

# NOWRA SCHOOL OF ARTS

## Conservation Management Plan



PREPARED FOR  
Shoalhaven City Council

BY  
SIMPSON DAWBIN Associates Architects and Heritage Consultants

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
Robyn Florance Historian

September 1999

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## Introduction

This Conservation Management Plan was commissioned in May 1999 by Shoalhaven City Council.

A comprehensive Conservation Plan was required by Council to ensure that appropriate long term decisions are made with respect to the conservation, ongoing maintenance, redevelopment and future use of the Nowra School of Arts and surrounding curtilage.

The content and format of this report follow the guidelines of *The Conservation Plan* by J S Kerr and the assessment of significance is based on the *State Heritage Inventory* criteria of the NSW Heritage Office.

## Objectives of this Conservation Management Plan

In summary the objectives of the report are to:

- Establish the cultural significance of the Nowra School of Arts, its outbuildings and component parts.
- Formulate appropriate policies for the conservation and ongoing management of the School of Arts building and outbuildings, taking into account both the significant physical fabric and the ongoing usage requirements.
- Determine guidelines or constraints for appropriate development of the building, outbuildings and site whilst acknowledging the significance of the building, its immediate curtilage and its contribution to the streetscape.
- Relate the proposals to objectives of Council in relation to usage of the site.
- Define extent of curtilage to ensure protection of significant items and control future redevelopment in the vicinity.

## Study Area

The study area is the Council owned Lot 20 DP 801794 focusing on the School of Arts building, and related outbuildings the Supper Room and Billiards Room.

The study area is bounded by Berry Street to the East, the Nowra Post Office to the South, Collins Way to the west and the Council Car Park to the North.

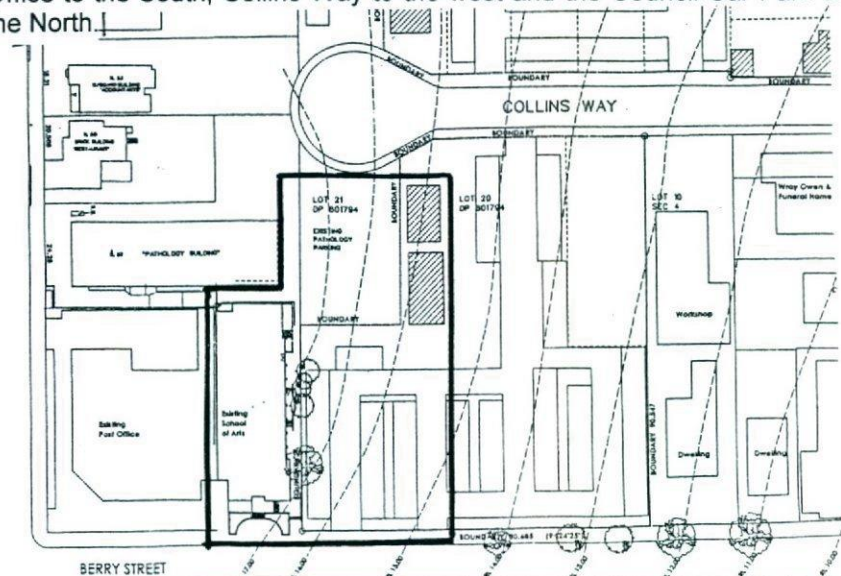


Figure 1:  
The Study Area

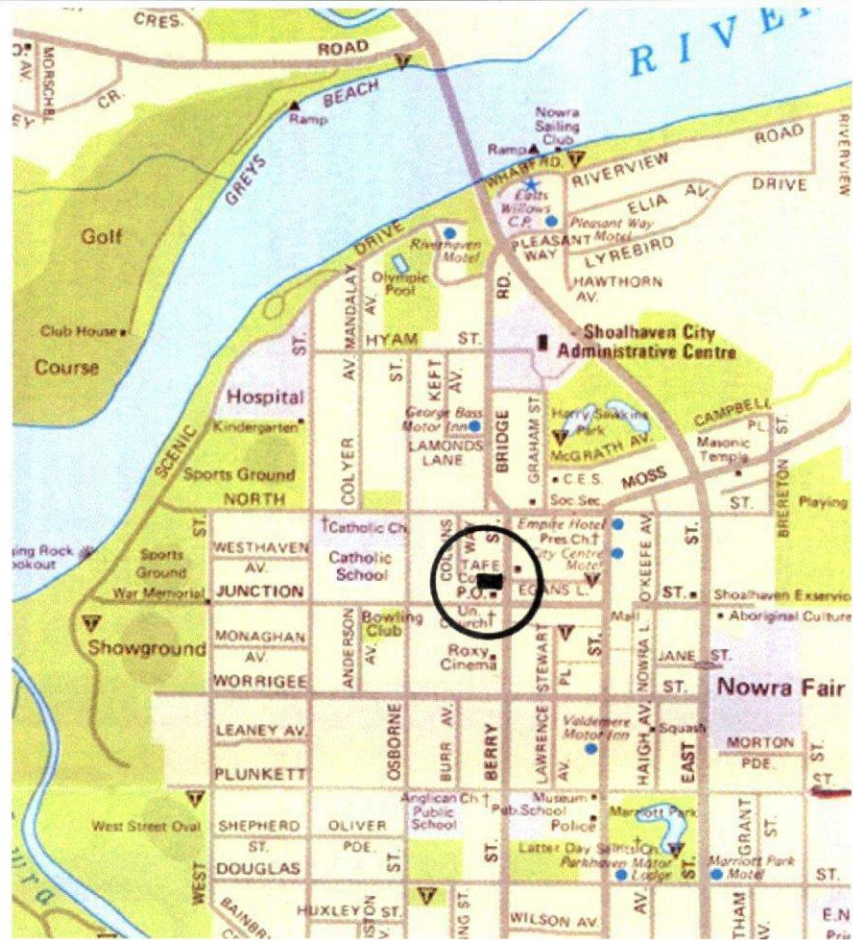


Figure 2: Locality

## Study Team

### The study team comprises:

Bruce Dawbin and Robert Simpson of SIMPSON DAWBIN, Architects and Heritage Consultants

Consultant Historian: Robyn Florance

Plans of sequential development of the site by Phill Gant, Architect

### Client Representatives:

John Drummond, Manager Property Services Group and  
Lorraine McCarthy, Property Services Group, Shoalhaven City Council

### Acknowledgements:

The assistance of the following in the preparation of this report is gratefully acknowledged:

Paul Bishop of Bishop and Hitchcock, Architects for access to documents from the 1989 alterations and permission to use drawings.

Shoalhaven Historical Society

Paul Sutton, Administration Building Manager Shoalhaven City Council

Geoff Steinhour, Supervisor, School of Arts

Roger Hobbs, Australian Heritage Commission

Merv Parkhill, Shoalhaven City Council since 1958

John Flett, Planner, Shoalhaven City Council

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction

This Conservation Management Plan was commissioned by the Shoalhaven City Council for the conservation and ongoing management of the Nowra School of Arts, including options for future use of the site.

The significance of the site is now widely acknowledged, and this report seeks to identify the nature of and relative levels of significance applicable to the School of Arts and its component parts, and establish appropriate conservation policies. The assessments of significance take into account historical documentary material, and physical examination of the fabric of the building.

Recommendations regarding implementation strategies for the conservation works have been prepared and compatible options for future use and development are examined.

### Summary of Recommendations

The Assessment of Significance has determined that the School of Arts building has a high level of Historical, Social, Aesthetic significance and certain components are determined to have a medium level of Technological/ Scientific significance.

This report generally recommends that the School of Arts should be appropriately conserved and maintained, and continue in its role as a cultural facility for the people of Nowra. The major outcomes include the following:

- The site's future use and further development should retain and enhance the significant and intrinsic character and features of the School of Arts building.
- The building fabric should be appropriately conserved using advice from conservation professionals and appropriately qualified tradespeople.
- Guidelines are proposed for appropriate ongoing conservation, management and maintenance of the precinct.
- Policies are proposed which ensure that the contribution of the School of Arts to the streetscape and townscape of the Nowra CBD is maintained and protected from inappropriate development on the subject site or adjoining sites.
- A protective curtilage to remain in public ownership is proposed incorporating a specific area of the existing car park to the north of the site to minimise the impact of future development on the heritage significance of the School of Arts and the Supper Room.
- The report recommends retention of the Supper Room, and its relocation closer to its original site and the School of Arts building.
- The curtilage should be extended to incorporate the Supper Room maintaining its role as a support facility for the School of Arts. A new public forecourt open space should be developed to define this curtilage and provide a common link between the two buildings.
- Primary food preparation for the School of Arts should be provided by the Supper Room. (in closer proximity following relocation)

## PART 1: INVESTIGATE SIGNIFICANCE

The first step in the process of assessing the heritage significance of the School of Arts and its site is to acquire a comprehensive understanding of the development and history of the site, in the context of the broader social history of Nowra and the Shoalhaven. This involves the assembly of all relevant available documentary material, including photographs, surveys, drawings, news items and Council minutes, together with verbal accounts from people with first hand knowledge of the place.

The physical fabric of the building and existing configuration of the site were inspected. The building revealed a clear account of its history, usage and development, providing confirmation of the documentary evidence.

### DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE:

#### Historical Background

Robyn Florance

#### NOWRA

##### Brief Historical Background

Charles Throsby journeyed through the Shoalhaven district in 1821, and made reference in his journal to "No-woo-ro", probably the first time the word "nowra" was put in any written form.

A decade later in March 1831, Robert Anderson made application for "two sections of land in the district of Shoalhaven known by the native name of Nowry". The Surveyor-General in his response said that he did not know a place by the name of "Nowry". However in a plan of 1833-34, Surveyor Rusden marked "Nowra Hill", and so the name was established. Aboriginal translations of the word give several meanings of Nowra, including "a camp", "black cockatoo" and "you and me".<sup>1</sup>

Nowra was approved as a government township in 1852, land was reserved, and the surveyor Thomas Mann laid out the 'village of Nowra' with the option of expansion to the south.

*"The town survey was a traditional set out of town sections of ten chains square with one chain roads; the streets being orientated on magnetic meridian."<sup>2</sup>*

Nowra was slow to develop, the first land sale in the Nowra's Township was held on 2nd April 1855<sup>3</sup> and the first house in Nowra was said to have been built on the edge of the swamp at the 'bottom of Junction Street on 21st April, 1855, by John Smith'.<sup>4</sup>

In January 1857, Mr Henry Gordon Morton visited the new township and in a report to Alexander Berry stated:

*"...There are seven(7) dwellings, with one large workshop built of slabs. One weather-boarded; two weather-boarded on the front, with ends and backs of slabs; the remainder built of slabs. They are all shingled roofs, with verandahs in front.. They are rather*

<sup>1</sup> Clark Alan, *Nowra 1888*, Leader Printery, Nowra, 1988, p.1

<sup>2</sup> *Street Name Origins*, Shoalhaven, Shoalhaven Historical Society, 1986

<sup>3</sup> Diary of Bernard Brown 2/4/1855

<sup>4</sup> Bayley William A., *Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Shire Council, Nowra, 1975, p.64

*neatly put up, and show more taste in the erection of that class...foundations of wood...Seven (7) families, embracing a population of 43 inhabitants, old and young...<sup>5</sup>*

Settlements on either side of the Shoalhaven River did not have a lot of contact in the early days, as prior to the opening of the bridge in 1881 it took the Bomaderry Ferry at least half an hour to negotiate the stream.

Terrara was the main town on the south bank; it had a thriving business centre and was developing the facilities needed for the residents. The major flood which occurred in 1860 did plenty of damage but had little effect of the lifestyle. However when there was a similar occurrence in 1870, the people decided to move out.

The most convenient alternative was Nowra; it was just up the road on higher ground, and already had some government buildings and a small community. Its population in 1871 was 243, but it leapt to 886 in the next ten years. The major churches relocated to Nowra and the opening of the bridge at Nowra in 1881 gave the township the prominence it had long dreamed of and it became the commercial and industrial centre of the district.<sup>6</sup> The Post Office (old) in Junction Street was opened on the 1st May 1883 replacing the first Post Office which opened in the general store at Greenhills in January 1861.<sup>7</sup>

Because Nowra was a government town, it had from the outside a legal and educational focus around the intersection of Plunkett and Berry Streets, in the very centre of the grid pattern. The business section of the town, which grew rapidly, lay on the axis of Junction Street and its central intersections with Berry and Kinghorne Streets. The business area therefore was centred to the north-east, the government area to the south-west of this embryonic CBD.<sup>8</sup>

In the time between 1881 and 1891, the growth continued and population almost doubled to 1705.<sup>9</sup> Although it did not have a water supply, gas or electricity, Nowra was in the midst of a building boom, new business places, stately private residences and homely cottages sprung up in almost every direction. The rates collected by Nowra Municipal Council for the period 1890-1891 showed a 40% to 50% growth rate.<sup>10</sup>

The Railway to Bomaderry opened in 1893 and Nowra continued to expand and by 1901 the population reached 1910.<sup>11</sup> The streets were lit by gaslight. The first of these was installed in 1902 (acetylene) and changed over to coal gas in 1905 with the opening of the coal gas works in Bridge Road.<sup>12</sup>

Like other country towns Nowra saw the cash-and-carry business change retailing in the 1930s and chain stores too came from elsewhere into central Nowra and the old business area was changed by new building. Development was shown by the building applications approved. In 1935

<sup>5</sup> Back to Shoalhaven Committee, *The Book of Shoalhaven*, Mortons Ltd., Sydney, 1926, p.22

<sup>6</sup> Clark Alan, *A River and Its Bridges*, Shoalhaven Historical Society, n.d.

<sup>7</sup> Cremmer Vann, *Nowra Post Office History*, n.d. Shoalhaven Historical Society Archives

<sup>8</sup> Harrison KO, CBD Nowra 1989, found in *Living Echoes*, Shoalhaven City Council, Nowra, 1997

<sup>9</sup> Cremmer, op.cit.

<sup>10</sup> *Nowra and Its Prospects*, *Shoalhaven Telegraph*, October 1, 1890

<sup>11</sup> Bailey op.cit., p.93

<sup>12</sup> Antill R.G. *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co., Kiama, 1982, pp 299-300



as 81 building applications had been approved, including the erection of one picture theatre and shop and 27 cottages. For the year ending December 1937 numbered 87 with 22 sub-division approvals. Seven cottages were demolished and two others closed and awaiting repairs to make fit for occupation.<sup>13</sup>

Half yearly figures to 30th June 1938 showed 48 building applications had been received. By this time the population of Nowra was 3000 persons occupying 750 houses. Eighteen months later 421 of these houses had been connected to the sewer.<sup>14</sup>

Dramatic changes took place in the 1960s and 1970s so that on the south side of Junction Street today only Walsh's store survives from the nineteenth century while in Kinghorne Street the Coles store and the earlier motel replaced many older business premises.

## THE SCHOOL OF ARTS MOVEMENT

*(North Sydney School of Arts - adapted from the files of Stanton Library, North Sydney)*

The school of arts and mechanics institutes movement in the nineteenth century stemmed from literary and philosophical societies in the late eighteenth century and the expansion of the study of natural science. In response to the social and upheaval wrought by the industrial Revolution, the movement was essentially a philanthropic effort on the part of social reformers who promoted the belief that such amenities would *lead to greater industrial efficiency and productivity*.<sup>15</sup> Institutions extended throughout Britain, the British Empire and the United States.<sup>16</sup> The School of Arts was an international movement founded in 1802 in Scotland by Dr George Birbeck. The first branch in Australia was the Hobart Town Mechanics Institute established in 1827 followed by the Sydney School of Arts in 1833.

The character of an institution developed according to the community it served.<sup>17</sup> The movement flourished in rural communities where education and cultural facilities offered by the cities were less accessible and for this reason the School of Arts movement survived longer in country areas than the city.

The Sydney institution owes much to the work of Henry Carmichael, a pioneer in the development of education in Australia. Classes had already commenced on the vessel *Stirling Castle* by Rev Carmichael on the voyage to Australia in 1831. On his arrival in Sydney with the assistance of Governor Bourke a constitution was established and committee appointed from a public meeting. The specific objectives of the institution were to give mechanics some knowledge of their craft for as Carmichael saw it " good theory makes good practice".

The School of Arts was conceived as a means of remedying deficiencies in elementary education by classes in arithmetic, geometry and algebra. In the early stage of its development, teachers came from the church, the legal medical and teaching professions as well as the civil service.

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<sup>13</sup> *Shoalhaven News* 3/8/1938

<sup>14</sup> Antill, op.cit, p.159

<sup>15</sup> *Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle Bundaberg School of Arts*

<sup>16</sup> *Schwager Brooks and Partners School of Arts Rockhampton CMP*

<sup>17</sup> *Schwager Brooks and Partners School of Arts Rockhampton CMP*

Early criticism was made of an elitist nature by the colonial aristocracy distrusting education for the masses on the grounds that it would lead to "error" although one suspects that it was feared that the working classes would become discontent with their lot. Carmichael defended his principles on the grounds that "the only insurance against error is knowledge" adding that "wherever there exists an aversion against the enlightenment of all orders of the people, there assuredly will real ignorance be found to lurk". Governor Bourke gave the institution an early grant of £100 and by the mid 1880s was well established. Literature made its first appearance in 1837 and by the mid 1850's Latin and Greek were taught on a regular basis by Governor Denison. Other topics in the early forties were phrenology (a guessing game about human personality based on the size and shape of the skull, Political economy, and Law as applicable to the Social condition of the Working Classes, Poetry, Painting, Ancient oratory and Paleography.

There are conflicting reports as to the response by the working classes to the School of Arts. TW Brains *A History of NSW* states that the lecture room would hold 300-400 people however the 1837 annual report laments the absence of mechanics and their "apparent indifference to their own improvement as well as to the benefits which accrue to their posterity and from the full establishment of so philanthropic institution."

After a decline in the 1840's the school was revitalised in the 1850's with the establishment of Sydney University and the arrival of Rev Dr Woolley Professor of Logic and Classics. Woolley laid the foundations for a working mans college to cater he stated "for the general duties of society" rather than just art and culture" it was finally established in 1879 long after Woolley's death and met with enormous response from the working classes. In 1884 the Working Mans College was incorporated into the Board of Technical Education although this did not end the role of the school of arts as a mechanics institute. It became the forum for radical politics, lecturing and debating which continued throughout the depression of the 1890's, Federation and the development of the Labour Party.

The library met an important need in society, with large emphasis on fiction, and its aims were stated in terms of "intellectual improvement of our members by means of the cultivation of literature, science and art." The depression and bad management in the 1890's led to a decline of the School of Arts movement and government funding was substantially reduced. The first experiment in adult education had shifted towards an "intellectual recreation" focus. Commercial classes, a few classes in languages and chess, draughts and billiards were, except for the library, about all the institution still offered.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, Schools of Arts had spread throughout the suburbs of Sydney and NSW countryside. Their aim was still intellectual, social and moral improvement, but those established after the First World War period were generally reduced to recreation facilities typically with a library, billiards rooms and card tables

The achievement of the School of Arts movement was in articulating some important needs of a rapidly changing technological society. The institution was the first to bring to the masses the concepts of technical education, general and scientific adult education, industrial museums, libraries and public debate. Its early comprehensive functions have now been taken over by official education departments, Universities, TAFE and technical institutions, the WEA adult education, a free library system, and a multiplicity of clubs and societies which provide for the educational and recreational needs of contemporary Australians.

## THE MECHANIC'S INSTITUTE & NOWRA SCHOOL OF ARTS

### Early beginnings

In June 1857 a public meeting was organised to take steps to erect a Mechanic's Institute building at Greenhills on land donated for the purpose by Mrs Monaghan. The site was an excellent one being on the bank of the river near John Macarthur's Iron Store. The great flood of 1860 rushed through these allotments on the river bank and subsequently Macarthur moved his store to higher ground and the Institute building was never erected as the river bank site proved unsuitable.<sup>18</sup>

In March 1867 a move was made to establish the Shoalhaven School of Arts building at Terara. At a committee meeting in October 1868 A. de Mestre, William Lovegrove, John Macarthur, Bernard Brown and Thomas Holme were elected trustees. They commissioned Thomas Rowe, an eminent and rising architect of Sydney, to draw up the plans for a building 50 feet by 30 feet with a hip roof and conclave ceiling. The cost of the building was not to exceed £400 and offered him three guineas to draw up the plans.<sup>19</sup>

The Institute building was to be erected on the north west angle of Lot 1 Section C in the township of Terara<sup>20</sup>. (The south west corner block at the intersection of Brown & Bryant Streets) The site was donated to the trustees by the Mary Ann de Mestre Estate and was opposite the sites proposed for the police station, lock-up, telegraph office and other public buildings.<sup>21</sup>

A Government Grant of £150 was made available, provided there was a local contribution of £300. A further £150 was available if it was also matched by the residents. Monday 30th November 1868 was declared a public holiday for the laying of the foundation stone for the new building by Mrs D. Ramsay, formerly Miss Kate de Mestre. Beneath the stone were placed coins of various countries, with a copy of the *Shoalhaven News* and a parchment in a bottle.<sup>22</sup>

By the following May the foundations were on the ground, the brick making and timber cutting being done but in July the committee altered the plan from its unusual octagonal shape to square, altered the site and moved the foundation stone.

In April 1870 Terara was devastated by flood water, the worst flood in the history of Shoalhaven. The flood proved to be crippling for some people, and so disheartened were others, that instead of starting again, they left the town alongside the river in their droves.<sup>23</sup> The building was so badly damaged that the project was abandoned and the materials sold. Over thirty years later a School of Arts movement was revived and opened an *Institute Room* in the old *Royal Hotel* in June 1902.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>18</sup> DPWNSW Lower Shoalhaven River Flood History at Nowra Bridge 1860-1980, Public Works Department, NSW July 1981

<sup>19</sup> Bayley William A., *Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Shire Council, Nowra, 1975, p. 62

<sup>20</sup> NSWLTO Old System Number 896 Book 112

<sup>21</sup> *Lower Shoalhaven River Flood Study* op.cit.

<sup>22</sup> Clark Alan, *The Flood that Changed Nowra*, Leader Printer, Nowra, p.3

<sup>23</sup> *The Flood that Changed Nowra* op.cit.p. 6

<sup>24</sup> Bayley William A., *Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Shire Council, Nowra, 1975, p. 103

### **The Nowra Mechanic's Institute**

A Mechanic's Institute was formed in Nowra in 1877 and in its first decade was involved in a range of activities. By 1878 sufficient funds had been collected to erect a brick building at the corner of Plunkett and Kinghorn Streets to hold meetings.

The foundation stone for the Mechanic's Institute was laid by Jeremiah Green, Mayor of Nowra, on Wednesday 13th November 1878. A bottle containing coins of the realm, local and Sydney newspapers, and a written document was placed in the cavity of the foundation stone.<sup>25</sup>

The institute was active for some time but was too far from the centre of the town and meetings collapsed due to lack of interest. Nowra Municipal Council was one of the first to establish a free public library in 1874. The Government granting £200 for this purpose with the condition that the people donating 100 volumes to form the nucleus of a library. The building was used as the town library and the reading room was open six days a week.<sup>26</sup> Members were able to browse through a variety of newspapers and magazines including magazines from Britain and the United States. Meetings were re-established in December 1890.

When the new Court House was opened in 1895 the government resumed the site for a new Police Station and Lock Up and the old court house became the residence of the police sergeant. The former 'Mechanic's Institute' building was demolished circa. 1900 after plans were prepared for the new police building. The Police Station and Lock-up is now the Nowra Museum.<sup>27</sup>

### **The Nowra School of Arts**

A new School of Arts association was formed in Nowra after a public meeting was held in the Public Hall in August 1885 when a committee was elected.<sup>28</sup>

The first meeting of the new movement took place on 16th July 1885 and Telegraph reported that "...It is tonight that the School of Arts makes its commencement. There is abundant room for good and useful work in connection with it and we hope to see a large gathering of youth of the district. Now that the School of Arts association is formed those who have the welfare of the people at heart, may begin to work..." Meetings were held in a wooden building in Junction Street which had been erected by Jeremiah Green.<sup>29</sup> The building was known as the 'Public Hall' or 'Green's Hall'.<sup>30</sup>

After several meetings the movement gathered momentum and membership rose to between 70 and 80 members and a new building was suggested. In 1885 local architect Cyril Blacket was authorised to prepare plans for a building which when completed would be a Town Hall and be used by the Nowra Municipal Council as a council chamber, Town Clerk's office, and library.

