

DUNWICH: Police Station Cell Block

Street Address	2 Bayly Street, Dunwich
GPS/RPD	L5 CP898073
Place Type	Built



Red-e-map (RCC, 2016).



Police Station Cell Block, Dunwich (AHS, 2016).

Condition	Good	Integrity	Fair
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	21/12/2016		

Historical Context

The cell block building at the Dunwich Police Station was built in 1890 and originally used for the imprisonment of disobedient inmates as part of the Benevolent Asylum.[1] The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum was established in 1866 as a place to house Queensland's poor and underprivileged, including the aged, infirm and individuals without access to required care from their families.[2]

After the relocation of a suitable police residence from Myora to Dunwich in 1902, the cell block was used by police officers stationed at Dunwich.[3] A 1913 map of the Benevolent Asylum illustrates the cell block as the 'detention ward'.[4]

The cell was used by police until 1947 when the police station closed along with the asylum.[5] The station reopened in 1952 at the request of the community with a station building attached. The cell block appears to have been used by the Police from this time as part of the Dunwich Police Station.[6]

Physical Description

The police station cell block is located within the Dunwich Police Station fronting Bayly Street. The cell block is a small timber framed structure set on a low masonry block wall foundation, which replaces earlier timber stumps. The cell block is clad externally with weatherboards and has a steep pitch gable roof with custom orb sheeting.

From the street there are two sets of stairs and associated landings evident, which provide access to each cell separately. Steel security doors keep each cell secure and toilets are located to the rear. No internal inspection was carried out.

Statement of Significance

The police station cell block is a locally significant place due to its historical value and its endangered status. As a remaining building from the Benevolent Asylum, it is a reminder of the social policies and attitudes of the late 19th century. The cell block is one of the last remnants of the asylum in its broader original context, and is significant as an endangered aspect of Redlands history. Additionally, the cell has been in continuous use by the Dunwich Police Station for many decades, illustrating its significance to the local area.

Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
The police station cell block was originally associated with the Benevolent Asylum. Since the closure of the asylum, the cell block has been associated with the Dunwich Police Station at that site and has been in continuous use. The cell block is significant in demonstrating the evolution of punishment and crime in institutions and later in rural policing in Redlands.	

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Criteria B	The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the region's cultural heritage.
The police station cell block, as part of the former Benevolent Asylum, is important in demonstrating the social policies adopted by the Queensland Government in the late nineteenth century to deal with sick or disabled members of society. As there are few buildings left on the original site of the asylum itself, this building demonstrates an endangered aspect of Queensland's history and is thus significant.	

Primary Themes	
7.0 Maintaining Order	7.01 Policing and maintaining law and order

References	
[1] Joseph B. Goodall, "Whom Nobody Owns: The Dunwich Benevolent Asylum, an Institutional Biography, 1866-1946," PhD Thesis, The University of Queensland, 1992, p. 141. [2] QHR Listing, "St Mark's Anglican Church and Dunwich Public Hall," 2016. [3] Goodall, "Whom Nobody Owns," p. 213. [4] Queensland State Archives Item ID635167, Map. [5] Queensland State Archives Agency ID9668, Police Station, Dunwich. [6] Ibid.; J. A. Keats, Hazel M. Smith, Carole C. Rogers, and G. P. Rowe, <i>Dunwich: A Study of Aboriginal and European Integration</i> , (St. Lucia: University of Queensland Press, 1966) p. 13.	