

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.







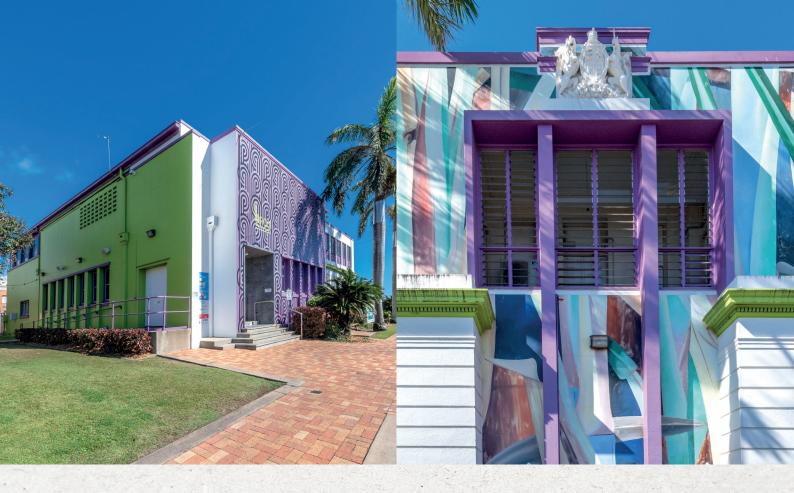












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