



Source: State Library of Queensland, 1895



Source: State Library Victoria, ca. 1900-1925



Post Office

Establishment

- Constructed in 1891, Bundaberg Post Office is a significant regional postal facility and an integral part of the city's historic central civic and administrative precinct, stemming from its rich history as one of Queensland's great coastal ports.
- Bundaberg Post Office is an example of the work of Charles McLay under the aegis of Queensland Colonial Architect, George Connolly.
- The substantial frontage and landmark tower embody prosperity and future confidence in the city of Bundaberg, supported by successful sugarcane, mining and horticultural industries dating back to the 1870s.

Function

- Bundaberg Post Office belongs to the second generation of Australian post offices built between 1870 and 1929. These offices generally incorporate separate components for the telegraph and postal functions in addition to quarters for the postmaster, and in this case integrated government offices.

- Notably, the office space was occupied by Crown Lands Department Office and French Cable Co.
- French Cable Co. began exchanging messages through the Vancouver via New Caledonia undersea cable in 1893, which terminated at the first floor of the post office.

Commonwealth significance

- This Post Office is listed on the Commonwealth heritage register, representing a type of historic place connected to government activities, which contributed to Australia's development as a nation.

Building description

- The building's Victorian Italianate frontages are a fine representative example of large post office buildings of the period.
- The six level clock tower is set 45 degrees to the bulk of the building and its angle diagonal to the road alignment is of strong artistic merit.





- A double height arcade screens the principal street elevations. The ground floor arcade columns are square chamfered components with a suggestion of a Tuscan capital carried in the moulding, sustained across the stilted arcades on the ground floor of each flanking pavilion.
- The upper level contains a verandah with sculpted cornice, Romanesque cast iron columns, and plain masonry pedestals interspersed with a cast iron lace balustrade.
- The external walls comprise of rendered brick with ruled ashlar finish to principal street elevations, rusticated banding to projecting pavilions and the clock tower, and tuck-pointed face brickwork to rear elevations. There are also elaborate cast iron wall vents and cement mouldings.

References

- Department of the Environment and Energy, 2011, *Bundaberg Post Office, 155a Bourbong St, Bundaberg, QLD, Australia*, Australian Government, viewed 25 June 2018, www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;search=state%3DQLD%3Blist_code%3DCHL%3Blegal_status%3D35%3Bkeyword_PD%3D0%3Bkeyword_SS%3D0%3Bkeyword_PH%3D0;place_id=106125.
- State Library of Australia, 1895, *Post Office, Bundaberg*, John Oxley Library, National Library of Australia, Trove.
- State Library Victoria, 1900-1925, *Queensland Bundaberg Post Office (music band and men on bicycle) (picture)*, Jones, SJ, National Library of Australia, Trove.

