



EXPLOREROCKHAMPTON.COM.AU

ROCKHAMPTON'S

CBD HERITAGE

SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Stop, shop and

EXPLORE

*Rockhampton
Region*

CBD HERITAGE WALK

THE HIGHLIGHTS TOUR

If you only have a short time and would like to capture a snapshot of Rockhampton's history, visit one of Queensland's premier heritage streetscapes - Quay Street. Starting at the wharves that were the gateway into Rockhampton, and continuing through most of the early CBD, this tour is approximately 2km one way up Quay, or you can extend your history lesson, complete with shopping and a cuppa, with a return trip down Bolsover and East Streets.

1. HARBOUR BOARD BUILDING

288 Quay Street

The Rockhampton Harbour Board building was constructed in 1896. The Architect was J. W. Wilson and it was designed in the Neo Classic Revival Style. The Harbour Board was established in 1895 to take over the administration of the Rockhampton port which at the time was busier than the Brisbane port. The board remained in this building until 1977.

2. WALTER REID

260 Quay Street / 203 East Street

Walter Reid buildings occupy the block from the corner of Quay Street and Derby Street to East Street. 260 Quay Street and 203 East Street. These were originally a warehouse and office of Walter Reid Company Ltd.

3. AVONLEIGH CHAMBERS

248 Quay Street

Avonleigh was built as a private residence for Mr Frederick Morgan, one of the Morgan brothers who founded Mount Morgan Mining

Company. He was also Mayor of Rockhampton from 1891 until his death in 1894, aged 57. The building was bought by Dr. O'Brien, who extended it and converted it into a private hospital in 1908.

4. GOLDSBOROUGH MORT BUILDING / WALTER AND ELIZA HALL BUILDING

238 Quay Street

This late Victorian classical style single-story cement render and brick building was built for Walter and Eliza Hall in 1899.

5. MOUNT MORGAN GOLD MINING COMPANY

236 Quay Street

A very important building in Rockhampton's history this was built in 1897 in the neo-Classical revival style as the head office of the Mt Morgan Mining Company. The rear courtyard had high walls topped with broken glass and was the entry point for trooper-escorted coaches which delivered consignments of gold bars from the Mt Morgan smelter.

6. HERITAGE HOTEL

230 Quay Street

The Heritage Tavern, formerly the Old Colonial Hotel, and originally the Commercial Hotel and Chambers, was erected in 1898 for Leah Johnson. Designed by prominent Rockhampton architect John W Wilson, the three-storey, concrete-rendered brick building featuring decorative iron-lace verandah balustrading was constructed by J. K. Evans at a cost of £6,500.

7. CUSTOMS HOUSE

208 Quay Street

Rockhampton's Custom House is an example of the Classic Revival period architecture which was all the rage in Rockhampton around the turn of the century. Built between 1898 and 1901 of Stanwell sandstone the building has a huge copper dome and an elaborate semi-circular portico with a Corinthian colonnade.

The building is a powerful reminder of the importance that Rockhampton enjoyed as the major central coast port around that time.

8. EVANS AND HEARN

206 Quay Street

The former Archer Chambers building at 206 Quay Street was erected in the 1870s for the pioneer Archer family.

9. ROYAL BANK OF QUEENSLAND

194 Quay Street

Built in 1889 as the Royal Bank of Queensland, this was one of the many banks attracted to the city by the wealth of the Canoona and Mt Morgan gold strikes

10. QUEENSLAND NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

186 Quay Street

The former Queensland National Bank is an imposing two-storeyed rendered brickwork building situated on the corner of Quay and Denham Streets in Rockhampton. It was erected in 1880 for the Queensland National Bank for £8000 in 1872 and by 1880, (the year of the construction of the Rockhampton branch) the bank held 40 per cent of the total deposits and advances in Queensland.

11. TRUSTEE CHAMBERS

known historically as the River Chambers | 170 Quay Street

Trustee Chambers built in 1877 is significant for its association with the life and work of Dr William Callaghan resident of Rockhampton from 1861 until his death in 1912. It was the private residence of the Callaghan family from 1877 until 1919. It is also an important example of the work of Rockhampton architect John W. Wilson, which includes four other buildings along Quay Street. Built in the Classic Colonial style.

