

Attachment 2

Grove Street Pensioners' Cottages

State-wide Heritage Survey

Heritage Application

Queensland Heritage Act 1992

Figure 1: View along the pensioners' cottages (Source: EHP site visit 08/05/13)

Place name	Grove Street Pensioners' Cottages
Address	28D Grove Street, Parramatta Park, Cairns
RPD	579/NR6348
LGA	Cairns Regional Council
Other listings	

Queensland Sub-Theme/s

6.4 Dwellings

10.4 Caring for the aged and infirm

Significance

Threshold

 Local
 State

Cultural Heritage Criteria

 a
 b
 c
 d
 e
 f
 g
 h

Assessment of significance

Cultural Heritage Criteria

<p>criteraion a the place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Queensland's history</p>	<p>The Grove Street Pensioners' Cottages, constructed in 1953-4, demonstrate the widespread movement to provide affordable housing for old aged pensioners in the 1940s-50s in Queensland. Pensioners' Cottages schemes, which were built by local authorities with the aid of a State Government subsidy offered from 1946, were an important social welfare initiative that allowed pensioners to lead independent lives in the districts where they had always resided, and were an alternative to aged care institutions.</p> <p>The Grove Street cottages, the first of their type to be built in Cairns, set the standard for pensioner accommodation in the region at the time and have been continuously occupied since their completion.</p>
<p>criteraion b the place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Queensland's cultural heritage</p>	<p>The cottages are a rare surviving example of a complete and largely intact 1950s pensioners' cottages scheme built by a local authority and subsidised by the state. Most of these original cottage schemes have since been demolished or replaced by more modern accommodation.</p>
<p>criteraion d the place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places</p>	<p>The Grove Street Pensioners' Cottages demonstrate the principal characteristics of a type of affordable, independent accommodation constructed for aged pensioners in the 1940s and 50s. This class of place comprises multiple small, detached residences of few rooms, with similar or identical appearance and simple plan form, often with communal laundry and/or bathroom facilities.</p> <p>The layout of the cottages, spread out along a curved driveway and surrounded by lawn and garden areas, is evidence of the intention to provide pensioners with space to grow vegetables and be self-sufficient.</p>

History

The Grove Street Pensioners' Cottages were built by the Cairns City Council between 1953 and 1954 as part of a state-wide scheme for providing affordable accommodation for old age pensioners. This scheme saw half the cost of erecting the cottages subsidised by the state government. Located on Grove Street in the Cairns suburb of Parramatta Park, seven small timber cottages are arranged in a curved layout surrounded by lawns and gardens, with an eighth cottage and two former laundry blocks to the rear.

The city of Cairns in tropical far north Queensland was established in 1876 as a port to service the newly discovered Hodgkinson goldfields. Initially Cairns competed with both Cooktown and Port Douglas for the Hodgkinson trade, and made little progress until the establishment of a local sugar industry and the opening up of the Atherton Tablelands' mineral fields in the early 1880s. Other early industries in the region included sugar farming and timber harvesting, which created a demand for improved transport facilities to the harbour. The 1885 announcement that Cairns was to be the terminus for the Herberton railway established the town as the principal port in the region. The Cairns Municipal Council became the Cairns Town Council on 31 March 1903, which in turn became the Cairns City Council on 13 October 1923. By this stage the population had reached 8000. This rose to 12,000 by 1933, and 15,700 by 1941. After the disruption of World War II, post-war optimism and prosperity saw development increase and the population grow to 21,018 by June 1954. Of this number, 2099 Cairns residents, (approximately 10% of the population) were aged 60 and over.¹

Queensland's social fabric is supported by a network of social security and welfare services provided by the State and Commonwealth Governments and voluntary organisations to disadvantaged persons. Until the late 19th century, however, no such government aid existed in Queensland, with most of the responsibility for providing relief falling upon voluntary organisations. In the 1890s, the Queensland Government provided residential institutions and subsidies to voluntary organisations in aid of orphans, the mentally ill, the destitute, the aged, and the infirm. A Benevolent Institution for the aged, disabled and the poor at Dunwich, North Stradbroke Island (established 1866, closed 1945), operated with minimal services and at times could not meet demand for admission. Factors such as increased longevity and the 1890s economic depression saw many families unable to care for aged relatives, and with the system of private charity proving inadequate, the Queensland Government was forced to act.²

Following the lead of Scandinavia, Germany and New Zealand, and other Australian states, such as New South Wales, Queensland implemented a system of non-contributory age pensions in 1907, followed shortly after by the Commonwealth Government, which provided a national system in 1909. The intention of the pension scheme was to provide relief for the aged poor that did not involve the stigma associated with charitable aid, or take away individuals' freedom. The age pension was initially 10 shillings a week, available to males and females aged 65 years and over

¹ 'Cairns,' *Queensland Places*, Centre for the Government of Queensland at the University of Queensland, <http://queenslandplaces.com.au/cairns> (accessed 2014); 'Cairns Regional Council,' *Queensland Places*, Centre for the Government of Queensland at the University of Queensland, <http://www.queenslandplaces.com.au/cairns-regional-council> (accessed 2014); QHR 601576 Cairns City Council Chambers; Census of the Commonwealth of Australia 30 June 1954, Vol III Part 1 – Analysis of Population in Local Government Areas Etc.

