

<b>Street Address</b>	245 Victoria Parade West, Coochiemudlo Island
<b>GPS/RPD</b>	L25 SP199973
<b>Place Type</b>	Built



RCC, 2013.



Morton Steps and Jetty, Coochiemudlo Island (RCC, 2013).

<b>Condition</b>	Good	<b>Integrity</b>	Good
<b>Statutory Listings</b>	Local Heritage Place		
<b>Non-Statutory Listings</b>	No current listing		
<b>Inspection Date</b>	24/04/2017		

**Historical Context**

Morton's steps and jetty are remnants of Doug Morton's property on Coochiemudlo Island. Doug Morton leased the eastern part of Coochiemudlo Island in 1918 upon returning from fighting in World War I. After marrying Mary Coburn in 1923 he sought to set up his own farm on the island and studied agriculture at Gatton College. His farm produced tomatoes, custard apples, pineapples, passionfruit and carrots, and he kept dairy cattle and pigs. During the 1930s, Captain John Burke's boats collected produce from the Morton farm to take to markets in Brisbane.[1]

A new tourist venture was established on Coochiemudlo Island in 1941, where visitors could travel from Brisbane to a new jetty which Morton had built on the western side. This venture was called 'the Lookout' and it ran on Thursdays and Sundays. Morton sold fresh fruit and vegetables directly from the farm to the tourists. This had become a popular tourist destination until the government required the local boats for war purposes and the day trips ceased.[2]

Douglas and Mary Morton farmed on this land for four decades. Doug Morton built five jetties on the island in total, as well as a canal and a bathing yard. Morton also carried mail to the Coochiemudlo Island on his boat, running an unofficial ferry service after World War II.[3]

**Physical Description**

The steps consist of a series of formed concrete steps. Near the base of the steps and above the high water mark is a jetty of stone and concrete construction. Both the steps and jetty are in good condition and are assumed to be contemporaneous.

**Statement of Significance**

The steps and stone jetty at Coochiemudlo Island are significant to the Redlands and embody historical and associative values. They are an example of the infrastructure used in the movement of people and goods to and from the island. The simple construction methods used and their exposure to the forces of sea and weather have resulted in few examples of this type of early infrastructure remaining in the Southern Moreton Bay Islands. The steps and remnant jetty are important links to the Morton family, early and long term residents of the island.

<b>Criteria A</b>	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
-------------------	---

The steps and jetty that remain at Coochiemudlo Island demonstrate the importance of marine transport to and from the island from the 1930s. Marine transport was important in European settlement and development of the wider Coochiemudlo Island area, and the jetty and steps represent remaining physical history of the place.

<b>Criteria H</b>	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.
-------------------	--

This place has a special association with the life and work of Doug and Mary Morton, early and long term residents of the island. The Mortons were integral to the development on the island in the first half of the twentieth century and their work attracted tourists to the area.

### Primary Themes

3.0 Developing Secondary and Tertiary Industries	3.12 Catering for tourists 3.08 Marketing, retailing and service industries
8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions	8.02 Cultural activities

### References

- [1] Mary Howells, "The Places of Redlands – Coochiemudlo Island," Redland Shire Council, 2001, p. 6.
- [2] Ibid.
- [3] Ibid, p. 8.



*Morton Steps and Jetty, Coochiemudlo Island (RCC, 2013).*