12. CRITERION HOTEL

150 Quay Street

The Criterion Hotel is a three storey masonry building situated on the corner of Quay and Fitzroy Streets. It has formed an integral and vital part of the social and cultural life of the town and City of Rockhampton since 1891.

13. ROCKHAMPTON POST OFFICE

80 East Street

This grand two-storeyed brick post office with sandstone facing was erected in 1892 for the Queensland Post and Telegraph Department.

14. SCHOOL OF ARTS

230 Bolsover Street

The Rockhampton School of Arts building was constructed in 1894 and is an important element of the streetscape of Bolsover Street. The building is a fine example of late nineteenth century Victorian Classical architecture. It has formed a major part of the cultural, social and civic life of Rockhampton since 1894, and has associations with a previous School of Arts building that existed on the site from 1865.

The former School of Arts building has been the beneficiary of a conservation plan prepared in 1994. The School of Arts is a continuing link with the social, educational and recreational aspirations of the people of Rockhampton and central Queensland.

15. CITY HALL

232 Bolsover Street

Rockhampton emerged as an important Queensland regional centre during the 1850s and 1860s. Despite this building expansion into the 1900s, Rockhampton never achieved a purpose built Town Hall until 1941.



CBD HERITAGE WALK

THE HISTORY OF ROCKHAMPTON

In 1853, the Archer Brothers came to the area in search of suitable country in which to run sheep. They settled at Gracemere some 15km to the west of Rockhampton where descendants still live in the original home. Originally the new settlement was to be named Charlestown, after Charles Archer, but he declined the suggestion in favour of Rockhampton. The name Rockhampton was derived from a combination of two sources – 'Rock' from the rock barrier across the Fitzroy River, which blocks navigation near the Neville Hewitt Bridge (the "New Bridge" as its known locally); and 'Hampton', the English word which means 'small village'. Hence the name Rockhampton, meaning 'Village by the Rocks'.

In September 1858 gold was discovered at Canoona, approximately 50km north of Rockhampton. 15,000 people soon arrived in the area in search of gold. On the 25th October, 1858, Rockhampton was officially declared a settlement or town. The town grew rapidly in its early years with increasing prosperity built mainly around the pastoral, cattle and gold mining industries. A port facility was established in the town reach of the river to cope with the increasing trade. In the mid 1860s Rockhampton was considered one of Queensland's major ports and exports from 'Port Rockhampton' exceeded those from the Port of Brisbane.

CBD HERITAGE WALK THE 'HISTORY BUFF' TOUR

OLD FITZROY BRIDGE

Fitzroy Street, Rockhampton
From 1858 until the first road bridge was constructed in 1881, the town was dependent on ferries and cross-river punts to cross the river. The then mayor of Rockhampton Mr Robert England opened the first bridge on New Year's Day 1881. Frederick John Byerley designed the graceful iron suspension bridge from a concept proposed by a member of his engineering staff Mr Owen Jones.

During a flood in April 1890, people crossing the suspension bridge heard a loud cracking noise and fled fearing it was about to collapse. The mayor sent for Mr William Burns of engineering firm Burns & Twigg. Burns found that the flood had damaged the support cylinder closest to the northern bank. He rigged a Spanish windlass by passing

a steel rope around the damaged cylinder and around a firm cylinder thus saving the bridge from collapse. The bridge remained closed for 6 months after the flood whilst authorities argued over who was to pay for the repairs.

The suspension bridge was in service until 1952, when Mayor Mr Rex Pilbeam opened the present Fitzroy Bridge (known locally as the "Old Bridge"), which had been constructed beside the original. The original suspension bridge was then "dropped" into the river. Remnants of it can still be seen protruding above the water at low tide on the downstream side of the present-day Fitzroy Bridge. The rubble has formed a type of artificial reef and is considered by many as a prime barramundi fishing spot right in the centre of the city. Navigation

buoys mark the hazards for boating enthusiasts.

