City Centre Then & Now



Railways: Ipswich was the starting point for the first railway in Queensland which opened in 1865. Today, visitors can ride on historic steam railways at Swanbank and near Rosewood. The Workshops Rail Museum was developed on the historic former Workshops site at North Ipswich.

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Ulster Hotel: Built in 1910-1911 on the site of an older hotel. Architect: H.E. Wyman.

3 Ipswich Girls' Grammar School, Limestone Hill: The school opened in 1892. The cottage near the front gate was originally the caretaker's residence.



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Merton, 2 York Street: is just one of the many fine houses in this historic street.

6 Queens Park: First established in 1864, this beautiful park is well worth a visit. It includes a children's playground, zoo area, bushhouse, kiosk, public toilets and a lookout with views over the city.

Rockton, Rockton Street: The oldest wing was a simple brick cottage built in 1855 for William Craies and his family. Later owners extended the house to its present form. **Fairy Knoll, 37 Chermside Rd:** This handsome Federation-era house was designed by architect George Brockwell Gill for Thomas and Louise Hancock.



- 8 Incinerator Theatre: Now the headquarters of Ipswich Little Theatre, it was built in 1936 as an incinerator for burning the city's garbage. Architect: Walter Burley Griffin, also designed the Australian National Capital, Canberra.
- **9 Gray Street Houses:** An attractive precinct with well-restored houses, some are now used as medical and paramedical consulting rooms.
 - **Quarry Street Houses:** The houses in this street form an attractive group. No. 30 'Toronto' was built in 1863 its quaint style is known as 'carpenter Gothic'.



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Gooloowan, Cnr Outridge and Quarry Streets: Built in mid-1864 for prominent storekeeper Benjamin Cribb and his second wife Clarissa; the architect was Charles Balding. Gooloowan is a private home but the owners will open the house for group inspections and functions on a limited basis, for enquiries phone (07) 3281 3886.

Denmark Hill Conservation Park: This attractive area includes walks, picnic areas, a fossill display and 360 degree views of Ipswich from the top of one of the water towers.

Old Court House: Built in 1859, the former Court House is an interesting Romanesque building of sandstone and brick. Architect: Charles Tiffin.



The Chestnuts, cnr Court and Nicholas Streets: Built in 1885, and occupied by Mrs Mary Darnley Morrison who ran a private school for young ladies.

Belmont, Burnett Street: Built for the Welsby family c1865. A more recent owner was well-known poet and writer Tom Shapcott and his family.

Ipswich Grammar School: The steep-roofed revival Gothic buildings are the oldest part of the school. The first section was built in 1863, and was designed by architect Benjamin Backhouse. The clock tower was added two years later. The modern circular buildings are dormitories.



Arrochar, 3 Waghorn Street: Designed for Town Clerk, Albion Haynes by architect George Brockwell Gill.

Former residence of the Christian Brothers: The Brothers arrived in Ipswich in 1892 and founded a school, now named St Edmund's College. **St Mary's Catholic Church:** Built in 1904 of Helidon sandstone, it was based on a design by F.D.G Stanley. The Presbytery adjacent was designed by Andrea Stombuco and was completed in 1876.



Historical Facts

The city of Ipswich was established in 1827 as a convict out-station to quarry limestone. The convict era ended in 1839 and free settlers began to arrive in 1842. Ipswich became a busy port on the Bremer River and grew in importance because of its coal mines and railways.

In the 1850s, Ipswich aspired to become the capital of Queensland. Although it lost this honour to Brisbane, it was a prosperous and confident city and this is reflected in its buildings which include:

- imposing public offices;
- several of the oldest churches in Queensland;
- numerous fine mansion; and
- a large number of historic houses and cottages.

The city's heritage register includes almost 2000 places including: houses, halls, shops and churches.