Tully Times, *Lyn Bergin Died In Brisbane*, 16 May 2002.

Tully Times, *Obituary: Miss "Kitty" Bergin*, 26 March 1969.

Tully Times, *Plaza Theatre Has Closed*, 21 April 1977.

## **Place No. 73 - Hotel Tully - Mullins Bros Building**

**Place Name:** Hotel Tully - Mullins Bros Building  
**Address:** 5 Butler Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 303 T7461, Lot 15 T74654 and Lots 1 & 4 RP717293

### **Heritage significance**

The hotel makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully. It is also important part of the history of the Tully Township, having served as the town's hotel since the township of Tully was established.

### **History**

The Hotel Tully, known as the "Top Pub", was erected in 1926. It was established by Pat and Mick Mullins, twin brothers from Ireland, who purchased the land at the first government land sale for the township of Tully held on 30 July 1924.

The first bar was a temporary bar comprising an unceiled galvanised iron shack. Bar takings were placed in kerosene tins and wheeled to the bank in a wheelbarrow. This temporary bar was used until the Hotel Tully building opened in September 1926.

The Hotel Tully was frequented by canecutters working in the district prior to the introduction of mechanical harvesting.

The Hotel was damaged by fire in 1997 and the original building was refurbished and rebuilt, with the inclusion of a beer garden and bottle shop. These works were completed in late 1997.

### **Description**

The Hotel Tully-Mullins Bros Building is a large, prominent building constructed from reinforced concrete and located on Butler Street in Tully. The building has an art deco parapet and façade. The date 1926 is written on the parapet of the building along with the words Mullins Bros and Hotel Tully.

## Images



## References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Pedley, H. *Hotel Tully*, date unknown.

## **Place No. 74 - Mangan Sadleir Building**

**Place Name:** Mangan Sadleir Building  
**Address:** 20-22 Butler Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 5 T74620

### **Heritage significance**

The Mangan Sadleir Building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.

### **History**

Although there is limited historical information about the origin and history of this building, it appears that the building was first established in 1934 and was used as a hairdresser and tobacconist as well as a billiards saloon.

In the early 1930s the building appears to have been involved in a bomb explosion. The explosive was thrown under the floorboards of the saloon blowing a hole in the floorboards of the establishment. No major damage was recorded.

Throughout the years the Mangan Sadler building has been subject to fires, theft, arson and also an explosion however the structure is still standing.

### **Description**

The Mangan Sadler building is a commercial building with a decorative art deco parapet. The year 1934 and the name Mangan Sadler is written on the parapet.

## Images



## References

Cairns Post, 13 December 1938, page 5.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Worker, 19 September 1934, page 22 to 23.

## Place No. 75 - Mount Tyson Hotel

**Place Name:** Mount Tyson Hotel  
**Address:** 21-25 Butler Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 306 T7461

### Heritage significance

The Mount Tyson Hotel makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.

### History

There is little information on the history of the Mount Tyson Hotel.

There is information that the original hotel building and adjoining shops were destroyed by a fire in 1929. Therefore, based on the dates inscribed in the parapet, it can be assumed that the building was originally constructed in 1926 (one year after the township of Tully was established), and rebuilt following the fire in 1938.

### Description

The Mount Tyson Hotel is a substantial commercial building located on Butler Street in Tully. The building has a decorative art deco parapet. On the west end of this parapet the date 1926 is incorporated in the facade, while at the eastern end the date 1938 is written into the facade.

### Images







## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Townsville Daily Bulletin, 12 October 1929, page 4.

## Place No. 76 - Mullins Bros Buildings

**Place Name:** Mullins Bros Buildings  
**Address:** 13-19 Butler Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 2 RP717293

### Heritage significance

The Mullins Bros buildings make an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.

### History

The Mullins Bros building was built in 1933 appears to have originally housed the Austral Café. In 1934, Mr T. A. Penklis, a well known café proprietor in North Queensland, opened a modern café to be known as the Austral Café in the Mullins Bros new concrete building in Butler Street, Tully.

The Austral Café was believed to be the best of its kind, Mr Penklis focusing on delivering the best from produce to furniture.

### Description

The building has a decorative art deco parapet and façade. The words Mullins Bros Buildings are inscribed in the parapet.

### Images



## **References**

Cairns Post, 2 February 1934, page 3.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

The Courier-Mail, 7 October 1933 page 9.

## Place No. 77 - Mylonas Building

**Place Name:** Mylonas Building  
**Address:** 33-37 Butler Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 308 T7461

### Heritage significance

The Mylonas Building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.

### History

Based on the date inscribed on the parapet of the building, the Mylonas Building was constructed in 1927.

Chris Mylonas was the proprietor of the Sunkist Café in Tully which appears to have been located in the Mylonas Building. The Sunkist Café was considered to be one of the most modern cafes in far North Queensland, with provisions for a roof garden for dancing and other forms of pleasure.

The Mylonas Building was extended in 1933 to include 2 concrete shops.

### Description

The building has a decorative parapet which is dated 1927. There are shops at street level and the upper level is used for dancing classes.

### Images



## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Cairns Post, 30 January 1933, page 3.

## Place No. 78 - Nolan's Building

**Place Name:** Nolan's Building  
**Address:** 32 Butler Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 108 T7461

### Heritage significance

The Nolan's Building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.

### History

From the available information, it appears that this building was constructed in 1929 to accommodate the Tully branch of Nolan's Limited, Innisfail general merchants.

### Description

The Nolan's Building is currently occupied by Reeds Retrivation. The decorative Art Deco façade has been recently repainted and is marked with the word "Nolan's". At ground level, the original building detail has been replaced with a modern shopfront.

The Nolan's Building was substantially damaged by Cyclone Yasi in February 2011. The building has undergone extensive restoration and rebuilding to rectify this damage, but still retains the original art deco façade.

### Images



### References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Jones, D, *Hurricane Lamps and Blue Umbrellas*, 1973.

Townsville Daily Bulletin, *Tully Notes*, 26 December 1929, page 5.

## **Place No. 79 - Nurses Quarters**

**Place Name:** Nurses Quarters  
**Address:** 17 Bryant Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 411 SP114073

### **Heritage significance**

The Nurses Quarters is important in showing the evolution of the township of Tully and the development of its central community infrastructure.

### **History**

The Tully Nurses Quarters were erected at the Tully hospital grounds in 1957. The building is still used for nurse and other staff accommodation, with the ground floor of the building used for ancillary health services.

### **Description**

The Tully Nurses Quarters is a 3 storey building made from reinforced concrete. The building takes the distinctive form of the nurses quarters buildings erected in the Region at the time, with rounded edge verandahs on the second and third storeys.

The Nurses Quarters building is in very good condition, which is reflective of its ongoing use for its original purpose.

### **Images**





## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

Harney, S. Personal Communication, 21 December 2012.



## Place No. 80 - Pigeon Hole Flats

**Place Name:** Pigeon Hole Flats  
**Address:** 14 & 16 Blackman Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 60 T74610 & Lots 0 to 8 SP233643

### Heritage significance

The Pigeon Hole Flats are two sets of flats with a unique design such that their aesthetics contribute to and form part of the township of Tully.

### History

There is no information available as to the history of these two buildings. The date on the parapet for the flats at 14 Blackman Street indicates that it was built in 1952.

### Description

The place comprises two sets of concrete double storey flats.