With plans completed funds were now needed to bring the project to fruition. The nucleus of a building fund was provided in October 1887

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<sup>25</sup> Shoalhaven Telegraph 14th July 1900

<sup>26</sup> The Book of Shoalhaven op.cit. School of Arts

<sup>27</sup> Florance Robyn, Stage 1 of a Conservation Plan for the Court House & Police Sergeant's Residence, 84 Plunkett Street, Nowra, Associate Diploma in Local & Applied History, University of New England, April 1993

<sup>28</sup> Shoalhaven Telegraph 9th July 1885

<sup>29</sup> Shoalhaven Telegraph 16th July 1885

<sup>30</sup> Back to Shoalhaven Committee, The Book of Shoalhaven, Mortons Ltd, Sydney, 1926, p. 98

when a flower show and art union netted £200 and a proposal was made to secure an allotment of land for the erection of a new building.<sup>31</sup>

Tenders for construction of the new building were called in 1890 and the successful tenderer was a Mr William Hamlyn. The availability of a government grant to help with construction costs was complicated due to the town having two separate institutions

#### **The Nowra Mechanic's Institute & School of Arts**

In January 1891 a meeting, held in the Public Hall, between members of the Nowra School of Arts and the Nowra Mechanic's Institute agreed to amalgamate the two institutions into one association to be known as the Mechanic's Institute and School of Arts.<sup>32</sup>

The new institution became simply 'The School of Arts' and with the amalgamation the site of the old Mechanic's Institute reverted to the police building and in lieu thereof the Government granted £400 to the School of Arts building fund.<sup>33</sup>

Nowra Municipal Council was anxious to move from the old School of Arts building and Council approached the Trustees of the Institute to undertake to rent space in the building the Institute proposed to erect and to support its approach to the Minister for a special grant of £400 or £500 in lieu of the site already occupied and which had been revoked by request.<sup>34</sup>

Lengthy discussions then took place as to where this building should be erected and after many offers of suitable blocks of land the Trustees of the School of Arts purchased portion of Lot 5 Section 4 in the township from John Morrison in November 1891 for £400.<sup>35</sup>

#### **The Land**

24 September 1856	Crown Grant to James McGuire of two roods Allotment Number 5 Section 4 Nowra
31 March 1880	Conveyance Margaret McGuire to John Morrison Registered Number 270 Book 203
10 November 1891 Trustees Registered	Conveyance John Morrison to School of Arts Number 860 Book 475 Pt Lot 5 Sect 4.

## **THE 1892 BUILDING**

### **Opening**

The foundation stone for the building was laid on 3rd October 1891 by the then Minister for Works, the Hon. J.H. Young, MLA when Sir Henry Parkes was prevented by the illness of an aged sister from attending.<sup>36</sup> As the stone had been engraved earlier with the name of Sir Henry Parkes it could not be changed at such late notice and therefore bears the wrong information.

<sup>31</sup> *The Shoalhaven News 3rd October 1891*

<sup>32</sup> *The Shoalhaven News 17th January 1891*

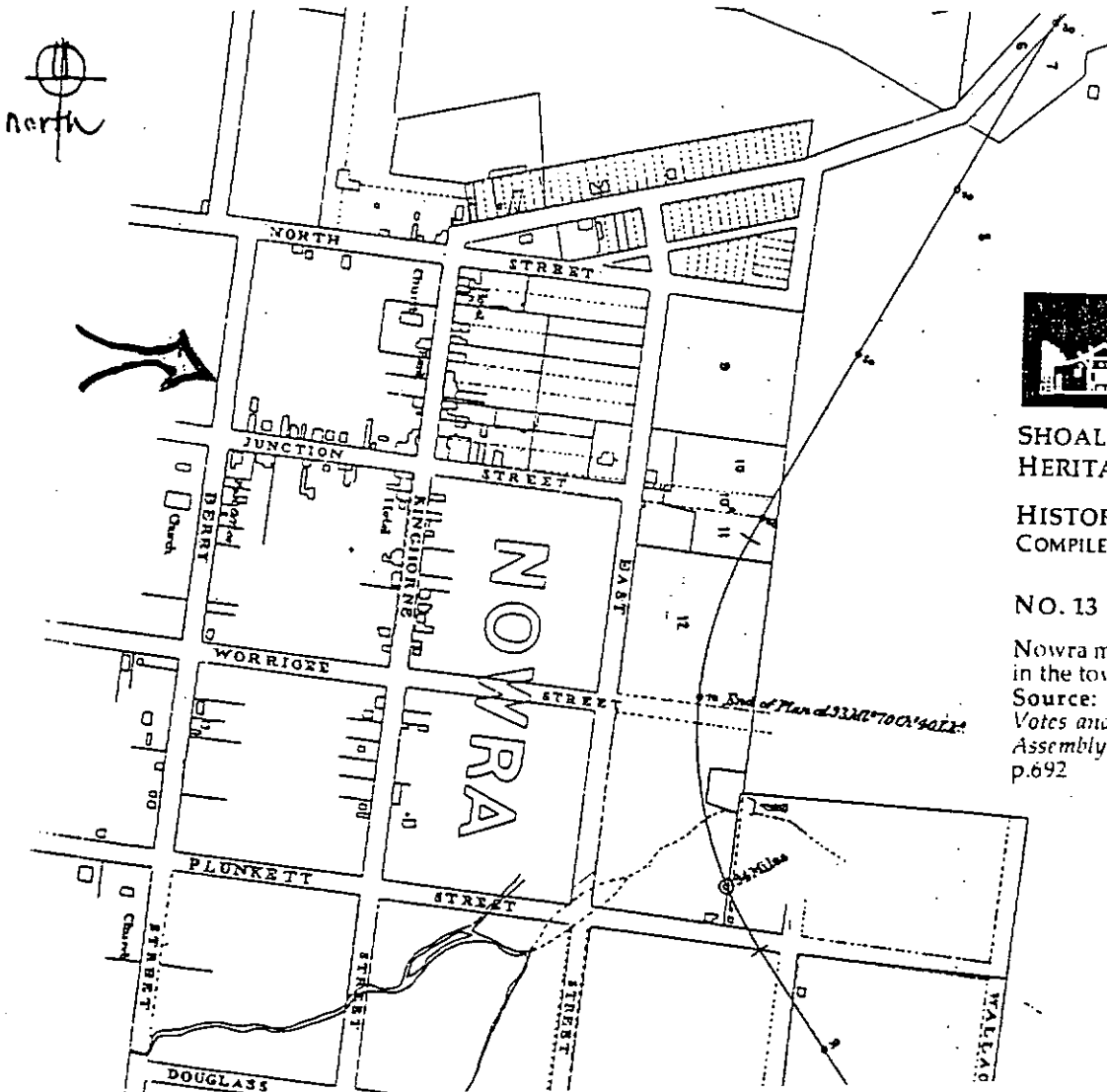
<sup>33</sup> *Book of Shoalhaven, op.cit. p. 98*

<sup>34</sup> Antill R.G. *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co., Kiama, 1982, op. 151

<sup>35</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph of 3rd August 1887* lists sites offered & NSWLTO Conveyance Number 860 Book 475

<sup>36</sup> *The Shoalhaven News 3rd October 1891*

The Mechanic's Institute and School of Arts building was formally opened on Thursday 19th May 1892 with a Grand Concert. Prior to the start of the concert the President of the School of Arts Mr J.J. Scotchmer officially declared the building open. "I now declare this building open, for the intellectual, moral and general improvement of the youth of this district".



SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL  
HERITAGE STUDY 1997

HISTORICAL MAPS & PLANS  
COMPILED BY R. IAN JACK

NO. 13

Nowra map, showing all buildings  
in the town in 1891.

Source:  
Votes and Proceedings Legislative  
Assembly NSW, 1891 III Plan 2 after  
p.692

Figure 3  
Nowra town centre, 1891  
prior to School of Arts in  
Berry Street

Shoalhaven Heritage  
Study

A reporter from the Shoalhaven Telegraph was present at the opening ceremony and gave a description of the building in the 25th May issue of the newspaper.

*The edifice is a handsome and commodious one and suited in every way for the purposes to which it is to be devoted. The site is next to Dr. King's residence in Berry Street and close to Junction Street. The situation is therefore good, besides being near the centre of town. The frontage of the ground is 66 feet by 198 feet deep. The building is of brick with a cemented front and iron roof and is 48 feet by 94 feet, with an extreme height of 39 feet. It is a solid and substantial structure, the architecture of the front being described as "a mixture of the neo-Roman and neo-Grecian styles, or more properly speaking a free treatment of the neo-Roman style". It would be far easier, however, and much plainer to use more homely words, and say at once that the tops of the windows and so forth are in some cases straight and in others arched. There are 13 large windows facing the street, three on each side of the door and seven overhead. The door is approached by four stone steps, and over the door there is projecting a small iron balcony, from which possibly in the future addresses, stirring and otherwise, will be delivered at election times and*

occasions of popular excitement. The front is slightly recessed in the middle, with a gable pediment for the centre portion and on which is placed the name of the building "Mechanic's Institute and School of Arts". On the right hand side of the entrance hall which is 10 feet wide, is the smoking room, 16 feet by 18 feet, and on the left hand side the general reading room, which is of the same dimensions. At the back of the general reading room is the library, 18 feet by 10 feet, and close to it on the left is the Ladies Room. This apartment is also 18 feet by 10 feet. The smoking room, general reading room, ladies reading room and library are all provided with fire places and well lighted. The main hall is at the rear, and is a magnificent apartment 40feet wide by 60 feet deep on the ground floor, including the stage, and if the gallery, which is over the library and ladies room, is included, 40 feet by 71 feet. The stage and four dressing rooms alone occupy 40 feet by 19 feet. The gallery is of horse-shoe shape, as in the model theatres, and is capable of comfortably accommodating 130 persons, while there is seating room on the ground floor for 450 persons, or a total of nearly 600 persons. Provision has been made for no less than five exits from the hall, one being in the front, one at the rear, and one on each side on the ground floor, and one for those in the gallery, so that if a panic should ever unfortunately occur amongst the audience, the whole building can be easily emptied in the space of a few seconds. The hall is lofty, the side walls being 20 feet high in the clear. The roof, being semi-circular, gives an additional height of 10 feet in the centre. The lighting from, from seven large windows, is good, while every care has been paid to the ventilation. There are three ventilating cones which all lead to a Kershaw ventilating cowl in the centre. In the entrance hall there are two flights of stairs, the one on the left leading to the main hall gallery, while the other leads to the Municipal Council Chambers and Town Clerk's room, both of which apartments face the street and immediately over the public reading room, the entrance hall, and the smoking room. The Council Chamber is 28 feet by 18 feet, with an open timber floor, while the Town Clerk's room is 10 feet by 18 feet. The contractor Mr W. Hamlyn has made excellent workmanship, good finish being the leading feature in his work; and the committee are indebted to him for here and there an extra in finish that the specifications did not enjoin. Mr Hamlyn preferring a good finish to the too rigid economy which the proprietors had imposed upon the architect. The building is roomy, convenient, and well finished, and will meet all the needs of Nowra for public gatherings for years to come.<sup>37</sup>

The Municipal Library was eventually merged into the School of Arts. The auditorium was the venue for Art Shows, eisteddfods, musicals, concerts etc. including a magic lantern show in 1897 ( a new invention at the time) and the exhibition of the *Cinematograph*, and *Rontgen Ray* in 1899.

An acetylene light was installed in the building in May 1902 by Mr Seabrook and a local builder, Seward Elliott, erected an iron generator and storage shed at the rear of the hall. At the same time the door leading out of the games room into the committee room was bricked up and a door cut into the lobby facing the library.<sup>38</sup> A Ball was held in the School of Arts to celebrate the installation of the acetylene light and proved a great success.<sup>39</sup>

In September 1902 the committee approved the tender of A.A. Staff at £27/10/- for removing the dressing rooms from the stage and re-erecting them at the rear of the hall.<sup>40</sup> At the same time £5 was spent on painting the games room and £3/5/- on the committee-room. The tender of Mr

<sup>37</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph, Nowra, Wednesday, May 25, 1892*

<sup>38</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph 23 July 1902*

<sup>39</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph 21 May 1902*

<sup>40</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph, September 10, 1902*

H.W. Burroughes was also accepted for the supply of two sets of new scenery at a total cost of £28.<sup>41</sup>

A Dramatic Club was proposed under the auspices of the School of Arts with Mr Young Cordery, T. Gibson and Chas. Harper appointed as a sub-committee for the formation of the club.<sup>42</sup>



4.  
The Boer War  
Memorial, Rauch Park  
Junction Street

#### The Boer War Memorial Fountain,

The Fountain, also known as the "Mafeking" or "Baden-Powell" Memorial was erected from public subscriptions to represent the part taken in the war by district men. It was promoted by the Mafeking Memorial Committee which was formed in May 1900. "...to mark the brave defence of Mafeking by Colonel Baden-Powell by a permanent memorial in the form of a drinking fountain in front of the School of Arts..."<sup>43</sup>

The memorial, imported from the famous Carrara quarries in Italy, arrived in Nowra at the end of 1901.<sup>44</sup> It is made of white marble and was erected by Mr Dudgeon, the local Monumental Mason, during the second week of January, 1902.<sup>45</sup> The official opening of the memorial fountain took place on Wednesday 15th January 1902 and the fountain was unveiled by Colonel Burns, Commandant of NSW Lancers. This marble memorial was moved to Rauch Park in 1962.

5.

School of Arts and Dr King's residence prior to 1905 from Berry Street looking North. Note timber fence and shop awning (left of picture) to old butchers shop, prior to acquisition as Band Room



Shoalhaven Historical Society

<sup>41</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 27 August 1902

<sup>42</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 27 August 1902

<sup>43</sup> Nowra Municipal Council Minutes, 30th May 1900

<sup>44</sup> *ibid*

<sup>45</sup> Bayley William A., *Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Shire Council, Nowra, 1975, p 98



6.  
School of Arts prior to 1905 extension. Note timber front fence and post and rail fence to side boundary.

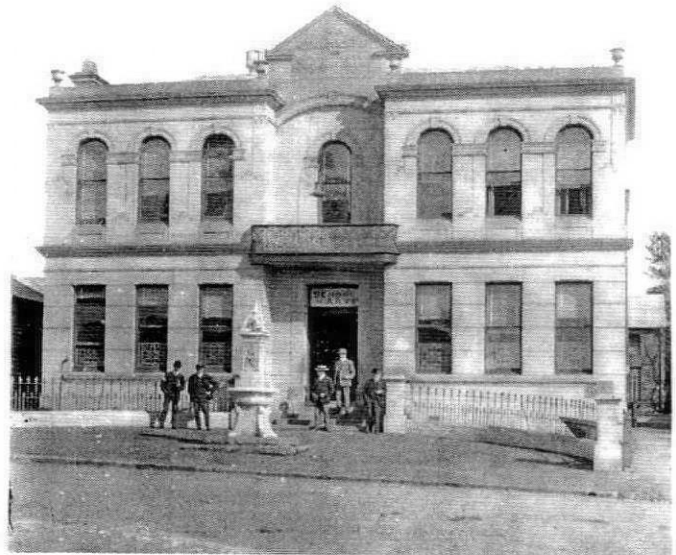
*Shoalhaven Historical Society*



SCHOOLS OF ARTS.

7:  
School of Arts around 1905, after erection of Mafeking Memorial and palisade fence

*Shoalhaven Historical Society*



8:  
School of Arts after 1909. Note half front fence removed and masonry facade to Band Room

*Shoalhaven Historical Society*



### Auditorium Extension, 1905

Billiards were played in the hall and due to the increase in player numbers and the increase in funds the game provided it was proposed that a billiard room be especially erected.

In April 1905 it was proposed "to erect a substantial brick addition to the rear of the hall, which, while giving accommodation for a 30ft x 24ft billiard room and 30ft x 15ft games and smoke room could be utilised for a stage should the main hall need to be extended".<sup>46</sup> Plans and specifications were drawn up by Mr Muller, local builder and architect and tenders were called for the erection of a billiard and games and smoke rooms.<sup>47</sup>

Five tenders were received and the tender of R.W. Henry of £264/19/6. The tenders included a few improvements on the original plan, as suggested by members of the committee, such as fireplaces, skylight, ventilators, laying on water and gas etc.<sup>48</sup>

The Billiard Room was officially opened on Friday night the 31st August 1905 and reported in the local press.

*The additions cover 45 feet by 30 feet of floor space, the walls being of brick and lofty, the roof massive and ornate. The new building is in keeping with the main hall. The billiard room is 30 feet by 24 feet - large enough to permit a second table if warranted and there also is a card and games room 30 feet by 13 feet, partitioned off. Another partition cuts off the passage leading from the main hall to the dressing-rooms (which have also been nearly doubled in size) and the kitchen. The table and appointments were obtained from Messrs Herion and Smith, Sydney, at a cost of £85, and there were incidental expenses for seats, lighting etc. the total outlay in round figures being £400.*<sup>49</sup>

In January 1909 the committee arranged for the erection of kerbing and palisading in front of the hall. In February the work was nearing completion and the committee engaged Mr Blacket to examine and report on the work.<sup>50</sup> At the same time the committee met to consider a proposal put forward by James Monaghan to sell the block of land (66ft) adjoining the Institute with a building thereon, for the sum of £500.<sup>51</sup>

In 1909 the town band was in financial difficulties and it was proposed that the School of Arts committee take over control of the Nowra Town Band. During that year Technical classes in dressmaking took place and a Literary and Debating class was established. It was also proposed that a gymnasium be established with a view to providing clean, healthful recreation for the young men of the town.<sup>52</sup>

The Young Men's Institute had convened a meeting in May of old time members and decided to hand the whole of the gymnasium equipment over to the School of Arts committee.<sup>53</sup> In June the gymnasium was formally opened and "...members of the public were allowed to participate in the gymnastic exercises..."<sup>54</sup>

*On Friday evening there was a large attendance - between fifty and sixty - of young men and lads and the street corners were consequently*

<sup>46</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph, 12 April 1905*

<sup>47</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph 7 June 1905*

<sup>48</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph 7 June 1905*

<sup>49</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph 5 September 1905*

<sup>50</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph 10 February 1909*

<sup>51</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph 24 February 1909*

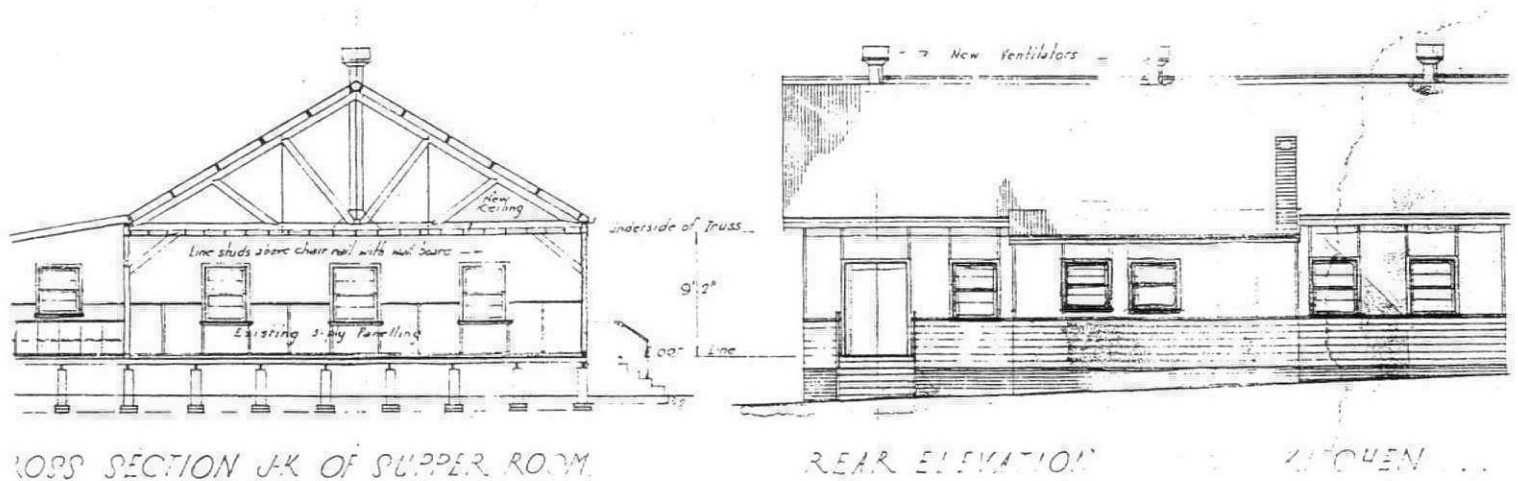
<sup>52</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph 7 April 1909*

<sup>53</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph 12 May 1909*

<sup>54</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph 2 June 1909*

deserted. The main hall which was fitted up for the occasion, presented an animated appearance. The whole of the paraphernalia belonging to the defunct Young Men's Institute and an additional quantity belonging to the Cambewarra School of Arts (but now on offer to the Nowra institute) was in use, and the young fellows fairly revelled in the opportunity afforded them to engage in wholesome, healthful recreation.<sup>55</sup>

After the official opening Mr Stan Monaghan took control of the gymnasium and only members of the School of Arts were allowed to use the equipment.



## COUNCIL & PROFESSIONAL CHANGES

9. Supper Room, 1939 drawing by Architects Jarvie and Kenwood

### Supper Room

A Gymnasium and Supper Room were proposed in October 1909 and plans for the building were drawn up by architect Cyril Blacket. The plans provided for a weatherboard building 48 feet long and 27 feet wide, lined inside, floor of asphalt, on brick foundation. The committee approved of the plan, but favoured a wooden floor; a suggestion being made that the floor of the main hall might be taken up and re-laid in the gymnasium, and a new tallow wood floor be laid in the Hall. Dancers complained of the bad floor in the hall, and it was decided to instruct Mr Blacket to prepare specifications with the suggested alterations.<sup>56</sup>

In November 1909 it was announced that the Town Band had paid off all liabilities, and were now prepared to hand over instruments and give full control to the School of Arts committee and a sub-committee was formed to oversee the hand over and engage a band conductor.<sup>57</sup>

In January 1910 the committee reported that the proposed building to be erected at the rear of the building for a gymnasium, band room and supper room, from plans drawn by Cyril Blacket had been approved. Tenders had been called for the erection of the building and the tender of Mr Joseph Kennedy at £185/16/6 had been accepted.<sup>58</sup> (This building was moved circa 1958 to land adjacent to the School of Arts building to make way for the new Council building in Junction Street, which is now the Integral Electricity Building)

<sup>55</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 2 June 1909

<sup>56</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 13 October, 1909

<sup>57</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 17 November 1909

<sup>58</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 25 January 1910

On the 11th May 1910 it was advertised that a dance would be held in Nowra next Wednesday night to celebrate the laying down of the tallowwood floor in the School of Arts.<sup>59</sup> On the 1st June 1910 an article appeared in the local press:-

*The new gymnasium and supper room in connection with the Nowra School of Arts has been finished by the contractor, Mr J Kennedy. It is a room that should prove a great convenience. It is 48ft long by 22ft wide and 15ft (sic) walls and is solidly and substantially built.*<sup>60</sup>

#### **Band Room and Stage Alterations, 1917**

On 17th February 1912 the Trustees purchased the adjoining land from James Monaghan for £450 on which to build a billiard room and library. On 13th May 1914, the committee authorised Cyril Blacket to draw up plans and specifications for a new billiard room and library at an estimated cost of £1600 but the plans were pigeonholed until finance became available.

