

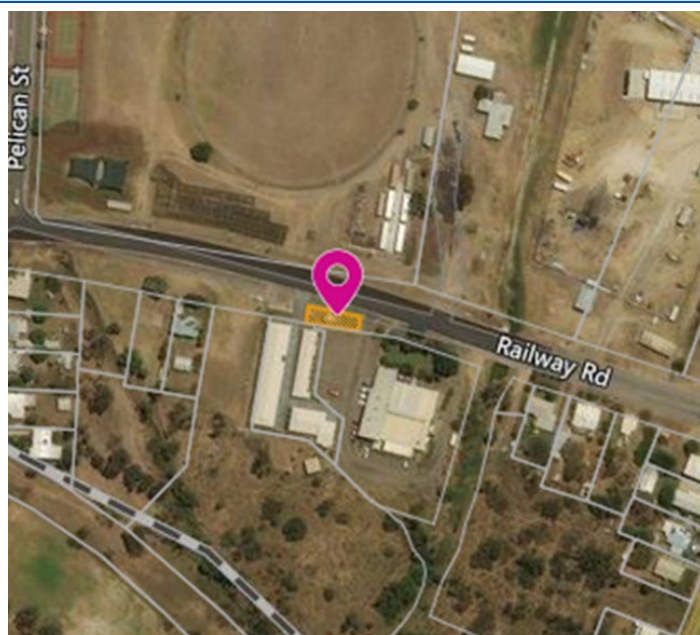
COLLINSVILLE-SCOTTSVILLE MINERS MEMORIAL GARDEN

Address	Railway Road, Collinsville
Lot Plan	Road reserve
Coordinates	-20.557211, 147.848357
Integrity	Good
Condition	Good
Statutory Listings	Nil
Non-Statutory Listings	Nil
References	<p>Collinsville Memoirs Online, http://memoirs-online.com.au/</p> <p>Collinsville Miners' Memorial</p> <p>Queensland Royal Commission on Collinsville State Coal Mine, 1956. Report of the Royal Commission Appointed to</p> <p>Inquire Into Certain Matters Relating to the State Coal Mine, Collinsville. The Commission, Brisbane.</p> <p>Whitmore, R. L., 1991. Coal in Queensland: from Federation to the twenties, 1900 to 1925, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane.</p> <p>https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Collinsville_Cemetery,_Queensland</p>

Street View



Location Map



Physical Description

The Collinsville-Scottsville Miners Memorial Garden is located on the road reserve of Railway Road, adjacent to the Collinsville Workers Club and mining museum. It is set within a landscaped area featuring lawn, garden beds and a brick pillar and chain fence. A flagpole is located towards the back of the site. The memorial itself consists of two elements: the Memorial Wall and the Memorial Tunnel. An interpretation panel alongside the memorial provides information about the Collinsville Mine disaster in 1954.

The Memorial Wall is set on a concrete slab and consists of a U-shaped red brick wall featuring a mural of a pit pony dragging a skip. A number of small plaques are attached to the front end of both sides of the wall. A bronze

statue of a miner holding a flame safety lamp is placed at the centre of the memorial. A memorial plaque imbedded in the concrete at the front reads

IN EVERLASTING MEMORY OF THOSE MINERS TRAGICALLY KILLED IN COLLINSVILLE. THEY GAVE STRENGTH, PRIDE AND UNITY, TO THEIR FAMILIES, THEIR COMMUNITY AND THEIR UNION.

THE STRUGGLE MUST CONTINUE • FOR TRADITION TO SURVIVE • AS HISTORY MARKS THEIR PASSING
• THEIR EXAMPLE IS STILL ALIVE

FUNDED AND ERECTED BY THE MINEWORKERS OF COLLINSVILLE 1997

The Memorial Tunnel consists of a scaled replica of the entrance to the Collinsville State Coal Mine No 1 tunnel. The structure is placed on a concrete slab with two sets of rail tracks and comprises a light-coloured brick facade with large arched opening. The side and back walls are clad with corrugated iron and the building has a gabled corrugated iron roof with timber slat front gable and timber barge boards. A plaque attached on the right reads NO TOBACCO MATCHES OR OTHER CONTRABAND ALLOWED PAST THIS POINT BY ORDER MANAGER. A memorial plaque on the left informs about the building and the mine disaster on the 13 October 1954.

Historical Context

Coal was discovered in the region in the 1870s, but it was not until the early 1910s that the Queensland government expressed interest in the coal. Collinsville No 1 Mine, a State-owned coal mine was opened in Collinsville in the late 1910s. Government interest led to private interest and prospecting groups flocked to the area, including local landholders. A Labor government was elected to the Queensland parliament in 1915, partly on a platform of establishing state-owned lines – in order to supply coal to industry and the railway. The government immediately reserved land in the Collinsville area and the prospecting companies were forced to work land to the west of the mine, eventually creating the town of Scottville and establishing the Bowen Consolidated Colliery. The Collinsville No. 1 mine, an underground mine, was located immediately to the south-west of the town. The state-owned mine continued operating until the 1960s, when it was replaced by newer mines. Collinsville remains a coal mining town.

An outburst of carbon dioxide occurred in the No. 1 mine on the 13th of October 1954, leading to the deaths of seven miners. This was one of the worst coal mining disasters in Queensland's history. The tragedy was a terrible blow to the Collinsville community; over 2000 people took part in the funeral procession (out of a total population of 2300), marching from the Anzac Hall in Birralee Street to the Collinsville Cemetery three kilometres away. Surrounding coal mines and the Bowen waterside works stopped work on the day of the funeral out of sympathy for the men and their families.