The flats at 14 Blackman Street have casement windows and casement style doors. The upper level of the building has a balcony and a corrugated iron gable roof. The concrete parapet is dated 1952 and has the words "A.C. Flats Tully" inscribed upon it.

The flats at 16 Blackman Street have been recently re-roofed, and it appears the original roof line was replaced with the current corrugated iron hipped roof. These flats also have casement windows and casement style doors, but screens have been installed over the doors. These flats have been recently painted, refurbished and strata titled.

### Images

#### 14 Blackman Street



## 14 Blackman Street



## References

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 81 - Savoy Backpackers**

**Place Name:** Savoy Backpackers  
**Address:** 4 Plumb Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 511 T7462

### **Heritage significance**

Savoy Backpackers has a unique design such that its aesthetics contribute to and forms part of the township of Tully.

### **History**

Savoy Backpackers was originally built prior to 1930 as a Greek club and was located next to the Irish club.

This building was a canecutter hostel for years. At this time, the building was known as the 'Savoy House' and was run by a Mrs. Bryant.

Originally, the building had a flat roof, however this was found to be unsatisfactory in a locality with such a high annual rainfall. Therefore, in 1937 the flat roof was replaced with the current pitched roof..

### **Description**

Savoy Backpackers is a single storey building made of reinforced concrete. It has decorative stained glass windows and 2 Greek style columns on either side of the entrance doors. Smaller, decorative columns form part of the façade above the doors and windows.

### **Images**



### **References**

The Queenslander, April 1930.

Townsville Daily Bulletin, 30 April 1937, page 12.

## **Place No. 82 - Sorbello Building**

**Place Name:** Sorbello Building  
**Address:** 71 Butler Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 3 T74656

### **Heritage significance**

The Sorbello Building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.

### **History**

The Sorbello Building was formerly occupied by the Australia Club, a gambling hall used by cane cutters. Based on the date inscribed in the building's parapet, the building was constructed in 1950.

### **Description**

The building is double storeyed and made from concrete with a decorative parapet. The parapet has mosaic style murals hand painted on colorbond metal bases and secured to the concrete wall on either end. The top of the parapet is dated 1950 and contains the words R Sorbello.

### **Images**



## **References**

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 83 - Tully Court House**

**Place Name:** Tully Court House  
**Address:** 46 Bryant Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 13 T7463

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A



Queensland Government

# Tully Court House

## Place Details

Place ID	601703
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	Tully Court House
Place Classification	Built
Place Category	Law Order, Immigration, Customs, Quarantine
Place Type	Courthouse - magistrates-court of petty sessions
Themes	7 Maintaining order / 7.1 Policing and maintaining law and order
Register Entry Date	24/09/1999

## Location

Address	46 Bryant Street
Town / Suburb	TULLY
Post Code	4854
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	1940s (historical) 1940s (fabric) 1945 ongoing (social)
Criterion A	A modest, masonry building with discrete timber verandahs, the Tully Courthouse contributes a civic presence to the streetscape. The Tully Courthouse is important for its association with law and order and the dispensing of justice in Tully since its construction in 1945. Part of a reserve of police and law enforcement buildings, the building demonstrates the early civic history of Tully. The Tully Courthouse is important for its association with the development of Tully as a commercial and official centre for the surrounding farming district.
Criterion D	The building demonstrates the principal characteristics of a courthouse building of the first half of the twentieth century and the design and plan illustrate the way in which an interwar courthouse operated.
Criterion G	has special social value for the community for its continued use a public building.
Criterion H	The Tully Courthouse is important for its association with the work of

Department of Public Works architect NL Thomas and is a fine example of interwar Queensland public works design.

## History

### History

A low-set, masonry building with timber verandahs, the Tully Courthouse was designed in 1941 during a period when Tully, and other sugar towns in Queensland were experiencing a development boom. Chinese banana farmers had been clearing and farming along the Tully River from the early twentieth century but settlement in the vicinity of the township of Tully began in 1906 when James Savage selected land on Banyan Creek. The upper Banyan lands were opened for selection in 1912 and the area expanded rapidly after 1924 when the Tully Sugar Mill was erected and the railway extended to the area. The survey of the town site of Tully, named after the Surveyor General William Alcock Tully in 1870, was completed in 1924. A provisional school was opened in a shed on the Mill site in 1924, the National Bank, the first bank in the town, opened in 1925; the Sugar Mill provided electricity for the town from 1927; Cardwell Shire offices opened in Tully in 1930; the town water supply was completed in 1933; and the Fire Brigade established in the 1940s. Tully was gazetted under the Police Act as a Police District in January 1925 and the first police station was established in a one-room shack with a post to which prisoners were shackled. Tully was gazetted as a place for holding Courts of Petty Sessions in 1926 and a former post office building was removed from Banyan to Tully and functioned as a court building until the present Courthouse was completed in 1945. A modest, low-set, T-shaped, masonry building with timber verandahs to each side, the Tully Courthouse was designed in 1941 as part of the extensive public works building program instigated by the Forgan Smith Government to counter the effects of the Depression. Construction was delayed by the outbreak of World War II and the building was finally erected in 1945. The Tully Courthouse was designed by Nigel Lannan Thomas, an architect in the Department of Public Works whose most notable work includes the former University of Queensland Library at Gardens Point, Brisbane. Tully Courthouse displays formal architectural influences adapted to the tropical Tully climate. The layout and form of the building are characteristic of courthouse design of early twentieth century with a general office and associated offices off the front verandah and a single courtroom space surrounded by verandahs in the main body of the building. A well-composed building with formal qualities, symmetrical massing and repetitive rhythmic detailing give a sober, civic presence to the township. The building has been in continuous use as a courthouse and public offices since 1945.

## Description

### Description

A facebrick, T-shaped building on a low rendered brick base, the Tully Courthouse is symmetrical about a gabled front entry porch projecting from an open verandah. The gabled entry front has a central bullseye vent and crisscross balustrading to each side of entrance. The verandah is divided into bays by paired timber posts with decorative capitals and has vertical timber slat balustrading. On line with the entry stairs, two sets of french doors open from the general office and to each side there are two sets of french doors and six-pane sash windows opening from other offices. Horizontal bands of rendered brick extend around the building at window head and sill levels. Two sets of French doors and three timber sash windows open from the courtroom onto each of the north and south



verandahs which are both symmetrical about a set of plain timber stairs. The east verandah is symmetrical about a set of timber stairs onto a verandah with enclosed corner rooms which are accessed from the north and south verandahs. The posts and balustrading are similar on all verandahs. Externally the building is substantially intact. Fence posts, consistent with the character and age of the building, survive marking the entrance to the site and a recent chain link fence borders that boundary of the site. A palm tree sits within the grounds of the building adjacent to the principal entrance and several other large trees surround the other three sides of the building.

## Element

Element Name	Tully Court House
Designer Name	Department of Public Works
Style	Classicism
Design Period	World War II (1939 - 1945)
Construction Period	1941 - 1945
Construction Method	Load-bearing brick
Fabric (Exterior Structure)	Brick
Fabric (Roof)	Metal sheeting - corrugated iron
Roof Form	Gabled and Hipped
Place Components	Court house

## Images



Description	2. Tully Court House
Media Author	
Media Date	27/09/2006
Copyright	DERM



Description	1. Tully Court House
Media Author	
Media Date	27/09/2007
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Last updated: 04 April 2011

## **Place No. 84 - Tully CWA Hall**

**Place Name:** Tully CWA Hall  
**Address:** 5 Plumb Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 605 T7462

### **Heritage significance**

The Tully CWA Hall is significant for the role it has played in supporting social and charitable activities in the Tully Township. Serving as a base for the Tully CWA which was formed when the township of Tully was formed, the Hall and the Tully CWA has been part of the Tully Township throughout its evolution.

