

Other Names	N/A	
Street Address	Mill Street, 58 Kehls Road	Avondale
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	01RL8500 (E: 412234 N: 7254271), (E: 412265 N: 7254499), (E: 412297 N: 7254526), (E: 412473 N: 7254180), (E: 412479 N: 7254227), (E: 412602 N: 7254159), (E: 412835 N: 7254112), (E: 412913 N: 7254494), (E: 412947 N: 7254122), (E: 413513 N: 7255268), (E: 413519 N: 7255262), (E: 413519 N: 7255274), (E: 413525 N: 7255268)	

Historical Context

The Invicta sugar mill crushed sugar cane from 1895 until 1918. The mill was established by Frederic Buss, a prominent Bundaberg businessman who owned interests in a number of other sugar and juice mills in the region as well as retail interests (most prominently Buss & Turner), often in partnership with other family members. He was a member of the Bundaberg Municipal Council in the 1890s and donated £500 to street planting in Bundaberg’s central business district. Buss Park in Bundaberg is named for the Buss family. The Invicta Mill was owned solely by Frederic.

Buss established the mill with second-hand mill equipment purchased from defunct mills in New South Wales, as well as new equipment. His engineer, G. G. Francis, supervised the erection of the mill; as part of the process, he moved the Kolan sawmill, located at Booyan, to the mill site to manufacture timber for its construction. Buss offered local farmers 10 year leases in order to grow sugar cane. Cane was delivered to the mill via punts and tramways, and by road (including over the Bucca Crossing, improved in 1896). By its second year the mill crushed more than 300 tonnes of cane and appeared to rival the bigger mills of Millaquin, Fairymead and Bingera.

The Invicta Mill continuously suffered from an undersupply of sugar cane, particularly as many of the potential suppliers were just as close to large mills such as Fairymead and Bingera. The mill tried a number of strategies to increase supply; they offered a high price for cane; supplied punts; and in 1911 built a 14km tramway to connect the mill with Avondale, to the north (authorised under the Invicta Branch Railway Act). Existing (earlier) tramways to the mill were also extended, to Bucca and then Norbrook, located on the southern side of the Kolan River. Nonetheless, the mill struggled to meet capacity and the mill was sold to a co-operative of farmers on the Haughton River (near Townsville) and dismantled in 1918.

The railway continued to be used for a number of years, but was eventually dismantled in 1929. The sugar growing area that once supplied the mill now supplies to the Bingera sugar mill.

Physical Description

The Invicta Mill Site is located on pastoral land bounded by Mill Street to the west and the Kolan River to the south. The cleared, levelled grassed site shows native trees and shrubs along the creek bed and there is also a stand of trees on the south-eastern corner. At the time of inspection, cattle were grazing on the fenced site.

Visible remains of the mill operation are a brick enclosure close to Mill Road and tram tracks leading to the mill site crossing the Invicta Road in the northeast. Previous studies also list concrete foundations and underground tunnels on site as well as remains of the old barge on both banks of the river

Integrity	Poor	Condition	Poor
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings		
Inspection Date	22/10/2014		

References

Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, J.G. Nolan ‘Buss, Frederic William (1845-1926)’, accessed 11 July 2013, <<http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/buss-frederic-william-5440/text9235>>
 John Kerr, Southern Sugar Saga: A history of the sugar industry in the Bundaberg district, Bundaberg, Bundaberg Sugar Company Limited, 1983.

Heritage Significance

Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region’s history.</i>
Statement	The Invicta Mill Site and Tram Tracks are important in demonstrating the evolution of the region’s history, particularly the establishment of sugar mills in the former Gooburrum Shire. The site also demonstrates the pattern of the region’s history, in particular the competition between mills for the limited sugar cane grown in the district, eventually leading to the demise of smaller local mills such as Invicta.
C	<i>The place has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region’s history.</i>
Statement	The Invicta Mill Site and Tram Tracks have the potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the region’s history, particularly sugar mill operations and related infrastructure from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, including in particular the relationship of the mill to the Kolan River and how the river was used during the mill operations in addition to tramways.
H	<i>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.</i>
Statement	The Invicta Mill Site and Tram Tracks have a special association with the life of Frederic Buss, an important figure in the sugar and retail industries in

Location Map



View to brick enclosure adjacent to Mill Road looking south.



View to brick enclosure looking east.



Tram tracks leading to the mill site crossing Invicta Road.