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ABANDONED AUSTRALIA

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Abandoned houses

Usually left to ruin as the result of newer residences built elsewhere on family property, a number of abandoned farmhouses dot Australia's rural landscape. And while many of these dilapidated dwellings are re-utilised as horse tack rooms or agricultural storing places, some remain unused, creating an unintentional time capsule. Containing original furnishings and belongings, these spaces evoke stories of lives once devoted to sheep shearing, horse racing, dairy farming and cattle herding.

Reflecting the nation's numerous post-colonial housing periods, each structure is often a California or Federation Bungalow, Art Deco or war period home. Seamed with yellow smoke-stained walls and pastel pressed tin ceilings, some interiors retain the smoky fragrance of open fires and potbelly stoves. Remaining moderately intact, a number of bathrooms are still fitted with early 20th-century porcelain basins and bathtubs. Small bedrooms contain wardrobes and furniture, some filled with original clothing, shoes and other personal belongings.

Australia's urban landscapes now reach far beyond its cities, with a mass of busy housing estates stretching into what were once quiet farming areas. This subdivision replaces agricultural properties with rows of manicured streets and modern houses built on equal-sized portions of land. Development firms often pay vast sums of money to the former owners of these large areas who relinquish them in pursuit of other living opportunities. And as the town plans are drawn, an abandoned farmhouse sits idle and unoccupied, awaiting the impending doom of demolition. This gap in time provides us with a final opportunity to engage with the energy of a discarded home once filled with the laughter, sadness, struggles and triumphs of its former occupants.





Victoria



South Australia



South Australia

Abandoned cars



Western Australia

Ghost towns

Big Bell

Once a bustling mining hub filled with activity, the deserted township of Big Bell bakes in the arid desert of Western Australia. Established in the mid 1930s, the area catered to miners and families who congregated on the gold and mineral-rich area. With a population peaking at 850 in 1954, the now deserted space is an abandoned patch where only a few traces of its once urbanised landscape remain.

Revealing the village's original layout, rows of gridded dirt tracks run parallel to each other. Originally lined with small houses and front yards, only a small number of concrete foundations remain. All since removed apart from a handful of stone ruins, the area once included churches, schools, a cinema and shopping areas. The former hotel still stands erect in the dust. Once famous for holding the record for the pub with the longest bar in Australia, the dilapidated structure is now a roofless empty shell.

Big Bell's population declined rapidly following the closure of a nearby mine in 1955. Its former residents were never to return, leaving in their wake a deserted village filled with shrubs and sand.



Big Bell, Western Australia

Farina

Located in the isolated South Australian desert, this dusty ghost town was built on the ambitious promise of wheat and barley production. But the region's harsh desert climate resulted in poor agricultural conditions, making much of the land unworkable. Also utilised as a trucking yard for livestock that travelled down the Birdsville track, the area once had a bustling population of approximately 600 residents. Once home to two hotels, two breweries and a bakery, the only evidence of the former township now lies in a succession of derelict sandstone ruins. But a number of volunteers recently initiated a restoration of the village's crumbling structures, bringing new life into the area.





Farina, South Australia



Farina, South Australia

**Abandoned hospitals, orphanages,
convents, halls and churches**



Larundel Asylum



Larundel Asylum