### **History**

The Tully CWA was formed in 1925, the same year the township of Tully was established.

In 1927, the Tully CWA applied to the Lands Department for land on Plumb Street to be surveyed off for rest room purposes. In 1929, the CWA Hall was built.

The Hall included a bedroom, kitchen and a room for meetings. Furnishings included a piano.

The Hall was used frequently in the early days by out of town women needing accommodation and pregnant mothers, who stayed there waiting to go to hospital. It was also used to accommodate needy people when required.

The Hall was used for a variety of social activities. Anzac Day luncheons were held at the Hall from 1929 with games of two-up played on the grass beside the Hall.

The Tully CWA worked to help women and children in need and assisted with the establishment of the Tully Hospital through conducting fund raising activities.

### **Description**

The Tully CWA Hall remains largely unchanged from its original construction. It is an old timber building with a pitched roof and casement windows.

The building was damaged in Cyclone Yasi in 2011. At the time of preparing this report, there are repairs to the building that are yet to be completed.

## Images



## References

Cardwell Shire Council, *Tully's Golden Jubilee*, 1975.

Pedley, H, *Tully Street Names: Signs of History*, 2000.

## **Place No. 85 - Tully Railway Complex**

**Place Name:** Tully Railway Complex  
**Address:** Bruce Highway, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 181 SP177317, adjacent to the Highway and Lot 12 SP138495

### **Heritage significance**

The Tully Railway Complex is representative of other important stopping places on the North Coast Railway erected during the inter-war period and including Cardwell, Innisfail and St Lawrence. Together with Innisfail and St Lawrence, it demonstrates a passing way of life for railway communities through the survival of infrastructure.

The railway was a vital link for the pioneers of the Tully district.

### **History**

The line between Feluga and Cardwell, via Tully, was opened on 10 December 1924. This section, together with 2 others opened on the same day, enabled the first through services to be operated between Townsville and Cairns.

The railway was a vital link for the pioneers of the Tully district. Before the locomotive lines were completed for transporting sugar cane to the Tully sugar mill, the railway line was used for cane.

Rail motors ran between Tully and Cairns allowing people easy access to the city and points in between at a time when roads were unsurfaced tracks and motor vehicles were rare. As road transport improved, this service was reduced from the 1960s, and the twice daily service was reduced to running just 3 times a week in 1979. The Tully-Cairns railcar service was withdrawn in 1988.

A pre-cast concrete station building, the section to the north of and including the present vestibule, was built in 1924. An engine shed, goods shed, second Station Master's house and camping quarters were also provided in the same year. An addition was provided soon afterwards at the southern end of the station building, and in 1935 the present refreshment rooms were erected in pre-cast concrete. They have since been extended to the north, south and east to accommodate a bar, tea bar and dining room. Quarters were included at the rear.

The Tully Railway Refreshment Rooms offered travellers a meal when the train stopped at Tully. The provision of catering cars on the train service saw an end to this facility.

During the War years, troop trains would stop here. Red Cross ladies from Tully were to be seen meeting the trains to hand out fruit cakes and other comforts to the troops aboard on their way to army camps on the Tablelands, or south to Townsville perhaps to embark for overseas. The ladies would take their gifts to the station by pram if no other transport was available.

In 1963 the complex consisted of the station building and refreshment rooms, tanks, signal cabin, loading banks, goods shed and crane. The Station Master's house, clerk's house, refreshment rooms, staff quarters and guard's quarters were located on the eastern side of the yard. On the western side of the yard were quarters for the shunter, 2 fettlers, a ganger, assistant station master, laundress and waitress and a dining room.

Lawson and Son had a siding at the down end to their timber mill and their forkline was extended to serve the Tully sugar mill.

The 12,000 gallon tank was removed in 1969. The refreshment rooms were in use in 1981 and were undergoing alterations in 1983.

By 1994 the original station building had been vacated and the Station Master's office, manned part time,

occupied a portion of the former dining room.

## **Description**

The Tully Railway Complex comprises a station building, one footbridge, a water tower house and refreshment rooms.

The station building is a non-standard precast concrete station building with a gable roof and verandah to the roadside. The original entry (with a ticket window) now has a concrete disabled ramp to the platform. The curved roof 17 bay platform shade is supported on timber posts and the precast concrete station wall. The platform is surfaced with bitumen and has a concrete edge.

The refreshment rooms are made from precast concrete, with later roadside extensions made from an asbestos cement lined timber frame.

The signal cabin has been defaced and the lever machine removed.

A detached male toilet block is located at the southern end with weatherboard cladding and a pyramid roof. There is a new entrance porch to the premises that was leased by a white water rafting company attached to the roadside of the dining room extensions.

## **Images**













## **References**

Buchanan Architects, North Coast Line - Townsville to Cairns - Section 2 - Survey of Individual Places, 2002.

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Statewide Heritage Survey Information, 2011.

## **Place No. 86 - Tully State School**

**Place Name:** Tully State School  
**Address:** Mars Street, Tully  
**Lot on Plan:** Lot 516 CWL1373 and Lot 449 CWL876

### **Heritage significance**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **History**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

### **Description**

See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register in Appendix A.

## Appendix A



Queensland Government

# Tully State School

## Place Details

Place ID	601577
Registration Type	State Heritage
Place Name	Tully State School
Alternative Name	Tully Rural School
Place Classification	Built
Place Category	Education, Research, Scientific Facility
Place Type	School - state
Themes	9 Educating Queenslanders / 9.1 Providing primary schooling
Register Entry Date	13/01/1995

## Location

Address	17 Mars Street
Town / Suburb	TULLY
Post Code	4854
LGA	CASSOWARY COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

## Cultural Significance

Principal Period of Significance	1930s (historical) 1930s (historic) 1936 ongoing (social)
Criterion A	Tully State School, erected in 1936-37, is significant as a substantial interwar building which reflects Tully's growth and prosperity accompanying the expansion of the sugar industry in the 1930s. It also illustrates the State Government's commitment to Tully as a district service centre during the interwar period.
Criterion D	Tully State School is significant as an excellent regional example of a school building designed for the North Queensland climate, being raised above an open undercroft, with wide verandahs and ventilators. The use of brick and restrained detailing is typical for government buildings of the period, and Tully State School follows in the tradition of fine buildings erected by the Queensland Public Works Department.

**Criterion E** Tully State School follows in the tradition of fine buildings erected by the Queensland Public Works Department. It is an outstanding example of a school building designed by the office of the Queensland Government Architect, which at the time was the equal of any architectural office in Australia.

