

Other Names	N/A	
Street Address	Facing Island	Gladstone South
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	15CTN1946 (Part of), 16CTN1760	

Historical Context

The British Government initiated the Colony of North Australia in 1846. The colony was enacted by W.E. Gladstone, the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The colony occupied a large area of land, extending from north of Gympie and as far west as the Western Australian border, with the capital to be established at Port Curtis. The colony was to be developed by former convicts who had served their full sentence or had been pardoned. Sir Charles Fitzroy was nominated first Governor and Commander in Chief of the colony and Lieutenant Colonel George Barney was appointed Lieutenant Governor.

On 28 January 1847, the Lord Auckland, with Barney and accompanying troops and their families on board, ran on a shoal when entering Port Curtis harbour. Passengers and crew were set ashore on a sandy beach on the southern point of Facing Island, now known as Settlement Point. Two days later, on the 30 January 1847, the Colony of North Australia was formally proclaimed by Barney at Settlement Point, acting under instructions signed by Queen Victoria, and the first Legislative Assembly and Council were held on the beach. For seven weeks the colonists had to withstand rain, mosquitoes and sandflies in their tents on a small hill, a short walk west of the beach, before the Thomas Lowry arrived with the remainder of the expedition, and the main focus for the settlement shifted to Barney Point on the mainland. A tent township was established until official orders were received from the British Government to abandon the settlement and return to Sydney on 15 April 1847. European settlement did not occur again in Port Curtis until 1854.

Physical Description

Settlement Point consists of a stretch of beach located on the southeast corner of Facing Island. Both ends of the beach are defined by promontories. Sand dunes extend inland from the beach.

Integrity	N/A	Condition	N/A
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings		
Inspection Date	Place not inspected		

References

McDonald, L, 2001, An Overview of the Historical Cultural Heritage Resources of the Curtis Coast, Environmental Protection Agency.
Ann Wallin and Associates, 1999, A Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Barney Point Foreshore, Study for Gladstone City Council.

Heritage Significance

Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
Statement	Settlement Point is important in demonstrating the evolution of the region's history, particularly the plan to establish the capital of the British Colony of North Australia at Port Curtis.
C	<i>The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history.</i>
Statement	Settlement Point has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history; although the settlement was short-lived, the place has the potential to yield material evidence of the settler's occupation of the area in 1847.
E	<i>The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance</i>
Statement	Settlement Point has aesthetic significance through its undeveloped landscape evoking a sense of remoteness as experienced by the first colonists.

Location Map

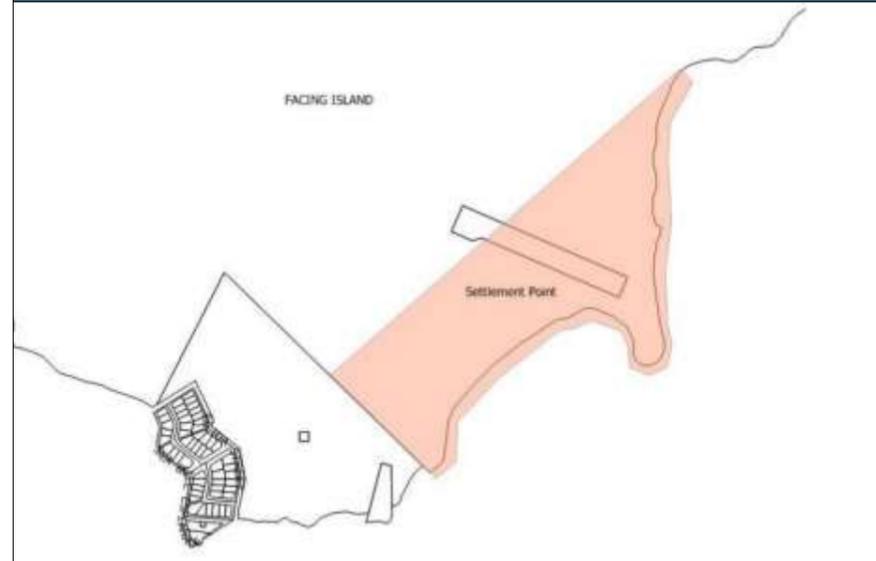


Photo courtesy Lorna McDonald.