10:  
School of Arts 1926, and façade  
of Band Room on left

*Shoalhaven Historical Society*



H O O O    ■ O R

11:  
School of Arts and Band  
Room 1910.  
The weatherboard Band  
Room is visible behind the  
masonry facade



<sup>59</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 11 May 1910

<sup>60</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 1 June 1910

In February 1917 a special general meeting was held to consider the plans of the proposed extension and improvements. The President, Mr H Rauch, occupied the chair and with the plan on the blackboard explained the details of the proposal. - to extend the hall to the back of the present stage; convert the billiard room into stage and dressing rooms; remove and enlarge the band hall, re-erecting same (with brick front) facing Berry Street; and renovate the cottage. The estimated cost of the work was £800 and an additional expenditure of approximately £200 would be required for furnishing. A motion authorising the trustees to take the necessary steps to carry out the proposal was carried, with only one dissident.<sup>61</sup>

In October 1917, the Trustees mortgaged Lot 4 and Lot 5 to Ryan, Watkins and James Pritchard for £1450 in order to obtain funds to proceed with the building, which was supervised by local architect and builder, Otto Beckett. The new building was opened by the Premier of NSW Hon. W.A. Holman on 18th April 1918. (It was used by the Defence Department during World War II but was later demolished and the land is now occupied by the new Post Office building)

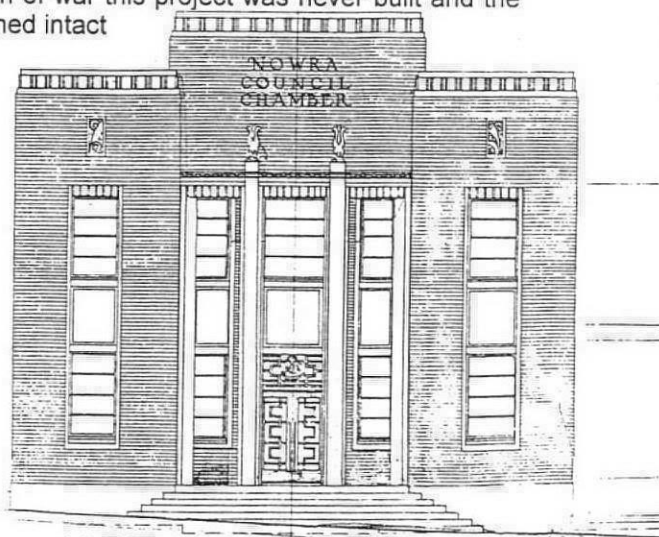
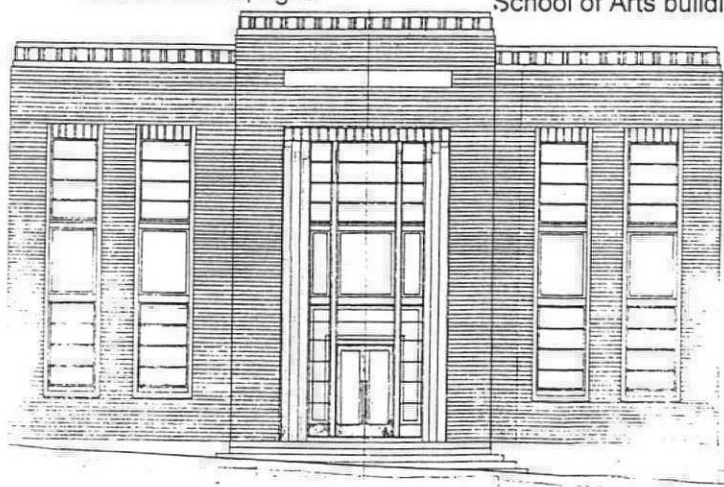
The School of Arts movement began to decline in the late 1920s and by 1938 membership of the institute was at an all time low. The School of Arts was in financial difficulties and the committee decided reluctantly to pass the control of the School of Arts to Nowra Municipal Council for use as a Council Chambers and Town Hall.<sup>62</sup> Following a trend that was repeated at similar institutions throughout the country, the library, the billiards room and games room were all that the School of Arts stood for by this time.

The Nowra Municipal Council officially took over the control of the Literary Institute on 30th June 1938 and immediate steps were taken to reconstruct the building so that it could be used for both Council purposes and publicising letting. The existing life members retained all privileges held by them.<sup>63</sup>

#### Plans for Redevelopment, 1938

Nowra Municipal Council commissioned architects SA Jarvie and TL Kenwood in 1939 to prepare detailed designs for total redevelopment of the combined School of Arts and Billiards Room site as new Council Chamber, Council Administrative Office and professional Offices. However, with the intervention of war this project was never built and the School of Arts building remained intact

12:  
Proposed Elevation to  
Bridge Road 1939.  
Redeveloped Band./  
Billiards Room, left, and  
School of Arts, right.



PROFESSIONAL CHAMBERS

ELEVATION TO BRIDGE RD • COUNCIL CHAMBERS

<sup>61</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph* 28 February 1917

<sup>62</sup> *The Shoalhaven News* 29 June 1938 p. 2

<sup>63</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 170

**Wartime Role**

With talk of war in the air moves were also made in Nowra to form a Women's Voluntary Service Committee, the sole purpose being, at that time, to train women in First Aid. They were granted use of the School of Arts one afternoon per week for this effort.<sup>64</sup>

As the war developed into a critical stage expansion of the armed forces was a major concern to the people of Nowra. The AIF Recruiting drive drew heavily on local manpower and under the guidance of the Honorary Recruiting Officers, Captain Davis and Mr C. Reynolds, Nowra's response to the national call was equal to that of any other town in Australia with comparable population. Recruiting meetings were held on a regular basis in the School of Arts building.

Under N.E.S. requirements, a Chief Warden was appointed, Mr J.J. Carrall, the Health and Building Inspector, with Mr F Wilson his deputy. An Evacuation Committee was also set up as the war in the Pacific had taken a grave turn and urgent measures were called for in case of invasion or direct air or naval attacks on the coast took place. Two air-raid shelters were installed in the town, with the controls located in the Council Chambers.<sup>65</sup>

A conference on 17th June 1944 held at Nowra, discussed the introduction of a free library service which the Government was anxious to bring into being as soon as possible. A visit from the Principal Librarian of the Public Library of NSW had brought representatives of the coastal Councils together and he quoted population figures of 11,740 (as at 1927) to indicate to those present the feasibility of the proposal.<sup>66</sup>

With a Government subsidy the Library Rate any Municipality or Shire could impose under the Local Government Act would amount to less than 2/- per year per ratepayer. Delegates reported back to their respective Councils for acceptance or otherwise of the Government's offer. Nowra already had a free library conducted in conjunction with the School of Arts and this was used subsequently as a basis for the Government Scheme.<sup>67</sup>

**Council Amalgamation**

In 1948 the seven smaller Councils within Shoalhaven were amalgamated into one Council. The inaugural meeting of the Provisional Council of the Shire of Shoalhaven was held at the School of Arts on the 29th June 1948.<sup>68</sup>

With the amalgamation, staff were employed by the new Shire of Shoalhaven Council and suitable Council Chambers were needed. The existing Shire & Municipal Offices would be retained as reception centres for the payment of rates and charges and for giving out information, but would only be staffed on a rotation basis.<sup>69</sup>

To satisfactorily accommodate the office staff of 14, modifications were made to the School of Arts billiard room and relocation of the two tenants, the Department of Transport and the Department of Education. This was considered a suitable expedient until such times as the Council could build a permanent Council Chambers.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>64</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 170

<sup>65</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 170

<sup>66</sup> Antill R.G. *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co., Kiama, 1982, p. 171

<sup>67</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 171

<sup>68</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 203

<sup>69</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 205

<sup>70</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 205

At the opening of the New Council Chambers in the Nowra School of Arts on 30th March 1949, Certificates of Service were presented by the President to Messrs. Lackerstein, Green and Higgins, Clerks of the old Councils in the area, in recognition of their services to the community in general.<sup>71</sup>

In late 1954 Council had invited designs for a new Council Chambers and offered a prize of one hundred guineas for the accepted design.<sup>72</sup>

A survey was made during 1956 by the Library Board of NSW in connection with the proposed Shoalhaven Library Service to be funded and operated by Council. The existing Library Service, conducted in the School of Arts, was inherited from the old Nowra Municipal Council, and was restricted in both number of books and the area of its activity. The proposed new service would be Shire wide.<sup>73</sup>

#### **New Council Premises**

In November 1957 land was acquired in Junction Street, Berry Street and Collins Way to provide a suitable area for the new Council Chambers and Shire Hall. In August 1958, Messrs Edwards, Madigan and Torzillo were commissioned to prepare plans for the proposed Administrative Offices, Council Chambers, Council Yard area and Civic Court fronting Junction Street for the purpose of calling tenders for its construction.<sup>74</sup>

The Council meeting on Monday 27th February 1962, was held in the new Council Chambers although they were then incomplete. This became necessary so that the old Council Chambers, could be demolished as part of the building contract.<sup>75</sup>

In preparation for the opening of the New Administrative Centre the Boer War Memorial was moved in June 1962 from in front of the School of Arts to Council's Depot pending cleaning up and re-lettering before it was rested in Rauch Park opposite the new Council Chambers.<sup>76</sup>

The building continued to serve the community in a variety of ways following the opening of the new Council Administrative Centre. The Auditorium retained its valuable role as Nowra's Town Hall and venue for functions and performing arts.

In 1951 a group of about fifteen young people decided to form a dramatic society in Nowra. The first production "*Quiet Weekend*" was performed in the School of Arts on 16th November, for a single performance. Every year after that all types of comedies, dramas, mysteries and musicals have been performed. The Nowra Players presented an average of four plays each in the Nowra School of Arts until 1968 when they moved to their new home in the Bomaderry hall which subsequently became the Players Theatre.<sup>1</sup>

The four front rooms were used for various community meetings and political groups with the Ground Floor to the left of the entry vestibule remaining the public library until the new Shoalhaven Shire Library was erected across the road in 1967.

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<sup>71</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 207

<sup>72</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 217

<sup>73</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 220

<sup>74</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 222

<sup>75</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 229

<sup>76</sup> Antill op.cit. p. 231

**The School of Arts after 1962**

The building continued to serve the community in a variety of ways following the opening of the new Council Administrative Centre. The Auditorium retained its valuable role as Nowra's town hall and venue for functions and performing arts.

The four front rooms were used variously for community meetings, political groups and the Ground Floor to the left of the entry vestibule remained as the public library. During the 1960's and 70's the spaces were used as classrooms for the Business and Secretarial College, thus reclaiming a link with the original educational purpose of the building.

The Shoalhaven Historical Society used a small front room for display and museum purposes until new premises were made available in the old Police Station in late 1980

**CONSOLIDATION OF THE SITE**

In the mid 1950s Shoalhaven Shire Council began negotiations to acquire land adjoining the School of Arts site for Civic Purposes. The Council offices were housed in the old billiard room and the cottage was occupied by Mr A Parkes, the caretaker for the site.

In August 1956, Council had instructed its Consulting Architects to prepare plans for the Administration Centre and Council Chambers and to call tenders for the construction of same. These closed in October 1957 and prices ranged from £159,000 to £195,000. As the lowest tender was out of reach of Council's financial position, the architects were asked to modify the plans and discuss same with the lowest tenderer, L.G. Price Pty Ltd. In December 1958 the Administrator was advised by the Minister for Local Government that the proposed Centre would cost approximately £100,000 and this required a further modification of the scheme. Subsequently a contract was signed with Price for £104,164 for a two-storeyed building, of steel-frame construction to house the Administrative staff and Council Chambers. The estimated time for completion of the contract was 40 weeks.

Work on the new Administrative Building reached the stage where Mr Hawkshaw who was responsible for its construction was invited to lay the foundation stone on Saturday 30th January 1960. The meeting on Monday 27th February 1961 was held in the new Council Chambers although they were then incomplete. This became necessary so that the old Council Chambers could be demolished as part of the building contract. It was anticipated the new Chambers would be officially opened by the Minister for Local Government in the following May. Portion of the old Administrative Building became the Gas Showrooms in Bridge Road.

The date for the official opening of the New Administrative Centre was Saturday 9th September 1961 and to add more dignity to the occasion Council provided lapel badges to each Councillor with his name inscribed on it.

**Proposed Council Chambers - Relocation of Existing Buildings**

A quotation was received from C & A Smith<sup>77</sup> for the moving of the Supper Room, Engineers Office and the cottage formerly owned by Estate of Bryce.

**The Supper Room**

This weather board and fibro building to the rear of the School of Arts was rotated at right angles and relocated to make way for the new Council Offices, approximately 50 metres to the north adjacent Collins Way. It

<sup>77</sup> (Minute No. 22 Shire of Shoalhaven Council Minutes 22nd January 1958)



was linked to the School of Arts and Ken Furness Centre by covered way. It continued to provide a venue for many social occasions and the kitchen was the support catering facility for major functions held in the School of Arts.

#### **The Ken Furness Centre**

Named in memory of Councillor Ken Furness of Shoalhaven City Council 1972- 1974, this demountable office building was located at the rear of the School of Arts to the north of the Supper Room. Divided into two rooms, it housed the Engineer's Office and the Electrical Engineer's Office. After the Administrative centre in Bridge Road was completed this building was used as rooms where the pensioners could meet.

#### **Construction of Covered Way**

*(Minute No. 66 Shire of Shoalhaven Council Minute 5/2/1958)*

Resolved on the motion of Mr J Higham in the sum of £445 for the construction of a covered way from the rear of the School of Arts to the Supper Room and thence to the Chief Electrical and Shire Engineer's Departments be accepted and the expenditure authorised and voted from the General Fund, Council Chambers loan.



13.  
Top: Aerial view from NW prior to relocation of Supper Room and Engineer's Office in 1959

14.  
Bottom: Aerial view 1962.

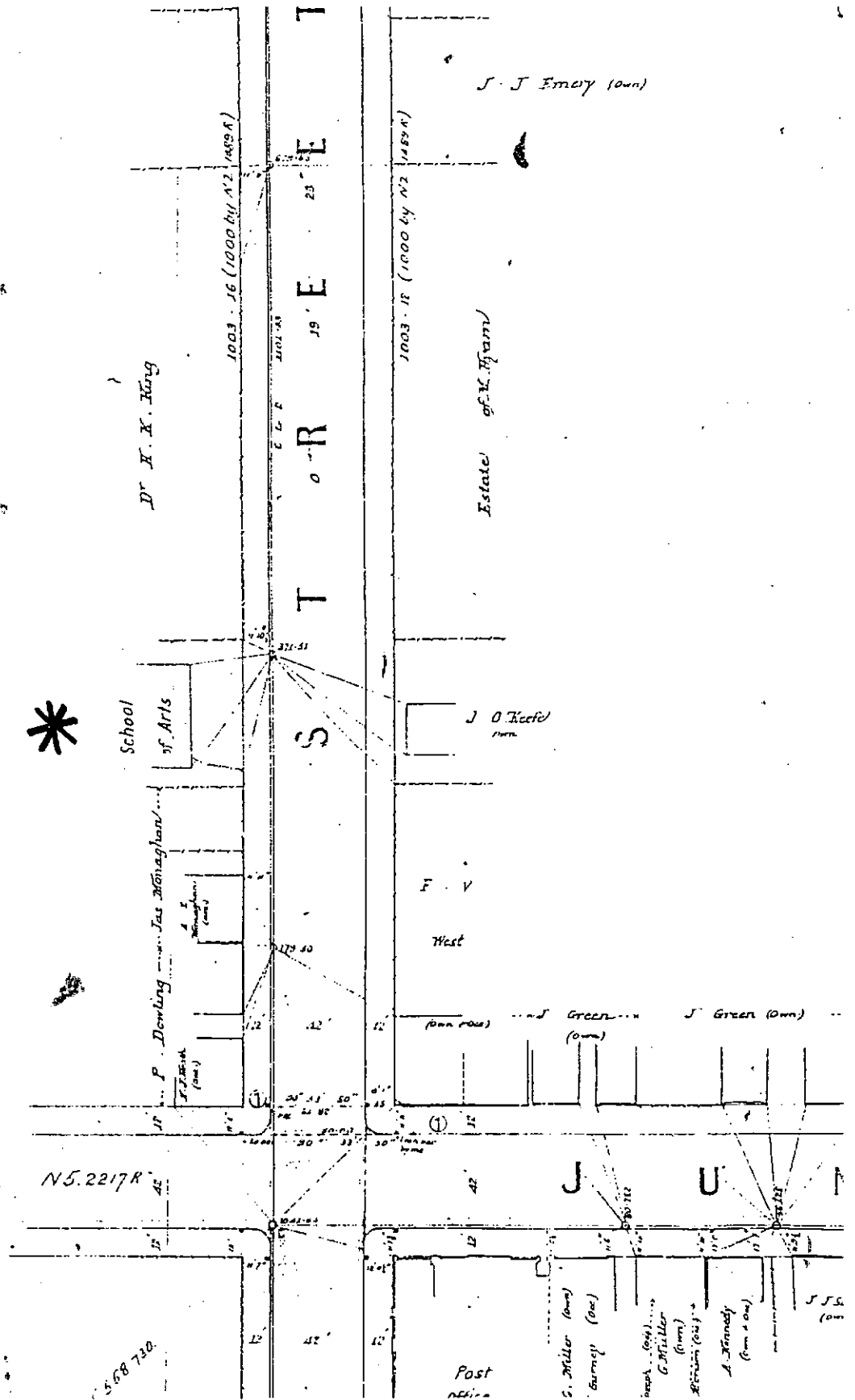
*Both photos: Shoalhaven Historical Society*



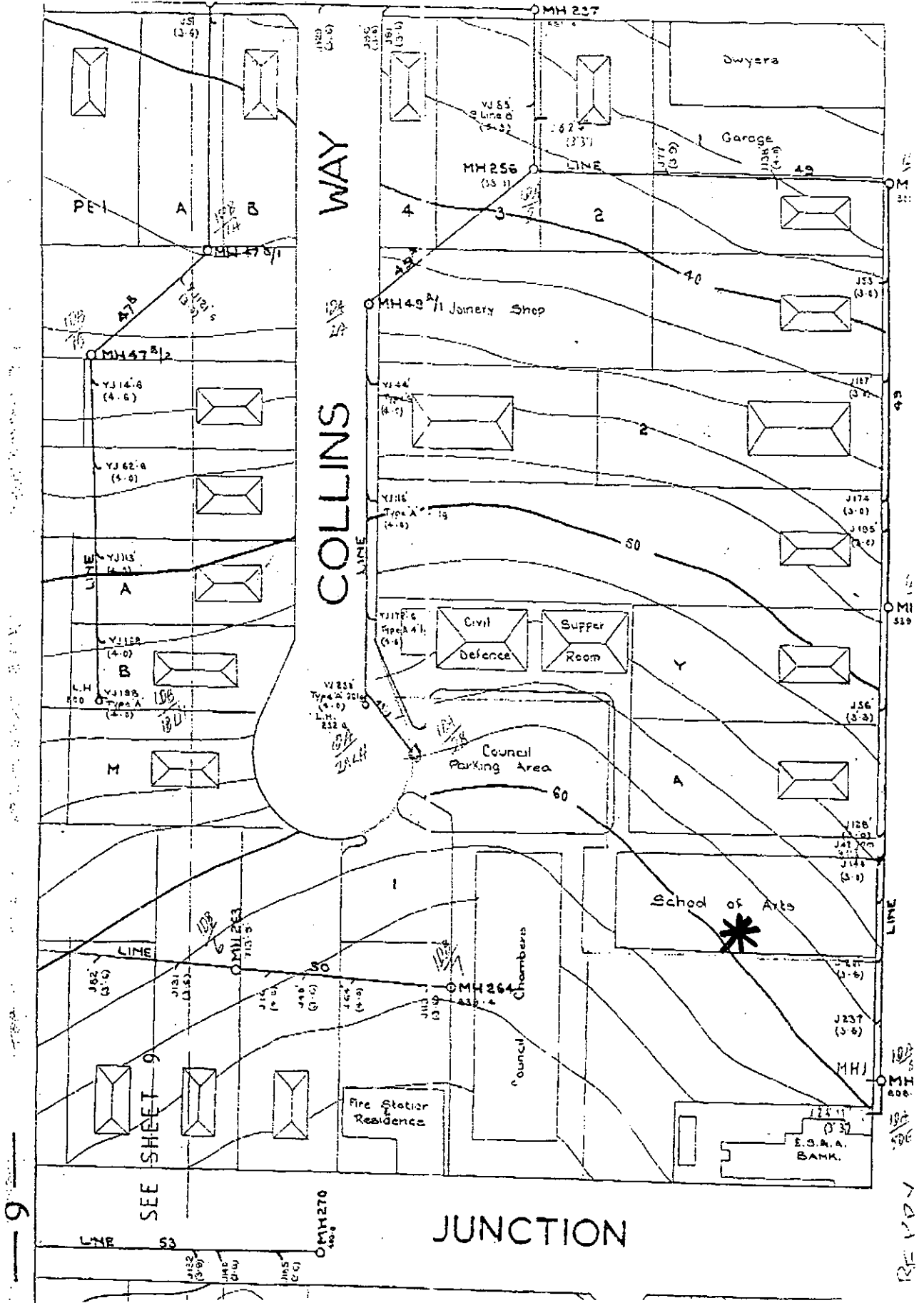
Documents illustrating development of surrounding area:

Sec. 4.

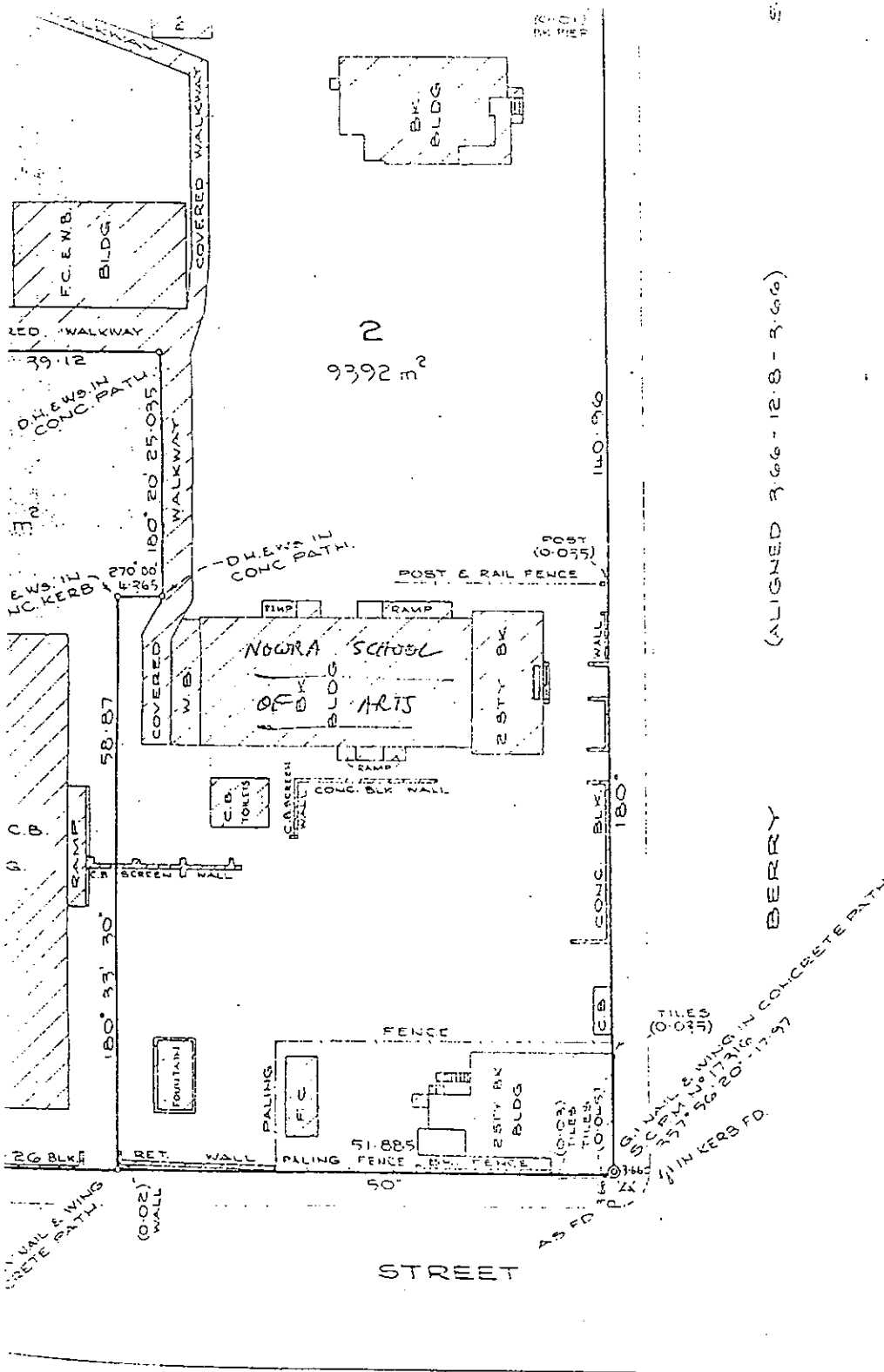
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15. 1899 Plan of carriage and footways of streets in the Municipal district of Nowra State Archives of NSW 154/29



16. Sewerage diagram circa 1970, indicating buildings extant in vicinity of School of Arts



(ALIGNED 3.66 - 12.8 - 3.66)

BERRY

PLAN OF SUBDIVISION OF ALLOTMENT 4 AND PART OF ALLOTMENTS 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 AND 9 OF SECTION 4, TOWN OF NOWRA.

