



Source: State Library of Queensland, ca. 1910



Former Customs House

Currently Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery

Former Customs House

- Established in 1902, the H.M Customs House was the second customs house to be built in Bundaberg.
- This building was designed by prominent Queensland Works Department architect J.S. Murdoch, and constructed by Toowong contractor C Miller.
- The location was heavily debated before the current site was suggested by the Bundaberg Chamber of Commerce.
- The lower portion of the building was originally utilised for customs, excise, and shipping transactions, whilst the upper floor provided dwelling quarters for the sub-collector of customs.

Commonwealth Bank

- Commonwealth Bank moved into the building in 1921, remaining there for 57 years.
- There were several alterations to the building over this time, including the addition of two concrete bank vaults with heavy combination locks (today used as The Vault and a gallery collection storage area).

Public library

- In 1978, Bundaberg City Council purchased the building to accommodate Bundaberg's first free public library. However, the library eventually outgrew this space and was relocated in the 1990s.

Art gallery

- This building then became the Bundaberg Arts Centre in 1995, after members of the Bundaberg Arts Society lobbied for a public art gallery.
- Council and the Bundaberg community endorsed the re-development of the arts centre into Bundaberg Regional Art Gallery in 2009.

Interesting features

- This iconic building is a two-storey brick and plaster construction.
- Bricks were sourced by Fischer's Bricks from a clay quarry and brick works once in production on the Salter Oval site.

Interesting features

- The northern facade is emphasised by thin piers that project from a sugar cane themed mural, topped by a cement crest representing a lion and unicorn prepared by Sydney sculptors, Messrs Grant and Cocks. On the parapet wall, several cement kookaburras have also been placed.
- The building currently features design and inspiration taken from local artist Florence Broadhurst on the Barolin Street side, and the work of Tina Harada on the adjacent Quay Street side.





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