² 'Queensland Past and Present: 100 Years of Statistics, 1896-1996,' Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Government, Brisbane, 1998.

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(lowered to 60 years for females in 1910) and to persons aged 60-64 who were permanently incapacitated for work. It was subject to a character and residence test with limitations also imposed on income and property.³

The site of the Grove Street Pensioners' Cottages in the Cairns suburb of Parramatta Park was originally part of a railway reserve, with the first stage of the Cairns railway line (constructed 1886-87) running through it.⁴ The railway line was deviated in 1910-11 to its present position on the north-eastern side of Lily Creek⁵, and over the following decades negotiations and disagreements about how to use the former railway reserve land took place between the Cairns City Council and the State Government.⁶ Known as the Martyn Street reserve, it covered an area bounded approximately by Lily Creek to the north-east, James Street to the north-west, Martyn and Little streets to the south-west and Gatton Street to the south-east.⁷

In 1921 part of the Martyn Street reserve, south of Grove Street,⁸ was allocated as a site for old age pensioners to camp on. This was in response to community concern about the impending closure of an existing pensioners' reserve by the town council, who needed the land for other purposes.⁹ Pensioners' reserves, where old age pensioners unable to afford other forms of accommodation could build themselves a hut or shelter to live in, existed in many Queensland towns and some suburbs of Brisbane in the early 20th century.¹⁰ Administered by the local authorities, who issued permits to pensioners wishing to reside there, it was a cheap but ultimately inadequate way of housing the poorest members of the community.¹¹ Self-built huts were not connected to water or electricity and were vulnerable to being destroyed by fire.¹² Several pensioners' reserves existed at different times in Cairns, including one at Bungalow.¹³

In September 1926 the Cairns City Council Works Committee considered providing cottages for old age pensioners, recommending that three cottages be erected by the council, to be let at a nominal rental to approved local pensioners.¹⁴ An article in the *Cairns Post* on 27 November 1926 stated that the land for the reserve was:

'...cleared, partly fenced and the water laid on and already one cottage has been erected by an old age pensioner, furthermore the Council has approved of the erection of three old age pensioner's cottages on this area this year and in all possibility this policy will be extended in the future, the cottages to be rented at a peppercorn rental. The necessity for a reserve for those people is very pressing and the committee trust that the Lands Department will not offer any objection to this proposal.'¹⁵

Whether or not these cottages were constructed is unclear, as shortly afterwards the pensioners were relocated further north within the Martyn Street reserve, to an area on

³ 'Queensland Past and Present: 100 Years of Statistics, 1896-1996,' 1998.

⁴ Survey Plan C19839.

⁵ Cairns Post, Saturday 3 Dec 1910, p5.

⁶ For example - Cairns Post, Friday 25 February 1927, p8; Cairns Post, Wednesday 25 June 1947, p5.

⁷ Survey Plan C19839.

⁸ Cairns Post, Wednesday 26 January 1921, p2; Cairns Post, Saturday 27 November 1926, p8.; article describes the location of this pensioners' reserve area as opposite Section 52, which places it south of Grove Street, opposite the current pensioners' cottages site.

⁹ Cairns Post, Wednesday 22 September 1920, p3.

¹⁰ For example, Tarragindi pensioners' reserve, in Brisbane - Courier Mail Thursday 22 January 1953 p3;

¹¹ For example, Charleville pensioners' reserve - Charleville Times Friday 17 February 1933, p7.

¹² For example, Cairns Post, Thursday 24 October 1940, p4; Charleville Times Friday 30 December 1938, p5.

¹³ Cairns Post, Wednesday 22 October 1919, p8; Cairns Post, Wednesday 8 May 1946, p4.

¹⁴ Cairns Post, Thursday 23 September 1926, p14.

¹⁵ Cairns Post, Saturday 27 November 1926, p8.

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the southern side of Charles Street. By September 1928 this area had been partly fenced with material from the previous site, and water was laid on to the northern end via Charles Street.¹⁶ It was here that the pensioners established themselves, living in tents and small self-built huts.¹⁷

Between 1910 and 1950 the number of old age pensioners in Queensland rose from 8,561 to 45,937.¹⁸ As the population grew and the pension rate failed to keep pace with rising costs of living, pensioners found it increasingly difficult to afford decent accommodation, and many were forced to do odd jobs to earn more than just enough to exist.¹⁹ A *Courier Mail* article printed in June 1950 summed up the housing plight faced by hundreds of pensioners living a 'hand to mouth' existence, with a lack of proper accommodation forcing many of them to live in small rooms with few facilities. Homes for aged people were too few to handle the number of pensioners seeking accommodation, with at least 1000 waiting for admission to homes in the Brisbane area.²⁰