In 1919 North Rockhampton ceased to be a municipality and was amalgamated with the south side into the Rockhampton Council District which now covers an area of 187 square kilometres.

CRITERION HOTEL

150 Quay Street, Rockhampton
Built 1889, Heritage listed, Neo Classic Revival Style, French Influence.
Rockhampton's first hotel, the Bush Inn was built in 1858, on the site now occupied by the Criterion Hotel, soon after Rockhampton was declared a settlement.

The Bush Inn was a slab and weatherboard construction with a shingle roof. In 1862 the Bush Inn

was enlarged and renamed as the Criterion Hotel. The present Criterion Hotel was designed in 1889 by architect J Flint for Mrs Curtis. This hotel remained in the Curtis/Palmer family until it was sold to the Smith family in 1946.

The Criterion Hotel is reported to have a ghost, believed to be a chambermaid who, it is said, committed suicide in room 22 after a sad affair of the heart. Guests have spoken of a "presence" in that room from time to time.

The interior of the building is preserved in the style in which it was originally built, having bedrooms with shared toilet and bathroom facilities on each landing. A compromise has been made in a few rooms which now have ensuite.

During the Second World War, the Criterion Hotel was used by Generals MacArthur and Eichelberger as their headquarters. Other wartime visitors included US First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and film star Gary Cooper. Today it's still used as the unofficial headquarters of military personnel on R&R from Shoalwater Bay exercises.

MORNING BULLETIN BUILDING

162-164 Quay Street, Rockhampton
Built c1927
Established in 1861, the newspaper occupied premises further along Quay Street, until a fire gutted the building. Although not heritage listed, the current building contributes to the heritage context of Quay Street. It is a 3-story masonry structure with a rendered concrete finish to the external walls.

THE ROCKHAMPTON CLUB

166 Quay Street, Rockhampton
Built c1887, Heritage listed, Colonial style.
In 1880 Rockhampton's first brewery was founded by F Russell and A Bourcault and occupied the site. The brewery venture was not a success and failed after a few short months. Thomas McLaughlin bought the brewery, and moved the works to the corner of Quay and Woods Streets in Depot Hill in 1884. It produced local "Mac's Beer" until it was purchased by Carlton and United

Breweries in 1961.

Thomas McLaughlin built the present building in 1887 as his family residence. The building later became the Rockhampton Club and was exclusively for gentlemen, until 1999, when females were allowed membership. The Rockhampton Club closed its doors in 2002, passing into ownership of accountants and financial planners who now occupy the building.

TRUSTEE CHAMBERS

170 Quay Street, Rockhampton
Built c1887, Heritage listed, classic Colonial style.
Built in 1887 as the private residence of Dr William Callaghan. Soon after arriving in Rockhampton in 1861 Dr Callaghan was appointed coroner and district medical officer. He was also house surgeon at the Rockhampton hospital. Callaghan was a respected citizen and sportsman with a love of thoroughbreds. Rockhampton has Australia's most raced-on provincial track, named Callaghan Park Racecourse, in Dr Callaghan's honour.

On the darker side, Dr Callaghan was alleged to have been involved in the mystery surrounding the missing head of Thomas Griffin. Police Magistrate and Gold Commissioner Thomas Griffin was convicted of murdering two police constables on gold escort duties to Clermont. Dr Callaghan was alleged to have assisted in disturbing Griffin's grave and removing the head from the body for scientific examination. One story has it that Callaghan had hidden the head in a pot plant at the Criterion Hotel having been warned of an impending police search of his premises. The head was next traced to a ship bound for England, which sank in a storm in the Indian Ocean. Dr Callaghan died in Rockhampton in 1912.

EDWARDS CHAMBERS

174 Quay Street, Rockhampton
Built c1914, Heritage listed.
Built for the Howard Motor & Cycle Company for use as a garage. The "horseless carriage" made its first appearance in Rockhampton in 1902 when Dr F H Voss became the owner of a steam powered locomobile. He

sold the vehicle to W Howard who converted it into a car powered by an internal combustion engine.

