

35 - RUSSELL ISLAND: Corduroy Road Log Sleepers

Street Address	Weedmore Road between Titania Terrace and High Street, Russell Island
GPS/RPD	Street Alignment Start 537138.00, 6939709.00; End 537305.00, 6939542.00
Place Type	Archaeological



Red-e-map (RCC, 2017).



Corduroy Road, Russell Island (AHS, 2017).

Condition	Fair	Integrity	Good
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	20/01/2017		

Historical Context

This section of corduroy road is believed to be remnants of an early road that was built by pioneering farmers on Russell Island to provide an all-weather crossing over swampy terrain at the bottom end of High Street. It was initially constructed by members of the Branch family, most probably in the early part of the 20th century. Large timber planks were placed across the roadway to provide a solid surface for vehicles. Over time the road would gradually sink and new layers were added to it. The corduroy road was vital, since it was the only road linking the southern end of the Island, where the Branches farm was located, to the northern end.[1]

The Branch family has played a key role in the Russell Island community for many decades. William Branch (snr) was stonemason and had worked on the Tower of London prior to emigrating from England in 1913. After being employed to clearing land on the northern part of the Island, he eventually purchased land at the southern end and began farming. The paw paws and bananas on his 'Fernvale' property were known to be the best on the island. William was also a Justice of the Peace on the island and became a member of the Committee of Direction of Marketing (a fruit growing organisation) and served on that committee for twenty-seven years.[2]

Physical Description

The remains of the corduroy road include log sleepers visible from the sides of a gravelled path, and sections are evident in Weedmore Road.

Statement of Significance

This is a locally significant place embodying historical and scientific value. Corduroy Roads are an early form of road construction used in the nineteenth and twentieth century. While common in Queensland from early settlement, they are becoming rarer in south east Queensland. This road indicates the pattern of development on Russell Island, and holds the potential to yield information about the Island's early settlement.

Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
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The Corduroy Road demonstrates the evolution in road building in Redland's history. Roads of this construction type highlight the importance of all-weather crossing of the Island by early settlers, following the commencement of farming and residential subdivision.

Criteria C	The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history.
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The remnants of the corduroy road has the potential to yield information about the early settlement of Russell Island, and patterns of settlement in the Redlands more generally.

Primary Themes

5.0 Moving Goods, People and Information	5.05 Using motor vehicles
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References

[1] RPS, Redland City Council – Heritage Citation, “Corduoy Road Russell Island”, 2012.

[2] W. Dorrington. “The Pioneers of Russell Island: A History of the Early Settlers,” Russell Island: Self Published, p. 32.



Corduoy Road, Russell Island (AHS, 2017).



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