The event has been commemorated every year since 1954 and has also come to include recognition of all the miners (26 in total) who have died while working the mines in Collinsville since mining began in the early twentieth century. The Collinsville-Scottsville Miners Memorial Garden provides a physical space to remember those who died and the dangers of mining. The first stage of the memorial, the Memorial Wall, was constructed in 1997 'by the mineworkers of Collinsville'. The second stage of the memorial consists of a replica of the entrance to the mine tunnel and it was erected in 2011.

Historical Significance

Criteria A - *the place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history*

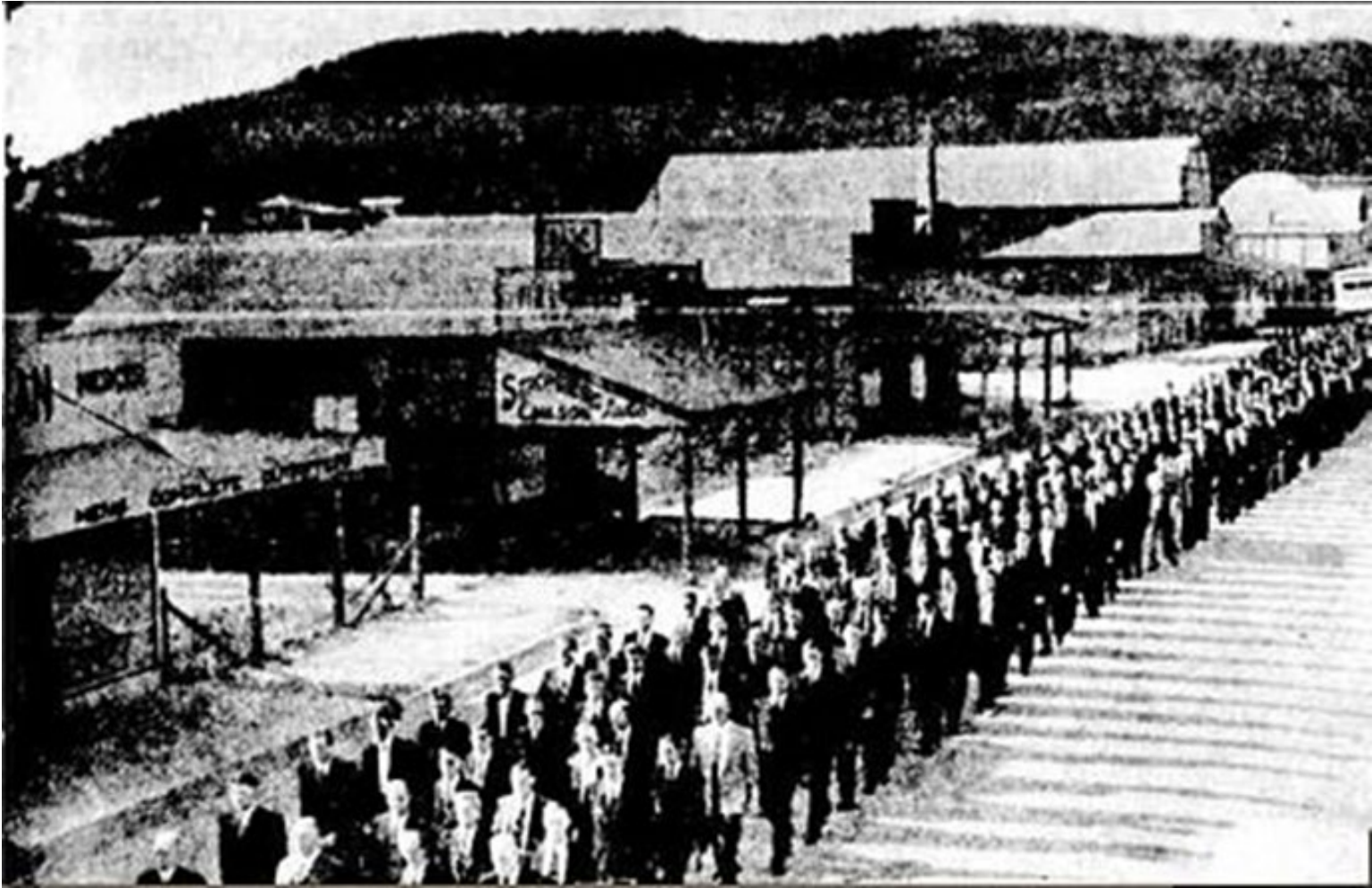
The Collinsville-Scottsville Miners Memorial Garden is important in demonstrating the community's desire to commemorate the deaths of its miners, including the tragic death of the seven miners killed in Collinsville's worst mining disaster in 1954, a memorial event that has been held every year since that date.

Criteria G - *the place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons*

The Collinsville-Scottsville Miners Memorial Garden has a special association with the Collinsville community, as a physical memorial of the 1954 mine disaster and the 26 miners in total who died while working in the local mines since mining began in the late 1910s.



Miners marching at the head of the funeral procession from Anzac Hall to the Collinsville Cemetery, Thursday 14 October 1954



Miners marching beside the truck bearing the coffins in the funeral procession, Thursday 14 October 1954