From the 1920s the State Government had established a series of institutions for the aged, infirm and/or destitute in different parts of the state. The first purpose-built government home for the aged, named 'Eventide', was opened at Charters Towers in 1929, providing accommodation for 150 inmates. Unlike the Dunwich asylum, which housed the inmates in large dormitories, Charters Towers inmates were provided with 'single and double huts, each having its own small garden plot'.²¹ In 1945, the overcrowded Dunwich asylum was closed and the inmates transferred to a former RAAF station at Sandgate. Also named 'Eventide', this institution became the principal government aged care facility in southern Queensland.²² A third 'Eventide' was opened in Rockhampton in 1950, offering similar accommodation to Charters Towers. Each with their own garden plot, the dual occupancy huts consisted of individual bedrooms with their own verandah, and were arranged within a complex including hospital wards, an administration building, staff quarters, a workshop/library, a recreation building and kitchen, dining, bathing and laundry facilities.²³

Institutions for the aged were also operated by religious organisations and charities. Most of these early homes for the aged housed within converted residences purchased by, or bequeathed to, the church or charity. One example is Hanworth Home for the Aged [QHR 601026], established as a home for elderly, impoverished gentlewomen in 1913 in an 1860s house in East Brisbane, which had been purchased and converted for the purpose by Mrs Mary Wienholt, a member of the Brisbane branch of the Theosophical Society. Re-named 'The Hospice', the home was run by the Theosophical Society for over 70 years.²⁴ One of the most influential purpose-built, privately funded settlements for the aged was established in 1936 in the north Brisbane suburb of Chermside. Constructed due to the combined efforts of Methodist social advocate Reverend Harold M Wheller and philanthropist/businessman George Marchant, Chermside Garden Settlement consisted of 20 cottages in a garden setting, with communal dining room and laundry buildings and staff quarters. The settlement grew rapidly, with a chapel, bowling green and further nine cottages added within four

¹⁶ Cairns Post, Wednesday 19 September 1928, p7.

¹⁷ Cairns Post, Thursday 24 October 1940, p4; Cairns Post, Thursday 21 August 1947, p4.

¹⁸ 'Queensland Past and Present: 100 Years of Statistics, 1896-1996,' 1998.

¹⁹ Townsville Daily Bulletin, Wednesday 19 February 1947, p5.

²⁰ Courier Mail, Saturday 10 June 1950, p3.

²¹ Thom Blake, *Health Buildings in Queensland: an historical overview*, p62.

²² Thom Blake, *Health Buildings in Queensland: an historical overview*, p62.

²³ Thom Blake, *Queensland Health Heritage Survey, Volume 2: Site Assessments*, 1996, no. CN27 Rockhampton Eventide Home.

²⁴ QHR 601026 Hanwoth Home for the Aged.

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years.²⁵ Despite the growing number of facilities available in the mid-20th century there were still not enough places to accommodate all pensioners in need, and the regulated lifestyle offered by institutions did not appeal to able-bodied pensioners who wished to live independently.

To encourage the construction of more affordable housing for pensioners, in 1946 the Department of Health and Home Affairs implemented a state-wide scheme to assist local authorities with constructing cottages. The scheme offered a pound-for-pound subsidy and, where necessary, made loan money available. The cottages were intended for pensioners who were able to care for themselves and desired to live independently in the districts in which they had spent most of their lives. The grant of the subsidy was subject to approval by Cabinet, and it was the responsibility of the local authority to secure the site, prepare plans and erect and maintain the cottages.²⁶

By September 1953, cottage accommodation had been built at Innisfail (11 units), Cloncurry (6 cottages), Inglewood (1 cottage), Texas (1 cottage), Warwick (8 cottages), Toowoomba (22 units), Mareeba (10 cottages), Ipswich (12 units), and Mackay (12 cottages under construction).²⁷ Other towns known to have carried cottage schemes through to completion include Maryborough, Atherton, Bowen, Barcaldine and Blackall. The types of accommodation constructed varied. At Toowoomba, eleven former United States army buildings were relocated to a site in West Street and converted into duplex cottages, each housing two couples.²⁸ This was one of the first schemes completed, with units available from December 1947 at a weekly rent of seven shillings and sixpence (7/6).²⁹ In Innisfail, fibro-clad single and double self-contained units, and one four-unit cottage for women only, were built in different locations in the town so that the pensioners would be 'part of the normal fellowship of suburban life'.³⁰ In Mackay, a 'model settlement' of 12 cottages and a communal laundry was designed by architect Karl Langer, built in a low, bungalow style serviced by a winding road.³¹ While in Brassall, Ipswich, six double units with tiled roofs and chimneys were completed in 1953, each unit containing a bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom and verandah.³² Cottages were let for an affordable rent, and pensioners interested in occupying them made an application to the local authority. Some schemes only permitted all males or all females to reside there while others provided for mixed groups and married couples.

Not all proposed cottages schemes went ahead as planned and local authorities had different views about the concept. In Barcaldine, a scheme to build 6 cottages did not progress due to building costs and the unwillingness of local pensioners to pay rent for them.³³ In Bowen, the Town Council was forced to defer building their 'model village' for years due to delays in obtaining approvals and rapidly rising construction costs, with only three out of six planned cottages eventually built in c.1954.³⁴ While in Townsville, the City Council stated the opinion that Homes for the Aged were better than building pensioners' cottages, and that despite the good intentions of the local

²⁵ BCC Heritage Register - H M Wheller Garden Settlement; Courier Mail Tuesday 18 February 1936, p12; Courier Mail, Thursday 24 November 1938, p2; Chermanside and Districts Historical Society Inc. http://www.chermansidedistrict.org.au/chermansidedistrict/01_cms/details.asp?ID=125

²⁶ Queensland Times, Friday 3 August 1945, p2.