BUSINESS CHAMBERS

178 Quay Street, Rockhampton
Built 1886, Neo classic revival style.
The business chambers building was built in 1886 for the firm Rees R & Sydney Jones who occupied it until moving into alternative premises in 1976. Rees R & Sydney Jones is the oldest legal firm in Queensland. The founder was Mr Rees Rutland Jones who graduated from Sydney University and moved to Rockhampton in 1864 to establish a legal practice. He was closely involved in the civic, political and social fabric of the city during his long life. He married a daughter of William John Brown who was Rockhampton's sub-collector of customs and together they raised a large family.

CATTLE HOUSE

180 Quay Street, Rockhampton
Built 1886, Neo classic revival style with Greek influence.
Built originally in 1864 as the Union Bank of Australia, it was extended and rebuilt in 1898. As with the other banks of that era, banking business was conducted on the ground floor with the manager's private residence occupying the upper floor. In 1977 the building was taken over by the Cattleman's Union and reopened by the then Premier Joh Bjelke-Petersen. The organizers of Rockhampton's tri-annual beef convention (Beef Expo) operated from this building for some time.

LUCK HOUSE

182 Quay Street, Rockhampton
Built 1862, Colonial style.
Originally built in 1862 for general merchant PD Mansfield it was extended in 1880 as business grew. Rockhampton's first unofficial post office was set up in Mansfield's store (in an earlier building in Quay Lane in 1858) but was later relocated to Rutherford's chemist shop, which stood on the corner of Quay and Denham Streets. PD Mansfield was mayor of Rockhampton in 1862.

REES R & SYDNEY JONES

186 Quay Street, Rockhampton

Built 1880, Neo classic revival with Greek influence.

Built as the Queensland National Bank in 1880, this is probably the most attractive building in Rockhampton. It was used as the Queensland National Bank until 1976, when the bank moved to new premises in East Street. The building was then purchased by the local firm of solicitors Rees R & Sydney Jones. Built with the tropical climate in mind with verandahs and high arches, it features unobtrusive wrought iron railings and screens to help counteract glare from the tropical sun. As with most banks of the 1880s, the manager's residence occupied the upper floor while bank business was conducted at street level.

BUSINESS OFFICES

194 Quay Street, Rockhampton

Built 1889, Neo classic style with Colonial influence.

Built in 1889 as the Royal Bank of Queensland, the building housed one of the many banks attracted to the city during the times of the Canoona and Mount Morgan gold strikes. As with most banks of the times, the manager's residence occupied the upper floor while bank business was conducted at street level. Prior to the financial crisis of 1893, Rockhampton had eight banks. However, these were reduced in number to just three during the crisis that plunged the city into gloom. The Royal Bank of Queensland was one of the casualties, closing its doors in 1893.

ARCHER CHAMBERS

206 Quay Street, Rockhampton

Built c 1870, Heritage listed.

The former Archer Chambers building at 206 Quay Street was erected in the 1870s for the pioneer Archer family. William Archer purchased the property at a sale of crown land in November 1858 as Allotment 2 of Section 46, in the Parish of Rockhampton and later constructed the building on subdivision 2 of the site as offices. The building forms part of the commercial streetscape of Quay Street which developed in the late

19th century to serve the passing trade at the wharves on the Fitzroy River.

Archer Chambers was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register on 21 October 1992 having satisfied the following criteria.

CUSTOMS HOUSE

208 Quay Street, Rockhampton

Built 1898-1901, Classic Revival style with

This is the third customs building to occupy the site with the first building sharing the site with the original Fitzroy Hotel. The first customs building was a prefabricated iron and timber structure, which had a limited life. The second was constructed in 1863 and was a single story masonry structure with slate roof. Due to cost cutting in the building phase, the foundations proved to be inadequate for the clay strata. The building was declared unsafe and staff was evacuated whilst repairs were carried out. Finally it was decided to build a complete new structure and work began in 1898 and finishing in 1901. The foundations now sit on a raft of logs.

