

Company Records



EVANS, DEAKIN AND COMPANY'S WORKSHOPS AT ROCKLEA.

DR3108 - Evans Deakin & Company's Workshops at Rocklea, Brisbane., 26 June 1935

Research Guide to company records
at Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

QSA holds records of the registration of companies between 1863 and 1959. These records are for companies which are no longer in existence. The *Companies Act 1863* provided for the registration of all large companies, associations or partnerships formed to carry on a business for 'acquisition of gain'. Incorporation of the company took place upon registration of the memorandum and articles of association signed by at least seven proposed members of the company. The registration of companies of Queensland from 1863 to 1903 was the responsibility of the Companies Office, Brisbane. In 1904, company offices were established in Townsville and Rockhampton, and subsequently files were created by the separate registries in the Northern, Central and Southern regions.

In 1972, the Corporate Affairs Office (also known as the Corporate Affairs Commission) became responsible for registration of companies in Queensland. When the Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) was created in 1991, it took some of the functions of the state and territory government Corporate Affairs Commissions. For information about companies deregistered after 1959, researchers may contact the [National Archives of Australia](#) (NAA). The NAA is the collecting agency for ASIC records, however, only records needed for ASIC business were transferred from the disbanded State Corporate Affairs Commissions.

If there is no indication of the company being wound up, there is no certainty whether the company is defunct or still in operation. For information about companies still in operation, researchers need to contact the [Australian Securities and Investment Commission \(ASIC\)](#).

Further, QSA does not hold the business records of companies, except in a few rare cases for liquidated businesses.

The main finding aid for records held at QSA is our online catalogue, [ArchivesSearch](#). The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

ITM	QSA Item (describes the item)
PR	Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
DR	Digital Representation (for a digital image)
S	QSA Series ID (for a series of records)
A	Agency ID (for the creating or responsible agency).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.

Company Records

Companies index

This online index, [Company index 1863–1959](#), is available on the QSA website under the heading *Business*. The entries in the index are from [S18218](#), Registers of Companies 1863-1959. Details of these incorporated companies registered in Queensland may include registration number, name of company, number and amount of shares, capital, date of registration, when certificate issued, location of registered office, and nature of return required under statutes. In many instances the files for companies listed in the index are available at QSA.

If an [online QSA index](#) is available, we recommend researchers search this. The content of online indexes has been sourced directly from original records. Digitised copies of many original registers and indexes are also available in the [QSA catalogue](#), and digitised copies of some microfilmed original records are available on Reading Room computers.

Companies Office, Brisbane

Struck-Off Company Files

1/1/1861–27/3/1984

[S8835](#)

This series consists of files on incorporated companies that are no longer in operation. All companies in this series were struck-off before 1977. Some files contain documents dated to 27 March 1984.

Files may include memoranda and articles of association, lists of shareholders, share capital and office holders, and other documents about the struck off company.

From 1861 to 1972, company files were created by the Companies Office, Brisbane. The Companies Office Brisbane became the Corporate Affairs Office in 1972. QSA does not hold files created by the Corporate Affairs Office, Brisbane for defunct companies between 1973 and 1992.

From 1904, this series only includes those companies registered in the Southern District. Part of this series is indexed in the [Companies index 1863-1959](#). From 1959 to 1976 companies are listed by name in [ArchivesSearch](#).

Companies Office, Townsville

Struck-Off Company Files

1/1/1904–31/12/1963

[S7234](#)

This series consists of files on incorporated companies that were registered in the Northern District but are no longer in operation. Part of this series is indexed in the [Companies index 1863-1959](#).

Companies Office, Rockhampton

Only a few company files for the Rockhampton Office were transferred from the Brisbane Companies Office to QSA. These are part of Struck-off company files, [S8835](#).

Other records about companies

Records about companies, other than the struck-off company files, may be found by searching [ArchivesSearch](#) under the agencies including:

- Companies Office
- Principal Registrar of Firms
- Registrar of Companies (by district)
- Court of Petty Sessions (by district)
- Clerk of Petty Sessions (by district).

Court Records

Supreme Court, Southern District, Brisbane

Supreme Court Petitions

1/1/1901–14/6/1996

[S18031](#)

To find petitions, search the Registers of Miscellaneous Files [S540](#).

Registers of Miscellaneous Files

Circa 1/1/1857–Circa 31/12/1991

[S540](#)

These registers are used to find Supreme Court Petitions [S18031](#).

Applications for Winding Up Companies

21/5/1985–16/12/2005

[S17980](#)

Liquidation Files

1/1/1874–31/12/1928

[S15501](#)

Register and Loose Correspondence relating to Insurance Companies

1/1/1925–31/12/1942

[S15707](#)

Register of Companies

1/1/1888–31/12/1888

[S15709](#)

Register of Mortgages and Memorandums of Satisfaction of Joint Stock Companies

21/2/1888–9/2/1910

[S15723](#)

Returns Submitted by Companies

1/1/1901–31/3/1955

[S11981](#)

Supreme Court, Northern District, Townsville

Winding Up of Companies Files

1/1/1902–31/12/1904

[S16115](#)

Liquidation Files

1/1/1876–31/12/1928

[S16108](#)

Supreme Court, Central District, Rockhampton

Liquidation Register

1/1/1896–31/12/1927

[S7280](#)