²⁷ The Courier Mail, Wednesday 2 September 1953, p10.

²⁸ The Courier Mail, Wednesday 6 February 1946, p3.

²⁹ The Courier Mail, Friday 7 November 1947, p3.

³⁰ The Courier Mail, Wednesday 2 September 1953, p10.

³¹ The Northern Miner, Friday 24 September 1948, p4. Completed in

³² The Courier Mail, Wednesday 2 April 1952, p7.

³³ Central Queensland Herald, Thursday 5 May 1949, p24.

³⁴ Townsville Daily Bulletin Friday 8 January 1954, p3.

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authorities who had already built cottages, by doing so they had 'relieved the Federal Government's Social Service Fund of an obligation which it should shoulder.'³⁵

In Cairns, the difficulties faced by pensioners in the area had been discussed over the years in local newspapers with concerns raised about the availability of affordable housing in the district.³⁶ In July 1947, a Cairns branch of the Australian Pensioners' League was formed.³⁷ The League played an important role in improving the living conditions of all pensioners in Queensland by lobbying local, state and federal governments on issues such as raising the minimum pension rate, abolition of the means test, improved social benefits, and freedom from rates and taxes on the homes of pensioners.³⁸ One of the first acts of the Cairns branch of the APL was to request the Cairns City Council have a Pensioners' Reserve proclaimed in Cairns, preferably the one already occupied by pensioners on the Martyn Street reserve.³⁹

Steps towards providing an official pensioners' reserve under the trusteeship of Cairns City Council were already underway. The new reserve, of approximately 7 acres 1 rood (2.9ha) bounded by Grove Street to the south-east, Lily Creek to the north-east, Charles Street to the north-west and private properties to the south-west, was gazetted as a Reserve for Pensioners' Homes on 4 September 1948.⁴⁰

The following year, in December 1949, a deputation of the Cairns branches of the Australian Pensioners' League and the Australian Labor Party requested that Cairns City Council erect cottages for single and married pensioners on the reserve. In arguing their case, Mr Lynch of the Labor Party stated that pensioners in Cairns 'should have homes which would create an atmosphere of security and congeniality in their declining years', and that 'the present state in which they [pensioners] dwelt was a disgrace, it reminded him of 'blackfellows' gunyahs'. Secretary of the Cairns Branch of the Pensioners' League, Mr T Crowe (who had lived on the reserve for four years), stated that 'the pensioners on the reserve were natives of Cairns and they wished to stay here... they objected to State homes, which were built on barrack lines.' He went on to state that 'these people desired a home that they could call their own and for which they could pay a nominal rental', and that the pensioners themselves proposed that the swamp and jungle surrounding their reserve be filled in with good soil so that each home could have a garden to grow vegetables.⁴¹

Details about the financial situation of pensioners were also revealed, with Mr Crowe claiming that many pensioners were paying over half of their maximum weekly pension of £2/2/6 for 'flats' (25-27/6 a week) and as much as 17/6 for 'tumble-down' rooms. He claimed that pensioners interested in the cottage scheme would be willing to pay from 5/- to 10/- a week rental. In response, the Mayor of Cairns pointed out the difficulties associated with such a project, having already begun investigating costs etc. He assured the deputation that the council would consider the matter when more information was available to them.⁴²

Progress towards constructing the cottages was slow. In mid-1950 a deputation of the Cairns Pensioners' League approached the Member for Cook, Mr C F Wordsworth, seeking some action. Mr Wordsworth wrote to the Cairns City Council, saying: 'These

³⁵ Townsville Daily Bulletin, Thursday 4 September 1952, p2.

³⁶ Grove Street Pensioner Cottages, Cairns Regional Council Heritage Survey 2012, p419-421.

³⁷ Cairns Post, Saturday 5 July 1947, p7; Earlier that year, a Queensland-wide branch of the Australian Pensioners' League had been formed by the amalgamation of eleven different pensioners' organisations in the state.

³⁸ Townsville Daily Bulletin, Wednesday 19 February 1947, p5.

³⁹ Cairns Post, Thursday 21 August 1947, p4.

⁴⁰ Government Gazette, 4th September 1948, p1678.

⁴¹ Cairns Post, Wednesday 14 December 1949, p5.

⁴² Cairns Post, Wednesday 14 December 1949, p5; The Daily News, Friday 9 September 1949, p5.

