Biggenden Butter Factory (former)

### Historical Context
The town of Biggenden, located in a corner of the former Degilbo pastoral station (established in the late 1840s), was settled following the extension of the railway from Maryborough to the district in 1891. The town supported the various industries in the region, including agriculture, dairying and timber. The town was particularly well-known for the state experimental farm established on the outskirts of town in 1898, the Biggenden Mine and the butter factory. The town also includes a substantial sale yard and show grounds.

The Biggenden Butter Factory was established in 1911 by the Maryborough Co-operative Dairy Association. The butter factory serviced an area of approximately 50,000ha and by 1939 the factory was supplied by 421 farms and produced 1407 tons of butter annually. The factory was remodelled in 1929; it appears to have been effectively reconstructed as a significantly larger and more modern factory, illustrating its success. Indeed, the factory won a number of awards, including first prize at the Islington Dairy Show, London, in 1929. The factory’s success was contingent on the Burnett Railway, as the butter was sent to Brisbane for distribution from the Hamilton Cold Store, located on the Hamilton Reach of the Brisbane River. The former Paradise School of Arts building was also apparently used as an extension of the Butter Factory structure. The butter factory closed in 1972. The building is currently occupied by an engineering firm.

### Physical Description
The Biggenden Butter Factory is located in the south east of the township bounded by Airstrip Road and the railway line on a fenced, triangular shaped, levelled four hectare block. Located south of the building in the centre of the property is a dam. The area is sparsely vegetated with grass and some trees and there are a number of tracks around the building and leading to the dam.

The rectangular cross-shaped building is located in the north west of the site, the front facing Airstrip Street and the eastern side facing the railway. The structure features clad walls and a gable roof covered with corrugated iron. The roof shows three roof lanterns, one each spanning the front and rear of the long transepts and a third on the short transept of the cross-shaped layout. The front displays the main entrance covered by a steel suspended awning featuring a sign reading BIGGENDEN ENGINEERING WORKS. On the western side is a small annex with skillion roof. Located on the rear end of the western side is a small rectangular building with gable roof clad with corrugated iron. The eastern side of the building displays a number of roller doors and windows.

### Heritage Significance

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<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<td>A</td>
<td>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region’s history.</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places important to the region.</td>
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**Statement**
The Biggenden Butter Factory is important in demonstrating the evolution of the region’s history, particularly the significance of the dairying industry to the development of the town of Biggenden and the broader region.

The Biggenden Butter Factory is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a butter factory.

### Location Map

![Location Map of Biggenden Butter Factory](image)

### Integrity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Fair</th>
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**Statutory Listings**
No statutory listings

**Non-Statutory Listings**
No non-statutory listings

**Inspection Date**
30/07/2012

**References**
Pragnell, J., Cheshire, L., Quirk, K., Paradise: Life on a Queensland Goldfield, Brisbane, University of Queensland Archaeological Services Unit, 2005.