

Queensland Heritage Register Migration Places

The Queensland Heritage Register (QHR) includes a number of places which illustrate the state's migration story and represent the many nationalities that were here from first settlement.

This fact sheet outlines their place name and six-digit identification number, plus a brief explanation of their story. Research into migrants and immigration may reveal more connections to these and other Queensland places.

To search the Queensland Heritage Register and for further information, visit the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection's website at <www.ehp.qld.gov.au>.

Convict settlement

Initial European settlement in Queensland was a short-lived penal complex in the Brisbane area from 1825–39. The QHR recognises convict heritage through a number of sites:

- » Windmill Tower (600173)
- » Commissariat Stores (former) (600176)
- » Dunwich Convict Causeway (601021)
- » Public Reserve incorporating the Privy Pit and Site of Convict Barracks and Store, Dunwich (602139)
- » Eagle Farm Women's Prison and Factory site (600186).

From 1840 pastoralists began occupying grazing lands, moving into the Darling Downs and Moreton Bay region and then north and west.

Immigration depots and hostels

Following the establishment of the Colony of Queensland in December 1859, Queensland became an 'immigration colony' as for three decades successive governments encouraged immigration. Queensland immigration agents toured Britain and some parts of Europe promoting settlement, especially onto the land.

Initially those who paid their own passage to the colony were given a land order worth £18, but the major form of assistance was either a free or assisted passage. As a result, the population rose from 30 000 in 1860 to 393 000 in 1890.

Immigration depots and hostels provided accommodation for immigrants well into the 20th century. Some of them are:

- » Department of Primary Industries Building (former immigration depot) (601093)

- » Maryborough Central State School (site of a former immigration depot) (601264)
- » Acetate of Lime Factory, Colmslie (later an English migrant hostel) (602465)
- » Yungaba Immigration Depot, Brisbane (600245)
- » Yungaba Migrant Hostel, Rockhampton (601939)
- » Brisbane School of Arts (former Servants' Home) (600072).

British migration

The majority of migrants came from the British Isles. The earliest migration scheme to bring British migrants to the colony was arranged by John Dunmore Lang in 1849. A number of these immigrants became members of Queensland's early business community, including Benjamin Cribb whose house, Gooloowan (600593) in Ipswich, is a testament to his success.

About a quarter of British immigrants in the colonial period were Irish. Their presence is demonstrated by Tara House (Irish Club) (600105) in Brisbane and the Hibernian Hall, Roma (601689). The Scottish presence is acknowledged by the Crawford and Co Building, Gympie (602780) and Centenary Place, Brisbane (602442), amongst others.

Welsh migrants primarily came to Queensland as miners settling in the coal mining areas near Ipswich and at Burrum, Hervey Bay. Evidence of their migration is shown by the United Welsh Church, Blackstone (600548) and the Allan Slab Hut, near Torbanlea in Hervey Bay (601934).

German migration

Migrants from other parts of Europe also arrived, with Germans being the largest non-British minority until 1914. Although German migration slumped after World War I, it rose again from 1936 to a peak of 4871 in 1939. German heritage is represented by:

- » Bethania Lutheran Church (600002)
- » Fachwerk Farmhouse, Carbrook (601647)
- » Carbrook Lutheran Cemetery (601660)
- » Schmidt Farmhouse & Outbuildings (former) (601889)
- » First Free Settlers Monument, Nundah (601926).



Jewish migration

A Jewish population has existed in Queensland from the 1860s and grew in the first half of the 20th century. The Brisbane Synagogue (600127) consecrated in 1886 is testament to this early Jewish community.

Non-European migrants from Asia and the Pacific also arrived during the 19th century to create small but significant minorities.

Chinese migration

Chinese initially entered Queensland as pastoral workers from 1847 but the discovery of gold was the biggest catalyst for Chinese migration. From a population of 1000 in 1866, numbers increased to 10 000 a decade later.