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elderly people are living under conditions unworthy of a city the size of Cairns. They are not seeking charity but feel entitled to the provision of huts and lighting on a rental basis. Such facilities have been provided for pensioners at Mareeba... Existing self-built huts would be a danger to life under cyclonic conditions'. The Mayor, Ald W H Murchison, replied that an amount for a cottage scheme had been placed on the council's loan budget, and in December 1950 the council passed the resolution to borrow £1500 for erecting six pensioners' cottages.⁴³

Approval for this loan and the £1500 government subsidy, making a total of £3000 for the scheme, was granted to the Cairns City Council in February 1951, and the Mayor announced that tenders for erecting the cottages would be called shortly.⁴⁴ Plans were prepared and submitted to the Department of Public Works for approval. However, the Department's objections to aspects of the design, such as the number of rooms per cottage, delayed progress for over a year. A frustrated Cairns Mayor, Ald W J Fulton, defended the cottage plans, stating that to create more rooms would create more work and trouble for the aged occupants, and that coolness was another factor which had been considered. He explained that the designs were based on those of the Anderson Street diggers' homes, which had been found very satisfactory.⁴⁵

The diggers' homes scheme that provided a basis for the Cairns pensioners' cottage designs was undertaken by the Cairns and District branch of the Returned Sailors' and Soldiers' Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA) in the 1930s. Built to house 'burnt-out' former soldiers, six small timber cottages, fully furnished with electricity, water and space for gardens and poultry, were erected in a row off Anderson Street in 1937. The site also included a community hall and a communal bathroom. The scheme was funded by public donations and the land was donated by the Mayor at that time, Ald W A Collins.⁴⁶

Another influence on the Cairns cottages was the Mareeba Pensioners' Cottages scheme, constructed a few years earlier in 1950. Consisting of ten cottages in a row – two for married couples, eight for single occupants – the Mareeba scheme was referred to by advocates of the proposed Cairns scheme as a good model to follow.⁴⁷ Neither the diggers' homes nor the original ten Mareeba cottages survive today.

In early 1953, after resolving the various design and loan issues with the State Government, Cairns City Council commenced work on the Grove Street cottages. The finally-approved plans and specifications, dated October 1952, were for five small, individual timber cottages containing two rooms, a kitchen and bedroom, each 10 by 8 feet (3m by 2.4m), as well as a stove recess and an 8 by 5 feet (2.4m by 1.5m) front verandah. Behind the five cottages there would be a laundry block, incorporating two shower recesses, wash tubs and copper, and two earth closets.⁴⁸

The proposed site for the cottages, away from the existing pensioners' huts, had already been prepared for building at the southern end of the pensioners' reserve, facing Grove Street. Construction of the cottages began in early 1953, with five proposed to be built in the first stage. The first cottage was completed in September 1953 and tenders for the construction and completion of the remaining four cottages and one of the outbuildings were invited at the same time.⁴⁹

⁴³ Cairns Post, Thursday 20 July 1950, p2; Cairns Post, Wednesday 20 December 1950, p1

⁴⁴ Cairns Post, Saturday 10 February 1951, p5

⁴⁵ Cairns Post, Wednesday 17 September 1952, p5.

⁴⁶ Cairns Post, Saturday 30 October 1937, p8; Cairns Post, Monday 20 December 1937, p8.

⁴⁷ Cairns Post, Wednesday 19 November 1952, p5.

⁴⁸ Cairns Post, Thursday 5 March 1953, p5.

⁴⁹ Cairns Post, Wednesday 16 September 1953, p4; Cairns Post, Friday 18 September 1953, p2.

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As the first pensioners' cottages scheme to be built in Cairns, the Grove Street cottages set the pattern for further pensioner housing to be built in the region. Similar cottages for women pensioners were built in Pease Street in the nearby suburb of Manoora from 1954.⁵⁰ It is likely that the additional three cottages and laundry block at the Grove Street site were completed at this time. In the same year Mulgrave Shire Council invited tenders for a single pensioners' cottage each at Yorkeys Knob, Gordonvale, Babinda and Bramston Beach.⁵¹

Some original pensioners' cottages schemes built in Queensland in the 1940s and 50s still exist, but most have been demolished or replaced by more modern accommodation. Known existing original schemes include Toowoomba (9 out of 11 cottages remaining), Brassall, Ipswich (now part of a larger complex), Blackall (original 4 cottages plus two extra of a similar design) and Pease Street, Cairns (approximately 7 remaining).⁵² At the Grove Street site, the remainder of the reserve land between Grove and Charles streets was subdivided and developed in stages from the 1970s by the Queensland Housing Commission as unit accommodation for aged persons.⁵³

At some point after 1980 a bathroom extension was added to the rear of the bedroom of each cottage and the front verandahs were enclosed.⁵⁴ The laundry/shower blocks were subsequently used for storage. All buildings have had their roof sheeting replaced and modern features such as security screens added. In 2013, the Grove Street Pensioners' Cottages continue to be occupied by elderly pensioners under the trusteeship of Cairns Regional Council.⁵⁵

Description

The Grove Street Pensioners' Cottages occupy a southeast-facing 0.33ha site on Grove Street in the Cairns suburb of Parramatta Park. Seven individual cottages are arranged in a crescent addressing Grove Street, linked by a curved driveway, while an eighth cottage stands alone in the western corner of the site. Two former laundry/bathroom blocks are located in the area behind the cottages. Residential development surrounds the site to the south-west and north-west, largely screened from view by trees, and Lily Creek lies to the north-east. Driveways accessing properties to the rear of the site adjoin the north-east and south-west boundaries.

