

Street Address	Rainbow Crescent and Dickson Way, Dunwich
GPS/RPD	Part of Lot 89 on SL5124
Place Type	Built



RCC, 2013.



Water Tanks, Dunwich (AHS, 2017).

Condition	Fair	Integrity	Good
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	17/01/2017		

Historical Context

The water tanks located at Rainbow Crescent were constructed as part of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum.

The Benevolent Society in Moreton Bay was established in 1844 as a citizen run charity. In 1861, the Queensland Government passed the Benevolent Asylum Act, which provided funds to transform hospital wards into these asylums. Prior to the formation of the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, the area was used as a convict out station from 1827-1831, a Catholic mission for the local Indigenous population from 1843-1847, and a quarantine station from 1850-64. The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum housed Queensland’s poor and underprivileged, included the aged, infirm and individuals without access to required care from their families.[1]

The water supply at the asylum was nearly always insufficient in providing for the inmates and the staff. Until 1885 the Benevolent Asylum relied only on these tanks which collected water from the roof of buildings to supply their population. These tanks primarily served the laundry, kitchen, farm and hospital wards.[2] In 1907, tenders were called for the construction of a new tank to service the asylum’s water supply needs. It was believed the capacity of the previous tanks were inadequate and their condition had deteriorated. The new tank was 23,000 gallons and constructed from steel.[3]

The supervising mechanical engineer at the asylum in 1929 considered the water usage from these tanks to be excessive, as each person was using 62 gallons per day. It was proposed at this point that the asylum needed another tank to accommodate for it, however this was rejected and water restrictions were put in place instead.[4] Although not currently in use, the tanks remain in-situ from their construction as part at the former asylum.

Physical Description

This site is located at the end of Rainbow Crescent, on the high point of the ridge overlooking Dunwich township, ensuring suitable water supply. The site is located behind a 6 foot wire fence and includes one large water tank, two smaller water tanks and a small building. The elevation also provides significant views to Moreton Bay. The tanks are not currently in use.

Statement of Significance

The water tanks are locally significant and display historical and representative values. They are historically important as a remaining in situ element from the Dunwich Benevolent Asylum and illustrate the development of Dunwich while the asylum was operational.

Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region’s history.
The water tanks are historically significant as a surviving element of the former Benevolent Asylum, though they are not currently in use. They outline the need to provide reliable water supply infrastructure to service the growing asylum population.	

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Criteria D	The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places important to the region.
The establishment and administration of the Benevolent Asylum illustrates the social policies adopted by the Queensland Government of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries to deal with those elderly, sick or disabled members of society who were unable to care for themselves. The tanks are representative of the daily functioning of the Benevolent Asylum and the characteristics of these particular places.	

Primary Themes	
2.0 Exploiting, Utilising and Transforming the Land	2.05 Managing water

References	
[1] RPS, Redland City Council – Heritage Citation, “Benevolent Asylum Structures,” 2012. [2] Joseph B. Goodall, “Whom Nobody Owns: The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, An Institutional Biography 1866-1946,” PhD Thesis, The University of Queensland, 1992, p. 211. [3] The Telegraph, 16 January 1907, p. 2. [4] Goodall, “Whom Nobody Owns,” p. 68.	