Liquidation Files

1/1/1894–31/12/1927

[S7308](#)

Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Charters Towers

Register of Gold Mining Companies

22/12/1891–13/6/1909

[S7387](#)

Register of Transfer of Shares

14/9/1910–28/2/1913

[S7388](#)

Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Cooktown

Memorandum and Articles of Association and Correspondence Received

4/6/1909–23/2/1913

[S15279](#)

Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Herberton

Mining Company Files

1/1/1888–31/12/1927

[S10121](#)

Court of Petty Sessions, Herberton

Register of Local Companies

26/3/188–25/3/1904

[S11444](#)

Court of Petty Sessions, Mount Morgan

Files for Struck-Off Companies Registered with the Local Registrar of Joint Stock Companies

1/1/1895–31/12/1916

[S11662](#)

District Court, Gympie

Index to Register of Gold Mining Companies

Circa 1/1/1875–Circa 4/11/1977

[S7879](#)

Registers of Gold Mining Companies

1/1/1881–31/12/1895

[S7875](#)

Small Debts Court, Charters Towers

Register of Mining Companies' Liquidations

1/1/1894–31/12/1935

[S15365](#)

Mining Records

Mining Warden, Charters Towers

Alphabetical Register of Mining Companies showing Calls Made and Dividends Paid

1/1/1909–31/12/1913

[S14322](#)

Memoranda and Articles of Association, with some Summaries of Capital & Shares

1/1/1876–31/12/1933

[S14313](#)

Register of Mining Companies

1/1/1876–31/12/1933

[S14298](#)

Register of the Names and Occupations of Shareholders in a Mining Company

1/1/1885–31/12/1885

[S14318](#)

Register of Calls Made and Dividends Paid by Mining Companies

1/1/1890–31/12/1908

[S14321](#)

Mining Warden, Chillagoe

Correspondence re Mining Companies

1/1/1909–31/12/1924

[ITM281444](#) in [S8463](#)

Mining Warden Croydon

Register of Gold Mining Companies

28/8/1902–28/10/1913

[S14388](#)

Register of Fees Received from Companies for Sundry Documents

5/2/1901–Circa 28/2/1910

[S14408](#)

Minutes of Proceedings, Depositions etc. re the Liquidation of Companies

1/1/1892–31/12/1898

[S14389](#)

Mining Warden, Georgetown

Register of Gold Mining Companies

21/1/1889–8/5/1912

[S14511](#)

Register of Mining Companies

28/11/1870–4/10/1871

[S14480](#)

Mining Warden, Gympie

Index to Registers of Joint Stock Companies

Circa 1/1/1881–Circa 4/11/1977

[S7881](#)

Mining Warden, Mount Morgan

Accounts of Fees etc. Paid by Mining Companies

1/11/1895–26/5/1923

[S14611](#)

Mining Warden, Ravenswood

Register of Dividends Paid by Different Mining Companies

3/1/1901–20/11/1912

[S14656](#)

Mining Warden, Roma

Register of Prospectors and Prospecting Companies

1/5/1928–30/6/1934

[S14706](#)

Mining Warden, Townsville

Register of Gold Mining Companies

13/5/1887–4/3/1889

[S7241](#)

Mines Department

Mining Companies

1/1/1892–31/7/1911

[ITM269852](#)

Company Report Registers

1/1/1951–29/2/1988

[S5393](#)

Other company records

Treasury Department

Liquidation Documents Relating to the Chillagoe Company Ltd

1/1/1899–1/1/1958

[S2112](#)

Insurance Companies Deposits Ledger

1/1/1924–31/7/1931

[ITM267721](#) in [S6792](#)

Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Double Peak Central Sugar Co Ltd.

5/6/1895–22/9/1909

[ITM310626](#) in [S10428](#)

Land Agent, Mackay

Register of Joint Stock Companies Licensed

29/7/1910–4/11/1912

[ITM21402](#) in [S13624](#)

Definitions

The following legal definitions may be of assistance in using company records. However, it should be noted that the meanings have sometimes changed over time as the relevant legislation was altered.

Incorporated company: A legal entity having rights and duties distinct from those of the individual members who formed it. This means that claims against the corporation must be made against the corporation and not its members. Companies are incorporated either by Charter, by Act of Parliament, or by registration under one of the Acts relating to companies.

Joint stock companies: Joint stock or capital is divided into transferable shares, or transferable stock.

Limited liability company: The liability of the members to contribute to the debts of the company is limited in the event of the company being wound up.

No liability company: The acceptance of shares does not constitute a contract to pay any of the debts or claims against the company.

Property or private company: Prohibits public subscription in company shares or debentures and restricts the right to transfer shares.

Public company: Permits public subscription into company shares or debentures.

Unlimited company: Shareholders are liable to contribute to company debts to the full extent of property.

Other sources of information

- In addition to *Search procedure, Company files*, for information about defunct companies, try searching records listed in [Research Guide to Insolvency and liquidation records](#). Further explanation about how to search for files in *Search procedure, Insolvency and liquidation files*
- For information about firms, refer to [Research Guide to Firms](#)
- Newspapers are also a useful source for company information. Digitised newspapers are on the [Trove website](#).

Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).
Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.