



Former Commercial Bank of Sydney

Establishment

- Designed by Sydney architect George Allen Mansfield, the Commercial Bank of Sydney (former) was constructed in 1891 as a large, two storey rendered brick building with a detached stables building.
- The building was constructed for the Commercial Bank Company of Sydney Ltd (CBC) and used as a branch office and manager's residence.

Bank for over a century

- In 1973, CBC sold part of the block fronting Bourbong Street.
- CBC merged with National Bank of Australasia between 1981-1983 to form the National Australia Bank Ltd (NAB).
- The building was used as a NAB branch until 1996, when it was sold privately.
- Overall, the site functioned as a bank for over a century.

External features

- The building design represents a substantially intact example of 1880s boom-era 'Italianate' style architecture.
- The building has a hipped slate roof containing a centre well, chimneys and cylindrical metal vents.
- The upper floor verandahs are supported by paired cast iron columns with corinthian capitals and masonry plinths. The ground level balcony has moulded concrete balustrading with hourglass shaped balusters and a floor paved in polychromatic geometric tiles.

- The stables building is located on the northwest corner of the site, currently used as an office.

Internal features

- Now used for storage, the old bank vault is located on the northeast corner of the building.
- A beautifully detailed timber return staircase gains access to the upper floor. The staircase balustrade incorporates a pineapple themed feature, symbolising hospitality and Christianity.
- The leadlight glazing throughout the building mostly features a common bird theme.
- The upper floor (formerly the manager's residence) includes six rooms surrounding a central hall. The upper floor also contains three original marble fireplaces.
- Each upper floor room gains access to the verandah via French doors with external timber shutters.

A walk down memory lane

- From 1949 through to the mid 1950s, Sebastian Elliott Hector Moorcroft was managing director of the Bundaberg branch of CBC. The family lived on the building's top floor.





Old stables building currently being used as an office.

- Recently Sebastian's two daughters, Judy and Meg visited Burnett Mary Regional Group, sharing memories from their childhood. They recounted stories of dangling pennies down to the footpath on a piece of string, then pulling them up swiftly when passers by attempted to pick them up.
- The sisters attended Central State School nearby and would also take their horses to the old Bundaberg Show Grounds (now the site of the Multiplex) to ride laps of the track. The horses were kept in the stables building alongside Post Office Lane.
- When floods arose, from the second floor verandah they could see flood waters along Maryborough Street where the channel crosses near Hinkler Central.

References

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