Many returned to their birth country but those who remained took up agriculture, trade and service work. By 1890 the Chinese comprised two per cent of Queensland population and were concentrated in North Queensland.

Migration of Chinese people to Queensland is illustrated by a number of places:

- » Hou Wang Miao, Atherton (600010)
- » Nuggety Gully Water Race and Chinese Camp, Lakeland (600426)
- » Stonyville Township, Water Race and Cemetery, Far North Queensland (600433)
- » Cake Shop, Ravenswood (600449)
- » Chinatown, Atherton (600011)
- » The Holy Triad Temple, Brisbane (600056)
- » Chinese Temple and Settlement Site, Croydon (602079)
- » See Poy House, Innisfail (602759).

South Sea Islander migration

Approximately 60 000 South Sea Islanders came to Queensland, mainly as indentured labourers in the sugar industry. Most returned to their homelands after a three-year period. However, 9328 lived in Queensland in 1901, mainly in the sugar growing districts of Mackay, Bundaberg and Cairns.

Despite Commonwealth legislation designed to return them to the Pacific Islands, 1500–2000 remained as permanent residents in 1908.

Evidence of their lives and labours is recorded by:

- » Dry-rubble Boundary Wall, Sunnyside Sugar Plantation, Bundaberg (601700)
- » Homebush Mission Hall (601705)
- » Sir Anthony's Rest, Bundaberg (602053)
- » South Sea Islander Wall, Bargara (602230)
- » St John's Church, Rockhampton (602342)
- » Habana Tramline Causeway and Wharf Site, Mackay (602749).

Scandinavian migration

Scandinavians – mainly Danes – were another well-represented migrant group during the 19th century. Colonsay Farm, Hervey Bay (602771) reflects their contribution to agricultural heritage.

The first half of the 20th century was characterised by European migration. Although migrants from Russia, Greece and Italy arrived in

the late 19th century, it was not until the 1920s that substantial numbers settled.

Russian migration

A small but dynamic Russian community developed in Brisbane and built St Nicholas Russian Orthodox Cathedral (600358) in 1935–36.

Italian migration

Italians became prominent in cane farming especially around the Herbert River and Johnstone River districts. The Canecutters Memorial (602041) at Innisfail is a tribute to the contribution of Italian migrants to the sugar industry in North Queensland.

Maltese migration

One third of all migrants from Malta in the 1920s came to Queensland where many took up cane farming; for instance the district of Habana near Mackay became known as 'little Malta'.

Floriana (602738) in Cairns, built by successful Maltese immigrant Paulus FMA Zammit, reflects elements of traditional Maltese housing design.

Greek migration

Greek migrants spread throughout the state and took up hotel and catering businesses. The Hotel Coronas (601282) in Charleville and Comino's Arcade, Redcliffe (602692) are examples of this trend. Saints Theodores Greek Orthodox Church (601635), in Townsville, built in 1947 is also testament to the activities of the Greek community in Queensland.

Spanish migration

Paronella Park, Mena Creek Falls and Mena Creek Environmental Park (602017) created by migrant Jose Paronellis an enduring legacy which includes Spanish building design.

A small migrant group was the Basque people. Pelota Mano Court (601169) – a handball court at Trebonne near Ingham – is evidence of their presence in North Queensland where they worked predominantly as canecutters.

Japanese migration

Thursday Island Cemetery (600875) is evidence of the hundreds of Japanese pearl shell divers who worked in the Torres Strait.

Cemeteries

A number of cemeteries highlight the diverse migrant groups that lived and worked in Queensland during the nineteenth century. These include:

- » South Rockhampton Cemetery (601131)
- » Cooktown Cemetery (601147)
- » Mackay General Cemetery (602766).

Like to know more about places in the QHR?

Histories and descriptions for all these places may be found in the QHR at <www.ehp.qld.gov.au>. Search on the place name or QHR six-digit identification number, which is shown after the place name in this fact sheet.