



Source: State Library of Queensland, ca.1903



School of Arts

Establishment

- Constructed in 1888-9, the School of Arts building is a significant two storey rendered brick structure in classical revival style.
- This is the third on this site, with two former School of Arts buildings replaced due to Bundaberg's growing prosperity and a trend for masonry construction.
- Anton Hettrich designed the building in partnership with a builder named William Champ, constructing School of Arts as a distinctive icon of Bundaberg's heritage.

School of Arts

- The School of Arts offered technical classes in a variety of practical subjects including drawing, shorthand, bookkeeping, typing, dressmaking, millinery, chemistry, dairy work, manual training and carpentry.



Source: State Library of Queensland, 1907

- This building had a library and rooms available for rental on the ground floor, with a committee room to the rear. On the upper level was a large reading room, opening out to the verandah, a natural history museum and chess rooms.
- G.H. Bennett, a former President of the School of Arts Committee, expressed satisfaction in the 'elegant and substantial edifice, so suitable in every way for the purpose for which it was designed.'

Exterior

- The School of Arts is rectangular in plan and has a hipped roof clad in corrugated iron with cast iron cresting, concealed from the street by a parapet with Italianate balusters topped by cement urns.
- The building has a two storey arcaded verandah. The arcades are constructed of rendered brick, consisting of a central arch topped by a small triangular pediment and flanked by large arches.
- The panels between arch, cornice and pilaster are decorated with a wreath and ribbon design in render.
- Double hung sash windows with round-headed fanlights echo the arcade at the front of the building, as do arches across the interior hallways.
- The doors have fretted transoms with a lyre and acanthus design as a classical reference to education and the arts.



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Interior

- The ground floor walls are of plastered brick with timber ceilings and cornices.
- The ground floor consists of a central hall from which the former library and offices are reached.
- The main staircase is semicircular and has two niches and a window in the stairwell, with a turned timber balustrade leading to a first floor landing. These stairs lead to the former reading room via a short hall, with smaller rooms to the left and right.
- The partition walls are of narrow tongue and groove vertical boarding.

References

- Queensland Government, 2016, *Bundaberg School of Arts*, Queensland Government, viewed 11 June 2018, environment.ehp.qld.gov.au/heritage-register/detail/?id=600362.
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