

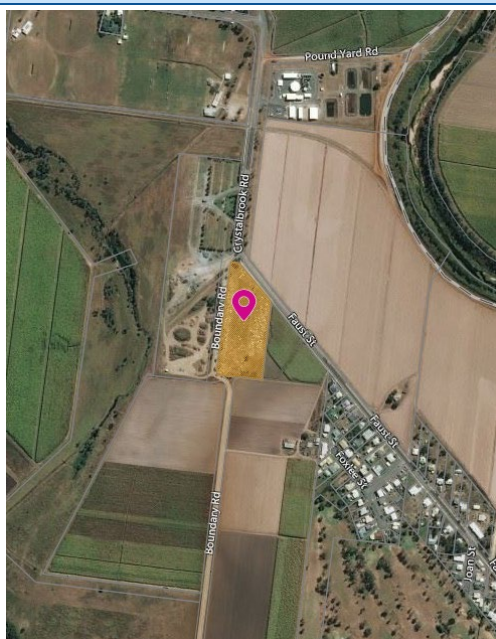
PROSERPINE CEMETERY (LOT 235)

Address	Faust Street, Proserpine
Lot Plan	235HR1184
Coordinates	(E: 663228 N: 7744008)
Integrity	Fair
Condition	Fair
Statutory Listings	Nil
Non-Statutory Listings	Nil
References	Historical information provided by Proserpine Historical Museum. Townsville Daily Bulletin, Friday 26 January 1912, p.5.

Street View



Location Map



Physical Description

Proserpine Cemetery is located on the western outskirts of Proserpine. It is bordered to the north to north-east by Faust Street, over which is cane paddocks, to the east and south by cane paddocks and to the west by Boundary Road (dirt road), across which is a Council road materials storage area.

With graves facing east in the usual fashion, the cemetery is loosely divided up into three sections running north to south. It is accessed from Faust Street by two unmarked driveway access points. The gravel vehicle track traverses from north to south down the center of the site, to the west along the southern boundary and then north again to connect back to Faust Street.

The outer sections on the east and west of the site are generally more recent grave sites and the central section of the cemetery comprises the older grave sites. The cemetery contains a variety of grave styles and has a high proportion of Italian influenced graves and markers.

There are no mausoleums. The site is not fenced.

A few trees are planted along the central driveway, more along the southern boundary and western boundary.

Proserpine Cemetery also has a lawn cemetery and a columbarium for the interment of ashes. This is on a separate Lot 179 to the north, which is not part of the local heritage register.

Historical Context

The Proserpine district was first settled by European pastoralists in the 1870s. One property, Glen Isla, was set aside for a 3000-acre sugar plantation in 1882. Although land was cleared by Pacific Islander and Chinese labour, and machinery and a mill were ordered for crushing, the Crystal Brook Sugar Company Limited was not successful. The land was subdivided under the auspices of the Crown Lands Act 1884 which provided for the resumption of larger pastoral runs and conversion to small selections. In the 1890s, part of the Glen Isla property was included in the Proserpine township. The township and district developed quickly after the establishment of the Proserpine Central Sugar Mill in 1897. The mill, which was financed under the provisions of the Sugar Works Guarantee Act 1893, was located in the centre of town, with frontage on Main and Mill Streets.

Proserpine cemetery is the final resting place for many of Proserpine's pioneer European settlers, early settlers and migrants, and as such is a valuable physical record of the district's social history and community.

Proserpine cemetery was first used in the 1880s and placed under the control of the Proserpine Shire Council in c.1912. Initially, there were only two sections in the cemetery – a Catholic section (now numbered as C-1 – C-8) and a Protestant section (now numbered as OP-1 - OP- 11). This reflected the largely Anglo-German origins of the majority of early settlers. In addition to denomination, the location of early burials was also governed by the weather. During the wet, summer months, burials took place on the higher ground in the northern section, while the dry, winter months made burials in the southern section possible.

According to the Proserpine Historical Museum, babies were often buried in-between graves and there is a high proportion of missing graves for children from this period. The western side of the Protestant section was reserved for people of minority groups and ethnicities, but this distinction has been lost by the construction of a road through the area to access a new protestant section. It is highly possible that there are graves under this road, potentially some associated with early Pacific Islander who worked as indentured laborers and cane cutters and who were instrumental in clearing land and developing the district's early cane industry.

Historical Significance

Criteria A - the place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history

Proserpine Cemetery demonstrates the early phase of settlement in Proserpine.

The gravestones of various early settlers provide an accurate representation of the notable residents in the district who came from Anglo-German backgrounds and demonstrate the families who have made a major contribution to the district. The large numbers of Italian style graves also reflect the contribution Italian migrants have made the region.

Criteria C - the place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history

Proserpine Cemetery is significant as a place with the potential to yield information that will contribute to our understanding of early Pacific Islander burial and migration patterns in the district.

Criteria H - the place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in the region's history

Proserpine Cemetery has special association with the early European pioneers of the Proserpine district and Italian migrants, each of whom made an important contribution to the development of the region.