From the exterior, the cottages appear almost identical. Small in scale, they are single storey, timber-framed, chamferboard-clad buildings on low stumps. Each has a gable roof clad in corrugated metal sheeting with raked eaves lined with timber boards. Original windows are timber-framed, three-light casements of patterned glass. The bathroom extension at the rear of each cottage and the former stove recesses have louvred windows, also containing patterned glass. The verandahs have been enclosed with louvres above balustrade height and chamferboards below. A short flight of steps to the front door has a metal handrail, while the rear steps retain their timber balustrade. Non-significant elements on the exterior include roof ventilators and security screens to doors and windows. **Some portions of external wall cladding are of plastic imitation timber boards.**

⁵⁰ 'A Thematic History of the City of Cairns and its Regional Towns', Heritage Alliance, 2011.

⁵¹ Cairns Post, Saturday 23 October 1954, p10.

⁵² Summary table of pensioners' cottages schemes in Queensland, compiled from newspaper searches, aerial photos and town survey plans.

⁵³ Aerial photographs; Reserve file RES 7982.

⁵⁴ Reserve file RES 7982.

⁵⁵ Grove Street Pensioner Cottages, Cairns Regional Council Heritage Survey 2012, p419-421.

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The interior of each cottage contains four rooms – an enclosed front verandah, a kitchen with original stove recess, a bedroom, and a bathroom extension. All have been renovated at different times and contain a variety of linings, fittings and fixtures. Surviving early fabric may include framed and ledged timber doors, early locks and door handles, kitchen cabinets, chamfered architraves, and wall and ceiling linings with cover strips.

Two former laundry/shower blocks are located behind the main row of cottages. Standing at ground level on a concrete slab, they are both timber framed, clad in fibre cement sheeting with a corrugated fibre cement skillion roof. An open passageway passes through each block, with the former laundry on one side and two former shower cubicles on the other. The eastern block retains glass louvred windows, one to each cubicle, however windows in the western block have been enclosed. Both blocks retain their timber shower cubicle doors, however the inner dividing partition has been removed in the eastern block. The western block retains a double concrete laundry sink.

The cottages are surrounded by lawns and garden beds with mature trees (including mango trees) lining the rear boundary. The identical cottages in their curved layout and garden setting present a charming and picturesque scene in the Grove Street streetscape.

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Illustrations

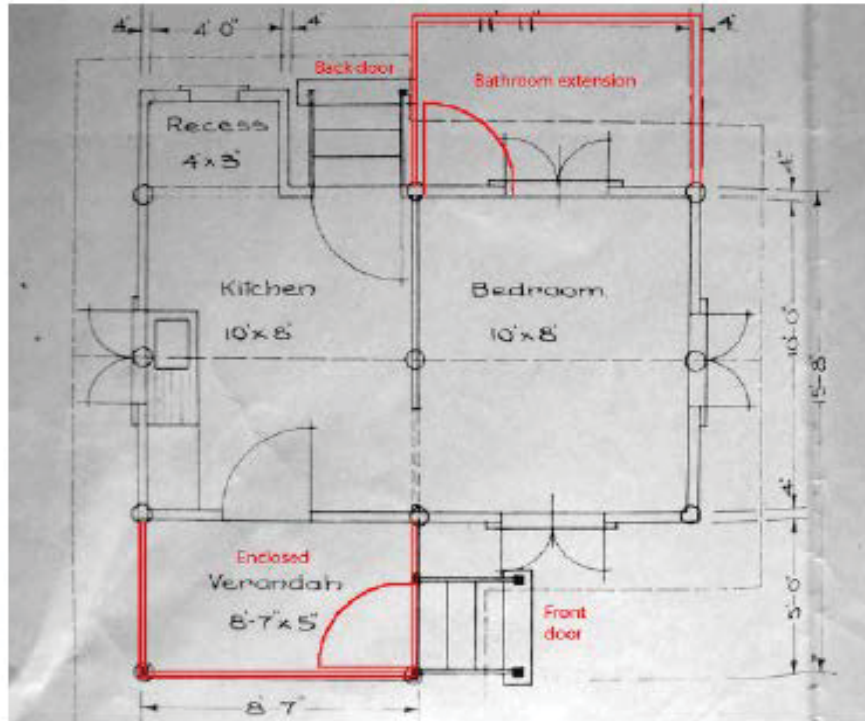


Figure 2: Original plan of cottage with later additions shown in red (Source: Queensland State Archives Item ID664238.)



Figure 3: View of the cottages from the front lawn (Source: EHP site visit 06/05/13)

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Figure 4: Rear view of one of the cottages (Source: EHP site visit 06/05/13)



Figure 5: View towards Cottage 8 and Laundry Block 2 at the rear of the site (Source: EHP site visit 06/05/13)

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Figure 6: Kitchen, former stove recess and back door of Cottage 1 (Source: EHP site visit 06/05/13)

