

Street Address	16 Ballow Street, Amity Point
GPS/RPD	Lot 1 on A33911
Place Type	Built



Red-e-map (RCC, 2016).



Amity Point Public Hall, Amity Point (AHS, 2017).

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

Historical Context

The Amity Point Public Hall, located at 16 Ballow Street, is a former Dunwich Benevolent Asylum building. The Amity Point Progress Association sought the formation of a public hall for Amity Point in early 1950.[1] Following the closure of the Asylum, the former ward building was purchased by the Redland Shire Council and offered to the Amity Point Progress Association for use as a public hall. It is believed the building had been used as the 'Asiatic Ward', which housed those that were identified as Chinese (people were segregated based on gender and race, amongst other things).[2]

The building was dismantled and moved to its current location at Amity Point in 1950 by the Association. Council made the land available and it was cleared and levelled by the treasurer of the Association, Les Dufton.[3] The building was dismantled by Keith Waller and Morgan Evans of Point Lookout. It took nine trips along a bush track from Dunwich to Amity Point to bring the building to the site. It was rebuilt by Mr Evans, Bill Prickett and other members of the Association. The total cost to relocate and rebuild the hall was \$500. The Amity Point Progress Association then became the trustees for the hall, paying an annual rent of \$2. The hall was used as a school building from February 1951, until the Amity Point State School opened in November 1954.[4] In 1964, the association folded and a new set of trustees were appointed under the name of the Amity Point Hall Management Committee. Maintenance and improvements to the hall were undertaken using money raised primarily from Bingo. The hall remains in use for community functions and is owned and managed by Redland City Council.

Physical Description

The Amity Point Public Hall is a low set timber framed building with a low pitched gable roof and skillion verandah extension to the south. The current entry is to the side of the gable end facing Ballow Street. The hall has been heavily modified and upgraded over the years and surviving evidence of its former use as a Benevolent asylum ward is now limited to the exposed trusses internally and an early store room.

A number of changes have been made since commencing use as a hall, particularly the removal of the original entrance door and windows to the front gabled façade; the addition of the skillion verandah extension, including the addition of new stairs and a disability access ramp. The addition of toilets was in the extension. Internal changes include the installation of a parquet floor and cork lining to the ceiling, lining of the walls (which used to be unlined) and replacement of the majority of internal timber posts with steel.

Statement of Significance

The Amity Point Public Hall has historic and social significance to the Amity Point community. The hall has been in use for over six decades, demonstrated by the fact that the community relocated, rebuilt and cared for the place since 1950, which included substantial improvements to the building. The Amity Point Public Hall also has an association with the former Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, although much of the building's form and fabric from the asylum period is now gone.

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Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
The Amity Public Hall was established by the local community using a former Benevolent Asylum building in the early 1950s for the purpose of a public hall. The building has been in continuous use since that time and demonstrates the evolution and development of Amity Point and North Stradbroke Island from this period.	
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 Amity Point Public Hall has a strong association with the local community as a popular meeting place. This is illustrated by community efforts in relocating and reconstructing the building, community support for the continued maintenance of the place, and the ongoing use of the place as a community hall for social and educational purposes.	
Primary Themes	
8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions	8.03 Organisations and societies

References

- [1] "From Cities and Towns," The Courier Mail, 24 February, 1950, p. 6.
- [2] Joseph B. Goodall, "Whom Nobody Owns: The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, An Institutional Biography," PhD Thesis, The University of Queensland (1992) p. 70.
- [3] "Amenities for Amity," The Courier Mail, 15 October 1948, p. 3.
- [4] "Timeline North Stradbroke Island," Redland City Council, 2006, p. 11.



Amity Point Public Hall, Amity Point (RPS, 2012).