The first Sub-collector of Customs was Henry Lumsden, who was appointed to the city in 1858. Rockhampton progressed rapidly and became a major Queensland port with exports of wool, gold and copper. Frozen beef, hides and tallow were also exported by Lakes Creek Meatworks Ltd, which was the largest meat processing facility in the Southern Hemisphere at the time. The exports from Rockhampton exceeded those of Brisbane port.

Rockhampton's river port ceased in 1958, but Customs remained in the building until 1986. In 1987 the building was handed over to the City Council. In March 1999 Rockhampton Tourist & Business Information Inc. moved into the ground floor. As part of the millennium celebrations, the City Council was given a grant of \$1 million to restore the building.

HERITAGE TAVERN

228 Quay Street, Rockhampton

Built 1898, Colonial style.

Originally built as the Commercial Hotel in 1898, this building is now known as the Heritage Tavern. The site was previously occupied by the Golden Fleece Hotel, which was built in 1859. Conjecture has been that the hotel name was chosen to remind gold seekers of Jason's quest for the elusive "Golden Fleece".

As the Commercial Hotel, it was a favorite stopover for country folk visiting the city. It is an important example of Australian architecture with wrought iron lace-work cast in the local foundry of Burns & Twigg Engineering. Notice the different patterns of lacework on the different levels of the building as is the case with all the heritage buildings along the street.

ABC BUILDING

236 Quay Street, Rockhampton

Built 1897, Neo classic revival style.

This is probably the most significant building in Rockhampton.

It was constructed in 1897 as the Mt Morgan Mining Company head office. Mount Morgan mine is situated 45 km to the southwest of Rockhampton and commenced mining operations in 1882. It became the richest gold mine in the world. During its 100 years of operation, 2500 tons (89 million ounces) of gold were processed with a current value of A\$48 billion (A\$480 million per year) which is an incredible amount of money in any language. Recent surveys have revealed substantial deposits still in existence in the mine with extraction viability dependent upon the fluctuations in the world price of gold. The gold from Mt Morgan mine was exported over the wharf at Port Rockhampton via the company's vaults in its Quay Street Head office.

The British oil company BP owes its beginning to gold from Mt Morgan mine. Part owner of Mt Morgan Mine Mr William Knox Darcy traveled to England and saw a business opportunity as the British navy was changing from coal to oil fuel.

He arranged oil concessions in "Persia" (now Iran) and with financial backing from his share of Mt Morgan gold formed the Anglo-Persian Oil Company to sell the oil for use by the British navy. This company later became British Petroleum (BP).

Another part owner of Mt Morgan gold mine was local banker Walter Hall. Using wealth generated from his Mt Morgan Mining Co investments, he successfully invested in pastoral and transport activities. He was the last owner of Australia's Cobb and Co coach network. Upon his death, his wife Eliza returned to Melbourne and used a portion of the family's Mt Morgan earnings to set up the Walter & Eliza Hall Institute (WEHI) as it's known in Melbourne). This medical research institute now has an annual turnover of approximately A\$60 million and employs hundreds of staff on projects.

In 1963 the Australian Broadcasting Commission occupied the building. The old gold vault is used as the sound proof studio.

Mt Morgan Mining Company had a major influence on building construction in Quay Street. Many fine buildings, banks and warehouses sprang up along the street overlooking the Fitzroy River and the port.

WALTER & ELIZA HALL

238 Quay Street, Rockhampton

Built 1899, Heritage listed, Victorian, classic style.

Also known as Goldsbrough Mort Building, the Walter and Eliza Hall Building is a heritage-listed warehouse at 238 Quay Street, Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia. It was built in 1899. It is also known as Drug Houses of Australia Ltd, Queensland Druggists Building, and Taylors Elliots & Australian Drug Ltd. It was added to the Queensland Heritage Register on 30 January 2004.

AVONLEIGH CHAMBERS

248 Quay Street, Rockhampton

Built 1885, Colonial style.

Avonleigh was built in 1885 as a private residence for Mr Frederick

Morgan, who was one of the Morgan brothers who founded Mount Morgan Mining Company. Frederick Morgan was also mayor of Rockhampton from 1891 until his death in 1894, in this house, at the age of 57 years.