**Criterion G** (Criterion under review)

## History

**History** Tully State School was constructed in 1936-37 on the site of the original school, which was destroyed by fire. The town of Tully (initially known as Banyan) was established in the early 1920s, following the state government's decision in 1922 to erect a sugar mill in the Tully River Valley. The mill buildings were erected 1924-25, and with the mill came the roads, railway, bridges and the township of Tully. The latter originated as a shanty town near Banyan Creek, but was surveyed as the town of Tully in April 1924. A temporary state school was opened in a galvanised iron shed on the mill site on 30 June 1924, and a purpose-designed timber state school building was erected on the present school reserve in 1925-26. In late 1932/early 1933, the Tully State School committee, encouraged by the district's rapid progress and the town's function as a regional centre, had agitated for the conversion of the school to a rural school. The rural school system had been introduced at Nambour State School in 1917. In this new form of vocational school, the younger grades followed the usual primary school curriculum, but in the upper grades, boys were taught manual arts, elementary agriculture and farm management, while girls were taught home management and needlework skills, in addition to the more usual academic studies. Rural school status was conferred on schools which drew on a wide regional population for enrolment, and for a town to acquire a rural school was something of a status symbol. Rural schools remained an important part of the education system until phased out in the 1960s, when state secondary education was being expanded. By March 1934, the school committee had raised £200 toward the construction of manual training and domestic science facilities, and a new block was opened to students on 5 November 1934, at which time the school became Tully Rural School. On 22 November 1935, Tully Rural School was destroyed by arson. The school was housed in temporary accommodation: firstly at the showgrounds, and then in the local Irish Club and CWA halls, until the present brick building was completed. Plans for a new, substantial brick primary and rural school were prepared in the office of the Queensland Government Architect, Public Works Department. The Chief Architect at this time was Andrew Baxter Leven (1885-1966). Leven was born, educated and worked as an Inspector of Works in Scotland before migrating to Australia. From 1910 to 1951 he was employed by the Queensland Government Works Department and was Chief Architect and Quantity Surveyor from 1933 to 1951. Other members of the office involved in the design of the Tully Rural School were WJ Moulds and HJ Parr. During the 1930's Depression a government initiated works scheme was established to create employment. This involved the employment of architects, foremen, day labourers and the use of local materials in the design and construction of government buildings such as court houses, government offices and state schools. This scheme, under which the replacement Tully Rural School was constructed, was instigated by Labour Premier Forgan Smith. The new school cost approximately £13,000, and contained 8 classrooms, head teacher's room, cloakrooms, and male and female staffrooms. The area underneath was concreted to form a large sheltered play area. The new building was occupied from the beginning of the 1938 school year, and was opened officially by Hon. Percy Pease, MLA for

Herbert and Deputy Premier, on 1 February that year. A new head teacher, Mr C Irish, was appointed, with instructions to turn Tully school into a real rural school. Some of the projects he initiated included: a forestry plot planted with Kauri and Hoop pines and Indian Teak; annual plantings in the school grounds, including a grove of maple [the gardens are now considered amongst the finest in Queensland state schools]; poultry raising; a bushhouse of ferns; garden rock walling; and manual training programmes which supplied the school with blackboard frames, library cupboards, and other joinery. A theatre was built under the school, and a sports oval was developed adjacent to the forestry plot. During the Second World War, student project clubs raised funds for the local Red Cross and Comfort Funds, with boys growing and selling vegetables, and girls cutting and selling flowers from the school gardens they tended. At this period the garden included over 300 rose bushes. Domestic Science students made clothing for the children of Britain, and large fetes were conducted annually, the proceeds of which were shared between the school and the patriotic societies. After the war, Memorial Gates were erected; these list the past pupils and teachers who served with the armed forces during the Second World War. A secondary department was established at Tully Rural School in 1951, in a temporary timber building, and this functioned until a high school was erected at Tully in 1964. About this time, Tully Rural School reverted to Tully State School, but high school students continued to use the domestic science and manual arts facilities at the primary school for some years. There have been a number of additional buildings erected at Tully State School since 1937, but these are not included in the heritage listing.

## Description

**Description** Tully State Rural School is a single-storeyed brick building with a corrugated iron roof, which is capped with a cupola. The building is elevated on brick piers, which forms an undercover playing area. The building has a central entrance gable and two end gables, which are decorated with a michicolation motif. The gables are connected by arched verandahs which have been enclosed. The grounds are well tended and include substantial plantings of trees, palms and shrubs.

## Element

Element Name	Tully State School
Designer Name	Department of Public Works
Style	Classicism
Design Period	Interwar period (1919 - 1930s)
Construction Period	1936 - 1937
Construction Method	Frame - combination
Fabric (Exterior Structure)	Brick
Fabric (Roof)	Metal sheeting - corrugated iron
Roof Form	Gabled
Place Components	School/School room Garden/Grounds

Images



Description 2: Tully State School (1994)

Media Author:

Media Date 29/10/1994

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Description	1. Tully State School (1994)
Media Author	
Media Date	29/10/1994
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Last updated: 04 April 2011



## Appendix A - List of local heritage places

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
1.	Bingil Bay	Cutten Brothers' Graves	Holt Court, Bingil Bay	Lot 556 NR6580	<p>The Cutten Brothers' Graves are important in demonstrating the evolution of Queensland's history. They are associated with the Cutten family who were the first European settlers in the Bingil Bay area and whose activities, resourcefulness, entrepreneurialism and disappointments contribute to our understanding of early settlement in Far North Queensland. The Cutten Brothers built a substantial horticultural empire between 1882 and 1926, and were Australia's largest producers of coffee at the turn of the twentieth century. They used shipping routes to transport their produce beyond the local area to other parts of Queensland and Australia until World War I.</p> <p>Structural evidence of the Cuttens' activities has been erased by cyclones, particular the 1918 cyclone which devastated both Mission Beach and Bingil Bay, and by the subdivision and subsequent development of their original selection. The Graves, located on a portion of the original selection, is the only remaining evidence of the Cutten family in the district.</p> <p>The Cutten Brothers' Graves have important symbolic association with the Cutten family and with the development of Far North Queensland. The Cuttens were highly regarded in the local community, the largest growers of coffee in Australia at the turn of the twentieth century and had commercial influence well beyond the local area.</p>
2.		Ninney Rise and John Büssst Memorial	405 Alexander Drive and Esplanade, Bingil Bay	Lot 539 NR6887, Lot 1 ROAD0 & Lot A RP730263	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
3.	Cardwell	Cardwell Cemetery	Gregory Street, Cardwell	Lot 161 C1047	The Cardwell cemetery is the oldest cemetery on the tropical coast and the oldest monuments in the cemetery predate those found in Townsville. Cardwell's early years as a frontier port and township are reflected by the monuments to people born overseas and to the young children of people who played a part in the growth of the township.
4.		Cardwell Court House and Gaol	51 Victoria Street, Cardwell	Lot 142 C1041	The Cardwell Court House and Gaol are important in showing the evolution of the township of Cardwell and the development of its central community infrastructure.
5.		Cardwell Divisional Board Building (JC Hubinger Memorial Museum)	51 Victoria Street, Cardwell	Lot 142 C1041	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
6.		Cardwell Post Office - Residence (former)	53 Victoria Street, Cardwell	Lot 1 RP719745	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
7.		Cardwell School of Arts	2 Balliol Street, Cardwell	Lot 2 RP718979	The Cardwell School of Arts is important in showing how the Cardwell community responded to its cultural needs in the past.
8.		Cardwell Station Building	Bowen Street, Cardwell	Lot 193 SP121989	The Cardwell station building is significant as Cardwell was one of the last settlements to be linked by rail on the North Coast route beyond Townsville.  It is also an unusual combination of a small precast concrete station building with a curved platform shade characteristic of far North Coast Railway architecture.
9.		Coral Sea Battle Memorial Park	2 Coral Sea Drive, Cardwell	Lot 51 CWL3583	The Coral Sea Battle Memorial Park is a living memorial to the men and women connected to the Coral Sea Battle and enshrines the high regard held for the gallant men and women who courageously defended Australia against Japanese invasion during

