



Mount Morgan and the Station Precinct

Mount Morgan, located roughly 40 km inland from Rockhampton and at the top of the coastal range, was a thriving mining community and centre of the shire of the same name. It was founded in 1882 as a gold mining town and had a significant population for many years.

A road was built over the 'razorback' in 1885 to replace the original wagon trails, followed by a QGR rail connection, including a short 'rack' section, over the same route in 1898. The rack was replaced with a conventional railway diversion in 1953. The line was closed in 1987 and removed in 1989, although a short distance remains for potential tourist railway use.

Mount Morgan Mine

Operated under various names over the years, the now open pit mine, and its tailing dumps, have yielded a treasure trove of gold, silver and copper. Profits from the mine helped fund oil exploration in Persia, thus the petroleum giant BP, as well as Australia's Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research.

The mine also operated its own narrow gauge railway during the underground phase of mining (prior to 1928).

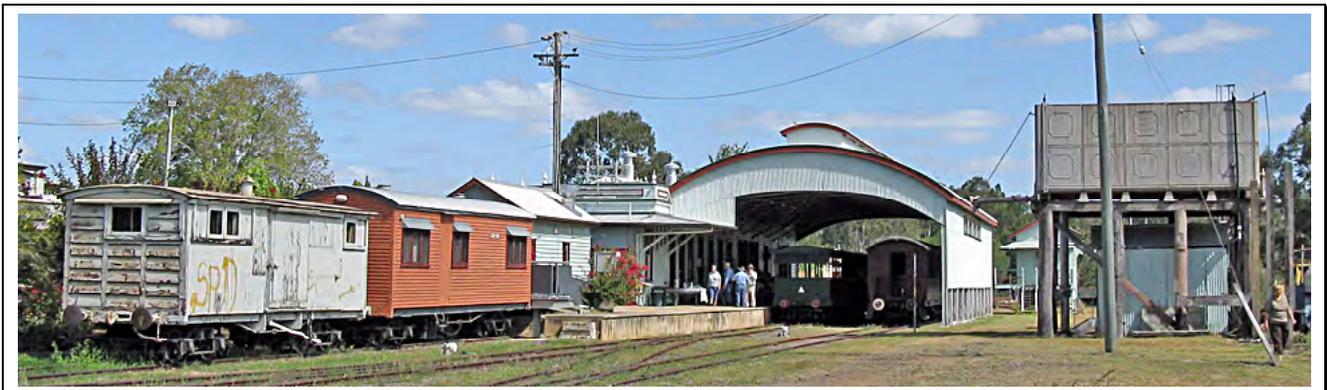
The Queensland Government has administered the site since 1992, with several unsuccessful schemes being proposed to reprocess the tailings.

Mount Morgan Railway Station

The station designer, Henrik Hansen, also designed several other QR stations, including the Archer Park and the original Rockhampton stations. The station operated from 1898 until 1987, when it became a rail museum.

The museum precinct contains the station and related structures, a restored Hunslet steam locomotive, a 2000 class rail motor, various timber carriages and wagons, a wealth of minor historical artefacts, and an audiovisual theatre with a rack railway presentation.

Trolley rides are available in the station precinct with the hope that bridges and track beyond the precinct can be restored for tourist train use.



Station precinct from track side: wooden wagons, platform shade and water tank, 2008. [lz_2528]

References and Further Reading

All photographs by Lynn Zelmer.

Museum url: QldRailHeritage.com/MtMorgan

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Knowles, JW (1982). *The Mount Morgan Rack Railway*, self-published and distributed by ANGRMS [out-of-print].

Mount Morgan, Queensland and Mount Morgan Mine, <http://en.wikipedia.org/>

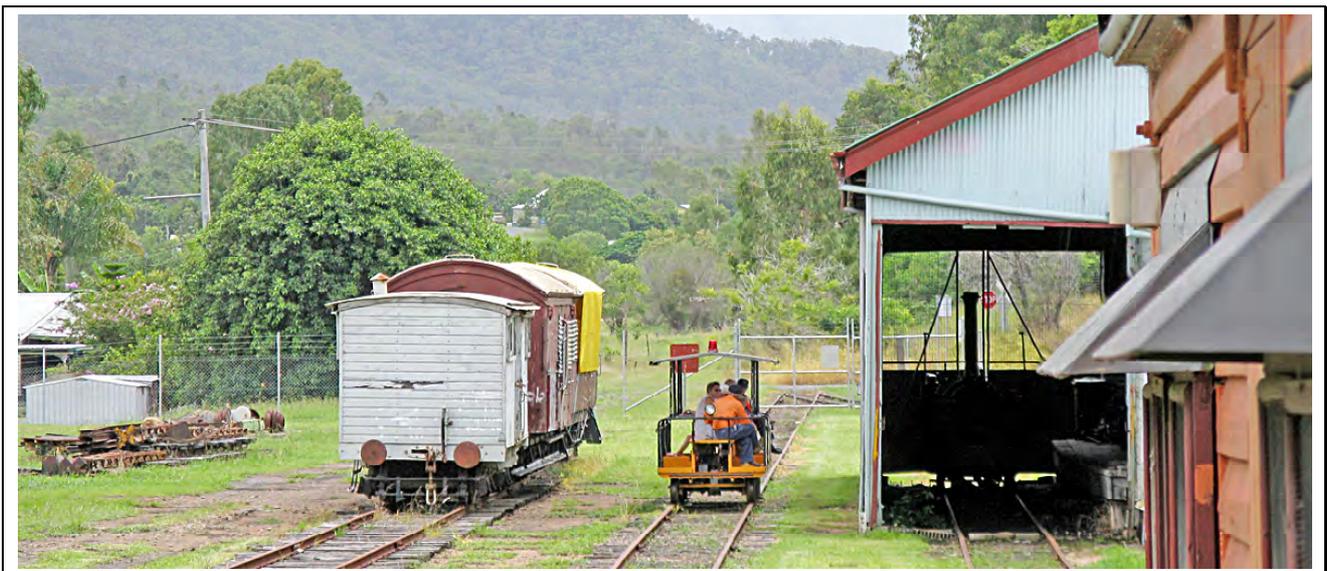
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Station facade, facing the town, 2004; Rockhampton is to the right, the mine to the left. [lz_1009-14]



Station platform during renovations, with timber wagons and open passenger carriages, 2003. [lz_8150]



Trolley ride in station precinct, February 2012, with loco shed to right. [lz_9434]