Reduction Ratio 1: 500  
Lengths are in metres.

Municipality: **SHOALHAVEN**  
Locality: **NOWRA**  
Perish: **NOWRA**  
County: **ST. VINCENT**

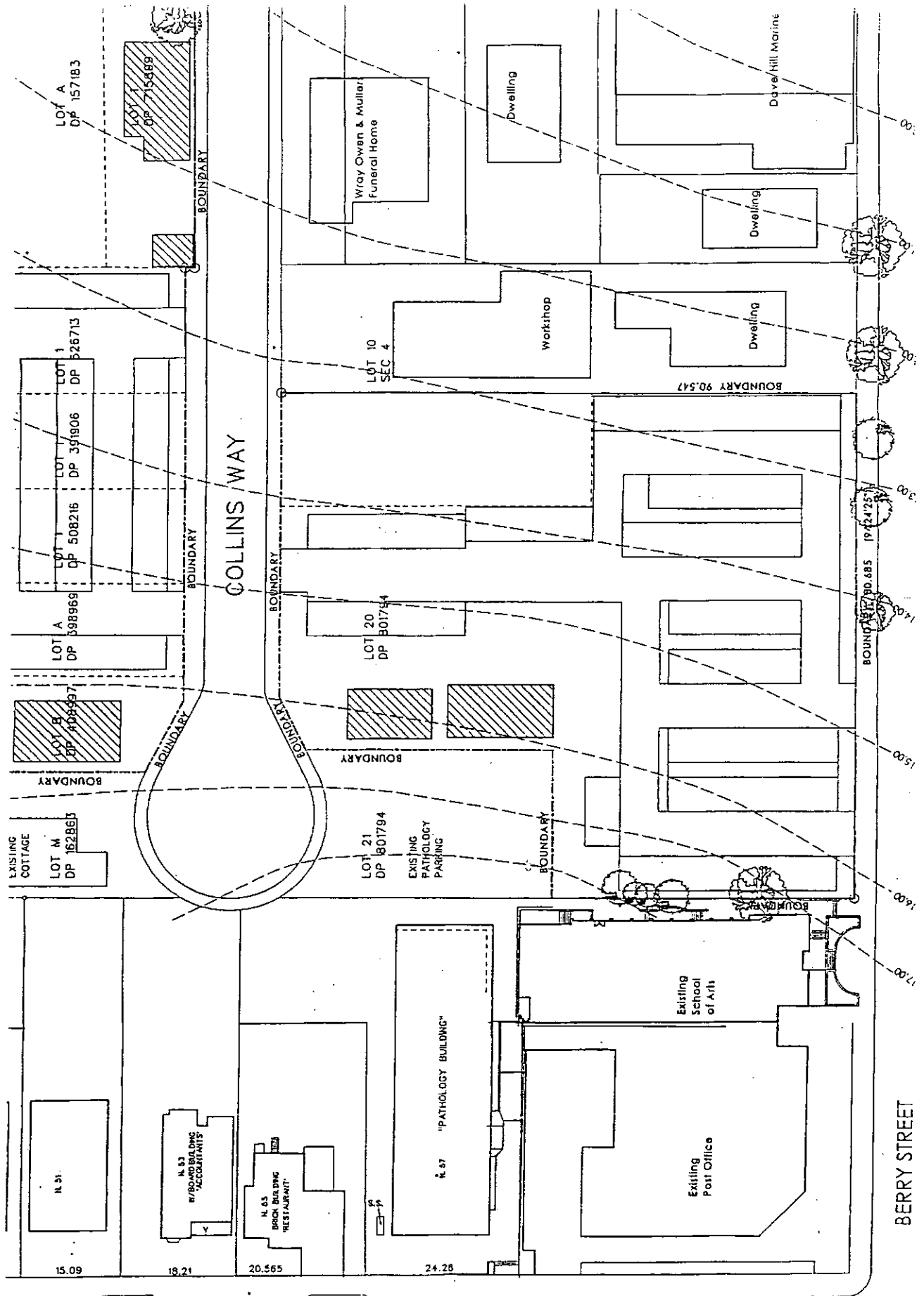
This is sheet 1 of my plan in \_\_\_\_\_ sheets.  
(Delete if inapplicable).

I, **TIMOTHY JOHN PROCTER**, of **28, BARWON STREET BOMADERRY**, a surveyor registered under the Surveyors Act, 1928, as amended, hereby certify that the survey represented in this plan is accurate and has been made (1) by me or by some other person named in the schedule, in accordance with the Survey Practice Regulations, 1933, and was completed on 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 1981.

Signature: *Timothy John Procter*  
Surveyor registered under Surveyors Act, 1928, as amended  
Datum Line of Azimuth: "A" - "B"  
Strike out either (1) or (2). Insert date of survey

Panel for use only for statements of intention to dedicate public roads or to create public reserves, drainage reserves, easements or restrictions as to user.

17.  
Survey dated 16 November 1981, prior to redevelopment of School of Arts /Post Office site in 1989



18.  
 The site and neighbourhood in 1999  
 Survey courtesy WH Giles & Co

## NEIGHBOURING PROPERTIES

### The Bank of Australasia

The Bank of Australasia opened at Nowra on the eastern side of Walsh's store on 18th October 1905 and it was soon planning new premises. A site was purchased on the north-west corner of the Berry-Junction Street intersection and the double storey bank was constructed in mid 1913 at a cost of £3,419. The Bank of Australasia closed in 1943 when the Australian Government requested banks to rationalise their branch networks during World War II. Seeking large premises the E.S. & A. Bank vacated the small office leased from the Commonwealth Bank, and purchased the Bank of Australasia building diagonally opposite Nowra Post Office.

### Dr Henry Kirwan King's House

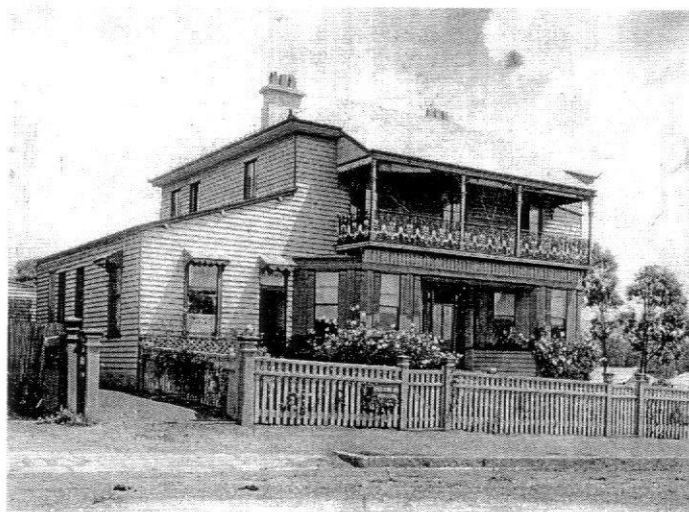
#### 13-15 Berry Street

This weatherboard two storey building was erected for Dr Henry Kirwan King in the 1890s from a design by Cyril Blacket. It was demolished during the early 1970's to make way for the car park beside the School of Arts building. Negotiations to purchase 13-15 Berry Street from the owner, Mr William James Denner, began in April 1956. This property known as Lot 6 Section 4, with a 66ft frontage to Berry Street and a depth of 330ft, on which was a two storey weatherboard building. The building was occupied as flats with a first floor room leased to Majersky for a photographic studio.

William James Denner died before negotiations were completed and the site was eventually resumed by Council on 17th April 1958. Of the resumed lots B & C, a subdivision of Lot 6 Sect 4; Lot B was to be used for Council Chambers Land and Lot C would form part of Collins Way.

19.  
Dr King's Residence

(*Shoalhaven Historical Society*)



### Hannah Bryce's Cottage

#### 57 Junction Street

this cottage was purchased by Council from the executors of the estate of Hannah Jane Bryce. At the time of purchase Mrs Bolton was leasing the cottage. In October 1957 the purchase was completed on the property Part Lot 3 Section 4 of the township of Nowra. This cottage was later moved to Collins Way

### A.G. Braithwaite Undertaker

#### 61 Junction Street

Being Part of Lots 3 & 4 Section 4 this property was owned by Alexander Gordon Braithwaite, a Funeral Director, 25 Osborne Street. Having a

frontage of 41ft 3" to Junction Street with a depth of 132ft comprising an area of 20 perches.

Part of the premises was leased to Bruce McCallum at a monthly rental for a Motor Cycle business trading as McCallum & Frost. The other part was used by Braithwaite for his Funeral Director & Undertaking business.

Council acquired the property in August 1957 and the Red Cross Society used the front portion as a temporary Red Cross Shop from 23rd August 1957 until 30th November 1957. This building was then demolished.

### **NOWRA SCHOOL OF ARTS - REDEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS**

In the early 1980s Council negotiated with the Canterbury Brickwork Company to purchase the School of Arts site. The original plan was to include most of the block bounded by Junction, Berry, North and Osborne Streets but did not include the former Council chambers, then owned by Illawarra County Council.

The major portion of the total development area was sold to the Canterbury Brick Company by the Shoalhaven City Council for about \$2 million.<sup>78</sup> *"...The proceeds of the sale were intended to towards the construction of much needed community facilities.. the developers who are endeavouring to acquire the site have plans to establish a discount department store of more than 79,000 square feet as well as an air-conditioned mall of about 30,000 square feet..."*<sup>79</sup>

It is believed that Shoalhaven City Council had plans to create a mini mall in Berry Street opposite the School of Arts site which would act as a pedestrian link to the Woolworths complex which was to be expanded into the Egan's Lane carpark.

The proposed discount store was to have been located approximately on the site where the present School of Arts stands. The National Trust was asked to comment on the 'heritage significance' of the building and issued a statement that they regarded the building as significant and had been placed on the National Trust Register<sup>80</sup>. Members of the community were outraged by Council's decision to demolish the School of Arts building and many letters against the demolition were written to Council as well as being published in the local press.

The demolition was halted when an Order under Section 130 of the Heritage Act was issued by the Minister of Planning and Environment, Mr Eric Bedford in January 1982.<sup>81</sup> A proposal for a Target Store development also fell through. An alternative site at Nowra Fair was subsequently approved and proceeded to construction.

Once again in 1999 plans for redevelopment of the site to the north of the School of Arts are under consideration by Council. The proposal submitted by Woolworths Ltd includes a major retail development, but on this occasion retains the School of Arts building

<sup>78</sup> *The Shoalhaven & Nowra News 11th November 1981 p. 3*

<sup>79</sup> The Mayor, Greg Watson, quoted in *The Shoalhaven & Nowra News 12th January 1982*, p. 10

<sup>80</sup> Refer Appendix 1

<sup>81</sup> *The Shoalhaven & Nowra News 20th January, 1982. p 30*

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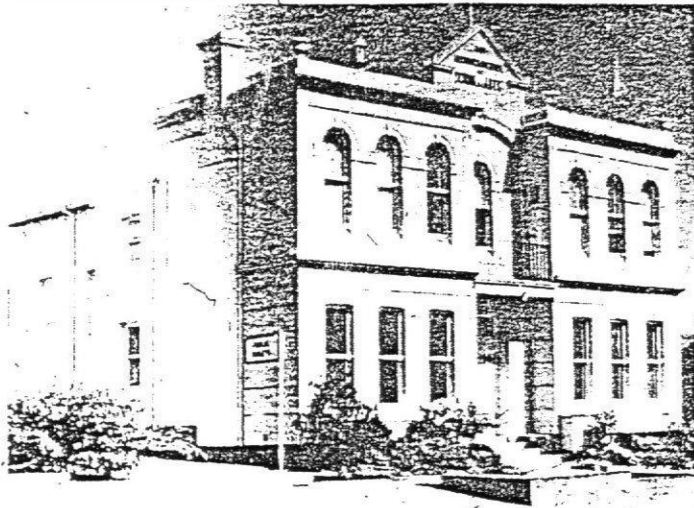
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1982

30 cents

# Fight for School of Arts

# DOUBT OVER

## Society's objection



# SHOP PLAN

A move to prevent the demolition of the Nowra School of Arts may bring to a halt a multi-million dollar retail development for Berry and North streets.

The Shoalhaven City Council and the Shoalhaven Historical Society are on a collision course over the future of the building.

## The top 10 students

The top 10 students from both Nowra and Bomaderry High Schools have been named following the announcement of the HSC results for 1981.

Peter Newton from Nowra High heads his school's list and he was also placed in the top one percent of the candidates in the State.

Following Peter are Steven Woods, Tracy Sims, Michael Cotterill, Jacqueline Casey, Sharon Crook, Elizabeth Monaghan, Stephen Murray, Jacquelyn Ring and Perry Garratt.

Bomaderry High School's top 10 students were Leanne Pierson, Suanne McGeachie, Katherine Sharp, Grant Hodgson, Karen Dumpleton, Jane Norman, John Kingsbury, Glenys Moore, Melinda Daly and Steven Yarnold.

## Nowra boy among top in State ...page 3

## Mayor upset

The Historical Society believes that the building should be preserved.

However, the Mayor of Shoalhaven, Ald. Greg Watson, believes that the society's actions to have it classified by the NSW Heritage Council are "presumptuous".

It is understood that the Minister for Environment and Planning, Mr. Eric Bedford, has received at least two letters from the society passed on by the MLA for South Coast, Mr. John Hatton, to back up its claims.

The letters have asked that the Nowra School of Arts be preserved because of "its significant historical ties with the local community".

The society also suggested that any development that takes place within the School of Arts should have regard to the unique stairway to the balcony and other features on the first floor of the building.

The building has been gazetted as being "of some historical significance" by the NSW Government on the advice of the Heritage Commission.

**DEPUTATION**  
An angry Mayor Watson said yesterday that he will lead a deputation to the Minister in an effort to have the building demolished.

Town Clerk, Mr. George Lamond, Aid.

Lance Sewell and possibly a prominent member of the Historical Society will accompany Ald. Watson on the deputation.

Mayor Watson said that he was amazed at the action taken by the society particularly only three years ago its secretary, Miss Ka Harrison, made a statement at a public meeting that the building was only worthy of bulldozing to the ground as it had no historical merit.

The Mayor said that he regarded the Historical Society's "presumptuous" action with dismay as not only may deprive the shoppes

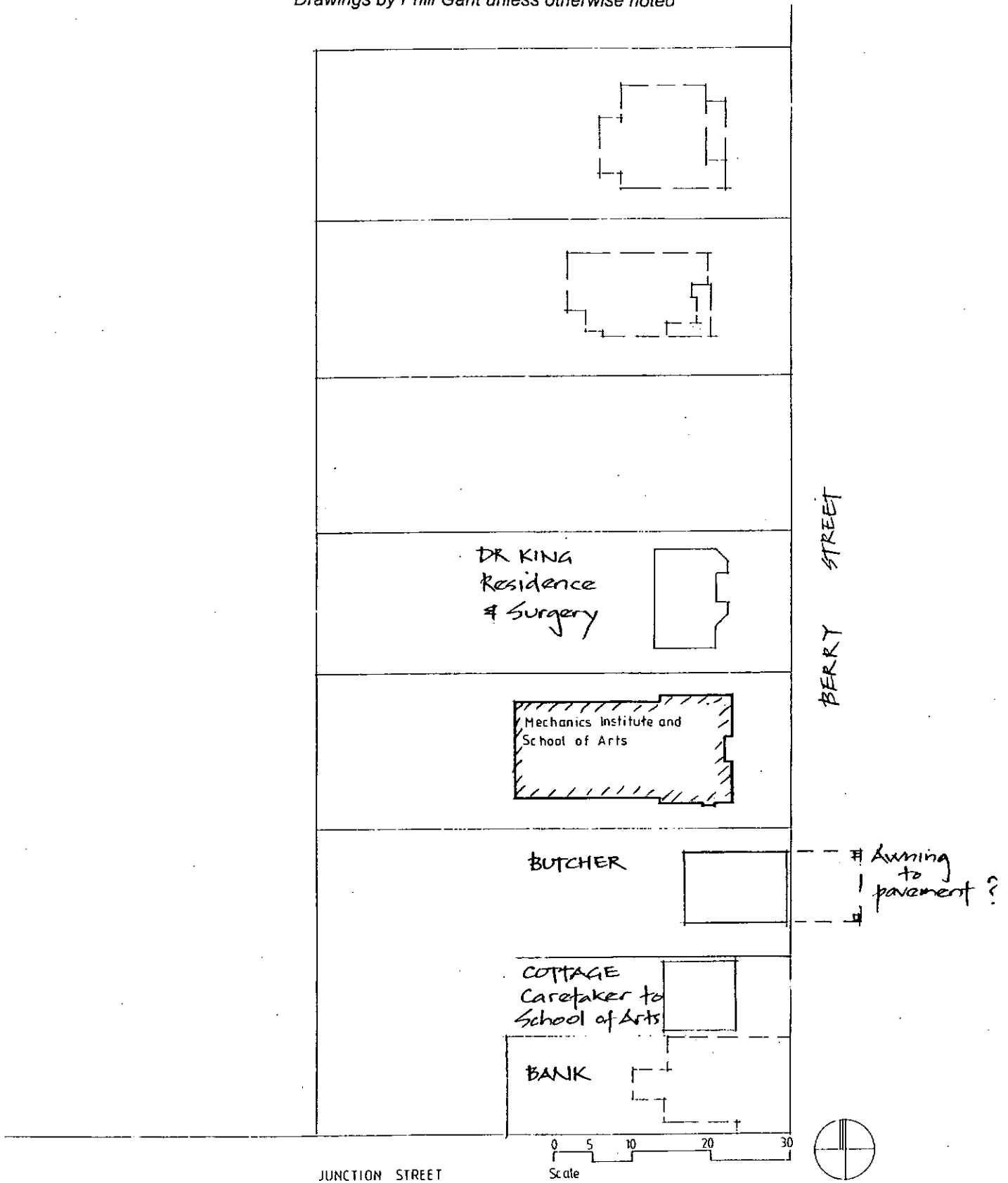
(Continued on Page 1)



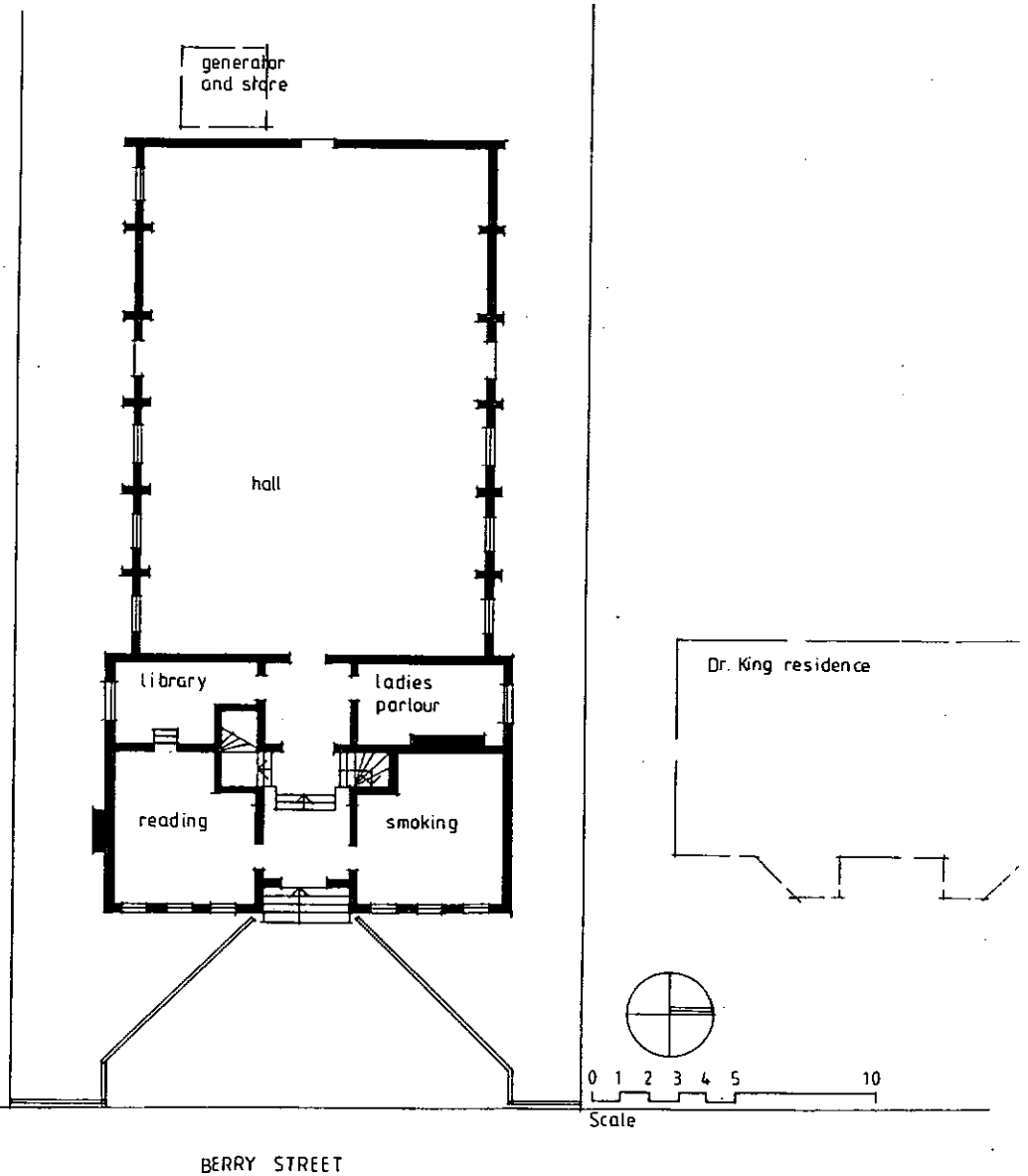
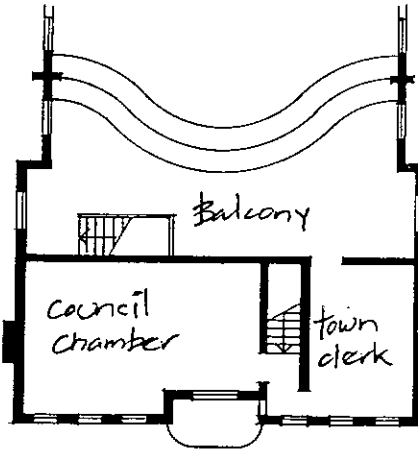
### Development of the Site and School of Arts Building, 1892 – 1999

