

BANK OF AUSTRALASIA

116 Brisbane Street, Ipswich

History

The Bank of Australasia was erected on this 32 perch block which was leased by the Bank in 1878. It was half of a 64 perch block facing Nicholas Street between Brisbane and Limestone Street, owned by the Corporation of the Synod of the Diocese of Brisbane, and the former site of a brick church of St. Paul's.

The title to the site was transferred to the Bank in 1925. the building comprised banking chambers at the Brisbane Street end and residential quarters at the rear. The Bank of Australasia, which had commenced in Sydney in 1837, merged with the Bank of Australia in 1951 to form the Australian and New Zealand Bank Ltd. This building apparently continued operating as a Bank until 1970, when proposals were made for redevelopment of the building for Council purposes, including accommodation of the Finance Department and Municipal Library. The building was subsequently drastically altered internally and some external changes made. By 1990 it was unoccupied and in 1991 internally renovated for use as offices.

Description

The building retains the appearance of a Bank building with attached residence. Externally the northern end, facing Brisbane Street with a first bay also facing east and west, presents a conventional Bank façade of one storey, in a carefully detailed parapeted classical style. The remainder of the building has a generously scaled single storey residential character with a hipped corrugated iron roof and lower verandah roof on the west, originally in curved corrugated iron but now tiled.

The front façade to Brisbane Street and flanking facades east and west have rendered brick walls with three large semi-circular headed openings to the front, and one on each flanking wall. The original windows were fine double-hung cedar sashes and frames, of which only one survives in the centre of the Brisbane Street façade, the others having been altered, apparently in the 1970s.

The three facades to this front portion of the building are of fine classical detail of Palladian correctness and restraint. The central opening on the north is contained between a pair of Tuscan columns of pedestals and surmounted by a triangular pediment, set above an entablature continuing a band of triglyphs which continues around the three facades. A pediment of open balustrades completes the façade's skyline. The cement rendered detail to the walls continues in a simplified form around the rest of the building, articulating walls which contain rectangular double hung cedar windows with external shutters, and paired console brackets under the roof eaves.

The western side is protected by a verandah of five bays, with wooden posts and brackets and a tiled roof.