

Other Names	N/A	
Street Address	The Narrows Road	Mount Larcom
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	12DS233	

Historical Context

Closer settlement of the Mount Larcom district occurred in the early 1880s. A provisional school was established in 1881 and, as more settlers occupied the district, a post office, general store and butcher shop were opened. At least two hotels also operated in the settlement. The North Coast railway was constructed between Gladstone and Rockhampton in 1904 and Mount Larcom became a station on the railway. The town of Mount Larcom was officially proclaimed in 1915; by the late 1930s the town included two banks, several stores, cafes, billiard and pool rooms, a public hall and the Royal Hotel. The primary industries in the district were agriculture and dairying.

The Mount Larcom Show Society was formed in the 1910s and the first Mount Larcom Show occurred in October 1919. Over 900 people attended the first show and exhibits included agricultural produce, hardware, machinery and needlework. The reserve in which the showgrounds are located was held by five trustees, but improvements to the ground were made by the Show Society. By 1933, these improvements included a show ring, yards, and a pavilion for show purposes. However, the show was suspended for twenty one years, from 1933 to 1952, due to a variety of issues cited as seasonal, financial and economic difficulties. The show resumed in 1953. Over the years buildings and other infrastructure were added and some buildings were relocated from other areas: the former Targinnie School is now used as the RSL building, the Exhibition Pavilion No. 2 is the former Mount Larcom School and the kiosk is the former Mount Larcom Telephone Exchange.

The grounds were also used for sporting, social and cultural events. For example, a number of events were held at the ground to celebrate the Coronation of King George (presumably the VI, 1936) and a fig tree was planted to commemorate the occasion. Fundraising activities in support of the war effort during World War II were held at the grounds. The area was also used for school sports days and movies were shown in the show pavilion.

Physical Description

The Mount Larcom Showground is located on the north side of The Narrows Road. The showground consists of a number of buildings, stables, sheds, stands, ovals and a main arena. There is also a small section occupied by two caravans for the ground keeper.

The RSL building is the former Targinnie School building, which was relocated from Targinnie (east of Mount Larcom) in 1999 and consists of a high set timber structure with gable roof and covered verandah on the side facing the arena and a set of stairs on the opposite side. The area underneath the building is closed in with corrugated iron sheeting. On the facade facing south is an inscription reading: Old Targinnie School, Mount. Larcom & Dist. Armed Services Centre, Administered By... Mount. Larcom R.S.L. Sub Branch.

Exhibition Pavilion No.1 is located on the southern end between the road and the main arena and consists of a main corrugated iron clad building with gable roof. Along the side are two attached structures with skillion roof, one iron clad and the other constructed with concrete blocks. Located at the front facing north is an open annex comprising timber posts and balustrade, covered by corrugated iron gable roof. On the opposite side are three annexes with skillion roofs. Exhibition Pavilion No.2 is located to the west of Pavilion No.1 and consists of an L-shaped timber framed building on low stumps with corrugated iron gable roof. The building features a veranda spanning half the side facing the arena and several windows, some with protective hoods on timber brackets. Entrance is via steps onto the verandah.

Located next to Exhibition Pavilion No. 2 to the west is a small timber framed building with corrugated iron gable roof on low metal stumps. On the side wall facing the arena is a covered verandah accessed by two sets of stairs either side. There are two boarded windows either side of a French door in the centre. At the rear are two small hooded windows either side of a door accessed by steps.

The Main Arena is a grassed area in circular shape surrounded by low timber rail fence with several gates. Along most of the fence runs a simple bench on the outside. There are a number of speakers and lightings fixed to poles around the arena. There is a smaller fenced area with shed, displaying a sign reading 'Beef Cattle', and spectator seating in the northeast, which was erected at the turn of the century. The structure was relocated from a property on Larcom Creek, where it was used for rodeos. A smaller open area with elevated, stepped seating is used for dog shows during show day.

Heritage Significance

Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
Statement	The Mount Larcom Showground is important in demonstrating the evolution of the region's history, particularly as the Mount Larcom is a major show held in addition to the Gladstone Show, and was first held shortly after the establishment of the town of Mount Larcom in the 1910s. The various buildings located in the Showground that were originally used for other purposes - the Targinnie School, Mount Larcom School and Mount Larcom Telephone Exchange - also reflect the history of the town and wide district, and the use and re-use of buildings in small rural communities over time.
D	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places important to the region.</i>
Statement	The Mount Larcom Showground is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a showground in a regional town in the region.
G	<i>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.</i>
Statement	The Mount Larcom Showground has a strong connection with the community of Mount Larcom and the wider district, as a venue for the exhibition of the district's products and also the ongoing use of the place for a variety of purposes such as sporting, social and cultural events.
H	<i>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.</i>
Statement	The Mount Larcom Showground has a strong connection with the Mount Larcom Show Society, which has been instrumental in establishing and managing the Mount Larcom Show since its inception.

Location Map



Integrity	Fair	Condition	Good
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings		
Inspection Date	29/06/2011		

References			
Laver, B, 2004, Pioneers of the Calliope Shire, Betty Laver, Gladstone.			
Loveday, A B, 1979, Calliope Shire Council Centenary 1879-1979, Calliope, Calliope Shire Council.			
Tully, J, Holborow, J, Krapkat, C, & Hannant, C, 2007, Mount Larcom State School & Secondary Department 125th Jubilee, Mount Larcom State School Parents & Citizen's Association.			
Mount Larcom Show & District Society, 1999, Mount Larcom & District Show History.			