#### Sequential Plans

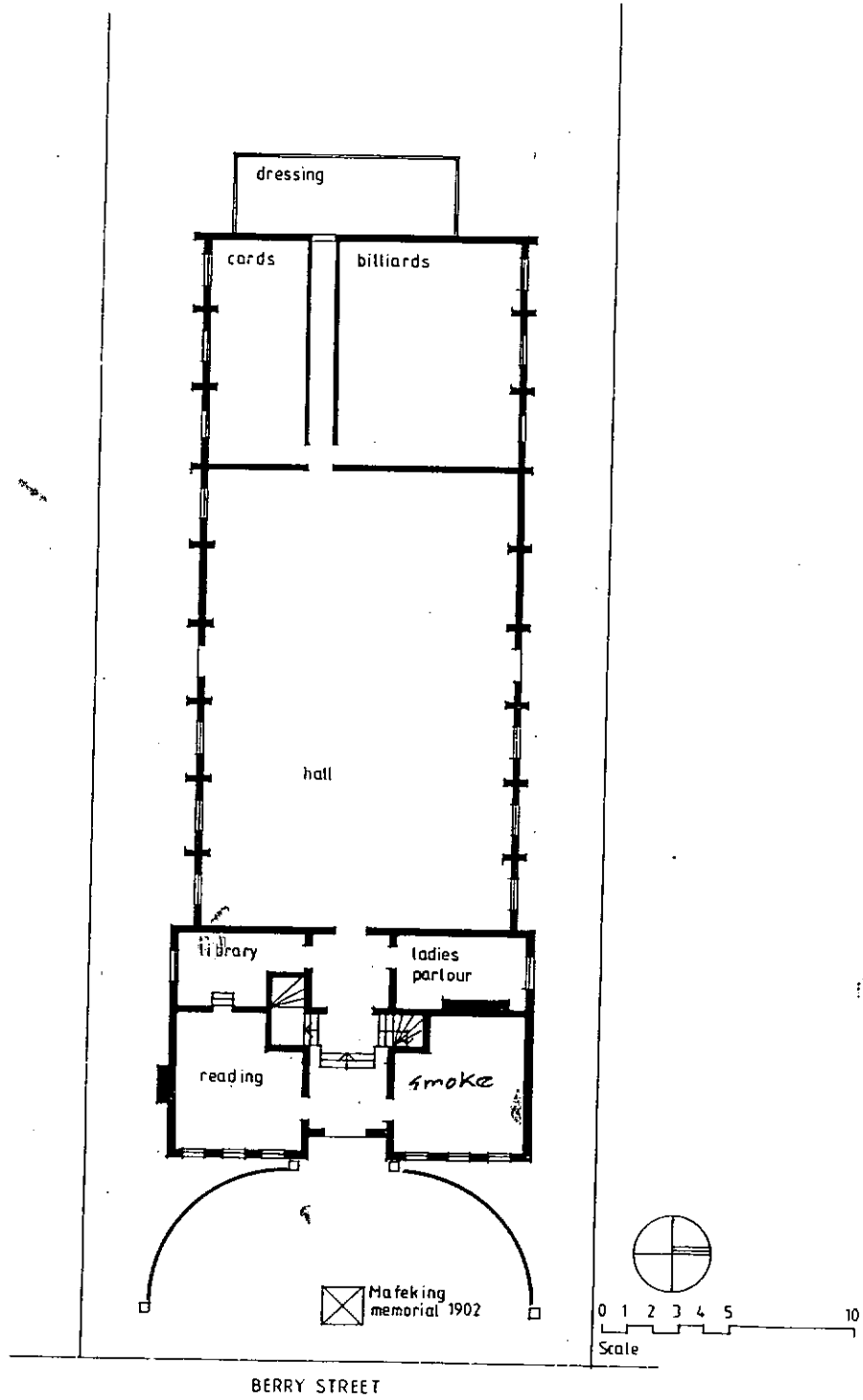
Drawings by Phill Gant unless otherwise noted



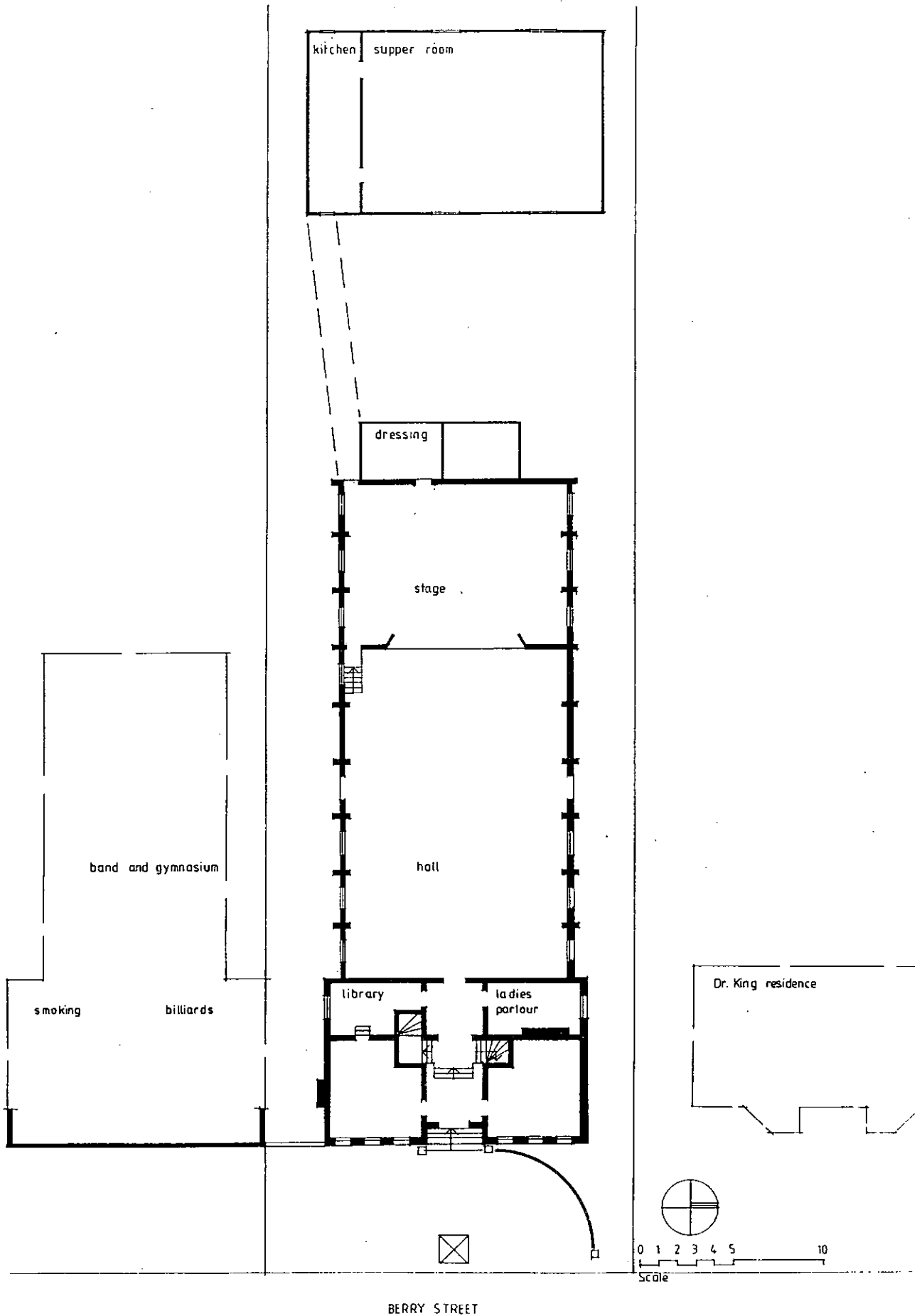
21. The site and neighbouring buildings in 1892



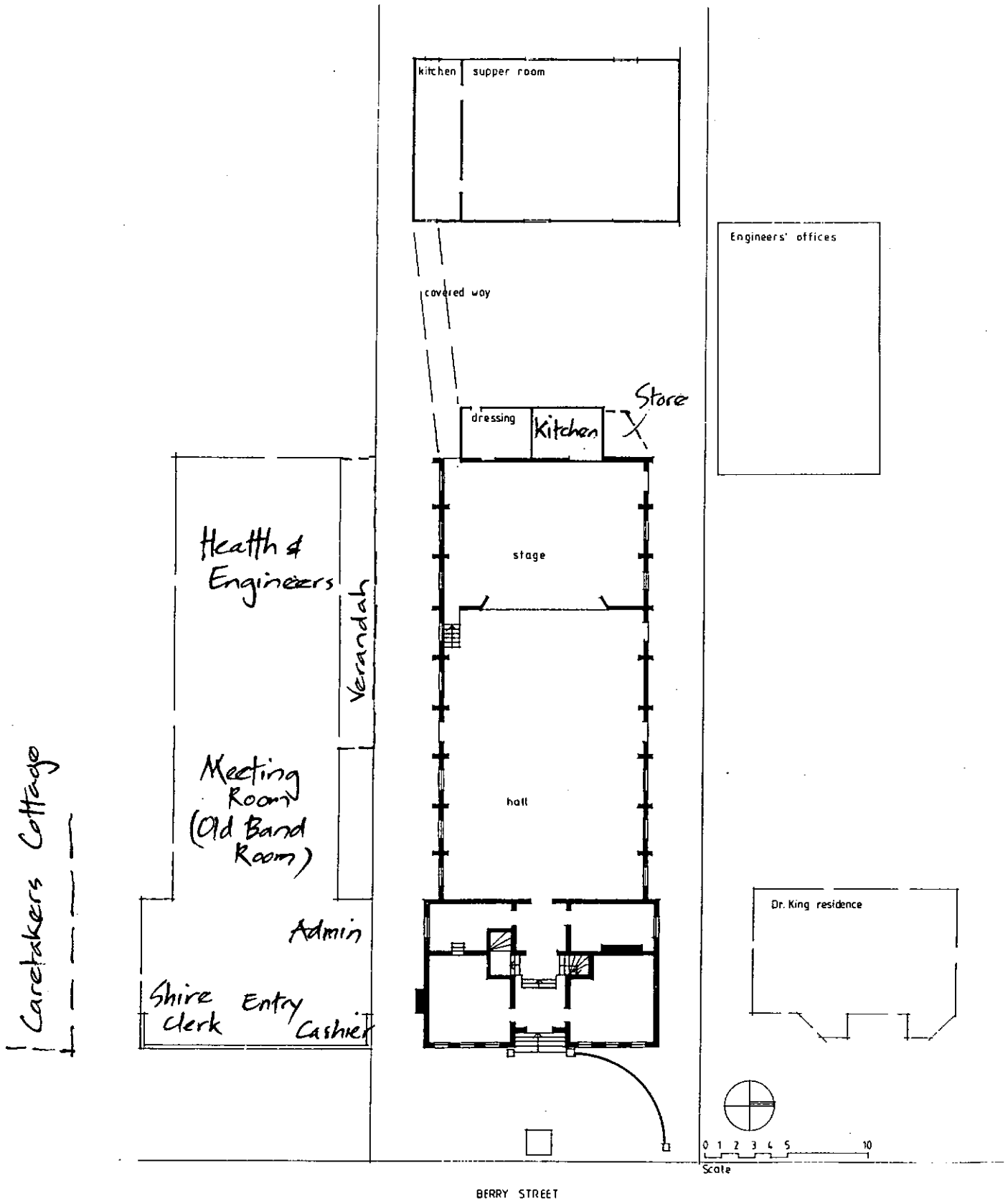
22. The School of Arts 1892, Ground and First Floor plans



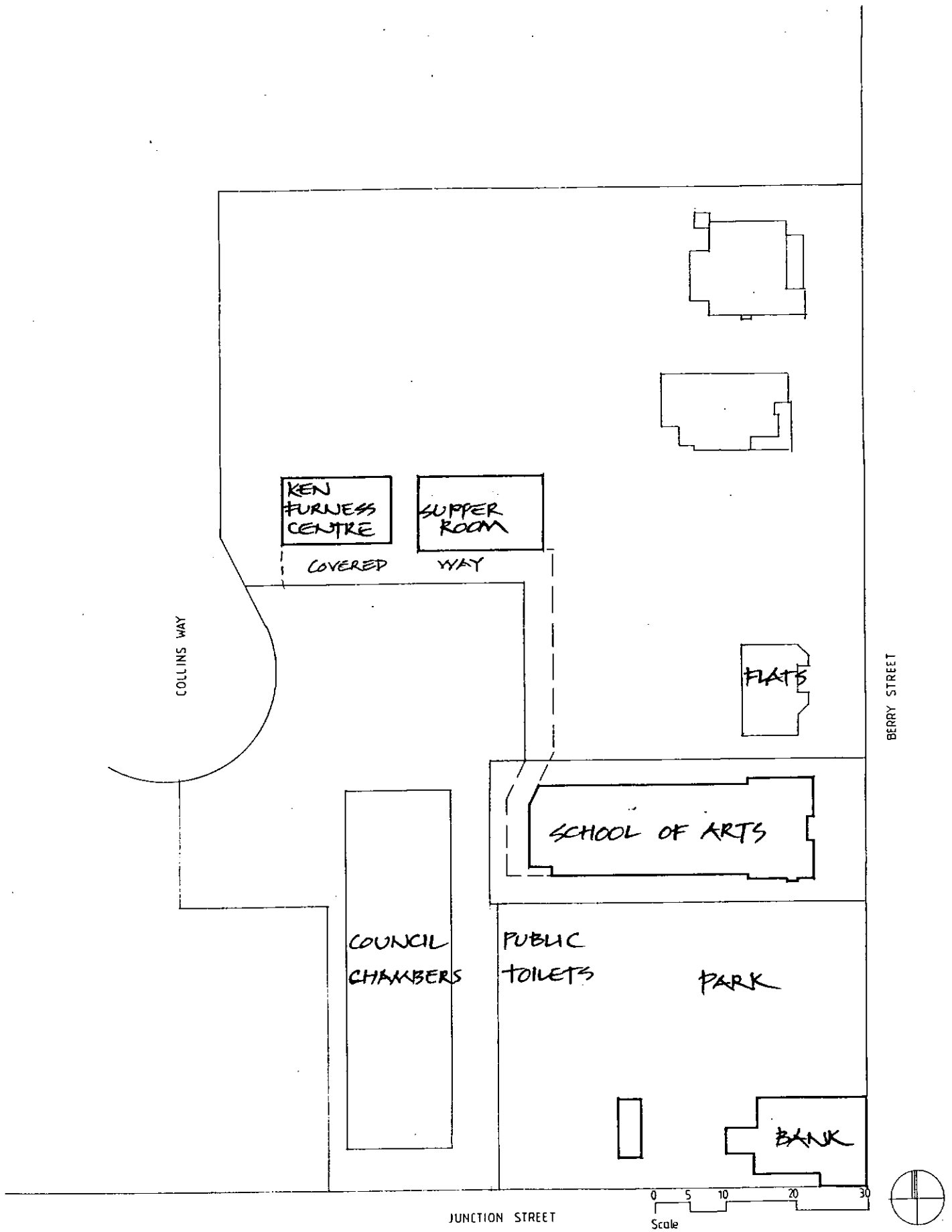
23.  
First extension, 1905



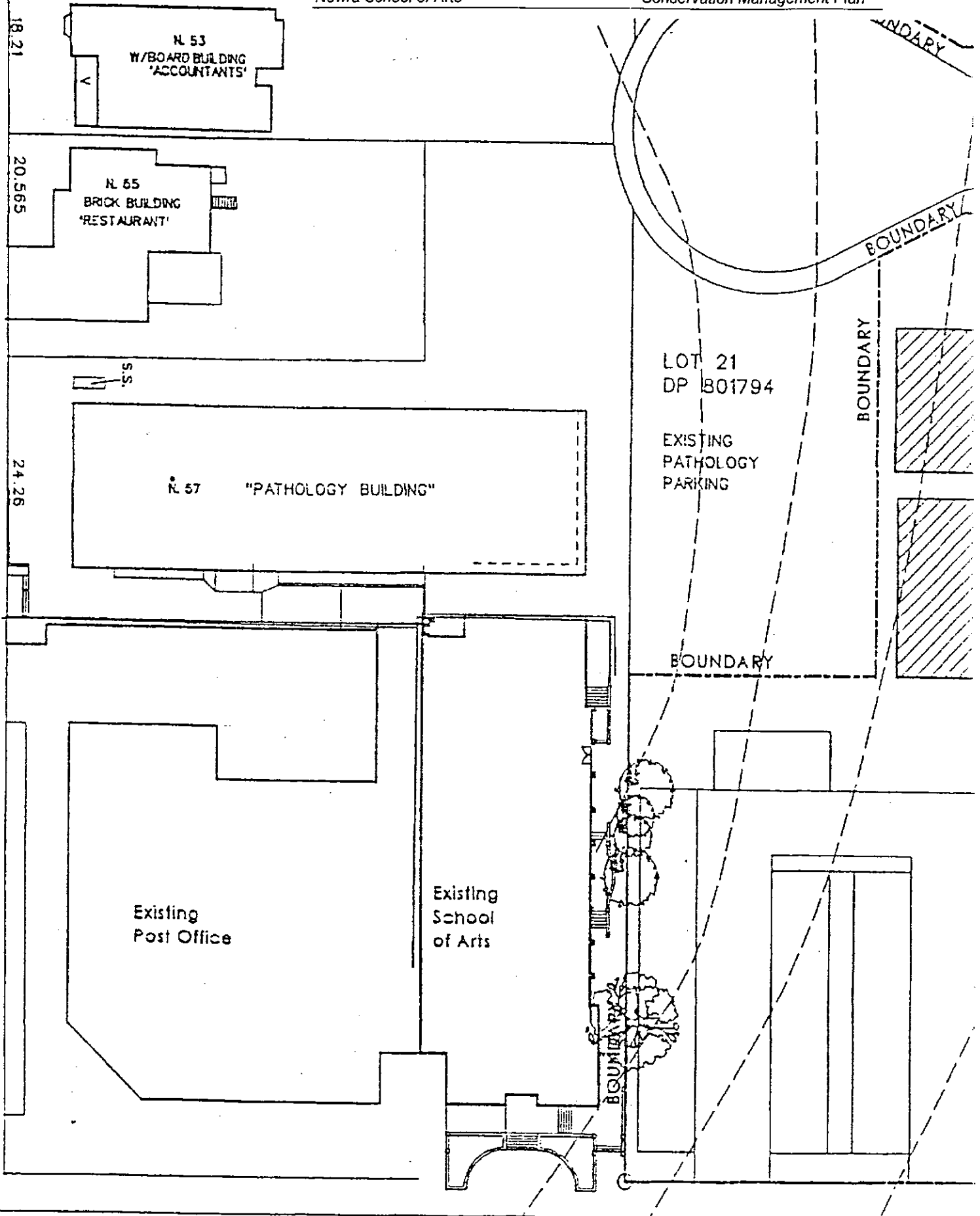
24. Supper Room 1910, and internal alterations, 1917



25. Supper Room and Engineers Office, 1949



26.  
Site redevelopment 1959 – 62



BERRY STREET

27.  
Locality Plan, 1999  
Survey, courtesy WH Giles & Assoc

28.  
Berry Street façade of School  
of Arts



29.  
New Post Office and  
School of Arts from Corner  
of Junction and Berry  
Streets





## 1.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE,

### Introduction

This Section describes the physical fabric of the School of Arts within the boundaries of the Council holding. Key features beyond this boundary are dealt with as part of the setting.

The objective of this investigation is to determine the extent of elements that reveal the stages of development of the School of Arts.

The building as completed in 1892, and as it exists in 1999, shows clear evidence of extensive alteration, addition to the fabric and changes of purpose and use.

For clarity of description and demarcation of change we have divided the building into three physical envelopes representing the major stages of development over its history.

### The School of Arts Building

The School of Arts in its present form shows clear evidence of alteration and addition to the fabric, and multiple changes of purpose and use.

#### *Stages of development:*

A	1892	School of Arts building
B	1905	Addition of Smoking and Billiard rooms
C	1917	Alterations include stage and dressing rooms
D	1989	Addition of Ablutions, change rooms and covered gallery/milling space

### SCHEDULE of BUILDING ELEMENTS

Location	No	Element Name
<b>A</b>		<b>1892 Mechanic's Institute, School of Arts building</b>
	1	Streetscape at entry, landscaping level changes
	2	Facade
	3	Vestibule
	4	Function room 1 former Smoking room
	5	Function room 2 former Library, Reading Room
	6	Supervisor's office, former Lending Room
	7	Kitchen, former Ladies' parlour
	8	Auditorium.
	9	Egress, Fenestration
	10	Facade North
	11	Facade South
	12	Original stage
	13	Original West façade/ Now Proscenium
	14	Vestibule stair
	15	Staircase North
	16	Stairs to Balcony
	17	Town Clerk's room
	18	Council Chambers
	19	Balcony
	20	Ceiling to Auditorium
	21	Exterior Balcony

**B 1905 addition**

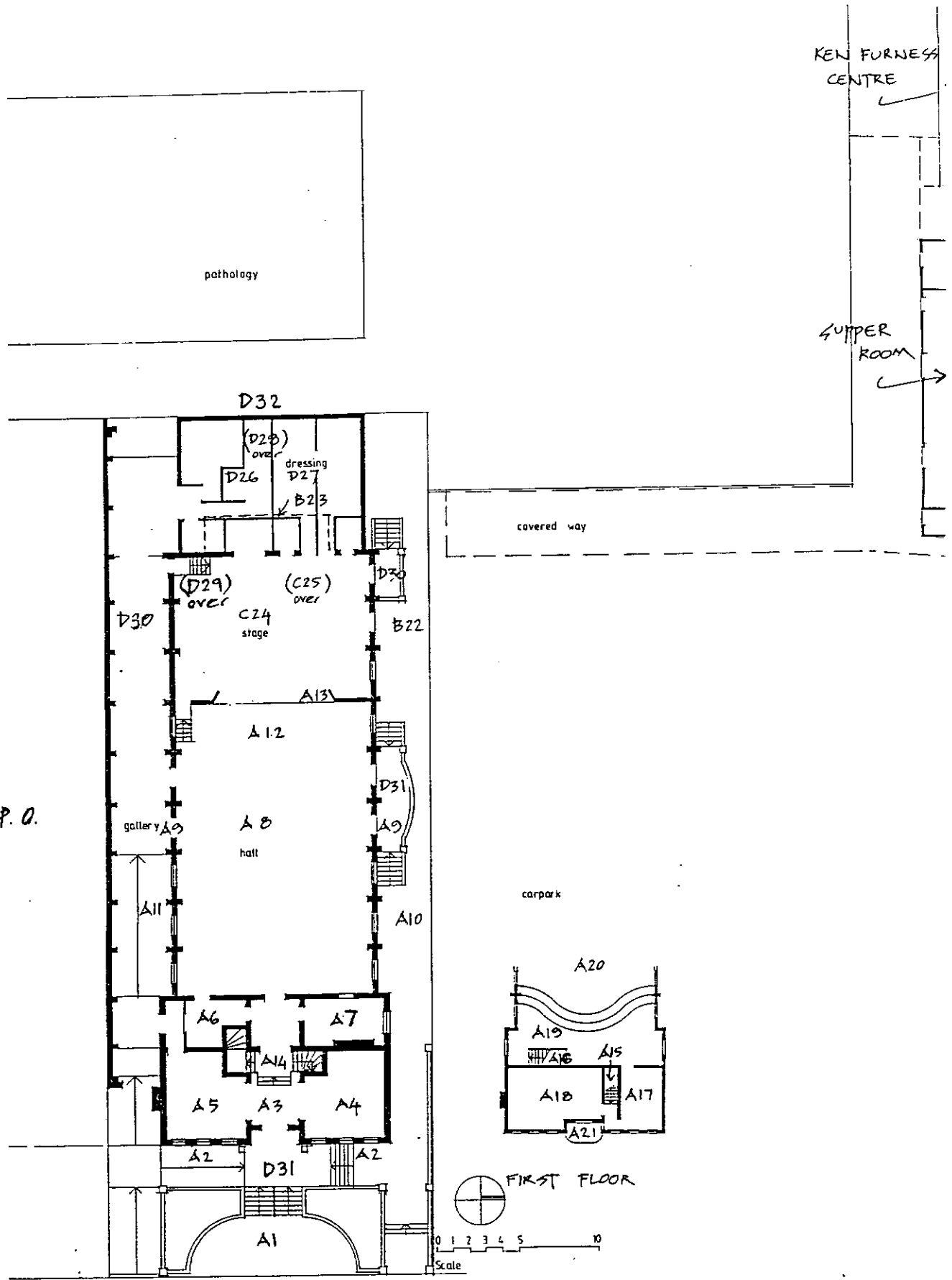
- 22 Three bays additional structure  
Billiard and Smoking Rooms
- 23 Changing rooms

**C. 1917 alterations**

- 24 Current Stage and Proscenium
- 25 Roof/ ceiling

**D. 1989 alterations**

- 26 Ablutions
- 27 Changing rooms and storage rooms
- 28 Loft over Change Rooms
- 29 Smoke Exhaust system through roof
- 30 Milling space/Foyer
- 31 Egress Ramps
- 32 West elevation



GROUND FLOOR

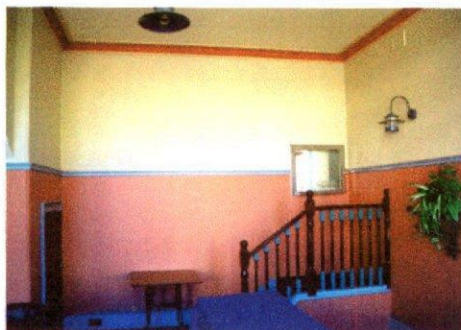
BERRY STREET

30.

