

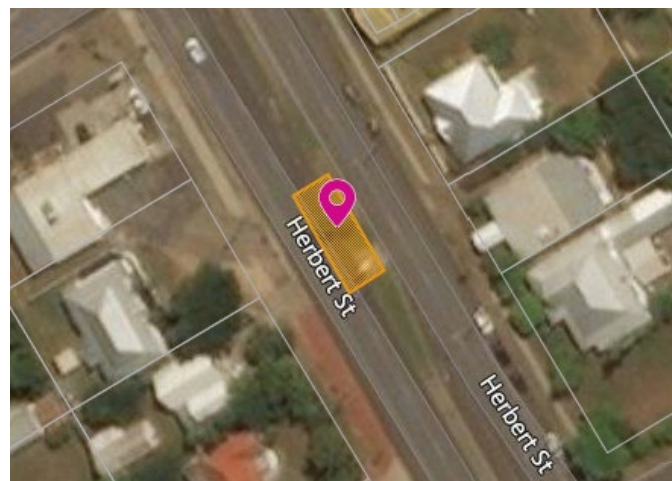
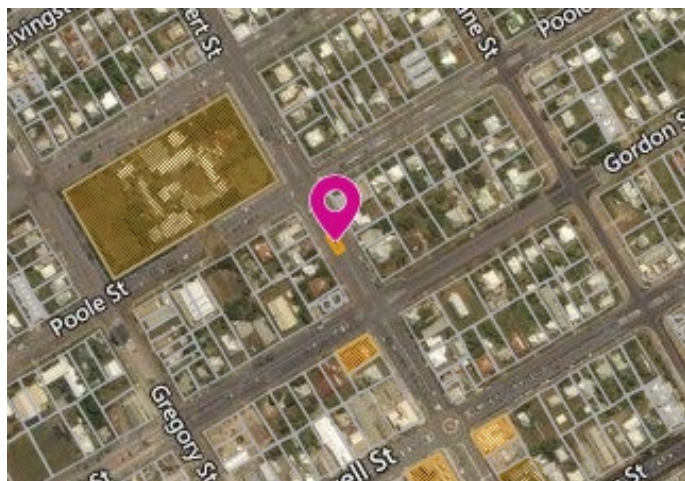
BOWEN WAR MEMORIAL

Address	Herbert Street, Bowen
Lot Plan	Road Reserve
Coordinates	E: 630257 N: 7786882
Integrity	Poor
Condition	Good
Statutory Listings	Nil
Non-Statutory Listings	Queensland War Memorial Register
References	DERM. Statewide Survey Draft Research Report, 2007 Monuments Australia Website http://monumentaustralia.org.au/themes/conflict/multiple/display/90623-bowen-war-memorial

Street View



Location Map



Physical Description

The Bowen War Memorial is located in Herbert Street and is a dominant feature in the streetscape. The concrete memorial sits on a stepped base of rough-hewn grey granite. Above this base is a pedestal which is divided into four sections. The pedestal is surmounted by a statue of a digger.

On each face of the first section of the pedestal there is a marble plaque bearing the leaded names of the 43 fallen men from the First World War.

At the base of each face are a marble plaque with leaded names and a granite plaque with gold lettering bearing the names of the 26 fallen men from the Second World War. There is also a marble plaque bearing the leaded names of the three fallen men who served in the Vietnam War.

The pedestal comprises recessed square faces with engaged pillars at each corner. At the centre of each face is a laurel wreath. Rising from this section the next part of the pedestal is rounded with a recess on each face, which formerly housed a clock. Foliated carvings are located in the bottom corners of each face in this section of the pedestal. Above this section is a squared pedestal with a rising sun relief on the southern face.

The digger statue on the pedestal comprises the characteristic elements of this type of memorial - a soldier with a slouch hat, rifle, downward gaze, hands crossed over the rifle with one leg resting against a tree stump for support.

Historical Context

Bowen was the first port established in North Queensland. The settlement was officially proclaimed on 11 April 1861 and named Bowen after Queensland's first Governor, Sir George Ferguson Bowen. The township of Bowen quickly grew to support the northern pastoral industry as a strategically placed supply centre. Over the course of several decades, it developed into a thriving commercial port. Bowen soon became a major administrative and commercial centre and was declared a municipality on 17 March 1863.

The Bowen War Memorial was dedicated in 1926 following World War I. It currently commemorates those who lost their lives in World Wars I and II and the Vietnam War. Newspaper reports from 1925 indicate that the collection of money for a war memorial raised from general collections and by the Women's Hospital Weavers Association who ran a War Memorial Dance in June 1925 to raise funds for the memorial. Eventually, the Bowen War Memorial, a digger statue, was erected in 1926.

Originally constructed with a clock in each face, it was initially located in Gordon Street, but was later moved to Herbert Street. The Stonemason was A.L. Petrie & Sons, Brisbane. The memorial suffered severe damage in a cyclone in 1958 and the damaged clock faces were not replaced. Early photographs also indicate that there was once a low concrete post fence surrounding the memorial. This has since been removed.

Historical Significance

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

Dedicated in 1926, the Bowen War Memorial is important for its symbolic meaning, and as an enduring local record of a major historical event (which was a common social custom or practice in Queensland in the aftermath of World War I [1914-1918]). It survives as evidence of an era of widespread nationalism represented at the local level, commemorating a major historical event and representing great human sacrifice.

Criteria D - *the place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places*

The Bowen War Memorial demonstrates the principal characteristics of a commemorative structure, incorporating recurring symbols that emphasise the special purpose of memorials: a wreath and a rising sun. As a digger statue, the Bowen War Memorial is representative of the most popular form of war memorial in post-WWI Queensland. It comprises characteristic elements of this type of memorial: a soldier with a slouch hat, rifle, downward gaze, hands crossed over the rifle with one leg resting against a tree stump for support.

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

The Bowen War Memorial has a strong association with the former Bowen Shire community as evidence of the impact of participation in two world wars and in the Vietnam War.









ANDERSON, R.A.
 ANDREWS, R.M.
 ALBERT, J. W.
 ARMSTRONG, J.
 BAILY, J.
 BRIDGMAN, M.
 CHRISTOFFERSON, A.
 CARLTON, P.H.
 DODSON, J.
 DONALD, T.A.
 FLAHERTY, F.
 FORD, J.A.
 GARETT, E.
 HANCOCK, P.
 HENRY, J.B.

VIETNAM WAR
 BLAIR, T.A. HATHORN, L.D.
 PUGH, R.D. WOOD, R.A. JR.

