

Other Names	N/A	
Street Address	52780 Bruce Highway	Mount Larcom
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	Part 68SP245201, 2SP147877	

Historical Context

The Port Curtis Pastoral District was declared in 1854. There were few stations at this time, although one of the earliest was Mount Larcombe, which was selected by William Young in the same year the pastoral district was established.

The stations were nominally under the protection of the Native Police, which were stationed on the Calliope River in 1853 and later moved to Police Creek near Gladstone in 1854. Relations between the Europeans and Aboriginal people in the Gladstone hinterland were fraught with tension. Attacks were made by both Aboriginal people and Native Police during 1854 and throughout 1855 and casualties included Aboriginal people, Native Police and Chinese shepherds. In one instance it was reported that Native Police killed 23 Aboriginals while recovering items stolen from the camp of Francis MacCabe, who was surveying the district. This was despite the peaceful gathering of Aboriginal people at Barney Point in the same period.

However, it was an attack on the Mount Larcombe Station that drew the attention of the colony. William Young left his station on Christmas Eve to spend Christmas at a neighbouring station. He had earlier sent away the two Native Police troopers who were stationed at Mount Larcombe to protect the property, as he believed an attack was unlikely. Young was proven wrong: Aboriginal people attacked the station on the morning of 26 December and killed five people. The Native Police set off in pursuit of the attackers and over a dozen Aboriginals were reported either killed or severely wounded in retaliation, although it was unclear whether those killed were involved in the attack on the station. The bodies of those slain at the station were buried a short distance to the east of the homestead. Frontier conflict continued in the Port Curtis district over the course of the 1850s, but the attack on Mount Larcombe was the most infamous in the region. The original homestead is no longer present.

Physical Description

The site of the former Mount Larcombe Station is located approximately eight kilometres south east of the town of Mount Larcom. The area is bordered by the Bruce Highway in the west and Larcom Creek in the North. The terrain is flat with native grasses and some patches of native trees. There is a post and barbed wire fence restricting access from the highway. An unsealed road, leading into the property, is blocked off by a double gate.

Integrity	N/A	Condition	N/A
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings		
Inspection Date	05/10/2011		

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.
- McDonald, L, 1988, *Gladstone...City that waited*, Boolarong Press, Brisbane.

Heritage Significance

Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
Statement	Mount Larcombe Station is important in demonstrating the pattern of the region's history, particularly the early establishment of pastoral stations in the Port Curtis Pastoral District and the frontier conflict that occurred between Europeans and Aborigines as land in the region was taken up for pastoral purposes in the 1850s.
C	<i>The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history.</i>
Statement	Mount Larcombe Station has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history, particularly the location of the graves of those killed during the attack on the station in 1855 and archaeological potential associated with the original homestead and related infrastructure.
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	Mount Larcombe Station has a strong connection with William Young, who was one of the first pastoralists to take up land in the Port Curtis Pastoral District in the 1850s.

Location Map