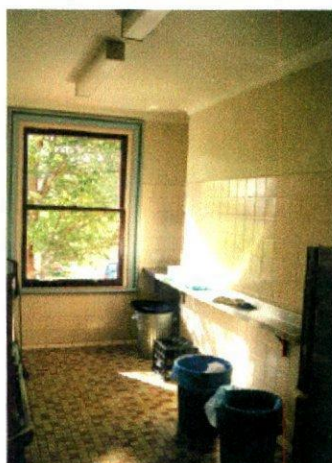
Key plan of the School of Arts Building



31.  
Entry doors



32.  
Smoking Room



33.  
Former Ladies Parlour, now  
used as Kitchen and Bar

## ELEMENTS of The School of Arts Building

### A.1 The Streetscape

The original form of the Berry Street forecourt is now totally obscured by a paved and landscaped forecourt constructed in 1989. There is no evidence of the former siting of the Boer War Memorial.

### A.2 The Façade

The Façade remains in original 1892 form.

The façade is painted in a colour scheme interpretive of traditional colours, possibly embellished.

The cast iron lace balustrade to the First Floor balcony was reconstructed in its original form in 1989.

### A.3 The Vestibule

The double entry doors are as original but with reconstructed wrought iron hinges and pad-bolt hardware.

Openings off the vestibule lead to reception rooms on each side. Formerly door openings, they have been widened and are now equivalent to double width size but without architraves or jamb linings.

### A.4 The Reception room to right side, Smoking Room

This salon was designed as a smoking room and with a fire-place to the west wall to the extant flue. This fireplace appears to have been removed to simplify cleaning and maintenance in line with the convention for dealing with fireplaces.

A small servery hatch with stainless steel surrounds penetrates the west wall into the kitchen. A short flight of steps with timber balustrade leads to a landing for access to the servery hatch, only now rarely used.

Plasterboard ceilings are square set without cornices, which is unlikely to be original. This includes soffits to stair above leading to the first floor.

### A.5 The Reception room to the left side

This room was the original reading room or library.

The fireplace to the south wall has been closed in as the case with the Smoking Room.

The exit via a small or implied vestibule to the Gallery was incorporated during the 1989 alterations.

The original layout had a set of steps to the Lending room situated immediately to the South and adjacent the "Library" Contemporary descriptions indicate all rooms as having fireplaces.

This cannot be correct as there is no evidence of any other flue to these two rooms. All fireplaces were reported to be functioning until the 1989 alterations.<sup>82</sup>

### A.6 The Building Supervisor's office

This room was the "Lending room " to the original library linked with the library by a small flight of steps within a doorway subsequently replaced by a roller shutter during the 1989 renovations. The room is now used as an office by the building supervisor and as occasional box office during functions.

<sup>82</sup> As described by Merv Parkhill and colleagues

### A.7 Former Ladies Parlour ( Now Kitchen)

The room now fitted out as a kitchen was originally the “Ladies’ Parlour”, a small room immediately to the South of the “Smoking Room” to the right of the vestibule.

The kitchen serves as a bar and supper serving area to functions in the Auditorium and is intensively used. The original fireplace surround has been removed and the hearth has been bricked in and plastered over as with the other rooms described above.

### A.8 The Auditorium

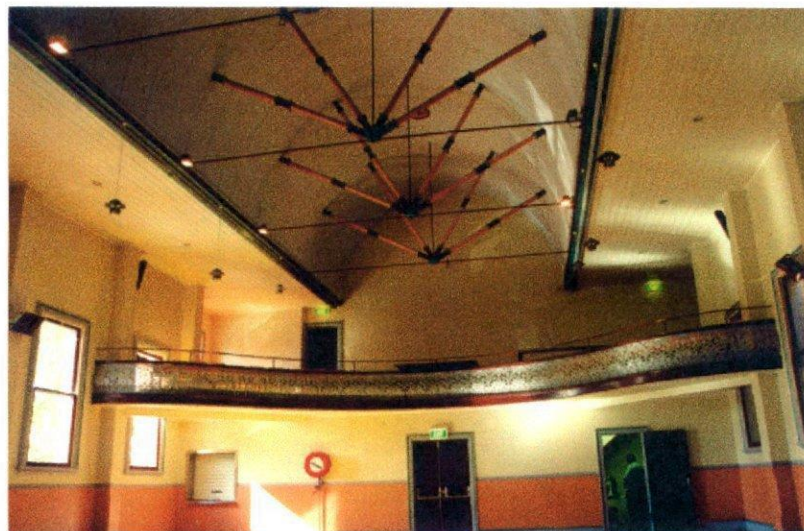
The Auditorium is not substantially altered in form and detail from the 1892 construction with the exception of removal of the stage and some changes to the fenestration.

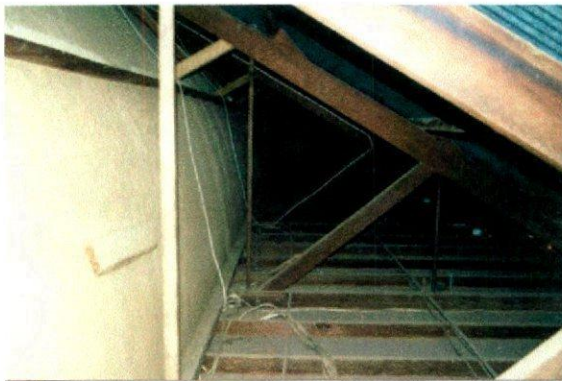
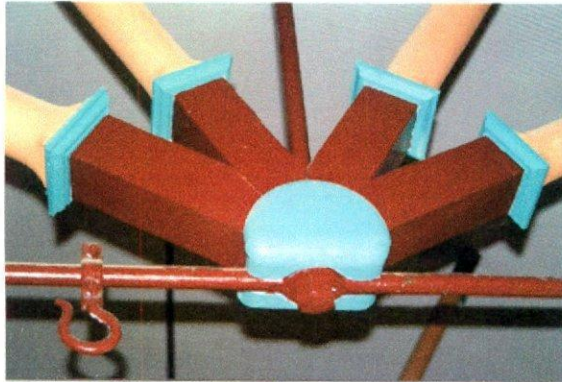
The internal stage to the South end of the auditorium is now entirely removed and new proscenium arch is inserted into the original rear façade. The original rear wall exists as remnant nibs flanking the proscenium structure, the brickwork is similar bonding and the same bricks.

34.  
Auditorium, towards  
stage



35.  
Auditorium, towards  
Balcony





36.  
Exposed detail within vault.

37  
Truss detail, within ceiling space.

38.  
Egress  
doors to  
gallery



A new stage entry door has been cut adjacent the proscenium. Two more exit doors have been inserted to comply with then [1989] current standards

The existing windows were removed to allow for the two exit doors.

A major feature of the Auditorium is the fine vaulted ceiling which extends the full depth of the Auditorium space from the stage to the rear of the balcony. The lining within the vault is lightweight but strong fine profile corrugated iron, leaving the centre section of the trusses expressed within the span.

**A.9 Egress and Fenestration**

Bay 5 NORTH One pair of egress doors in addition to original pair evident in brickwork, opening onto landing. Window to Bay 6 is not original as this was solid wall.

Bay 5 SOUTH, as for north elevation, opening onto 1989 gallery

**A.10, North Façade**

The attachment of the 1905 extension is clearly visible. The first 6 bays of the 1892 building are defined of face brickwork, and the 3 additional bays of the extension are painted. The detailing of the eaves to the extension also changes at this point.

**A.11 South Façade**

As for North façade, however interpretation is obscured by the painting of all walls within the gallery

**A.12 Stage**

All physical evidence of the stage of this period is superseded by the internal rebuild of 1917.

**A.13 West facade**

The original rear wall to the auditorium, now replaced with the proscenium arch to the stage, only brick nibs to each side remain

**A.14 Vestibule stairs**

A short flight of stairs leads from the vestibule into the Box Office area and the Auditorium. The turned timber balustrade then diverges left and right, up to the First Floor Balcony to the left, and the Town Clerks Room and Council Chamber to the right. All joinery to stairs is original cedar, now obscured by multiple coats of paint.

**A.15 Staircase North [to Town Clerks room]**

This stair turns right over the Smoking Room.

A section of infilled plasterboard wall now encloses the soffit of this flight from the Smoking Room.

**A.16 Staircase South [to Balcony]**

The left flight leads to the Balcony. An open mesh screen covers a section of the opening over the stair, presumably to protect patrons from falling objects.



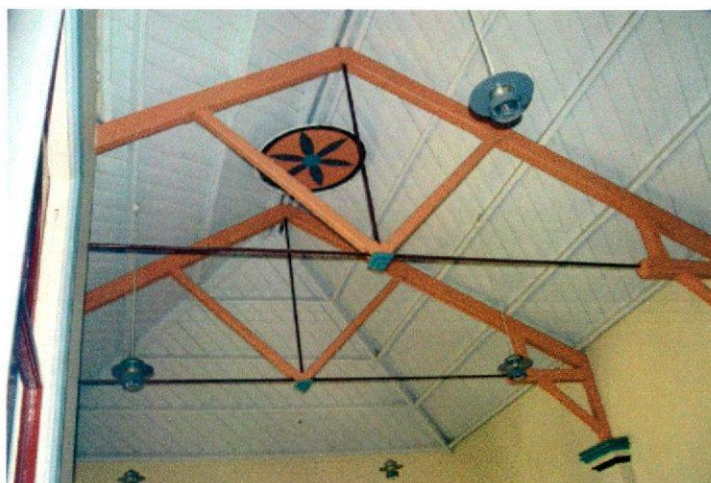
39.  
40.  
Vestibule stairs

**A.17 Town Clerk's room**

This space continues its use as an office by the University of the Third Age. A locked door leads onto the Balcony.

**A.18 Council Chambers.**

This imposing space is basically in its original form, apart from light fittings. The ceiling is unusual featuring two composite timber and iron trusses supported on expressed wall buttresses. The ceiling lining is diagonally laid wide timber boards, probably cedar but now painted over. A large circular ceiling rose serves as ventilation exhaust.



41.  
Ceiling space within old  
Council Chambers



41A

This 1913 photograph of the Half Holiday Cricket Club Reunion reveals a wealth of detail about the interior of the Auditorium and the Mezzanine Gallery. Compare with Figs. 35 and 42.

(*Shoalhaven City Council*)

#### **A19 Balcony Mezzanine**

A large sloping balcony provides supplementary seating to the auditorium. The Balcony is characterised by a fine curved cast iron lace balustrade with a heavy profile timber handrail.

Flooring is tallowwood in good condition, similar to the auditorium.

#### **A20 Ceiling to Auditorium**

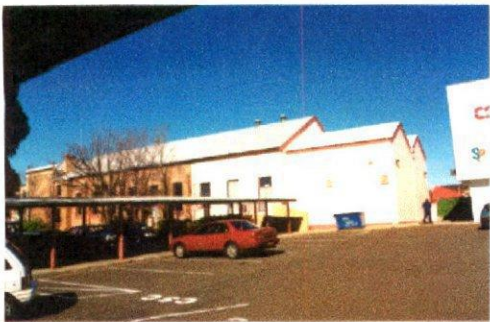
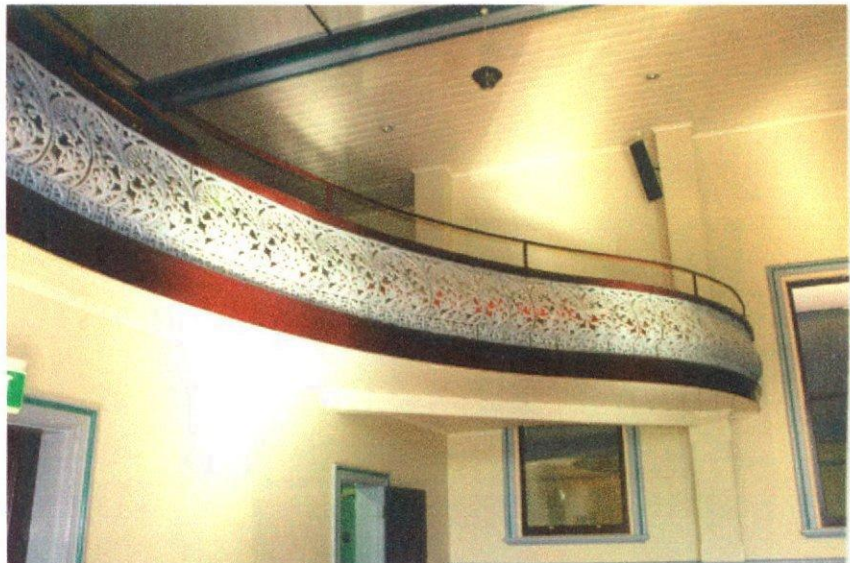
The vaulted ceiling extends the full length of the Auditorium space from the stage to the rear of the balcony. The lining within the vault is lightweight but strong fine profile corrugated iron, leaving the centre section of the trusses expressed within the span. The corrugated iron roof is supported on the triangulated trusses, and three vents from ceiling roses extract through a centre cowl in the ridge.

#### **A.21 External Balcony**

The door opening onto the balcony is modern flush type, and appears little used. The balcony is showing the effects of pigeon roosts and weathering of surfaces.



42.  
Cast iron lace handrail  
to balcony



**The 1905 addition**

**B.22 Billiard and smoking rooms**

In 1905 additional building structure was added comprising three buttressed bays [approx' 30 feet in length] in the exact physical dimensions of width and height as the existing auditorium.

The roof structure is of a simple strutted truss without the barrel vaulted feature of the auditorium.

The trusses are unusual design and show evidence of re-strutting at some time

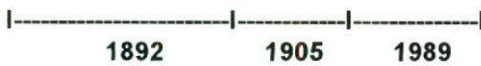
The roof structure has been modified to provide for the requirements of smoke exhaust

A timber frame stud wall has been positioned above the proscenium arch constructed off heavy section Oregon beam.

The 1892 brick pediment to the rear elevation has been removed to accommodate this timber framed wall.

Each buttressed bay of approximately 10 feet length contained a window of the same dimensions of the original auditorium fenestration.

No evidence remains of the "partition subdivisions within this space of the "smoking room" or the Billiard room or the corridor



43.  
44.  
North facade expressing  
the 1892, 1905 and 1989  
stages of development

in between. The sequential plan for 1905 (fig 23) is conjectural based on contemporary description.<sup>83</sup>



45.  
Proscenium detail

### B.23 Changing rooms

The now demolished timber frame changing room structure was erected to the rear of this 1905 addition, and includes two changing rooms and a kitchen.

The form of this structure remained unchanged until replacement by the new extension in 1989, and the only remaining evidence is infilled door openings to the rear wall. An aerial photograph from 1957 indicates the configuration of the rear section of the building at this time.

### The 1917 alterations

#### C.24 The current stage and proscenium

The partitioned spaces referred were demolished and a new tallow wood stage was constructed within this three bay 1905 addition.

The framing arch is of pressed zinc panel construction supported by a timber frame constructed in 1917.

#### C.25 Roof/Ceiling

The ceiling over the stage area is simply detailed flush ceiling, differing from the auditorium supported by timber trusses.

### The 1989 modifications

#### D.26 Ablutions

This area comprises spacious toilets and wash rooms for both sexes, and a unisex disabled toilet.

#### D.27 Changing rooms and storage rooms

Change rooms are provided for performers to the rear of the stage for both sexes.

#### D.28 Loft

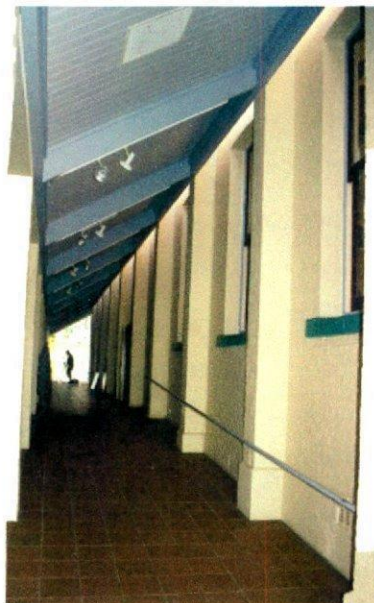
A large storage loft divided into two spaces is located above the Change Rooms. It is used by the theatre groups for props and equipment storage.

Extraction ventilation is via three ridge cowls

#### D29 Gallery

The Gallery opens to the south side of the Auditorium and provides a milling space for patrons before and after performances and during interval. Temporary serving facilities are frequently set up when catering to large functions.

The gallery also serves the important function of disabled access to the auditorium, from both Berry Street and the carpark from the rear. Designed to utilise the space between the School of Arts and the new Post Office, the gallery roof structure is supported on the original buttresses of the School of Arts, and skylights provide natural light to the area.



46.  
South gallery

<sup>83</sup> *The Shoalhaven Telegraph, Nowra, Wednesday, May 25, 1892*

**D.30 Egress and Ramps.**

The Berry Street forecourt appears to be a modern interpretation of the curved plinth and balustrading that existed after 1902. The 1989 demolition drawings indicate demolition of a rectilinear structure, dating from a more recent period.

All the 1989 ramps, steps, and balustrades to the north and eastern elevations remain as constructed.

**D31 West Elevation**

The rear elevation is a double gabled wall to the 1989 extension, a plain exterior of painted brickwork



47.

**The Setting****Site boundaries**

The site width of 66' in 1892 remains to this day however the depth as been foreshortened with realignment in 1959 to accommodate the new Council Admin Building.

The Foyer/milling space wall is on the southern boundary. The frontage is defined by interpreted landscaping constructed in 1989. The western boundary is 1.1 metres off the west face of the School of Arts. The northern boundary is implied by remnant tree planting *Ulmus Spp* along the former fence line between the main building and the adjacent car park.

**Car Park**

A large asphalted car park in two separate areas forms an open corridor and opportunity to view the building for its entire northern boundary

**Landscape**

For most of the life of the School of arts, landscaping has been confined to a small floral garden associated with the Berry Street forecourt and some unidentified trees bordering the drive along the northern elevation.

The present northern side of the building is now paved and incorporates a row of 7 mature deciduous trees, European Elm *Ulmus spp.*, possibly planted in conjunction with 1989 alterations

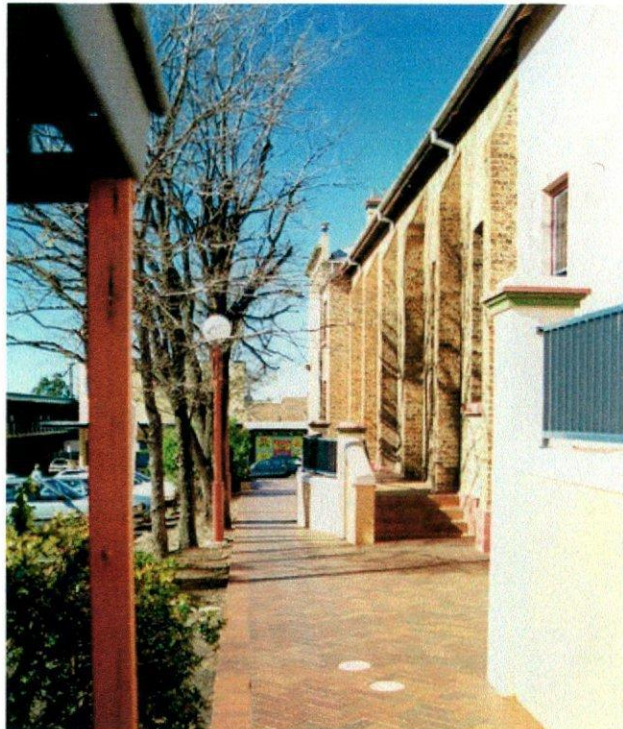
or some years previously.

Remnant planting in vicinity of north boundary to Dr Kings property are now retained within the Council Car Park: A single Cabbage Tree Palm *Livistona australis* (near NW corner of site of house) and mature Magnolia tree, *Magnolia grandiflora* remains close to the Berry Street boundary. Aerial photographs reveal these trees prior to demolition of Dr Kings residence. These trees are the sole surviving evidence of this property which once contained many trees including several other palms.

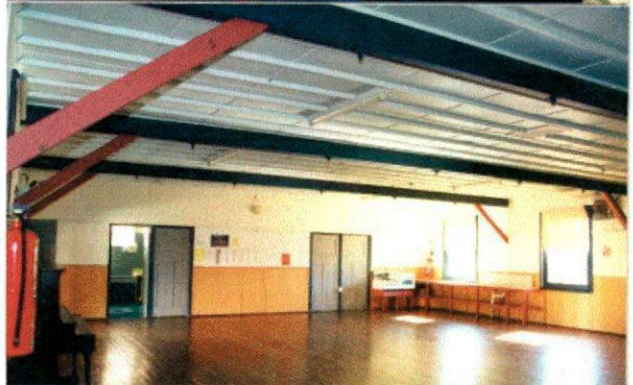
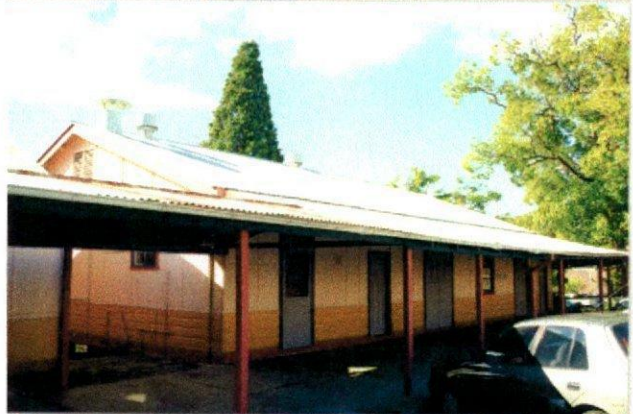
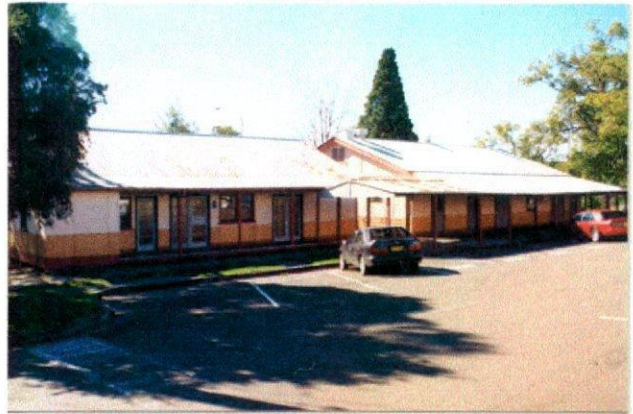
Other trees in the vicinity include a Brush Box *Tristania conferta* and Camphorlaurel *Cinnamomum camphora* to the east of Supper Room, which probably date from the 1959 period of relocation of the Supper Room, and do not appear to be part of the original Dr King garden.



48.  
School of Arts, north elevation from Berry Street, Magnolia (centre) and Cabbage Tree palm to right adjacent car park.



49.  
Paving and Elm trees to north boundary



50.  
Ken Furness Building (left) and Supper  
Room from Car park

51.  
Supper Room

52.  
Supper Room interior

## Outbuildings

### **The Supper Room**

The supper room was built circa 1910, a typical timber frame vernacular utility building and was located originally to the West of the rear of the 1905 addition to the School of Arts. It was constructed of timber frame and used composite iron and timber trusses. The fenestration was typically double hung windows with paired doors to open to clear landing space. The original building had a galvanised iron roof with three g.i. ventilating cowls to the ridge line. The timber frame walls are hardwood with studs tenon joined to plates. The exterior of the building is clad with rusticated profile lining boards [to approximately internal chair rail height] with battened fibre board cladding above. The gable ends are battened fibre board.

According to 1939 drawings, the building was located some 50 feet from the School of Arts building with its axis aligned North-South. The connection between the two buildings was by covered way, set apparently at a skewed angle to both buildings to accommodate the existing entry doors to the Supper Room building to connect with the rear door to the School of Arts.