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					World War II. The Park is unique for its closeness to the site of the battle and the ships lying sunk on the seabed 500 miles to the east of Cardwell
10.		Graves	Meunga Creek Caravan Park, 12 Ellerbeck Road, Cardwell	Lot 5 RP745421	The Graves are the final resting place of John Murray and 2 of his children and are important for recognising and commemorating the contributions of Inspector John Murray in maintaining law and order in the early days of Cardwell.
11.		Stone Bridge, Dalrymple Gap Track	Valley of Lagoons Road, Cardwell	Lot 1 BRDGE25  Easting: 402685 Northing: 7965362	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
12.		Walters Jervoise Scott Memorial	145 Victoria Street, Cardwell	Lot 79 C1046	The Walters Jervoise Scott Memorial is a permanent reminder of the part that Walter Jervoise Scott played in the beginnings of Cardwell and the Herbert River District.
13.	<b>Daradgee</b>	North Johnstone River Bridge	North of the end of Old Ferry Road, Daradgee	Coordinates:  X: 146° 0' 35.79552" Y: -17° 29' 38.740164"  Datum GDA 94	<p>The North Johnstone River Bridge provided a major river crossing between Innisfail and Cairns and was the last structure built to complete the North Coast Railway line between Brisbane and Cairns. It was also the site of the official opening celebrations for the whole line.</p> <p>The bridge is significant in engineering terms for having the longest riveted through Pratt truss spans in Queensland until 1957 when the Inkerman Bridge over the Burdekin River at Home Hill was completed.</p>
14.	<b>Dunk Island</b>	Banfield Memorial Reserve and Grave	Dunk Island	Lot 15 CWL2387	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
15.	<b>El Arish</b>	El Arish Railway Station	Chauvel Street, El Arish	Lot 5 CP852253	The El Arish Railway Station formed an important part of the North Coast railway and was important for the movement of goods and people into and out of El

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					<p>Arish and across the Region. The people of El Arish relied upon the Railway Station for their local industries and it formed part the social fabric of the El Arish township, joining the people of El Arish with other parts of the Region and the State.</p> <p>The railway was a vital link for the pioneers of El Arish.</p>
16.		El Arish Tavern	38 Chauvel Street, El Arish	Lot 1 & 2 on E7294	<p>The El Arish Tavern was built in 1927 and is a good example of an early wooden hotel in North Queensland. The building has been fully renovated and now displays a substantial range of memorabilia and antiques, including tools, equipment and furniture.</p> <p>The Tavern forms part of El Arish's identity, having "always been there" and being a central part of the town's social interactions.</p>
17.		RSL Memorial Hall	17 Royston Street, El Arish	12 RP745957	<p>The RSL Memorial Hall has special significance to the residents of El Arish, having been built for the people of El Arish by returned soldiers settling in the area, and has served as a focal point for community activities and interaction in the El Arish township since it was built in 1930.</p>
18.	<b>Ellerbeck</b>	Kennedy Camp Site VI	Ellerbeck Road, Ellerbeck	Lot 4 RP746981	<p>Kennedy Camp Site VI is important for commemorating the ill-fated expedition undertaken by Edmund Kenney in 1848. While the Kennedy expedition failed to reach its goal, the heroic story of endeavour has become legend.</p>
19.	<b>Feluga</b>	Former Feluga Catholic Church	140 Feluga Road, Feluga	Lot 1 RP709276	<p>The Former Feluga Catholic Church is important in demonstrating both the pattern of settlement associated with the growth of North Queensland's sugar industry and an aspect of the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Far North Queensland.</p>

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					<p>The Church illustrates how the growth of the North Queensland sugar industry during the interwar period generated prosperity in small communities, enabling parishioners to construct their places of worship in masonry, rather than the more usual timber.</p> <p>The substantial, rendered masonry church remains largely intact and is a distinctive landmark with aesthetic qualities associated with its traditional Catholic Church features.</p>
20.	<b>Garners Beach</b>	Garners Beach Burial Ground	Garners Beach Road, Garners Beach	Lot 4 SP252413  Easting: 404792 Northing: 8030193	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
21.	<b>Garradunga</b>	McCowat's Farm	6 Mamu Road, Garradunga	Lot 1 RP718192	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
22.	<b>Hinchinbrook Island</b>	Thorsborne Trail, Hinchinbrook Island	Hinchinbrook Island	Lot 436 NPW697  See: <a href="http://www.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=1088315">http://www.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/view.do?id=1088315</a>	The Thorsborne Trail is significant due to the special association of the Region's residents with its natural and environmental values.
23.	<b>Innisfail</b>	Ambulance Station	54 Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail	Lot 206 I2811	The building is important in showing the evolution of the township of Innisfail and the development of its central community infrastructure. In addition, the building is important from an aesthetic perspective, and forms part of an important group of buildings on the riverfront along with the Masonic Temple and Fire Station.
24.		Anzac Memorial Park	85 Edith Street, Innisfail	Lots 1-13 I28147  Easting: 396768 Northing: 8062233	Anzac Memorial Park is a prominent landmark forming an entrance gateway for traffic entering Innisfail from the north. This site has the potential to provide archaeological information on the former

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					Geraldton State School.
25.		Casa Fotea Building	46 Ernest Street, Innisfail	Lots 1 & 2 RP709862	This building forms an important part of the Ernest Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.
26.		Couchman House	106 Rankin Street, Innisfail	Lot 702 I2811	<p>Couchman House is the oldest house in Innisfail, having been built in 1883. It is one of only a very few houses in Innisfail to survive the 1918 cyclone intact.</p> <p>The house is also important aesthetically, with an attractive appearance complementing other historically and aesthetically important buildings along Rankin Street.</p> <p>Further, the house is an important part of the history of the township of Innisfail, being built and resided in by important persons who played a significant role in the development of the township and the region.</p>
27.		Former St Andrew's Presbyterian Memorial Church	114 Rankin Street, Innisfail	Lot 808 I2812	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
28.		Greek Orthodox Church	131-133 Ernest Street, Innisfail	Lot 919 RP892096	The Greek Orthodox Church is important for showing the contribution and evolution of the Greek community in Innisfail and the region.
29.		Innisfail Cemetery (including John Hynes Grave and Memorial)	Cnr Bruce Highway and Scullen Avenue, Innisfail	Lots 82 & 154 I281103 and Lots 2 & 4 RP711087	The Innisfail Cemetery demonstrates an unusual pattern of settlement in the Johnstone River District where Irish, Chinese and Pacific Islanders dominated the region in the last 2 decades of the nineteenth century. During the twentieth century, Sicilian immigration to the Johnstone River sugar industry was a significant deviation from the dominant pattern of migration into North Queensland from Piedmont, Lombardy and the Veneto. These migration patterns have had a strong influence on the fabric of the place.

