

## 41 - LAMB ISLAND: Lamb Island Jetty Shed

<b>Street Address</b>	Road reserve at SW end of Lucas Drive between passenger ferry jetty and barge ramp
<b>GPS/RPD</b>	Near L1 on RP12173
<b>Place Type</b>	Built



*Red-e-map (RCC, 2017).*



*Lamb Island Jetty Shed, Lamb Island (AHS, 2017).*

<b>Condition</b>	Good	<b>Integrity</b>	Fair
<b>Statutory Listings</b>	Local Heritage Place		
<b>Non-Statutory Listings</b>	No current listing		
<b>Inspection Date</b>	23/01/2017		

### Historical Context

The Lamb Island jetty shed was constructed in September 1939 from locally milled cypress and tallowwood. It is the only remaining example of the sheds first built on each of the jetties of Russell, Karragarra, Lamb and Macleay Islands. Though humble in appearance, the sheds provided a valuable asset for Islanders, playing a crucial part in the social and historical development of the Islands.

The Lamb Island shed was built by J. Gibson and R. Scott (from Macleay Island) for the Lamb Island Fruit-growers Cooperative. At the time of its construction, there was no effective government control on the Islands, and the shed was the only public structure on Lamb Island.

Lamb Island was opened to selection in 1865, when the Queensland Government encouraged sugar cultivation in Moreton Bay. While sugar was short lived, the islands, including Lamb, were used for small scale agricultural farming. The shed is evidence of this agricultural history. Its main purpose until the 1970s was to store and protect farm produce until collected by the fruit boats. High quality and early season tropical fruits such as bananas, passion fruit, pawpaw, pineapples, mangos, citrus and avocado grew well in the Islands' fertile soil and sub-tropical climate. Many vegetables were grown, too, particularly tomatoes.

The produce was exported from the Islands to the mainland in a variety of boats. Sail powered the early fruit boats such as the cutters *Marvel* and *Vade*, and the lugger *Noosa*. Later, larger vessels such as the *Ivanhoe*, the *Grace*, and the *Roo* carried the produce. The fruit boxes were trundled out to the end of the jetties on trolleys, one of which remains to the right of this shed on the stub of the original jetty. The trolleys were used, also, by Islanders to load heavy luggage, and to carry their shopping from the passenger boats.

Owing to its location at the jetty, the shed was for several decades a natural meeting place. The tank supplied water to Islanders at the jetty and to passing boats, before mains water was piped to the Island during 1994/5. The first Progress Association meeting was held here, and for many years the shed stored the Island's ambulance stretcher and resuscitation equipment. As recently as the 1990s, incoming mail was sorted and stored here, and private letter boxes lined the walls. On one occasion, the shed was used as a morgue. Commuters sheltered here from the weather, and still do.

In 1996, the shed was re-painted and maintenance completed in a combined effort between the Redland Shire Council (RSC) and the Lamb Island Community. The Lamb Island community raised a petition in 1997, asking the RSC to preserve the shed because of its heritage value. Unfortunately, by 2000, the shed had fallen into disrepair. In 2007, after several years of negotiations with RSC, the RKL Islands Heritage Group undertook the task of restoring the shed by using the voluntary labour of its members, and materials supplied by the RSC. The restoration was completed during 2008, the year that Redland Shire became Redland City.[1]

## Physical Description

This is a small shed constructed of local cypress and tallowood and situated on the site of the original Lamb Island jetty. It consists of a timber frame, walls and floor; timber piers and corrugated iron roof. Internally the structure is unlined with simple bench seating around the walls. The shed sits at the top of what was the original jetty, which has been truncated, forming a small abutment enclosed by a timber paling fence.

## Statement of Significance

The Lamb Island Jetty Shed is a locally significant building which embodies historical, rarity and community values. The only early jetty shed surviving, this structure played a crucial part in the social and historical development of Lamb Island, and reflects the islands agricultural history. The unique nature of island life and the limited method of transport have meant that all residents and most visitors have utilised it from the World War Two period, where it remains as a waiting shed.

### Criteria A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.

The Lamb Island Jetty Shed is significant in demonstrating the importance of agriculture and marine transport to the settlement and development of Lamb Island.

### Criteria B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the region's cultural heritage.

The Lamb Island Jetty Shed is the only jetty shed surviving from the early period on the South Moreton Bay Islands. It demonstrates a surviving example of the Islands, and Redlands, cultural heritage 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 Lamb Island Jetty Shed has a strong association with the daily life of all islands residents, including its use in agriculture, as well as serving as a simple ferry shelter during inclement weather and also as a meeting hall, ambulance room and morgue.

## Primary Themes

5.0 Moving Goods, People and Information

5.04 Using shipping

8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions

8.03 Organisations and societies

## References

[1] Lamb Island Jetty Shed Plaque (RKLM Islands Heritage Group, 2008).



*Lamb Island Jetty Shed, Lamb Island (AHS, 2017).*