The building was transported to the current position in 1958 and a new hardwood floor was incorporated in the relocation. The current external fenestration differs from the original. The covered ways were constructed at this time.

A redesign of the interior was mooted in 1939 to provide a kitchen facility under a lean-to verandah, but was never carried out.

### **The Ken Furness Building**

This fibro building was constructed in the axis of the relocated supper room as a two-room engineer's office, used until recent times by the local pensioners group.

## ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY AND PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

### ***Documentary evidence***

Inconclusive documentary evidence is available in relation to the construction and evolution of the Nowra School of Arts, but mostly exists in written form as contemporary notes and newspaper clippings. Due to its association with the predecessor of the Shoalhaven City Council, there remains a comprehensive record in Council Minutes and files. Unfortunately original construction drawings have been lost, and we have relied on contemporary description and physical evidence to determine the extent of original fabric remaining.

Good photographic evidence remains however which clearly illustrate the School of Arts at all its significant stages of development since its original configuration in the 1890's. The photographs reveal the context of the streetscape, adjacent residence of Dr King, the adjacent butchers shop, (later the Band Room and Municipal Offices)

Aerial photographs in 1957 and 1962 indicate the relationship between the School of Arts and the Supper Room (which was relocated to make way for the new Council Offices) and the extent of landscaping prior to demolition of the Dr King residence altered by the relationship of the Supper Room and the Ken Furness Building .

### ***The building fabric as evidence***

The fabric of the building itself has provided the most detailed and reliable evidence as to the development and history of the School of Arts, its various alterations and extensions and its ancillary structures. The remaining fabric has survived to confirm available documentary evidence in tracing the evolution of the building and outbuildings. The clarity of the sequential growth and alterations contributes to the high level of significance of the building in its present form.

### ***Stages of development***

The four major periods of development of the School of Arts are visible in the fabric of the building as it remains today, supported by incomplete documentary evidence. Contemporary media releases and tendering records are more informative than available drawings. No drawings of the building have survived prior to the 1980's and include surveys and sewerage diagrams. Complete working drawings by Bishop and Hitchcock exist for the 1989 alterations and the Post Office development.

However surveys and town plans dating from 1891 and 1899 reveal early development of the precinct.

The preceding sequential plans in this report include conjectural interpretation in relation to the configuration of buildings in the vicinity of the School of Arts.

### ***The School of Arts as Council Chambers***

The principal spaces designed for Council use were the First Floor Council Chambers and the Town Clerks office, and in the case of the Council Chambers, remains intact to this day. The finish and ambience of the interior preserves the sense of occasion of its original purpose.

### ***The School of Arts as it might have been***

Nowra Municipal Council commissioned SA Jarvie and TL Kenwood in 1939 to prepare detailed designs for total redevelopment of the combined School of Arts and Billiards Room site as new Council Chamber, Council

Administrative Office and professional Office. Detail design drawings by the architects remain in Council archives. (Appendix 3)

The façade and two storey section of the School of Arts were to be rebuilt and with a new façade and formal portico 3.6 metres closer to Berry Street. The auditorium remained generally intact with alterations to the stage and dressing areas. A new professional offices building on the site adjacent to the south was designed, incorporating a new billiard room to the rear replacing the demolished building. However, with the intervention of war this project was never built and the School of Arts remained intact. Both buildings presented imposing new complementary facades to Berry Street in the best tradition of Art Deco architecture of the 1930's!<sup>84</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Refer drawings Appendix 3



## PART 2: ASSESS SIGNIFICANCE

### Basis of Assessment

This study uses the NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria<sup>85</sup> to evaluate the nature and degree of significance of the site as a whole and key contributory components. The nature of cultural significance is assessed under four categories including *historic, aesthetic, technical/scientific and social significance*.

The *degree* of significance takes into account the rarity or representative nature of the item or feature.

### Citations and Existing Listings

The Heritage significance of the School of Arts Building is recognised by the following listings:

- The Register of the National Trust, listing prepared 1981 by Grace Karskens. (Appendix 1)
- The Shoalhaven Heritage Study 1998 by Peter Freeman and Roger Hobbs, Inventory listing NB 004, (Appendix 1), and is listed on the Shoalhaven LEP 1998.
- Illawarra Regional Heritage Study, Perumal, Murphy, Wu, 1993.

The building was protected by Interim Conservation Order imposed by the Minister for Lands in January 1982 when under threat of demolition, but revoked on 2 April 1982 when protection of the building was affirmed.

### Statement of Significance

The Nowra School of Arts is significant as one of the few surviving civic buildings in the Nowra CBD. It has heritage significance predominantly through its value to the local community and its aesthetic contribution to the townscape. It has considerable social and historical significance as the Nowra Council Chambers and Town Hall and as the venue for many important civic and social functions.

It remains a tangible link with the School of Arts movement, the most influential and important educational and trade institution of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, which disappeared in the period between the Wars. It has adapted to changing values in society and its validity in meeting contemporary needs of the community is undiminished to this day.

The original 1892 section of the building remains largely intact and the progressive alterations notably 1905, 1917 and 1989 are clearly legible in the existing fabric. The School of Arts has served a variety of functions as a centre for education, culture and performing arts during its more than 100 years since opening, and continues to provide benefit for the community.

The building and its curtilage as a whole display high significance within the *heritage assessment criteria* of *Historical, Aesthetic and Social* categories, and certain elements are considered to have some *Scientific/Technological* significance.

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<sup>85</sup> NSW Heritage Manual, (Heritage Office 1997)

**Historical Significance**

The building has strong historical links with the local community through its use as a School of Arts, Mechanics Institute, and its municipal role as Nowra Town Hall and Council Chambers. The building traces the history of Nowra to the period of growth following the population shift from Terara during the 1880's. It represents the rapid growth of the commercial centre of the town after the establishment of the government centre of the new town. Construction of this ambitious project is evidence of the confidence by the local community in the future prosperity of the new centre.

The building provided public library facilities for the community from 1892 until replacement by new facilities in recent times.

It is one of the most prominent works of the noted architect Cyril Blacket, who also made a significant contribution in local government affairs and in architecture, both in the Shoalhaven and in Sydney.

**Aesthetic Significance**

The School of Arts is one of the few public buildings in Nowra to be constructed in two storeys. The richly modelled stucco Victorian Free Classical facade makes a significant contribution to the streetscape and is a landmark in the townscape of Nowra.

Located near a pivotal intersection of the Nowra CBD it was originally part of a group of prominent contemporary buildings which included the Old Post Office, the ES&A Bank, and the house of Dr King adjacent. It is now the sole survivor of this group dating from the late Victorian period apart from the old Post Office (now Post Office Tavern).

The building is a fine example of architecture of the late Victorian period in an area of the CBD which has few surviving buildings of the period, replaced by commercial and office development frequently of mundane design quality. The remaining links between the School of Arts and the Old Post Office, the Grace Brothers Store and the Church make significant contribution to an aspect of the Nowra townscape which has been almost totally obscured through urban development since the 1960's. The now demolished Dr King's residence adjacent to the north and the ES&A Bank on the corner of Junction Street, were interspersed by open space, providing a link to late Victorian and Edwardian period low rise residential development towards the north and west.

Today the School of Arts remains the dominant and most significant element in the streetscape, and the facade is visible from the north and south approaches along Berry Street. The new Post Office built immediately adjacent the south facade partly obscures the School of Arts from the main commercial centre of Junction Street. Certain aspects of the new Post Office do not relate comfortably with the Victorian facade of the School of Arts. The curtain wall first floor facade of this 1980's period building imparts a commercial character to the precinct, however this level is set back to allow some visibility of the School of Arts.

Some effort has been made by the designers to link the post office to the south elevation of the School of Arts by devices such as the side gallery with parapetted entry; setting back the facade of the post office at the point of connection; and the height of the new building matching the height of the parapet of the School of Arts facade.

The northern aspect of the building has been totally opened up since the demolition of the Dr King residence and other cottages to make way for a car park. The northern and western aspects are important to the visual

presentation of the building and remain vulnerable to future redevelopment of this large open site with few physical constraints. This open space is important to the appreciation of the School of Arts.

The visual character of the interior of the building contributes to the sense of occasion and theatrical experience of patrons, and the interior is a highly significant aspect of the building. The auditorium provides a well designed and skillfully detailed interior space featuring a unique vault and curved balcony, which is quite unique in Nowra. Other spaces, notably the old Council Chambers are in original condition with considerable charm and interior design quality. Interior detailing of plasterwork, ironwork and cedar joinery contribute to the aesthetic significance of the School of Arts.

The landscape setting of the School of Arts contributes to the aesthetic significance. Apart from the identified links with the Dr King residence, the introduced landscape to the northern precinct of the building provides a setting which enhances the north elevation of the building contrasting with the expanse of brickwork.

Garden beds to the Berry Street forecourt have less positive impact as they are dominated by the masonry balustrades, ramps and steps.

### **Scientific and Technological Significance**

While the building is a scholarly example of Victorian Classical architecture and a highly crafted building, it is limited in terms of innovation of a scientific or technological nature. The grand vaulted ceiling to the auditorium however demonstrates effective application of technology for the time in a particularly creative manner. The compound trusses in timber and wrought iron represents the changing use of material and the arched ceiling within the vault is fully self supporting through its corrugated profile. The Kershaw ventilating cowl which extracts air from three vents within the auditorium is an unusual device dating from original construction, and still performs its original role.

The curved gallery with its sweeping cast iron balustrade is an unusual and dramatic feature of the interior space.

The original fabric of the building is of considerable technological significance due to its intactness, integrity through most of the interior and its legibility for interpretation.

### **Social Significance**

The significance of the School of Arts movement is embodied in the fabric of the building which reflects the growing importance of Nowra as a thriving rural centre.

The changing uses of the building are also symptomatic of the rise and decline in the fortunes of the School of Arts as an influential educational and literary institution.

The School of Arts was highly significant for its impact on the educational, social structure and contemporary community of Nowra in the 1890s. It was the home of the Mechanics Institute and the School of Arts, highly respected institutions and a way of life in most major rural centres.

The facility provided a major centre for vocational based education, arts and culture for the Nowra community during the period of major growth and development for the City. Many important social events, drama

performances, pioneering cinema and political events were held at this venue.

Changing use of the building reflects the decline of the School of Arts movement in the 1920's, to be replaced by Council administration, recreational and community functions.

The building was used as the Nowra Town Hall and Council Chambers until 1958, and then reverted to its educational role as a business and secretarial college and office for the Shoalhaven Historical Society.

The phenomenal interest and enthusiasm for billiards is represented in the fabric of the building. The major alterations all included substantial facilities for the pursuit of this pastime.

The Boer War Memorial was an element of high social significance for the local community until its removal in 1962. The memorial has retained its civic context with its new location in appropriate circumstances in Rauch Park, maintaining its links with the Council Offices opposite in Junction Street

### ***Role and Associations:***

#### **Cyril Blacket - The Architect**

In 1880 Cyril Blacket returned from England with a degree in architecture and became involved with his father's Sydney practice. The practice of Edmund Blacket had considerable commercial, residential and ecclesiastical commissions, including Bulli Church in 1882. Soon after his return from England, Cyril Blacket took up a position at the School of Arts in Sydney but left to take up a similar position at the University of Sydney. Edmund Thomas Blacket died in February 1883, leaving Cyril in charge of Blacket & Sons, Architects.

In 1885, after health and business difficulties, Cyril left Sydney and the architectural profession, moving to St Georges Basin where he opened a sawmill with a Captain Bayley. Lawsuits dogged his business pursuits and he began to practise architecture again, opening an office in Nowra, where he undertook a number of buildings. In 1894 Cyril Blacket was elected to the position of Lecturer in Architecture at the Sydney Technical College. By 1903 he was president of the Institute of Architects and in 1904 was elected Mayor of Lane Cove. The range of buildings he designed included houses, shops, theatres, factories, hotels and hospitals. Cyril's son Pendril Cyril Blacket went into partnership when the firm was extremely active up to the outbreak of the First World War. Cyril Blacket died in 1927 at the age of 80years.

#### ***Comparative work of Cyril Blacket in the Shoalhaven District***

##### **Nowra Masonic Centre, Moss Street, Nowra**

Lodge Abercorn history states that he designed this building for which the foundation stone was laid in 1890.

##### **P. Walsh & Sons, Junction Street, Nowra**

Tenders for building designed by Cyril Blacket Shoalhaven Telegraph 15/1/1890

##### **Dr Henry Kirwan Kings' Home, Berry Street, Nowra**

(Next door to the School of Arts Nowra. Demolished in the early 1970's to make way for the present Council Car Park)

Tenders in Shoalhaven Telegraph 22/1/1890

**Commercial Hotel, Main Road, Kangaroo Valley**

(Now known as The Friendly Inn)  
Shoalhaven Telegraph 21/1/1891

**War Memorial Gates, Nowra Showground**

He won a competition to design them for prize money of £21. Opening 22/1/1931

**Memorial Horse Trough**

A Memorial horse trough with Christian Jessie Blacket inscribed on it was carved by Cyril Blacket from one piece of stone at Tomerong. In Memory of his wife Christian who died from uraemia aged 50 years.

**Oubuildings:****The Supper Room and Ken Furness Building**

The significance of the Supper Room and Ken Furness Building have been assessed in conjunction with this study, within the broader context of the School of Arts and its historic, physical and visual relationships of the streetscape and surrounding areas.

**Heritage Significance of the Supper Room**

The Supper Room has been assessed as having significance under the recognised criteria of historical, aesthetic and social significance:

***Historical***

The history of the Supper Room has been interwoven with the School of Arts since its construction in 1911. Also designed by Cyril Blacket it was built as an annexe to the School of Arts and has performed a variety of supporting roles for the School of Arts and the community up to the present day.

***Aesthetic***

The Supper Room had contributing aesthetic significance to the curtilage of the School of Arts, in its original context immediately to the rear of the main building. Its design is elegant but simple and utilitarian, balancing the ebullient style of the School of Arts. The building is intact and in its original form, with the exception of the kitchen and some replacement wall linings.

Since relocation this significance has been reduced through isolation from the School of Arts and the intrusion of a series of linking covered ways.

***Social***

The Supper Room was used as a band room, gymnasium and food preparation facility supporting functions at the School of Arts, and was the venue for many social events and dances up to the present day. The building has an important place in the memories of many long time residents of Nowra as the venue for local events.

The social significance of the Supper Room and its value to the community since the War in particular, is inextricably linked with School of Arts.

**Heritage significance of the Ken Furness Building**

The Ken Furness Building has been assessed as having some significance through its role in providing accommodation for Council Engineers after amalgamation of the Councils in 1948. A simple timber frame and fibro structure, the building was intended as temporary accommodation and it does not exhibit the finish or design quality of the Supper Room. The Furness Building has no intrinsic relationship with the School of Arts, nor with the Supper Room.

## Levels of Significance

### Regional significance

The School of Arts has regional significance because of its importance in the civic affairs of the Shoalhaven and its representation of the School of Arts movement.

- It is representative at a regional level of the School of Arts which provided for communities in most major rural centres.
- The School of Arts demonstrates social and community values of the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century when the School of Arts movement was the major influence in education and recreation in society.

### Local Significance

It is highly significant at a local level through its cultural value to the community.

- its uniqueness and value for the community for over 100 years justifies the School of Arts as having a high degree of rarity in the local area.

### Degrees of Significance

The Statement of Significance describes the general nature of the significance of the building as a whole.

To enable decisions to be made regarding the long-term conservation and development of the place, the following assessments of the degree of significance of the various elements of the place has been made.

The degree of significance of the various elements has been divided into four categories:

..	High significance	A
..	Considerable significance	B
..	Some significance	C
..	Little significance	D
..	Intrusive elements	Int

## Schedule of Significant Items within the School of Arts Precinct

*Code Numbers refer to Significant Items located on Key Plan, fig 30.*

*Conservation recommendations are included in Part 5 of the report.*

### 1 External features:

- |     |  |   |
|-----|--|---|
| 1.1 | Streetscape at entry, landscaping level changes<br>balustrading, planter beds and ramps,<br>dating from 1989 | C |
| 1.2 | Lamps and pillars, 1989  | C |
| 1.3 | Landscaping to north boundary  | B |

### A 1892 building

#### A.2 Façade East [Front]

Symmetrical stucco façade recessed central balcony above main door with reconstructed cast iron balustrade, moulded cornices, decorative urns, and inscripted triangular pediment, bearing date, 1891, *MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND SCHOOL OF ARTS*. Façade and detail in original 1892 form. **A**

<b>A.3</b>	<b>Vestibule</b> Double timber braced and ledged entry doors and wrought ironwork, (possibly reconstructed) Interior cedar joinery	A
<b>A.4</b>	<b>Reception room 1, [Right] [Smoking]</b> Interior space and cedar joinery Steps and landing and servery from kitchen	A A D
<b>A.5</b>	<b>Reception room 2 [Left] [Library]</b> Interior space and cedar joinery	A A
<b>A.6</b>	<b>Caretakers office</b> Roller door	B Int
<b>A.7</b>	<b>Kitchen [Ladies Parlour]</b> (Significance retrievable by removal of kitchen Fitout) Chimney breast, hearth	C (A) A
<b>A.8</b>	<b>Auditorium</b> Fenestration Intact fabric, cedar joinery Tallowwood floor Vaulted ceiling, composite trusses Light fittings (new) Doors, original retrievable Fire hose reels, 2 Servery to kitchen and roller shutter	A  A A C A Int Int
<b>A.9</b>	<b>Egress and Fenestration</b>	A
<b>A.10</b>	<b>North Façade</b> Face brick, previously painted but stripped back. Stucco top parapet to east (2 storey section), elevation to auditorium to remainder, featuring engaged piers and windows to auditorium. Four stages of development, 1892/1905/ 1917/ 1989 are clearly evident.	A
<b>A.11</b>	<b>South façade</b> Original brick façade, featuring engaged piers and windows to auditorium. Significance retrievable by removal of 1989 gallery structure.	C
<b>A.12</b>	<b>Stage</b> (no remaining fabric, incorporated into Auditorium)	
<b>A.13</b>	<b>West Façade (now proscenium)</b>	
<b>A.14</b>	<b>Vestibule stair and lobby</b>	A
<b>A.15</b>	<b>Staircase North side</b> to Town Clerk's room infilled plasterboard stair balustrade	A D
<b>A.16</b>	<b>Staircase South side</b> to Balcony	A
<b>A.17</b>	<b>Former Town Clerks Office</b> Interior space Light fittings	A C

<b>A.18</b>	<b>Former Council Chambers</b>	
	Interior space, including trusses, boarded ceiling and ventilator, cedar joinery	A
	Light fittings	C
<b>A.19</b>	<b>Balcony</b>	
	Curved cast iron balustrade	A
	Tallowwood floor	A
<b>A 20</b>	<b>Ceiling to Auditorium</b>	
	Vault, trusses, Kershaw ventilation	A
<b>A21</b>	<b>Exterior Balcony</b>	A

#### The 1905 additions

<b>B.22</b>	<b>Billiard and smoking rooms</b>	
	Three additional bays now within stage area	A
<b>B23</b>	<b>Changing Rooms</b>	
	Demolished	N/A

#### The 1917 alterations

<b>C.24</b>	<b>Current stage and Proscenium</b>	A
<b>C.25</b>	<b>Roof/ Ceiling</b>	B

#### The 1989 Extensions

<b>D.26</b>	<b>Dressing rooms and Ablutions</b>	D
<b>D.27</b>	<b>Change rooms and storage rooms</b>	D
<b>D.30</b>	<b>Milling space and foyer</b>	D
<b>D.31</b>	<b>Egress and ramps</b>	D
<b>D 32</b>	<b>West Elevation</b>	D

#### The Car Park

	A large asphalted car park in two separate areas forms an open corridor and opportunity to view the School of Arts for its entire northern boundary	
	Car park itself	Int
	Vistas of School of Arts afforded by open space created by car park	B

#### Landscape

	Paved area to northern side of building incorporating row of 7 mature deciduous trees, European Elm <i>Ulmus species</i> . Aesthetic contribution to the northern elevation of the building.	B
--	--	---

Remnant planting in vicinity of north boundary to Dr Kings property, now retained in Council Car Park, Cabbage Tree Palm *Livistona australis* (near NW corner of site of house site) survivor of several similar palms in the vicinity, and Magnolia *Magnolia grandiflora* close to the Berry Street



boundary. These trees are sole surviving physical evidence of this property. A

Group of trees to east of Supper Room including *Cinnamomum camphora*, *Tristania conferta* and shrubs bordering covered way. No evidence of relationship to School of Arts or Dr King property. Camphorlaurel is an invasive species in the area and possibly self seeded at the time of disturbance during relocation of the Supper Room in 1959. D

### Boundaries

The School of Arts is defined to the south by the Gallery space the southern wall of which is on the boundary, The frontage is defined by interpreted streetscape parterre constructed in 1989. The western boundary is 1 Metre off the rear wall of the dressing room annexe.

### Out Buildings

Supper Room	B
Ken Furness Centre	D
Covered Ways	Int

### Townscape values in the Berry street vicinity

Vistas:

a) south along Berry Street	A
b) north along Berry Street	B
c) from Collins Way	C
d) from Egans Lane	A

### Comparative significance with other Heritage Sites

Places which have comparative significance with the Nowra School of Arts in the local area include:

#### 1. Schools of Arts in neighbouring towns:

Pyree, Berry, Kangaroo Valley, Milton, Gerringong

Of the above, only the Berry School of Arts is comparable to Nowra in terms of its size and general planning, with the two storey section facing the street containing meeting/ reception rooms and the auditorium to the rear. Edwardian in style, Berry is a later period (1912) than Nowra and in face brick construction.

#### 2. Buildings in Berry Street contemporary with the School of Arts:

- Site of Dr Henry Kirwan Kings' Home, next door to the School of Arts. Demolished 1970's, now Council Car Park. Also designed by Cyril Blacket
- Old Post Office, (now Post Office Tavern)
- Uniting Church, corner of Berry Street and Junction Street.
- Grace Bros building, Berry Street.



53.  
Berry School of Arts, 1912

The remaining 19<sup>th</sup> Century buildings above are among the few survivors of the rapid development of the CBD during the 1960's to 1980's. Demolition of the Dr King residence in the 1970's removed a significant example of Cyril Blacket's residential work alongside his School of Arts.

The School of Arts remains arguably the most significant and intact of all Victorian public buildings remaining in Nowra and possibly its most important building in terms of community value.

## **PART 3 - MANAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

### **DEVELOPMENT OF CONSERVATION POLICY**

#### **Introduction**

The previous section has established that the Nowra School of Arts has a high level of historic, aesthetic, and social significance

The development of an appropriate set of Policies for the conservation, use and management of the site must take into account the opportunities and constraints arising from:

- 1. the Statement of Significance**
- 2. the requirements of the site owners and the community, the available resources and feasible options for future use of the place**
- 3. the physical condition of the place**
- 4. requirements imposed by external factors**

#### **Opportunities and Constraints arising from the Statement of Significance**

The School of Arts is significant for a variety of reasons, consequently certain aspects of the building and its curtilage need to be protected and exploited in an appropriate manner.

In order to protect this unique visual character and to ensure that both the integrity and legibility of the site is not lost through inappropriate development, certain constraints should apply to any future redevelopment in the vicinity:

- usage which may impact on the significance of the building and curtilage should be prohibited;
- reconstruction of fabric should be limited to ensure that the legibility and integrity of the original fabric is not obscured and the historic layering is maintained;
- alterations or new development should be strictly limited and controlled to ensure that there is no loss of visual character;
- significant fabric should be appropriately conserved;

- views and vistas from outside the site should be preserved;
- surrounding development should be controlled to limit physical and visual impact
- specialist consultants and tradesmen should be used for the conservation and other work on the site;

Opportunities arising from the significance of the School of Arts should be considered in any redevelopment program, and include:

- The visual character of the interior of the building which contributes to the sense of occasion and theatrical experience of patrons.
- The aesthetic value of the building in the CBD which is otherwise characterised by mundane contemporary architecture.
- The legibility of the fabric which enables interpretation of the evolution of the fabric and adaptability in the use of the spaces.
- The building remains a tangible example of living history for the benefit of the local community
- A major opportunity exists at the present time of planning for redevelopment in the vicinity to create an outstanding civic precinct and reclaim the closer proximity of the Supper Room linked by open space to the north side of the School of Arts.