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					<p>The cemetery contains an unusually high historical preponderance of Roman Catholic graves. This demonstrates the early influence of James Quinn, Bishop of Queensland, on the settlement of this region. Quinn supported Thomas Henry Fitzgerald, the person regarded as the founder of Innisfail, in establishing the Innisfail sugar plantation and mill. The significant Italian immigration of the early twentieth century is also clearly reflected by the burials and the layout of the cemetery.</p> <p>The cemetery's almost bare "Aliens" sections (parts of Sections 4, 7, 8 and 11) have potential to yield further information, especially about people from Asia and the Pacific who were indentured to work in the sugar industry.</p> <p>The cemetery's preponderance of tiled gravestones, including unusually large bench-type monuments, along with its large, Sicilian-style mausoleums, is important in illustrating a particular social custom of Italian immigrants, who are a significant immigrant group in Queensland's history.</p>
30.		Innisfail Fire Station	50 Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail	Lot 8 I281182	<p>The Innisfail Fire Station is important in showing the evolution of the township of Innisfail and the development of its central community infrastructure. In addition, the building is important from an aesthetic perspective, and forms part of an important group of buildings on the riverfront along with the Masonic Temple and Ambulance Station.</p>
31.		Innisfail Heritage Precinct	Area bounded by Grace Street, Owen Street, Fitzgerald Esplanade and McGowan Drive	N/A	<p>The buildings in this precinct contribute to the streetscapes within this precinct, which are comprised almost entirely of significant art deco style buildings constructed during the 1920s and 1930s. The concentration of art deco buildings from this era within the Innisfail Heritage Precinct makes the</p>

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					<p>Innisfail town centre unique. The buildings are also important for showing the evolution of the Innisfail town centre and the commercial activities undertaken by its residents.</p> <p>Even if a property located within this precinct is not specifically mentioned in the description of this place or shown in the images below, it still is significant in that it has the potential to contribute to the streetscape and enhance the art deco and historical values of adjacent and surrounding properties.</p>
32.		Innisfail Hospital and Ancillary Buildings	Rankin Street (74 Fitzgerald Esplanade), Innisfail	Lot 1 I2812	The Innisfail Hospital and Ancillary Buildings are important in showing the evolution of the township of Innisfail and the development of its central community infrastructure.
33.		Innisfail Railway Complex	Station Street, Innisfail	Lot 301 SP121923  Easting: 395879 Northing: 8061990	<p>The Innisfail Railway Complex is representative of other important stopping places on the North Coast Railway erected during the inter-war period including Cardwell, Tully and St Lawrence. Together with Tully and St Lawrence, it demonstrates a passing way of life for railway communities through the survival of infrastructure.</p> <p>The railway was a vital link for the pioneers of the Innisfail district.</p> <p>The passenger station, refreshment rooms, platform shade and signal cabin are significant railway buildings demonstrating the importance of Innisfail as an administrative centre on the North Coast Railway. The platform shade design is unusual and the freestanding refreshment rooms building are now comparatively rare. The Railway Ambulance lecture room is considered unique in Queensland.</p>
34.		Innisfail Water Tower	34-36 Mourilyan Road, Innisfail	Lots 85 & 86 RP705576	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.



No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
35.		Lit Sung Goong Temple	8 Owen Street, Innisfail	Lot 7 I28133	The Lit Sung Goong Temple is a small, isolated building, prominent because of its vivid colour and distinctive styling. This building has a significant interior.
36.		Masonic Temple	52 Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail	Lot 207 I2811	The Masonic Temple is important in showing the evolution and contribution of Freemasons in Innisfail and the region. The building is also important from an aesthetic perspective, and forms part of an important group of buildings on the riverfront along with the Ambulance Station and Fire Station.
37.		Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church	90 Rankin Street, Innisfail	Lot 710 I2811	<p>Mary, Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church, was built at a high point in the increase in Catholicism in Queensland, during a period of expansion in the sugar industry in general and growth in Innisfail in particular.</p> <p>The reinforced concrete construction of the Church was a response to the town's history of cyclones which had demolished its two predecessors. Innisfail's ability to pay for such a church in the 1920s reflects the boom in the sugar industry.</p> <p>Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church is a good example of an inter-war gothic style church in which the plastic qualities of concrete have been used to create details traditionally associated with ecclesiastical architecture, such as pinnacles and lancet windows.</p> <p>Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church has distinctive landmark and aesthetic qualities associated with its gothic ecclesiastical architectural features. It is one of a number of important buildings sited in the main street (Rankin Street) and makes a prominent contribution to the townscape of Innisfail.</p>

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					Mother of Good Counsel Catholic Church is significant as an example of the work of the architects H.R. Lawrence and T.M.W. Lordon who were prominent in North Queensland in the 1920s. The church also has a strong association with Michael Martin Clancy O.S.A., Parish Priest from 1898 until his death (while working on the church wall) in 1931. Fr Clancy raised the money needed to build the church and oversaw its construction. He is buried in the Mother of Good Counsel Chapel.
38.		Oroya House	61 Rankin Street, Innisfail	Lot 2 RP733144	Oroya House is a prominent building on an intersection site opposite the Catholic Church, and significant for its historical association with Dr Cotter.
39.		Pioneers' Memorial	Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail	Lot 269 SP240881	Pioneers' Memorial is an inconspicuous monument in very attractive surroundings. It is of historical interest in demonstrating the Australian tradition of honouring the pioneer European settlers in the district.
40.		Pioneers of the Sugar Industry Monument (Canecutters' Memorial)	Fitzgerald Esplanade, Innisfail	Lot 269 SP240881	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
41.		See Poy House	134 Edith Street, Innisfail	Lot 112 & 113 on I2817	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
42.		Shop	35 Gladys Street, Innisfail	Lot 15 SP154716	The Shop is an exceptionally intact building built during the 1920s and 1930s building boom. It forms an important part of the Ernest Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.
43.		Shop	69-71 Ernest Street, Innisfail	Lot 2 RP718439	This Shop forms an important part of the Ernest Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.
44.		Shop	72-74 Edith Street,	Lot 1 RP707772	This Shop forms an important part of the Edith Street

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
			Innisfail		streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.
45.		Shops	66-70 Edith Street, Innisfail	Lot 1 RP721017	These Shops forms an important part of the Edith Street streetscape and contribute to Innisfail's art deco heritage.
46.		Shops	77 Edith Street, Innisfail	Lot 2 RP711731	These Shops have an interesting façade and although it is an isolated building, it still forms an important part of the Edith Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.
47.		Shops	20 Owen Street, Innisfail	Lot 1 RP710790	These shops have has an interesting façade and although it is an isolated building, it still forms an important part of the Owen Street streetscape and contributes to Innisfail's art deco heritage.
48.		Violets and Lace House	393 Coquette Point Road, Innisfail	Lot 2 RP724418	Violets and Lace House is important for showing the evolution of food production and distribution systems in the Innisfail region. It is also important aesthetically, with the unique 1930 Spanish/Italianate design grand house located in picturesque surrounds. The House and its surrounds has been a focal point for community social activities over the years and is an important part of the history of the township of Innisfail.
49.	<b>Japoonvale</b>	Campagnolo Cane Barracks	1100 Silkwood-Japoon Road, Japoonvale	Lot 10 SP182730	<p>Campagnolo Cane Barracks, constructed in 1923, is important in demonstrating the living conditions of sugar workers during the labour intensive era of manual cane-cutting in Far North Queensland's sugar industry from 1905 to the mid 1970s.</p> <p>Cane barracks are a symbol of a way of life and of migration patterns that have made a significant contribution to the evolution of Far North Queensland's economy, community and environment. They are important as industry-specific buildings that</p>

