

Other Names	N/A	
Street Address	Burnett Highway	Ceratodus
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	N/A	

Historical Context

The Ceratodus Rest Area includes two features that relate to the history of the surrounding district. Firstly, the area includes a stone cairn that indicates the approximate location of the Native Police Barracks, approximately “1 mile downstream” along the Burnett River. The first European settlers entered the Burnett region in the late 1840s and early settlement was marked by the establishment of extensive pastoral stations stocked with sheep. Relations between local Aboriginal people and the new settlers were difficult and turned increasingly violent in the early 1850s, as the pastoral stations took up huge swathes of land and the Aboriginal people retaliated by killing sheep and attacking shepherds (reflecting a broader pattern of conflict that extended throughout the Wide Bay and Burnett region). A detachment of Native Police was established at Traylan in 1851, near the junction of the Nogo and Burnett Rivers, in response to the conflict. The Native Police were formed in the late 1840s to quell Aboriginal resistance and facilitate the expansion of the frontier, and consisted of European officers and Aboriginal troopers. The Police quarters were constructed in 1852 and included a barracks, sergeant’s hut, armoury, kitchen and Commandant’s house. In addition to quelling Aboriginal resistance, the Native Police carried the mail between the district and Port Curtis (Gladstone), which was established in 1854. The Native Police were removed from the district in 1857, apparently due to sickness, and the buildings removed to a local pastoral station. Several troopers and two children were apparently buried at Traylan, although the precise location of the barracks and grave sites is unclear.

The Rest Area also features the former Ceratodus Railway Station building. Settlers in Gayndah and the surrounding districts agitated for a railway connecting the region to the North Coast Railway from the mid-1870s. Gayndah, as the principal town in the region, was the preferred terminus of the line. Construction of the railway began in 1886 and it reached Gayndah in 1907. Work on extending the line further west began in 1909; first to Mundubbera and, by the 1920s, Monto. The line was eventually connected to the Boyne Valley railway, south of Calliope. The line to Ceratodus was constructed in April 1924 and the station was opened seven months later.

These features were installed by local citizens who wished to conserve aspects of the region’s history for future generations. The cairn indicating the site of the Native Police barracks was erected by the Eidsvold and District Historical Society in 1987. The railway station building was moved to the rest area through the efforts of the Ceratodus Relocation Committee in 1997.

Physical Description

The Ceratodus Rest Area is located on the western side of the Burnett Highway on the northern bank of the Burnett River, approximately eleven kilometres north of Eidsvold. There are a number of mature trees mainly on the perimeter on the otherwise cleared grassed area with access from the highway via a bitumen ring road.

In the centre of the rest area is a partially enclosed hexagonal timber structure with corrugated iron roof, containing interpretative displays, two tourist information signs and a small open picnic shelter. Situated on the south-eastern side of the ring road is the former Ceratodus Railway Station, a lowset timber structure on concrete base with a corrugated iron clad hipped roof. The building, separated from the road by a fence featuring capped timber posts connected by railway paraphernalia, includes a waiting area and an enclosed ticket and station masters office.

Situated on the southern side of the ring road is a large boulder featuring a metal plaque containing information on the Traylan Native Police Camp.

Integrity	Good	Condition	Good
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings		
Inspection Date	6/11/2013		

References

Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Wide Bay Burnett Thematic History, 2012.
 Johnston, W. Ross, A New Province? The Closer Settlement of Monto, Brisbane, Boolarong Publications for the Monto Shire Council, 1982.
 O’Sullivan, Doreen, 1995, Gayndah on the Burnett, Toowoomba, Doreen O’Sullivan.

Heritage Significance

Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region’s history.</i>
Statement	The Ceratodus Rest Area is important in demonstrating the pattern of the region’s history, by providing tangible and intangible evidence of two key historical processes that were significant in the region, namely the use of Native Police and the construction of the railway in the early twentieth century. The site is also important in demonstrating the emergence of community interest in the history of the locality, illustrated by the erection of the cairn to the Native Police and the relocation of the former Ceratodus Railway Station building and its ongoing maintenance.
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	The Ceratodus Rest Area has a special association with two community groups, the Eidsvold and District Historical Society and the Ceratodus Relocation Committee, both of which were (and in the case of the historical society, remain) important community organisations committed to preserving and communicating the history of the region.

Location Map

