

Street Address	15 and 17 Welsby Street, Dunwich
GPS/RPD	Lot 704 & 705 on D9044
Place Type	Built



Red-e-map (RCC, 2017).



Museum Buildings, Dunwich (RCC, 2013).

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

Historical Context

The North Stradbroke Island (NSI) Historical Museum consists of original buildings associated with the former Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, as well as several replica buildings.

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, including the aged, infirm and individuals without access to required care from their families.[1] Due to an overcrowded patient population and deteriorating health conditions on site, the asylum closed in 1947 after operating for over 80 years.[2]

The NSI Museum was founded in 1987. It was housed in a garden shed at the Point Lookout Progress Hall until 1991, when the Redland Shire Council provided land at 17 Welsby Street, Dunwich, which included a building formerly used as a single men’s quarters for a sand mining company (and was also possibly a former Dunwich Benevolent Asylum barracks). It was officially opened on 22 October 1988 by the Sixth Earl of Stradbroke at the Point Lookout Hall.[3]

The museum expanded in the second half of the 1990s. In 1996, local volunteers moved the former Asylum dairy herdsman’s hut, which was about to be demolished, to the museum grounds. The committee purchased the adjoining allotment (15 Welsby Street) from Consolidated Rutile Limited, increasing the size of the museum grounds. A replica Dunwich Benevolent Asylum ‘foul’ ward was constructed in 1998-1999 using 1872 plans and specifications. The Redland Shire Council funded the erection of a new toilet block, built as a replica of the 1896 Dunwich Post Office. The Point Lookout Lighthouse lens that was stored at the Maritime Museum was brought to the island and re-erected near the ward. All three projects were completed in time for the Centenary of Federation celebrations in March 2001.[4]

Physical Description

The main museum building has a hipped roof to the core and a stepped roof to the side verandah. The smaller buildings have a gable roof to the core, one room wide, with a continuous roof over the verandahs. A verandah to the courtyard sides of the buildings links the complex.

Statement of Significance

The former sand mining residence and herdsman’s hut possess some significance for their association with the Benevolent Asylum and sand mining activities on Stradbroke Island – both reflecting important historical places and processes on the island. However, the primary significance of the site now rests with its history and use as a museum. The museum has been operating for nearly three decades and has become an important part of the fabric and community of the island and the history of the Redland Shire more generally.

26 - DUNWICH: Stradbroke Island Historical Museum Association



Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
The Historical Museum Association buildings are historically significant as they embody aspects of Dunwich's local history, including Benevolent Asylum replica buildings and the herdsman's hut.	
Criteria G	The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons important to the region.
The Historical Museum Association buildings have a strong association with the local Dunwich community, as representations of local history. The special association to the buildings has also been demonstrated through the local community efforts in volunteering to relocate buildings.	

Primary Themes	
8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions	8.02 Cultural activities

References
[1] RPS, Redland City Council – Heritage Citation, "Benevolent Asylum Structures," 2012. [2] Ibid. [3] "North Stradbroke Island Historical Museum," North Stradbroke Island website, 2017, http://stradbrokeisland.com/straddie/view/north-stradbroke-island-historical-museum . [4] Ibid.