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					<p>were constructed as a result of the <i>Sugar and Shearers' Accommodation Act, 1905</i> and the <i>Workers Accommodation Acts, 1915 and 1952</i>. In the size and layout of the rooms and in the layout of the site, the illustrate values that were enshrined in legislation in response to the demands of European migrants for improved working conditions and entitlements.</p>
50.		Rungert's Cane Barracks	2618 Innisfail-Japoon Road, Japoonvale	Lot 3 RP715656  Easting: 387141 Northing: 8040317	<p>Rungert's Cane Barracks, constructed in the 1940s, and is important in demonstrating the living conditions of sugar workers during the labour-intensive era of manual cane-cutting in Far North Queensland's sugar industry from 1905 to the mid 1970s.</p> <p>Cane barracks are a symbol of a way of life and of migration patterns that have made a significant contribution to the evolution of Far North Queensland's economy, community and environment. They are important as industry-specific buildings that were constructed as a result of the <i>Sugar and Shearers' Accommodation Act, 1905</i> and the <i>Workers Accommodation Acts, 1915 and 1952</i>. In the size and layout of the rooms and in the layout of the site, the illustrate values that were enshrined in legislation in response to the demands of European migrants for improved working conditions and entitlements.</p>
51.	<b>Kennedy</b>	Ancient aboriginal walking track along ridge	Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy	CH10300	<p>Kirrama Range Road crosses a transverse ridge which was used as an Aboriginal walking track for people from the edge of the forest on the coast (Dirrenburra) to visit and share their traditional seafood with the rain forest people (Jugadooburra).</p> <p>This site is significant for showing the use of tracks by local Aboriginal people to cross the Kirrama Range and share local traditional foods from neighbouring tribal groups.</p>
52.		"Bunba" Tree Site	Kirrama Range Road,	CH14700	The Aboriginal name for the creek at Bridge 10 on

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
			Kennedy		<p>Kirrama Range Road is Bunda which means "Fig trees here" and fig trees can still be observed at this site.</p> <p>This site is important in showing the use of the area by local Aboriginal people who developed tracks to traverse the Range and share local traditional foods from neighbouring tribal groups.</p>
53.		George William Tucker Monument	Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy	CH10000	<p>Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.</p> <p>The construction of the road was championed and pursued by Cardwell-based parliamentarian Percy Pease in his role as the Minister for Lands, which encompassed the Public Estates Improvement scheme. His involvement is recognised by one of 3 roadside memorials, the others reflecting the contributions to the construction by local councillor Bryce Henry and surveyor George Tucker.</p> <p>Kirrama Range Road demonstrates a high degree of technical achievement in road design and construction in a tropical environment prior to the development of heavy road making plant and earth moving equipment. The George William Tucker Monument commemorates the contribution of road surveyor George William Tucker in the establishment of the road, and who died before the road was officially opened after falling into the Jarrah Creek during construction and drowning.</p>

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
54.		Murray Valley Lookout (including Brice Henry Monument)	Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy	CH12500	<p>Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.</p> <p>The construction of the road was championed and pursued by Cardwell-based parliamentarian Percy Pease in his role as the Minister for Lands, which encompassed the Public Estates Improvement scheme. His involvement is recognised by one of 3 roadside memorials, the others reflecting the contributions to the construction by local councillor Brice Henry and surveyor George Tucker.</p> <p>Kirrama Range Road demonstrates a high degree of technical achievement in road design and construction in a tropical environment prior to the development of heavy road making plant and earth moving equipment. The Murray Valley Lookout is the site of the Brice Henry Monument, which commemorates the contribution of Brice Henry in campaigning for the construction of the road. Henry was Chairman of the Cardwell Shire Council and died before the road was officially opened.</p>
55.		Percy Pease Monument	Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy	South 18 deg 12.595 East 145 deg 47.757  CH17191	<p>Built as part of Queensland's Public Estates Improvement Scheme between 1935 and 1941, Kirrama Range Road was the first built road over the Cardwell Range that linked Cardwell to the Atherton Tablelands. The road was designed to provide access to the Cardwell State Forest's rich timber resources and expand Queensland's timber production, and demonstrates the mechanisation of the timber industry during this period.</p>

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					<p>The construction of the road was championed and pursued by Cardwell-based parliamentarian Percy Pease in his role as the Minister for Lands, which encompassed the Public Estates Improvement scheme. His involvement is recognised by one of 3 roadside memorials, the others reflecting the contributions to the construction by local councillor Brice Henry and surveyor George Tucker.</p> <p>Kirrama Range Road demonstrates a high degree of technical achievement in road design and construction in a tropical environment prior to the development of heavy road making plant and earth moving equipment. The Percy Pease Monument commemorates the contribution of Percy Pease in campaigning for the construction of the road. Percy Pease was the Minister for Lands and oversaw the Public Estates Improvement scheme. He died before the road was officially opened.</p>
56.		Walnut "Guaway" Tree	Kirrama Range Road, Kennedy	CH17400	<p>Beyond Bridge 10 on Kirrama Range Road there is a large tree located on the edge of the road. The diameter or trunk thickness is at least 1 metre at the base and the tree would be at least 30 metres high. The Aboriginal name for the tree is "Guaway" or walnut tree.</p> <p>The tree is important to the local Aboriginal people. This site is important in showing the use of the area by local Aboriginal people who developed tracks to traverse the Range and share local traditional foods from neighbouring tribal groups.</p>
57.	<b>Lower Tully</b>	Church	Tully-Hull Road, Lower Tully	Lot 1 RP709345	The Church is important in demonstrating both the pattern of settlement associated with the growth of North Queensland's sugar industry and an aspect of the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Far North Queensland.

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					<p>The Church illustrates how the growth of the North Queensland sugar industry during the interwar period generated prosperity in small communities, enabling parishioners to construct their places of worship in masonry, rather than the more usual timber.</p> <p>The substantial, rendered masonry church remains largely intact and is a distinctive landmark with aesthetic qualities associated with its traditional Catholic Church features.</p>
58.	<b>Mena Creek</b>	Mena Creek Environmental Park	Innisfail-Japoon Road, Mena Creek	Lot 237 NR3046	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
59.		Mena Creek Falls	Innisfail-Japoon Road, Mena Creek	Adjacent to Lot 1 SP128844	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
60.		Paronella Park	Innisfail-Japoon Road, Mena Creek	Lot 1 SP128844	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
61.	<b>Mission Beach</b>	Mission Beach-Bingil Bay Progress Association Hall	53 Porter Promenade, Mission Beach	Lot 269 CP862648	<p>The Mission Beach-Bingil Bay Progress Association Hall has special significance to the residents of the Mission Beach area. It was built in 1962 using volunteer labour after significant fundraising by the local community and from donated materials. The contributions of local farmers John Parsons and Frank Rick in undertaking the construction of the Hall are of significant note.</p> <p>The Hall has served as a focal point for community activities, meetings and dances in the Mission Beach area since it was built in 1962.</p>
62.	<b>Murray Upper</b>	Butler Family Graves	Middle Murray Road, Murray Upper	Lot 2 SP158318 Easting: 377372 Northing: 7999547	The Butler Family Graves are important in that they are the final resting place and memorial to one of Murray Upper and Cardwell's pioneer families.