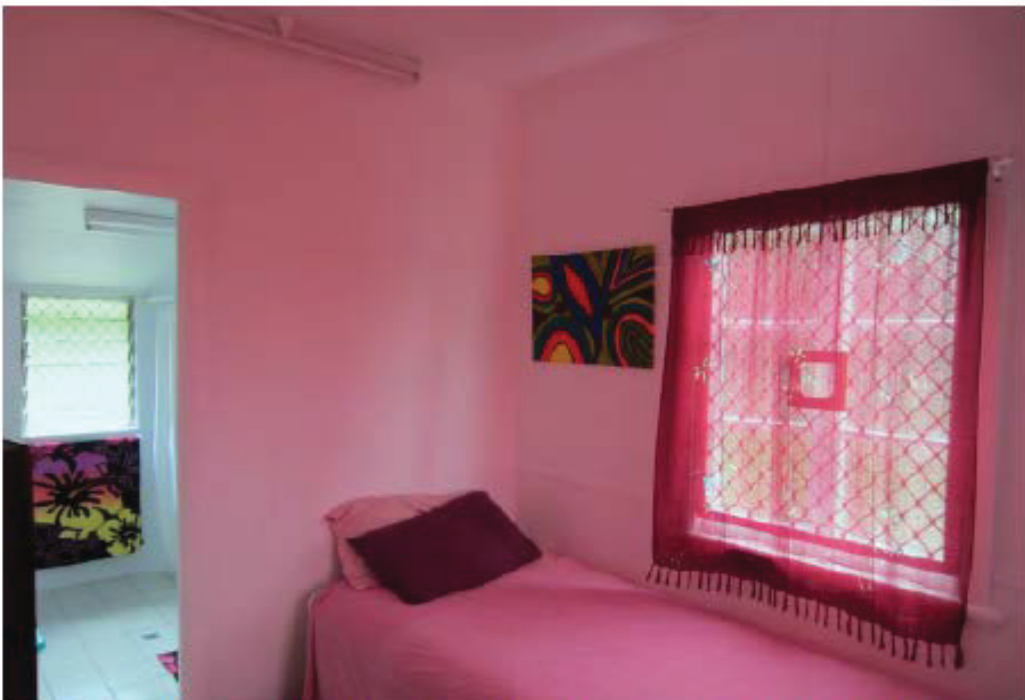


Figure 7: Bedroom and rear bathroom addition in Cottage 1 (Source: EHP site visit 06/05/13)

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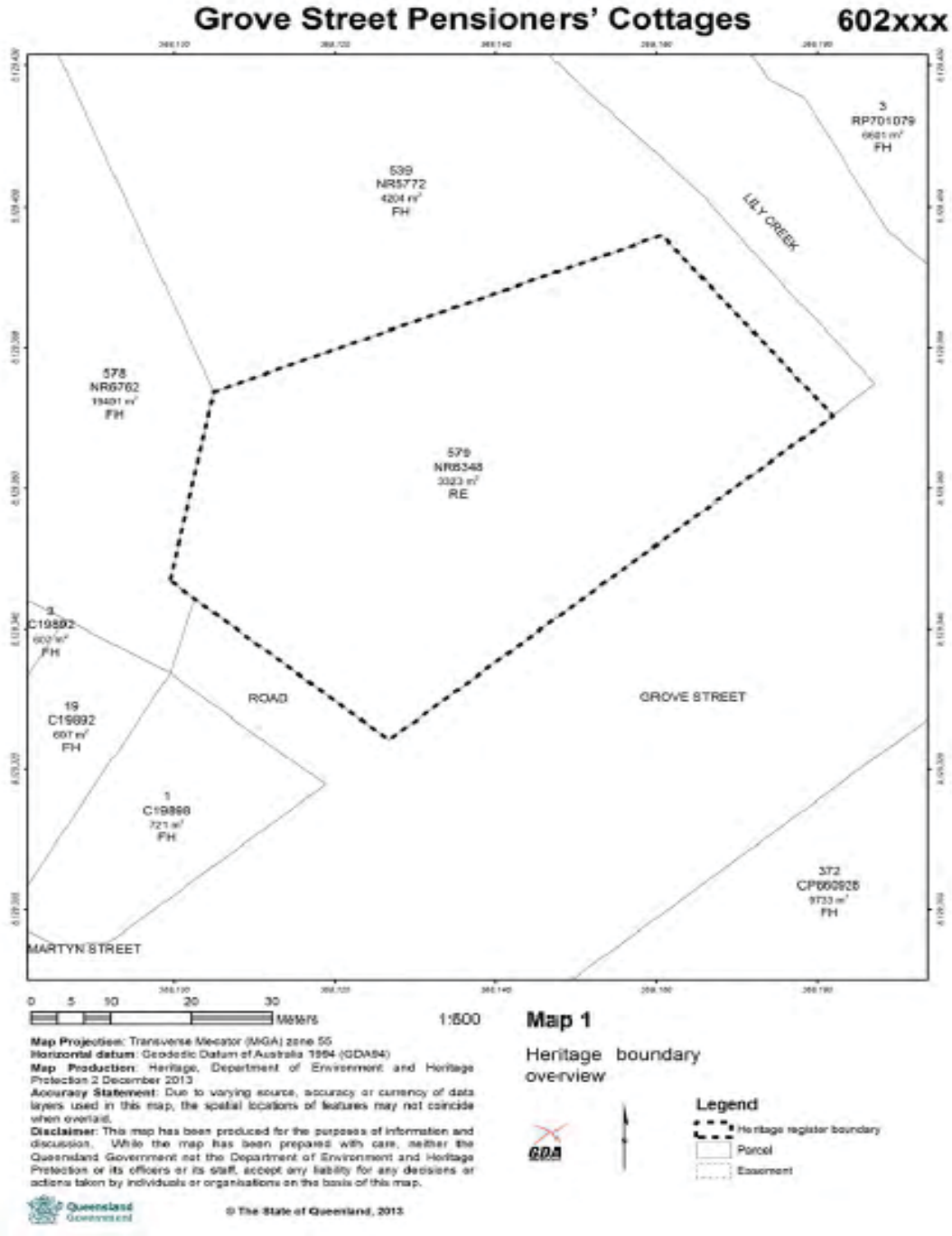
Site Plan



