

MOUNT COTTON: Mount Cotton Hall

Street Address	1249-1251 Mount Cotton Road, Mount Cotton
GPS/RPD	Lot 1 RP48370
Place Type	Built



Red-e-map (RCC, 2016).



Mt Cotton Hall, Mount Cotton (AHS, 2016).

Condition	Good	Integrity	Good
Statutory Listings	Local Heritage Place		
Non-Statutory Listings	No current listing		
Inspection Date	09/12/2016		

Historical Context

The hall at 1249-1251 Mount Cotton Road was built c.1930s. Mount Cotton was settled in the early 1870s by farm selectors, many of German origin, who grew maize and other crops, later turning to fruit and citrus orchards. There was an active timber industry in the region, as it was found that there were extensive stands of the white ant-resistant mountain beech.[1]

The German farmers were mainly Lutherans, and by 1875 the population had grown enough to warrant a church. St Paul's Lutheran Church was built that year, with a part-time school established in 1876.[2] In 1879 the Tingalpa local government division was created, erecting its offices at Mount Cotton. In 1884, the part-time school was replaced with what is now the Mt Cotton State School.[3]

Mount Cotton continued as a rural village well into the 1960s. Farming diversified into dairying and small scale fruit and vegetable crops. Mount Cotton's old 'civic centre' is minimally developed and today comprises the primary school (1876), community hall (1930) and Lutheran church (1875).[4]

The construction of the Mount Cotton Community Hall was organised by local residents during the depression, as they wanted a more local and functional venue. The old Divisional Board's property was used for functions and social events until the new hall was constructed. Daniel Benfer reportedly logged the timber that was used for the hall's construction and the building was completed about 1930. The hall is still in use as a community hub at Mount Cotton.[5]

Physical Description

The Mount Cotton Community Hall is a large, timber framed structure set on concrete stumps, approximately 1 metre off the ground at the front elevation and set at ground level at the rear. The building has a large gable roof with overhanging eaves with a typical gable pattern of asbestos cement sheeted panels with contrasting timber cover straps decorating the main gable. There is a smaller matching gable roof to the enclosed front entry porch with a side entry stair to the north.

The hall has been extended on the southern side under a skillion. Pairs of casement windows exist to all walls and internally there is a timber lined and vaulted ceiling with the stage to the rear of the main hall, as well as a kitchen and toilets positioned under the rear skillion, which can be accessed from the rear entrance. Grounds are minimally landscaped with parking and lawn areas.

Statement of Significance

The Mount Cotton Community Hall holds local significance as it has historical values that are important to the Mount Cotton Community. The hall was constructed during the depression years, as the previous location used for community services was inadequate. The local community influenced the construction of the hall, which add to the significance of the place. Aesthetically, the hall is an intact example of a 1930s public hall, and it is situated in a prominent location. The hall has remained in continuous use for more than eighty years, which illustrates its value to the local community.

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Criteria A	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
Mount Cotton Community Hall is important in demonstrating the development of Mount Cotton and the surrounding farming areas. Constructed during the depression years, it illustrates one of the remaining civic buildings of Mount Cotton township and has been the venue of community events for more than eighty years.	
Criteria D	The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places important to the region.
Mount Cotton Community Hall is an intact and representative example of a 1930s rural public hall. The characteristics of the hall demonstrate its functionality as a social space that was significant to the local residents of Mount Cotton.	
Criteria E	The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance.
The hall is visually pleasing by virtue of its simple form, materials and design details. Located in its prominent position on Mount Cotton Road and the junction with Seaview Road, the building makes a positive contribution to the locality and forms an aesthetically pleasing precinct with the nearby St Paul's Lutheran Church and Mount Cotton State School.	
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 building has a strong association with the local community at Mount Cotton as it was constructed through a notable community effort. The hall has remained in continuous use for its original purpose, which signifies the value it holds within the local community as a communal social space for functions and meetings.	

Primary Themes	
8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions	8.02 Cultural activities

References
[1] Queensland Places, Mount Cotton (http://queenslandplaces.com.au/mount-cotton), accessed 28/01/2017. [2] ibid. [3] ibid. [4] Ibid. [5] Mary Howells, "Mount Cotton – A Brief History," Redland City Council, 2006, p. 2.