

Other Names	N/A	
Street Address	Valmadre Road	Kelsey Creek
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	11HR391	(E: 654107 N: 7740478)

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 was 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.

The land around Kelsey Creek was part of grazier Frederick Samuel Elis Holt's selection, the first grazier in the Proserpine Valley. Located to the west of Proserpine, Kelsey Creek initially developed as a cane and tobacco growing area – the lack of a tramline meant farmers needed a variety of crops. In 1897, The Queenslander newspaper noted that the area around Kelsey Creek also supported approximately 20 men who were prospecting for gold. By the early 1900s the residents had formed the Kelsey Creek Farmers Progress Association in order to address local issues. By the 1920s, the area was serviced by a tramline, which saved farmers considerable time in transportation.

Farmers in the area later donated one truck of sugar cane each towards the cost of constructing a community hall at Kelsey Creek. Built in 1927 by J.P. Muller, the single storey corrugated iron hall was used for social events and community functions. According to local historians, the hall was initially lit by carbide and kerosene lights before moving to pressure kerosene lamps and, eventually, electricity. Further, the Museum noted that water for functions was heated in a large copper outside the hall.

During the 1960s, the Kelsey Creek branch of the CWA used the hall as a meeting place. Although the branch has since closed, the hall remains in use as a community meeting venue.

Physical Description

Kelsey Creek Hall is located on Valmadre Road near the intersection with the Proserpine Kelsey Creek Road, approximately 14 km west of Proserpine.

This single storey corrugated iron hall is set back from the road in a clearing. It is raised on steel stumps and has an extended gable roof, also of corrugated iron. The building is accessed by stairs to a central timber entrance door and the front section appears to be an enclosed veranda with corrugated iron shutters that extend across the front and around to each side. The northern elevation has a small sash window with a tin awning hood. There is a circular water tank at southern elevation.

Integrity	Fair	Condition	Fair
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings		
Inspection Date	11/10/2010		

References

Historical information from the Proserpine Historical Museum.
The Queenslander (Brisbane, Qld. : 1866 - 1939) Saturday 13 February 1897 p.369.

Heritage Significance

Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
Statement	Located on the outskirts of Proserpine, Kelsey Creek Hall demonstrates the self sufficiency of small farming communities. Their establishment reflects the important contribution the communities have made to the region's economic and social development.
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	Since its establishment in 1927, Kelsey Creek Hall has been an important as a community meeting and gathering place. It has special association with the Kelsey Creek community, particularly the former Kelsey Creek Farmers Progress Association.

Location Map

