

<b>Other Names</b>	N/A	
<b>Street Address</b>	Faust Street	Proserpine
<b>Title Details/ GPS Coordinates</b>	235HR1184	(E: 663228 N: 7744008)

**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. In the 1890s, part of the Glen Isla property was included in the Proserpine township. The township and district developed quickly after the establishment of the Proserpine Central Sugar Mill in 1897. The mill, which was financed under the provisions of the Sugar Works Guarantee Act 1893, was located in the centre of town, with frontage on Main and Mill Streets.

Proserpine cemetery is the final resting place for many of Proserpine’s pioneer European settlers, early settlers and migrants, and as such is a valuable physical record of the district’s social history and community. Proserpine cemetery was first used in the 1880s and placed under the control of the Proserpine Shire Council in c.1912. Initially, there were only two sections in the cemetery – a Catholic section (now numbered as C-1 – C-8) and a Protestant section (now numbered as OP-1 - OP- 11). This reflected the largely Anglo-German origins of the majority of early settlers. In addition to denomination, the location of early burials was also governed by the weather. During the wet, summer months, burials took place on the higher ground in the northern section, while the dry, winter months made burials in the southern section possible.

According to the Proserpine Historical Museum, babies were often buried in-between graves and there is a high proportion of missing graves for children from this period. The western side of the Protestant section was reserved for people of minority groups and ethnicities, but this distinction has been lost by the construction of a road through the area to access a new protestant section. It is highly possible that there are graves under this road, potentially some associated with early Pacific Islander who worked as indentured labourers and cane cutters and who were instrumental in clearing land and developing the district’s early cane industry.

**Physical Description**

Proserpine Cemetery is located on the western outskirts of Proserpine and is surrounded on three sides by cane paddocks. With graves facing east, the cemetery is loosely divided up into three sections. It is accessed via a road in the centre of the cemeteries street frontage which cuts through the cemetery to the south. The cemetery contains a variety of grave styles and has a high proportion of Italian influenced graves and markers. There is also a lawn cemetery and a columbarium for the interment of ashes.

<b>Integrity</b>	Fair	<b>Condition</b>	Fair
<b>Statutory Listings</b>	No statutory listings		
<b>Non-Statutory Listings</b>	No non-statutory listings		
<b>Inspection Date</b>	15/02/2011		

**References**

Historical information provided by Proserpine Historical Museum.  
 Townsville Daily Bulletin, Friday 26 January 1912, p.5.

Heritage Significance	
Criteria	Definition
<b>A</b>	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region’s history.</i>
<b>Statement</b>	Proserpine Cemetery demonstrates the early phase of settlement in Proserpine. The gravestones of various early settlers provide an accurate representation of the notable residents in the district who came from Anglo-German backgrounds, and demonstrate the families who have made a major contribution to the district. The large numbers of Italian style graves also reflect the contribution Italian migrants have made the region.
<b>C</b>	<i>The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region’s history.</i>
<b>Statement</b>	Proserpine Cemetery is significant as a place with the potential to yield information that will contribute to our understanding of early Pacific Islander burial and migration patterns in the district.
<b>H</b>	<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>
<b>Statement</b>	Proserpine Cemetery has special association with the early European pioneers of the Proserpine district and Italian migrants, each of whom made an important contribution to the development of the region.