The building was then purchased by Dr O'Brien, who converted it into a private hospital in 1908. Each patient had a private room for the princely sum of 2 guineas per week (\$4.20). Avonleigh then saw numerous different occupants until bought by Dr Lowrey in 1978. The upper floor was used for a time as an art gallery, before being converted into accommodation units.

PROFESSIONAL OFFICES

250 Quay Street, Rockhampton

Built 1887, Heritage listed, Neo classic style with Edwardian influence.

The former Clewett's building, built as a two-storeyed warehouse building, is thought to have been constructed for Felix Clewett (a Member of the Queensland Legislative Council) in the mid-1880s.

The former Clewett's Building was listed on the Queensland Heritage Register on 21 October 1992.

WALTER REID

Cnr Derby St & East Street, Rockhampton

Built 1894, Heritage listed, Victorian style with Edwardian influence.

The Walter Reid buildings were constructed in 1894 as warehouses for the general merchant firm of Walter Reid and Company. In 1862, Walter Reid (a Scotsman) purchased a retail business owned by Messrs Bergin & Co and changed the name to Walter Reid & Co. After a period of rapid expansion, he sold the business in the early 1880s to McIlwraith McEachern who continued to trade under the Walter Reid name.

The building was destroyed by fire in 1912 and rebuilt to its present condition. When the company relocated to Brisbane in 1975, the building was sold and subsequently converted into accommodation units.

A similar building on the East Street

side of this one and constructed in 1899 (3A) was also originally owned by Walter Reid. That building is now owned by the Rockhampton City Council and is used as the city's Cultural Centre.

HARBOUR BOARD

288 Quay Street, Rockhampton

Built 1896, Neo classic style.

Rockhampton was declared a port of entry into New South Wales in 1858, and became a Queensland port of entry in 1859, with formation of the State of Queensland.

The Harbours & Rivers Department activities centred on the loading and unloading facilities in the town reach of the Fitzroy River and dredging the river to maintain a navigable passage to the mouth. Due to continued silting problems in the river limiting vessel size, it became necessary to establish a deep-water wharf. This was built in 1884 on Raglan Creek near its junction with the Fitzroy River some 70km downstream. The port was named Port Alma and connected to Rockhampton by rail link in 1912.

The Rockhampton Harbour Board was established in 1895 to take over administration of the port. Its head office was established on this site with the construction of this office in 1896. From 1977 the adjoining Fitzroy Shire Council used the building prior to moving to their new headquarters within the shire in the early 1990s.

The building was then sold and remained unoccupied until 1999 when its role became that of an administration office for a community broadcasting station.

THE MEMORIALS

Riverside, across from 288 Quay Street

These are in memory of the Archer Family's settling of the area in 1854. This spot is where the family's supply vessel, the "Elida", probably landed its first cargo.

Migrants who came direct to Rockhampton from overseas in 1862 following the establishment of the town and district also landed near this point.

Rockhampton Region



TROPIC OF CAPRICORN SPIRE VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE

176 Gladstone Road Rockhampton QLD 4700
9am – 5pm Mon – Sat
9am – 3pm Sun
(07) 4936 8000
infocentre@rrc.qld.gov.au
explorerockhampton.com.au/
infocentre
Closed Christmas Day,
Good Friday
Open ANZAC Day 1pm – 5pm

ROCKHAMPTON HERITAGE VILLAGE

296 Boundary Road
North Rockhampton
9am – 4pm daily
(07) 4936 8688
info@heritagevillage.com.au
heritagevillage.com.au

MOUNT MORGAN RAILWAY MUSEUM & TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE

1 Railway Parade
Mount Morgan
(07) 4938 2312
mmpad@bigpond.com
mountmorgan.org.au
9am – 4pm daily
Closed Christmas Day,
Good Friday
Admission to Museum closes
3.30pm Daily

#EXPLOREROCKHAMPTON



EXPLOREROCKHAMPTON.COM.AU