

Barney Point Beach

Other Names	N/A	
Street Address	Prince Regent Esplanade	Gladstone
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	400CTN801110	

Historical Context
<p>Barney Point is named after Lieutenant Colonel George Barney, who commanded the expedition to establish the Colony of North Australia in 1847. 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 ship carrying Barney and the colony’s first settlers, the Lord Auckland, was shipwrecked as it entered the Port Curtis harbour and the passengers were forced to erect a camp at Settlement Point on Facing Island. Seven weeks later, a second ship, the Thomas Lowry, arrived and the settlers shifted their camp to Barney Point. Approximately five weeks later Barney was informed that the colony had been officially revoked and the settlement was subsequently abandoned.</p> <p>The settlement of Port Curtis was revived in the early 1850s. The New South Wales government sent the surveyor Francis Peter McCabe to survey the Port Curtis region in 1853, including the town of Gladstone. The New South Wales Governor, Sir Charles Fitzroy, arrived in Gladstone in April 1854 to officially install the Government Resident, Maurice O’Connell. Fitzroy disembarked on Barney Point Beach and the landing was re-enacted in 1954 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Gladstone. O’Connell erected the official government residence at Barney Point. In this period the whole of Barney Point was reserved for a Public Quay, Custom House and Public Offices. The site was also frequented by Aboriginal people, who camped there and held regular gatherings, including ceremonial activities.</p> <p>Residential allotments were surveyed at Barney Point in the latter decades of the nineteenth century. However, the location of the Government Residency and the foreshore of the beach remained public reserves. Barney Point Beach became Gladstone’s ‘town beach’ and developed as a popular destination for swimming and picnics. For example, a swimming enclosure for women was erected on the beach in 1910. Men’s dressing rooms were also installed along the beach. Coconut palms were planted in the foreshore park at the same time as the erection of the swimming enclosure, although by 1935 only one of the palms remained. A surf life saving club also used the beach in the 1950s.</p>

Physical Description
<p>Barney Point Beach is located along Prince Regent Esplanade and Young and Barney Streets on the foreshore in the southeast of the city. The beach consists of a narrow strip with sand and pebbles in a bay bordering onto coal storage in the north and Friend Park in the south. The terrain is slightly sloped with some native vegetation, including mangroves. The beach area is separated from a park by a concrete and stone wall of varying height, incorporating some concrete piping. The park runs along Young Street on levelled terrain, with grass and native and exotic trees, and extends to Friend Park, situated on a rise. The low lying section of the park features picnic shelters, a children’s playground and a toilet block. Situated on the border with Friend Park is a stone wall, incorporating commemorative plaques.</p>

Integrity	Fair	Condition	Fair
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings		
Inspection Date	10/10/2011		

References
McDonald, L, 1988, Gladstone...City that waited, Boolarong Press, Brisbane.
Ann Wallin and Associates, 1999, A Cultural Heritage Assessment of the Barney Point Foreshore, Study for Gladstone City Council.
Queenslander, 10 October 1868.
The Central Queensland Herald, 26 April 1934, 21 October 1954 and 22 April 1954.

Heritage Significance	
Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region’s history.</i>
Statement	Barney Point Beach and Park is important in demonstrating the evolution and pattern of the region’s history, as it was the associated with the first European settlement in Port Curtis in 1847 and the Government Residency in 1854; and for the use of the area for picnics and swimming, and the establishment of picnic and swimming facilities in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

C	<i>The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region’s history.</i>
Statement	Barney Point Beach and Park has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history. The place is associated with the first European settlement in Port Curtis in 1847 and the Government Residency in 1854 and therefore it has the potential to yield material evidence relating to those significant periods of early settlement.

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	Barney Point Beach and Park has a strong association with the Gladstone community as a well-known swimming and picnic destination. It also has a special association with the community as the location for the establishment of Gladstone, demonstrated in particular by the 100th anniversary celebrations held at the beach and adjacent parks.

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	Barney Point Beach has a special association with the New South Wales Governor, Sir Charles Fitzroy, who landed on the beach in 1854, and at which location the landing was re-enacted on the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Gladstone in 1954. The beach also has a special association with the Aboriginal people of the Gladstone region as a meeting place.

