

Other Names	N/A	
Street Address	Herbert Street	Bowen
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	Road Reserve	(E: 630257 N: 7786882)

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.

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 digger statue. 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.

Integrity	Poor	Condition	Good
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	Queensland War Memorial Register		
Inspection Date	16/02/2011		

References

DERM. State Wide Survey Draft Research Report, 2007.

Heritage Significance	
Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
Statement	Dedicated in 1926, the Bowen War Memorial is important in 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.

D	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a particular class of cultural places important to the region.</i>
Statement	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.

G	<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>
Statement	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.

