

COLLINSVILLE NO. 1 MINE

Address	Scottville Road, Collinsville
Lot Plan	46SP230502 (Reserve), 2AP13635
Coordinates	20°33'27.5"S 147°50'20.1"E
Integrity	Fair
Condition	Fair
Statutory Listings	Nil
Non-Statutory Listings	Nil
References	<p>Queensland Places, "Collinsville and Scottville", http://www.queenslandplaces.com.au/</p> <p>Whitmore, R. L., 1991. Coal in Queensland: from Federation to the twenties, 1900 to 1925, University of Queensland Press, Brisbane.</p> <p>A fatal gas outburst, Collinsville Mine Disaster. Australasian Mine Safety Journal. https://www.amsj.com.au/a-fatal-gas-outburst/</p> <p>The Coalface Experience. http://www.coalfaceexperience.com.au/1860.htm</p>

Street View



Location Map



Physical Description

The site of the Collinsville No. 1 Mine is located in the southwest of Collinsville with access via Scottville Road from the east and Henderson Street from the north (across Snake Creek). The area is overgrown by grass and stands of native trees appear throughout the site. A number of tracks also crisscross the site.

Three structures remain visible at this portion of the mine site; a concrete bridge spanning Snake Creek in the north, a large, concreted slab that appears to be the foundation of a building and a small brick building believed to be the former explosives store towards the southwest.

The bridge consists of concrete cast in-situ deck with concrete rendered balustrade on both sides, resting on steel beam supports. Each balustrade features four arched recessed solid panels with a central diamond shaped decorative

element consisting of rectangular slots. Each panel is flanked by two pillars showing rectangular grooves mirroring the design of the decoration on the panels and finishing with an embellished orb.

The concreted slab is situated in a clearing and consists of several individual concrete pads joined together. Two sets of concrete steps lead onto what appears to be a formerly covered porch. The site is overgrown with grass and native shrubs.

The former explosives store consists of a small square brick building with pyramid corrugated iron clad roof and timber awning with corrugated iron roof. Two door openings lead into the building. The internal walls show several longitudinal cutouts and a board with the numbers 1 to 9.

Historical Context

The Collinsville No. 1 Mine is located in Collinsville, west of Bowen. European settlement began in the district in the early 1860s with the establishment of cattle stations and the first was Strathmore, near the Bowen River. 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. 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 mines – 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 site for the No. 1 mine was selected in 1918. Work began on a railway from Bowen to Collinsville in 1917, in anticipation that coal could be transported to the port of Bowen, and a rail siding connected the mine to the main line.

The government intended for the mine to be a model of a state-owned enterprise, and so too the town. The town of Collinsville (named after the MLA for Bowen, Charles Collins) was designed in conjunction with the Town Planning Association. The town grew rapidly and by the mid-1920s there was a hotel, picture theatre, dance hall and rudimentary hospital, servicing a population of approximately 800. Collinsville's political history was also particularly interesting; by 1936 there were four communist party branches in the town, compared to only one Labor branch.

The State-owned mine was the site of the worst mining disaster in the region's history in 1954 – seven miners died as the result of a gas outburst. The Collinsville gas outburst occurred at about 5.50 on that Wednesday afternoon of 13 October 1954, in No. 1 tunnel. This was the tunnel which had been mechanised, against the opinion of miners and of at least some others that mechanisation should have been in No. 2 tunnel instead. The disaster came after protracted disputation on various issues between the mineworkers on the one hand and, on the other hand, the Government and its Mines Department chiefs, including State mines general manager Athol Lightfoot. The Government had even refused a union request that Miners Federation NSW Northern District check inspector Jack Barrett, with his experience of mechanisation in NSW and in other countries, should be allowed to make an inspection of the Collinsville mine.

This background contributed to the special bitterness on the miners' part and to the sharpness of allegations by them against the Government.

The mine continued operating until the 1960s, when it was replaced by newer mines. The Bowen Consolidated Colliery remains relatively intact (and was subsequently entered onto the Queensland Heritage Register in 2009). However, the majority of the infrastructure associated with the Collinsville No. 1 Mine has been removed since its closure.

Historical Significance

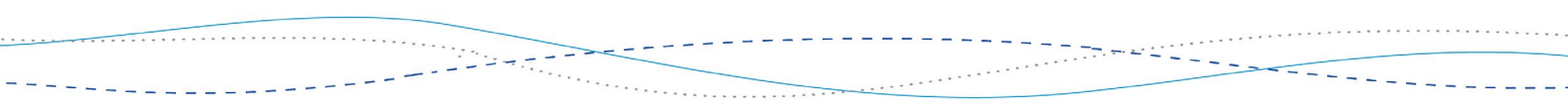
Criteria A - *the place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history*

The Collinsville No. 1 Mine is important in demonstrating the evolution of the region's history. The establishment of a State-owned coal mine in the region led to the development of the town of Collinsville, which has played an important role in the development of the region, including the port facilities located at Bowen.

Criteria B - *the place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the region's cultural heritage*

The Collinsville No. 1 Mine demonstrates an endangered aspect of the region's history, as most of the physical remains of the former mine have been removed or destroyed.

<p>Criteria C - <i>the place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history</i></p>	<p>The Collinsville No. 1 Mine has the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region's history, particularly an understanding of the layout of the mine and its entrance, as well archaeological potential associated with mine operations since the late 1910s.</p>
<p>Criteria E - <i>the place is important because of its aesthetic significance</i></p>	<p>The Collinsville No. 1 Mine is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance. The bridge is a particularly fine example of its type that reflects the care and attention the Queensland government gave to the development of the mine along 'model' lines. The bridge and explosives store, as relatively solitary features of the former mine, also evoke an earlier period of mining and the design and construction techniques employed at that time.</p>
<p>Criteria I - <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></p>	<p>The Collinsville No. 1 Mine has a strong association with the Collinsville community as the focus of the town's industry over a fifty-year period. It is also the site of the worst mining disaster in the region's history and remains a focus of memorial activities that commemorate that event and all the other miners who have died in the local mines since the late 1910s.</p>





An early view of the Mine Offices 1874

Funeral procession through Collinsville 1954 for the seven men killed by the gas explosion at the mine.



Miners underground. Approx. 1919.



**BCCM Garrick tunnel entrance, 1920. And the people: from left – Norman Poole on Darkie, Tom Henderson, Ted Rowell, Dinny Dinsdale, Molly Gordon (girl bringing lunches), Tom Poole, Jack Poole, John McNaughton (Mine Manager) and Digger Hoffmann.
Example of the mine entrances at the Collinsville Mine.**