Figure 8: Aerial view of the site, showing numbering used in this application (Source: Google Maps, accessed 2013)

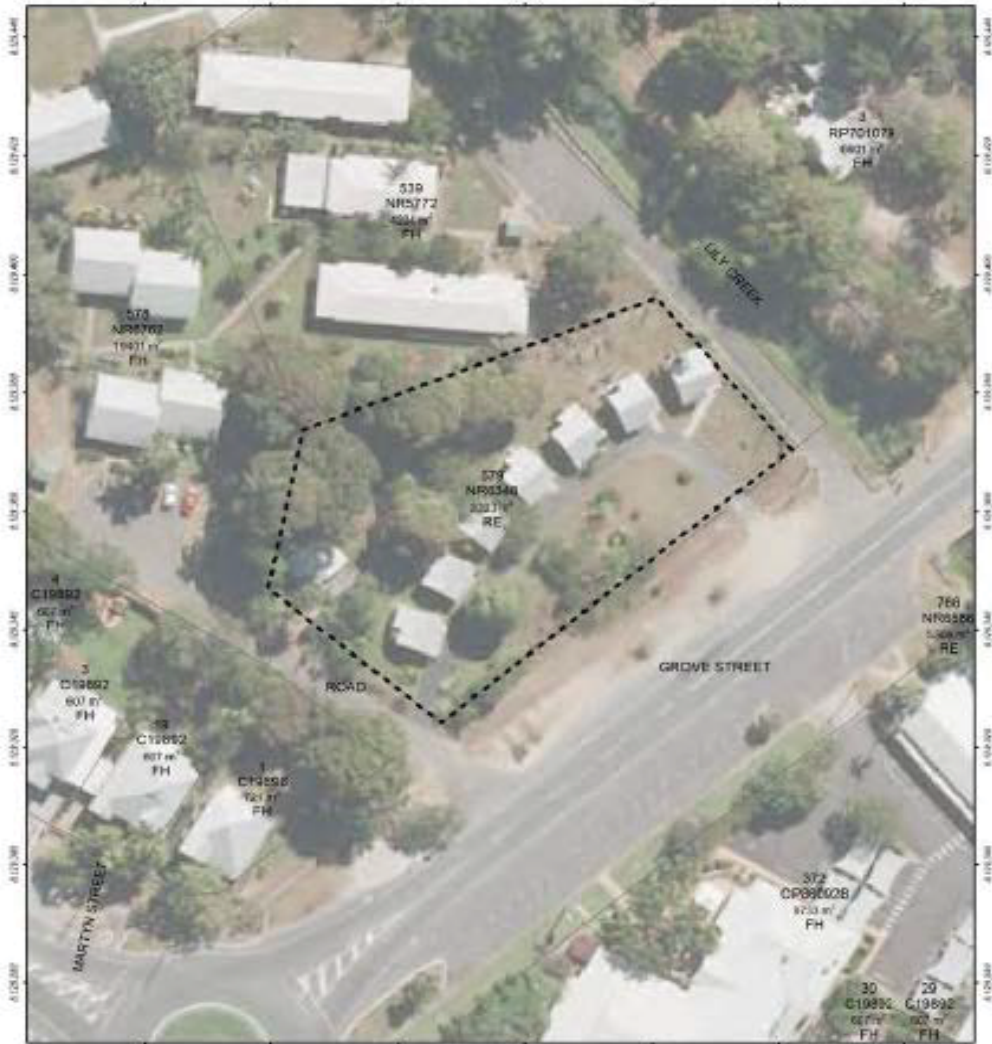
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Proposed heritage register boundary



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Grove Street Pensioners' Cottages 602xxx



1:800

Map 2 (with aerial imagery)

Map Projection: Transverse Mercator (MGA) zone 55
Horizontal datum: Geodetic Datum of Australia 1984 (GD84)
Map Production: Heritage, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection 2 December 2013
Accuracy Statement: Due to varying source, accuracy or currency of data layers used in this map, the spatial locations of features may not coincide when overlaid.
Disclaimer: This map has been produced for the purposes of information and discussion. While the map has been prepared with care, neither the Queensland Government nor the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection or its officers or its staff, accept any liability for any decisions or actions taken by individuals or organisations on the basis of this map.

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Heritage boundary overview



Legend

- Heritage register boundary
- Parcel
- Easement

DIG7011-45183.pg

RGB

- Red: Band_1
- Green: Band_2
- Blue: Band_3