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63.	<b>Murrigal</b>	Murrigal Cemetery	Bruce Highway, Murrigal	Lot 26 CWL1585	<p>The Murrigal Cemetery is the final resting place of many members of the Henry family who were among the original European settlers north of the Tully River.</p> <p>The Cemetery is also significant for its role in the history and evolution of European settlement in the Tully region.</p>
64.	<b>Silkwood</b>	Casey's Cane Barracks	Murdering Point Road, Silkwood	Lot 185 RP741767	<p>Casey's Cane Barracks, constructed in the 1940s/1950s, are important in demonstrating the living conditions of sugar workers during the labour-intensive era of manual cane-cutting in Far North Queensland's sugar industry from 1905 to the mid 1970s.</p> <p>Cane barracks are a symbol of a way of life and of migration patterns that have made a significant contribution to the evolution of Far North Queensland's economy, community and environment. They are important as industry-specific buildings that were constructed as a result of the <i>Sugar and Shearers' Accommodation Act, 1905</i> and the <i>Workers Accommodation Acts, 1915 and 1952</i>. In the size and layout of the rooms and in the layout of the site, the illustrate values that were enshrined in legislation in response to the demands of European migrants for improved working conditions and entitlements.</p>
65.		National Bank Building and Single Constable Barracks	7 Silkwood-Japoon Road, Silkwood	Lot 12 RP893472	<p>The National Bank Building and Single Constable Barracks are important for showing the evolution of the Silkwood community, including the settlement of Silkwood East, following the opening of the North Coast Railway. Both buildings show changes in the way basic services were delivered to residents over the years.</p>
66.		Police Station	1A Silkwood-Japoon	Lot 293 NR808519	<p>The Police Station is important in showing the</p>

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
			Road, Silkwood		evolution of the Silkwood community and the development of its central community infrastructure.
67.		St John's Catholic Church	Harold Street, Silkwood	Lot 21 SP236931	<p>The Church of St John the Evangelist and the Shrine of the Three Saints demonstrate both an aspect of the history of the Roman Catholic Church in Far North Queensland and an unusual outcome of the chain of Sicilian migration to the Johnstone River sugar production region.</p> <p>Built by Irish Australian Catholics in 1941, St John the Evangelist Church was the first new church in the new secular diocese of Cairns, where Catholics had previously been ministered to by the Augustinians who in 1877 established an Apostolic Vicariate centred on Cooktown.</p> <p>The church also demonstrates, through the presence of the Shrine with statues of the Three Saints and features associated with the celebration of the Festival of the Three Saints on the first Sunday of May, the intense involvement of Sicilians, notably from Catania, from 1950. The presence of Sicilians in this region is a significant deviation from the dominant pattern of Italian migration into North Queensland from Piedmont, Lombardy and the Veneto. The festival, which has been running since 1950, was the first traditional religious/secular Italian feast celebrated in North Queensland.</p> <p>The church has a strong association with Sicilian (especially <i>Catanesi</i>) communities not only in and around Silkwood but throughout North Queensland, with people travelling from throughout the region to attend the Festival each May. There is also a strong association with other places (such as Brisbane, Stanthorpe and Griffith) where Three Saints sub-committees were established. Devotion to the Saints has been demonstrated in the piety, enthusiasm and</p>

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					generosity of their reactions to the feast.
68.	<b>South Johnstone</b>	Former St Saviour's Church	26 Hynes Street, South Johnstone	Lot 5 RP704982	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
69.	<b>South Mission Beach</b>	Hull River Settlement Site	Commodore Street, South Mission Beach	Lot 701 S8833	<p>The Hull River Settlement Site contributes to our understanding of early settlement in Far North Queensland and the association with indigenous Australians. The Site has important symbolic association with the Mission Beach area and with the development of Far North Queensland.</p> <p>The name Mission Beach was derived from the presence of the mission at this site.</p>
70.	<b>Tully</b>	Castrisos Building	30 Butler Street, Tully	Lot 2 RP892117	The Castrisos Building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.
71.		Dorothy Jones Library	34 Bryant Street, Tully	Lot 10 T746119	The Dorothy Jones Library has significance to the local community as the former civic centre of Tully. It illustrates the evolution of the former Cardwell Shire Council local government area and the rise in prosperity of the sugar industry in the region, establishing Tully as the administrative centre of the Shire over Cardwell. The building was an asset to the township of Tully, having been used for a range of community activities over the years and continuing as the town's public library.
72.		Former Plaza Theatre	72 Butler Street, Tully	Lot 7 RP804439	The Plaza Theatre building is an important part of the Bulter Street streetscape and forms part of the history of the Tully township, having served as the local picture theatre for 37 years.
73.		Hotel Tully - Mullins Bros Building	5 Butler Street, Tully	Lot 303 T7461, Lot 15 T74654 and Lots 1 & 4 RP717293	The hotel makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully. It is also important part of the history of

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
					the Tully township, having served as the town's hotel since the township of Tully was established.
74.		Mangan Sadleir Building	20-22 Butler Street, Tully	Lot 5 T74620	The Mangan Sadleir Building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.
75.		Mount Tyson Hotel	21-25 Butler Street, Tully	Lot 306 T7461	The Mount Tyson Hotel makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.
76.		Mullins Bros Buildings	13-19 Butler Street, Tully	Lot 2 RP717293	The Mullins Bros Buildings makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.
77.		Mylonas Building	33-37 Butler Street, Tully	Lot 308 T7461	The Mylonas Building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.
78.		Nolan's Building	32 Butler Street, Tully	Lot 108 T7461	The Nolan's Building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.
79.		Nurses Quarters	17 Bryant Street, Tully	Lot 411 SP114073	The Nurses Quarters is important in showing the evolution of the township of Tully and the development of its central community infrastructure.
80.		Pigeon Hole Flats	14 & 16 Blackman Street, Tully	Lot 60 T74610 & Lots 0 to 8 SP233643	The Pigeon Hole Flats are two sets of flats with a unique design such that their aesthetics contribute to and form part of the township of Tully.
81.		Savoy Backpackers	4 Plumb Street, Tully	Lot 511 T7462	Savoy Backpackers has a unique design such that its aesthetics contribute to and forms part of the township of Tully.
82.		Sorbello Building	71 Butler Street, Tully	Lot 3 T74656	The Sorbello Building makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Butler Street, the main commercial strip in Tully.

No.	Locality	Place name	Address	Lot on Plan/ Coordinates	Statement of Heritage Significance
83.		Tully Court House	46 Bryant Street, Tully	Lot 13 T7463	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.
84.		Tully CWA Hall	5 Plumb Street, Tully	Lot 605 T7462	The Tully CWA Hall is significant for the role it has played in supporting social and charitable activities in the Tully township. Serving as a base for the Tully CWA which was formed when the township of Tully was formed, the Hall and the Tully CWA has been part of the Tully township throughout its evolution.
85.		Tully Railway Complex	Bruce Highway, Tully	Lot 181 SP177317, adjacent to the Highway and Lot 12 SP138495	<p>The Tully Railway Complex is representative of other important stopping places on the North Coast Railway erected during the inter-war period and including Cardwell, Innisfail and St Lawrence. Together with Innisfail and St Lawrence, it demonstrates a passing way of life for railway communities through the survival of infrastructure.</p> <p>The railway was a vital link for the pioneers of the Tully district.</p>
86.		Tully State School	Mars Street, Tully	Lot 516 CWL1373 & Lot 449 CWL876	See entry in the Queensland Heritage Register.