

Other Names	Barolin Playgroup, Stepping Stones Therapy Centre	
Street Address	Corner Elliott Heads Road and 14 School Lane	Windermere
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	218SP170700	

Historical Context

In 1882, Windermere Mill and Plantation's Fred Nott, one of Bundaberg's leading sugar men, inquired about the steps required to establish a school in the district. At a public meeting on 1 March, 1883, Nott, W.N. Keys (later owner of Pemberton Sugar Mill) and Fred Rehbein called for the establishment of a state school on a proposed site of about 92 acres. An amount of 70 pounds had been promised. Nott was the Secretary of the School Committee. It was decided by the Department of Public Instruction that a provisional school was all that was needed and the Barolin Provisional School opened in February 1884. In 1884, Ludwig Breusch, Keyes and Nott were elected to promote the establishment of a state school at Barolin. In 1885, Nott wrote requesting that the provisional school be made a state school. In February, 1886, the Department of Public Instruction approved the establishment of a state school. William Starke of Gin Gin was contracted to build the school. The building was ready for occupation in 1886. The playshed/shelter was erected in 1895.

The school site is now occupied by a therapy centre; it no longer functions as a school.

Physical Description

School building- A low set, timber frame school building c. 1886, with concrete stumps and walls clad in timber chamfer boards. Medina pitch, single gable roof, pulled down to shelter front and rear verandah spaces. Timber slat balustrade to rear verandah, which accommodates a sink. Front verandah balustraded with palings, some with cut out motifs, timber bench seating. Verandah enclosed on gable ends. French doors. Large casement windows to gable ends with iron and timber window hoods. Serviced by water tank.

Interior clad in vertical timber boards, ceiling in vertical boards. Ceiling fans. Vinyl faux-tile flooring.

Shelter- A timber framed, hipped roof shelter structure. The slab on ground building is fully enclosed on two sides and partially enclosed on the elevation facing the school building, with wide mesh screening to the balance of the building. The collar tie roof structure is clad in corrugated sheet metal. The timber posts branch out with timber struts to support the overhang. The walls are partially clad in corrugated iron. Serviced by water tank.

There are numerous mature trees located in the grounds of the former school, including two large weeping figs, Camphor Laurel and pine trees. Some of the trees are understood to have been planted in observance of Arbour Day, which was first observed in Australia from 1889.

Integrity	Good	Condition	Good
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings		
Inspection Date	9/8/2013		

References

Woods Bagot Pty Ltd, Burnett Shire Cultural Heritage Study, Volume 3 - Schedule of Places Ref BUR 159 and 160, 1996.

Heritage Significance

Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
Statement	As an example of a timber school constructed at the end of the nineteenth century and with little change or modification over time, the Barolin State School and Shelter serves as an important reminder of the development and provision of state education to rural communities throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.
E	<i>The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance</i>
Statement	The grounds include a variety of mature plantings that create a picturesque surround to the school buildings and are significant in themselves due to their association with the early school.
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	The Barolin State School, as with many educational institutions, forms a strong focal point around which the local community revolves. The Barolin and surrounding district residents have used the school for educational purposes, as a meeting place and for public functions over a significant period of time.

Location Map



School and shelter building, view to south.



Shelter building.



Barolin State School, western elevation.