Management policies must ensure that the structure is fully protected from inappropriate alterations, poorly executed conservation, and inappropriate usage.

### **Opportunities and Constraints Arising from Ownership and Use**

On two separate occasions in its history in 1938 and 1982 the School of Arts has survived from the brink of demolition. The pressure for growth and new development has never been stronger than at the present time and policies for the conservation and management of this important site must permanently ensure security and protection of the heritage items.

An increasing awareness and appreciation of the limited extent of surviving heritage in the Nowra CBD and growing interest in local history is developing in the local community. This phenomenon responds to a substantial loss of heritage stock during the 1970's and 1980's in the Nowra CBD. Community attitudes polarised over the fate of this site in 1982 when the School of Arts was sold by Council for demolition and commercial redevelopment. The community responded in outrage and the building was retrieved subsequently through Ministerial intervention.

#### *Ownership by Council:*

Since 1982 a major change in attitude occurred in Council, and the realisation that the City still required a town hall, cultural, and performing arts facility that for which the new council Administrative Centre in Bridge Road was no substitute. Shoalhaven City Council remains owner of the site and is now committed to providing a community benefit and cultural focus in the city centre for which this building is uniquely suitable.

The flexibility and demonstrated adaptability of the building is unlikely to be diminished by construction of a proposed performing arts centre in Nowra,

and a centre of current population and growth potential should have no difficulty in supporting expanded facilities.

The costs involved in implementing a meaningful conservation program would be difficult to sustain unless the site is developed in a manner which not only retained its heritage significance but provided a useful and valued asset for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the Shoalhaven District and beyond.

#### *Council objectives*

Shoalhaven City Council has invested considerable resources into major conservation work and extensions in 1989 and ongoing maintenance since. There are no plans for any redevelopment or change of use to the building, and Council is actively promoting the auditorium and function rooms for continued use in its present capacity. It offers a unique facility in Nowra, with potential for greater and expanded use subject to upgrading some support facilities.

#### *Opportunities for Tourism in the Shoalhaven.*

Opportunities exist for increased tourist visitation through staging of popular events in the auditorium. Festival periods such as Christmas and special performances frequently attract attendance from beyond the Shoalhaven area, such as recent concerts by Roger Woodward and the musical *Annie*.

#### *Public Access*

Public access by definition imposes specific requirements on the site through the need to provide facilities to satisfy the comfort needs and safety of visitors, and assist the commercial viability of the facility as a whole.

Issues of access which must be considered include:

- adequate parking
- clearly defined access through a controlled point of entry
- fire egress compliant with code
- segregation of patrons and service access

#### *Disabled Access*

Disabled access to all public areas is required under the Code and was generally achieved during the 1989 refurbishment, through the installation of disabled toilet, and ramped access to the front entry, and safe egress via ramp to the north side. The new south gallery enables easy graded access to the auditorium, function rooms and catering areas. Unfortunately, finishes and detailing of the ramps have impacted on the building in some areas, the forecourt to Berry Street in particular.

### **Present Uses of the School of Arts:**

#### **1. Auditorium**

Bookings for the auditorium are currently strong with most Saturday nights committed throughout the year, and increasing demand during the week. The auditorium and the side gallery have proved suitable venues for a variety of functions ranging from private wedding receptions, exhibitions, musical recitals, live theatre, public meetings, dance festival, opera, and public meetings.

Many of the users are established groups in Nowhere with regular or seasonal bookings of the facilities such as Albatross Musical Theatre Co, Nowra Music Club and touring companies such as the SA Opera Co and Eisteddfods.

The hall is occasionally used for private parties and wedding receptions, but smaller functions are more frequently held in the Supper Room.

Sporting clubs have also held functions in the School of Arts but with greater levels of wear and tear being experienced.

The small kitchen to the rear of the Auditorium is frequently used as a bar serving drinks and light refreshments to the hall through a servery. It is occasionally used as a reheat facility for food prepared either in the Supper Room Kitchen or off site by private caterers. The servery opening through to the front Function Room (Old Smoking Room) is only rarely used as access is awkward due to the different levels and the constricted stair and landing.

## **2. Function Rooms**

The Ground Floor rooms are in demand for receptions and smaller functions, and are suitable as ancillary spaces to the Auditorium and the Gallery. On the First Floor, the old Council Chamber are used by Council and other organisations as a Committee meeting room, and the Town Clerks Office is leased by the University of the Third Age, which is due for review in the near future.

## **3. Supper Room**

The Supper Room has been popular for many years for social events such as dances and private parties, wedding receptions and meetings which do not require the capacity of the Auditorium.

The Supper Room is equipped with a full commercial kitchen, which serves functions within the Supper Room Building but also is occasionally used in the preparation of meals for serving in the main building, either in the rear of the Gallery or in the Auditorium. Each year the Lions Club use this facility serving meals to 250 people during their Music Hall performances. School of Arts management is aware of the limitations and inconvenience of the remote location of the kitchen to the main building and is a disincentive to some potential bookings for the hall.

### **Present and Future Operational Constraints**

The School of Arts has experienced increasing demand for functions in recent years. This has occurred in part through public awareness of the facilities available and a dramatic increase in bookings occurred following the full time presence of on-site building supervisor since 1993, resulting in greater accessibility and increased prominence to the point whereby the facility is close to financial self sufficiency.

The consequent revenue flowing from bookings has further supported Council (ie community ) ownership and justified expenditure on conservation and upgrade of facilities.

The view of Council's property manager is that greater potential exists for expanded usage if service facilities are improved. The major limitations perceived at present are as follows:

- The kitchen is inadequate in catering for the many large group functions held in the auditorium. On such occasions, food is prepared off site or in the Supper Room kitchen, both options involving undesirable movement of prepared dishes from remote locations.
- Stocking or supply to the auditorium kitchen involves conflict with public access to the building and patrons use of function areas, as no service or external access is available. A similar problem exists with the removal of garbage.

- The Auditorium can become uncomfortably hot in summer. Consequently summer is often avoided for functions involving large attendance.

### **Opportunities and Constraints Arising from Physical Condition**

Since the 1989 alterations and refurbishment, the School of Arts has been in regular use and Council has maintained the building generally to a high standard. Recent interior maintenance has included painting and refurbishment in the stage area.

Refurbishment in the future should have regard for the fine detailing of interior elements and ensure that original finishes are not obscured, such as cedar joinery, plaster detailing, cast iron lace, and unpainted face brick.

Conservation policy should accommodate the impact of visitor usage and resulting wear and tear on building fabric.

A future conservation program should provide the opportunity to review the colour scheme: ascertain original colours, paint scrapes, and consider the authenticity of the existing colour scheme.

### **Constraints and Requirements Imposed by External Factors**

#### *Statutory Requirements*

Any conservation or development on the site must be cognisant of the regulations of relevant government agencies:

- Compliance with Worksafe, and Business and Consumer Affairs Food Preparation Code, re:
  - Controls for public places, performing areas, food and beverages, and businesses serving the public.
- Building Code of Australia re:
  - Controls for buildings, amenities, fire protection and egress
- State Government Heritage requirements
- Council's own planning policies.

## PART 4 CONSERVATION POLICY

### Introduction and Conservation Objectives

The purpose of the conservation policies set out in this section is to provide a set of mandatory principles relating to the care and development of the School of Arts in a manner which retains its significance while allowing it to be effectively utilised as a community facility. Its use should recognise the value the School of Arts has to the social fabric of the community, and future management should ensure this resource is enhanced to its full potential:

Management policy should recognise the following attributes of the School of Arts:

- It offers a specific community educational resource providing authentic and extensive evidence of past work practices, people and values
- Its contribution to the community as a cultural and performing arts facility.
- A significant contribution to the community's social historic awareness
- Suitability as a venue for political and other public meetings.

In this section, policy statements are provided in italics and should be read with the associated text to aid interpretation.

#### *Terminology:*

"Should" in the context of this report implies mandatory requirement for compliance.

"May" implies suggested or optional compliance.

Conservation terminology including terms such as 'place', 'conservation', 'restoration', 'reconstruction', 'adaptation' etc follow the definitions of the Burra Charter

#### **Conservation Work**

*Policy (1.1): The future conservation and development of the site (hereinafter referred to as the place) should be directed towards maintaining and interpreting its heritage significance in accordance with the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter).*

*Policy (1.2): The significance of the place should be made clearly evident to the observer and the means of interpretation should be compatible with the retention of that significance*

*Policy (1.3): The statement of significance as set out in Part 2, together with recommendations for specific items contained in this policy section, should be accepted as the basis for future conservation.*

*Policy (1.4) : The conservation of all elements of high degree of significance should be a combination of preservation and restoration.*

*Policy (1.5): The conservation of elements of some significance include preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and adaptation.*

*Policy (1.6): In some specific instances, limited adaptation and reconstruction may be allowed in accordance with the Burra Charter to allow and assist interpretation..*

*Policy (1.7): In some instances, elements of compromised significance may be reinstated to their original form and condition.*

*Policy (1.8): Intrusive elements should be removed.*

### **Coordination and Advice**

The recommendations of this Conservation Management Plan should be implemented via a co-ordinated decision-making process. Continuity of competent advice is also important for the successful long-term implementation of this plan.

*Policy (2.1): A responsible co-ordinating and management body should be appointed to implement the recommendations of this Plan.*

*Policy (2.2): Persons with relevant conservation expertise should be engaged for the consistent interpretation of this Plan and the resolution of conservation issues as well as for the design, documentation and supervision of on site works.*

*Policy (2.3): The policies outlined in this document should be endorsed as a guide to future planning and work.*

*Policy (2.4): This document should be reviewed as the need arises but at a minimum of five year intervals.*

### **Community Consultation and Management**

Members of organisations of related heritage sites, other interest groups such as the Shoalhaven Historical Society, and the local community at large should have some means of contributing to the ongoing use and management of the site within the constraints of this Conservation Plan.

*Policy (3.1): The community and stake holders in other related local heritage sites should be able to contribute to decisions regarding the use and management of the site.*

### **The Setting, Boundaries and Curtilage**

Policies are proposed which ensure that the contribution of the School of Arts to the streetscape and townscape of the Nowra CBD is maintained and protected from inappropriate development on the subject site or adjoining sites.

An appropriate protective curtilage is proposed, incorporating a specific area of the existing car park to minimise the impact of future development of the site to the north and west on the heritage significance of the School of Arts and the Supper Room, relocated adjacent. Both buildings should regain their former functional relationship and enhance their value to the community social interaction as complementary facilities.

*Policy (4.1): Define a precinct of land adjacent the School of Arts to remain in public ownership which will protect the significance of the School of Arts and provide adequate transition zone to minimise the impact of future development in the vicinity.*

*Policy (4.2) Prohibit or restrict development in the immediate surrounding area that may adversely impact on the significance of the*



*School of Arts, its designated curtilage or associated buildings, or views to the site.*

*Policy (4.2) Development guidelines should be determined by Council to control future development in the vicinity of the School of Arts to ensure its contribution to the streetscape and the CBD townscape is protected, and to minimise impact on the protective curtilage.*

### **Compatible Uses**

Since original construction, the building has provided consistent function as a community and cultural facility, growing and adapting to increasing population and changing lifestyle. The value of this facility to the community is equally valid today as it was in 1892.

*Policy (5.1) Future uses of the School of Arts should be compatible with the present function of the building as a performing arts centre, venue for social functions and meetings, exhibitions and multi purpose community facility.*

### **Recovery of significant spaces**

Much of the interior of the building remains in near to original form and current uses are consistent with the objective of restoring the interior.

*Policy (6.1) Each of the interior spaces designated as significant shall be restored to original form and finishes. Remove all elements identified as intrusive in the Schedule of Significance, Part 2.*

*Should current use be incompatible with this objective, reconstruction or restoration of affected interiors shall remain the long term objective.*

### **Maintenance and repair**

The interior of the School of Arts has suffered from past periods of inadequate maintenance and repair. The original joinery throughout the building was in Australian red cedar. Repair and modifications have resulted in the use of infill joinery using alternative species such as Meranti and refinishing in paint, obscuring the original stained finishes. Furthermore, much of the alteration work in 1989 utilised simpler modern style joinery mouldings, rather than matching authentic Victorian profiles. Square set plaster has replaced decorative plaster cornices in several areas

*Policy (7.1): Surviving joinery should be conserved, and inappropriate infill and repairs to joinery should be replaced with Australian Red Cedar or Kalantas in matching profile and finish.*

*Policy (7.2): Reinstate traditional profile plaster cornices, replacing modern cove cornices or square set.*

### **External Colour Scheme**

The present colour scheme has remained since the 1989 refurbishment. The scheme was based on a conjectural Victorian palette and drew considerable acclaim at the time and was the recipient of a Dulux Heritage award. The range of colours appear more extensive than indicated by interpretation of the tonings of contemporary black and white photographs from the Victorian period and should be confirmed before the next repainting is due.

*Policy (8.1): A future colour scheme should be prepared by a specialist heritage colour consultant and take account of scientific analysis of paint scrapings taken from original fabric of the building and accurate interpretation of contemporary photographs.*

**Public Access, Traffic Management and Security**

*Policy (9.1): The building should be as accessible as possible to the general public within the constraints of safety, security and retention of significance of the site.*

*Policy (9.2): Provision should be made to allow disabled access to as many publicly accessible areas as possible.*

**Services**

*Policy (10.1) All intrusive elements relating to necessary provision of services, fire safety and egress shall be reviewed and alternative systems compatible with retaining the significance of original fabric shall be incorporated.*

*Policy (10.2): All new services should be provided in a manner which does not adversely impact on the heritage significance of the site.*

**Landscaping**

The nature of the landscaping on the site has changed over the years. However the remaining elements determined as significant should be retained as appropriate to enhance the School of Arts and protect the curtilage from the impact of future development. New open spaces should contribute to the streetscape and provide additional community amenity for passive and active recreation.

*Policy (11.1): Elements of significant landscaping should be retained, and intrusive elements removed. Planting should be incorporated within the designated significant curtilage as appropriate to enhancing the building and the streetscape, and providing a screen to adjacent development.*

**The Boer War (Mafeking) Memorial**

The former presence and significance of this memorial as the dominant feature of the Berry Street forecourt for the greater part of the life of the School of Arts is recognised. However its significance to the community and contribution to civic spaces in its present location in Rauch Park is considered greater than its potential to regain its former significance in the forecourt of the School of Arts.

*Policy (12.1): The memorial should remain in Rauch Park.*

**The Supper Room**

The Supper Room is significant as a support facility and secondary function centre to the School of Arts. The original site of the Supper room at the rear of the School of Arts is not available as it is now occupied by the Pathology Building.

*Policy (13.1) The Supper Room should be retained, and relocated closer to its original site and the School of Arts building. The curtilage should be extended to incorporate the Supper Room, maintaining its role as a support facility for the School of Arts.*

**Ken Furness Building**

It is considered that the level of significance of this building does not warrant retention on this site, in the event of the site being redeveloped. However as a building resource it should be recognised as having potential as useful accommodation relocated to another site.

*Policy (14.1) The Ken Furness Building should remain in its present location until redevelopment, then be relocated to another site.*

**Project Funding**

As a community based Council owned property, funding for conservation, interpretation and redevelopment work is available from a number of sources, in addition to promotion and marketing to ensure the maximum commercial potential is derived from the asset.

*Policy (15.1): All opportunities for grant funding and sponsorship of conservation work should be pursued.*

## PART 5: IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Introduction

Implementation strategies should take account of the various factors that affect the 'what, how and when' for actions identified in the preceding policy section. The Client's requirements will have a major input together with such factors as availability of funding, resources for management, and community support for conservation and redevelopment work, all these impacting directly on the timing, extent of work, and priorities for work.

Shoalhaven City Council requires that the site be conserved and developed to encourage cultural use by the community and improve the viability of the School of Arts as an income producing asset. Conservation objectives are compatible with the desire to exploit the heritage qualities of the site.

This section outlines detailed recommendations and a structured approach to the implementation of conservation policies taking account of the client's requirements and other external influences. This is not an exhaustive account of all possibilities for implementation, but is intended as a set of recommended practical guidelines. Any alternative strategies proposed by the client however should conform to the recommendations of the *Policies* section.

### General principles for the Implementation of Upgrading and Conservation Program

The School of Arts underwent a major conservation program in 1989 in conjunction with alterations and extensions to the building. The building remains generally in good condition and has been consistently maintained by Council. However in the intervening ten years usage of the building has increased dramatically resulting in wear and tear on the fabric.

This study has identified priorities for conservation and upgrading work to enable the School of Arts to perform an expanded role in the community, recognising the heritage significance of the building and its component parts.

Design, documentation and site supervision of all work should be carried out by specialist conservation consultants, and site work by specialist tradesmen.

### Definitions

This section utilises definitions from the *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance* (the Burra Charter) as follows:

**Fabric** means all the physical material of the place.

**Conservation** means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may according to circumstance include preservation, restoration, reconstruction and adaptation and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.

**Maintenance** means the continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction and it should be treated accordingly.

**Preservation** means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

**Restoration** means returning the EXISTING fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

**Reconstruction** means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric.

**Adaptation** means modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses.

**Compatible use** means a use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.

#### **Maintenance of the Asset**

The building is currently cared for to a high standard, due in part to the full time presence of a building supervisor and monitoring by Council maintenance staff. Regular maintenance issues reported apart from cleaning up after functions in the hall include the following:

- Polishing of floors with spirit wax polish, required before every function. Particular care should be taken with the tallowwood floor as after 84 years of heavy usage and numerous sandings, there is little thickness remaining at the tongue and groove joints to tolerate further sanding.
- The building interior has not been fully painted since the 1989 refurbishment, but low areas of walls within the hall require constant patching of chips and touch up painting through the wear and tear of public usage. The Stage curtains were replaced two years ago together with repainting of this area.
- The façade has been repainted once since 1989 three years ago due to the fading of the original finish.
- In the past, leaks in the roof have caused considerable damage to interior plaster and paintwork. At present the roof and gutters are sound but will require regular monitoring, especially at box gutters and flashings.

## Short Term Strategy

- Maintenance and Conservation Priorities**
- Policy (8.1)*
- Review External Colour scheme
  - Remove roller shutter to Supervisor's office, replace with pair of panelled doors
  - Remove Stair flight to Smoking Room and close off servery
  - Replace stainless steel surrounds to servery on hall side and replace with traditional moulded timber architraves
  - Replace satin chrome door furniture with fittings of appropriate design and finish
- Policy (7.2)*
- Install profiled cornice to hall lobby
  - Remove wire screen above stair to gallery
  - Replace flush door to first floor balcony with panel door
- Policy (10.1)*
- Fire hose reels located at the front and rear of the auditorium should be located discreetly within cabinets.
  - Window block-out blinds are due to be ordered for the Auditorium. The material and detailing should be compatible with the window joinery and not impact on the fabric of the interior.

*Policy (7.1)*

### **Maintenance and repair to Joinery and Finishes**

The ongoing maintenance program should progressively restore all original cedar joinery and finish to original stained finish.

Joinery affected by removal or alteration should be reconstructed using Australian red cedar or equivalent, to original profile and finish. Joinery which originally was clear finished in stain, laquer or shellac should be stripped of paint and refinished as original. Extensively altered joinery such as the entry vestibule should be reconstructed in cedar to original profiles.

Tallowwood flooring to Auditorium and Balcony should be maintained and protected from further wear and deterioration through regular application of wax polishing and buffing. Future sanding should be minimal to prevent opening up tongue and groove joints.

### **Ongoing Maintenance**

Maintenance by Council's staff should be carefully controlled in accordance with this Conservation Plan, and using appropriate techniques materials and equipment. Specialist advice should always be sought where significant fabric is involved.

## Medium Term Strategy

*Policy (4.1)*

### **Establishment of Curtilage**

An appropriate protective curtilage is proposed (refer sketch, fig 55) incorporating a specific area of the existing car park to minimise the impact of future development of the site to the north and west on the heritage significance of the School of Arts and the Supper Room.

The defined curtilage should be developed as necessary civic open space providing a variety of passive and active recreation pursuits, and venue for outdoor community functions, markets, fairs etc. This will reinforce the presence of the School of Arts in the streetscape, preserve the important north east vista from Berry Street from the impact of future development and reinforce the original association between the School of Arts and the Supper Room. Furthermore a much needed recreation facility and venue

for community activities will be provided, in particular in fulfilling a need for youth recreation in Nowra which has been identified in the CBD Study.

Policy (13.1)

### **The Supper Room**

The Supper Room and kitchen should be retained, and relocated closer to its original site and the School of Arts building. The curtilage should be extended to incorporate the Supper Room, maintaining its role as a support facility for the School of Arts. The original site of the Supper room at the rear of the School of Arts is not available as it is now occupied by the Pathology Building.

### **School of Arts Kitchen**

Catering required by the School of Arts should continue to utilise the kitchen facilities of the Supper Room, in the short to medium term. The servery room located in the Ladies Parlour in the School of Arts may continue its present function of reheat, food distribution and bar facilities within the auditorium in the short term, however expanded kitchen facilities within the School of Arts beyond the existing the kitchen itself should not be allowed. There is scope however for considerable upgrade within the existing space through improved equipment and preparation areas.

The Supper Room kitchen will be in closer proximity following relocation, with the additional advantage of catering for Supper Room functions and special occasions utilising the outdoor forecourt.

### **Landscaping**

Policy (11.1):

The defined curtilage should retain elements of significant landscape and remaining open areas should be landscaped having regard to the following objectives:

- Create an area of open space or forecourt to the north side of the School of Arts providing active and passive recreation.
- Enhance and enable visibility of the north and east elevations, and maximise the contribution to the streetscape.
- Planting selection should not overpower the building, but be used to define accessways within the open space and into the School of Arts.
- Planting should be designed to screen significant items from the impact of adjacent development
- The significant remnant trees from the Dr King garden, *Livistona australis* and the *magnolia grandiflora* should be protected and incorporated within the space.
- The row of *Ulmus spp* to the north of the building should be retained if compatible with the overall design of the forecourt and the access between the Supper Room and the School of Arts.

### **External paving**

Extruded brick pavers used in the 1989 refurbishment on the Berry Street forecourt and the side egress ramps, are inappropriate to the period and character of the building. At an appropriate time they should be replaced with non slip unglazed tiles such as terra cotta Federation paving tiles.

The design of the forecourt parterre should be reviewed in the long term, within the constraints of maintaining disabled access. Future landscape proposals should attempt to reclaim the character of the forecourt in its heyday, with a crescent form wrought iron palisade fence.

Policy (6.1):

### **Recovery of Significant Spaces**

Having regard to compatible use for each of the interior spaces, each significant space should be restored to original form and configuration:

#### **Vestibule**

Double width openings to function room may remain intact, however should usage require reconstruction of doorways, doors should be detailed as original. All modern profiled joinery should be removed and replaced with cedar to traditional profile and finish.

Install profiled cornice to entry lobby

#### **Smoking Room**

Remove stair and landing to servery. Close off servery and make good wall.

Restore traditional plaster cornices

Restore, reconstruct original joinery.

Continue compatible use as function room

#### **Reading Room**

Restore traditional plaster cornices

Restore, reconstruct original joinery.

Continue compatible use as function room

#### **Box Office**

Restore, reconstruct original joinery, after removal of roller shutter.

Reconstruct box office if information available.

Continue compatible use as Supervisors site office

#### **Ladies Parlour**

Current use as kitchen/ bar serving to Auditorium does not preclude reinstatement in configuration of former Ladies parlour, as fitout is reversible. The chimney breast remains and reconstruction of fireplace and mantelpiece is possible at a future date.

The practical necessity of a functional catering kitchen to ensure future viability of the building outweighs the appropriateness for immediate reconstruction. In the future, removal of the kitchen and reinstatement of the space is the desirable objective.

#### **Stairs**

Joinery to balustrades and stairs is intact, complete and in good condition. Paint should be stripped and stained finishes reinstated.

Door from stair landing to external balcony should be replaced with panelled door.

#### **Town Clerks Office**

This room should be restored and missing joinery and mouldings reinstated following departure of existing tenant.

#### **Council Chambers**

Generally in restored condition since 1989.

Reinstate original finishes to joinery

#### **Auditorium**

Generally in restored condition since 1989.



**Balcony**

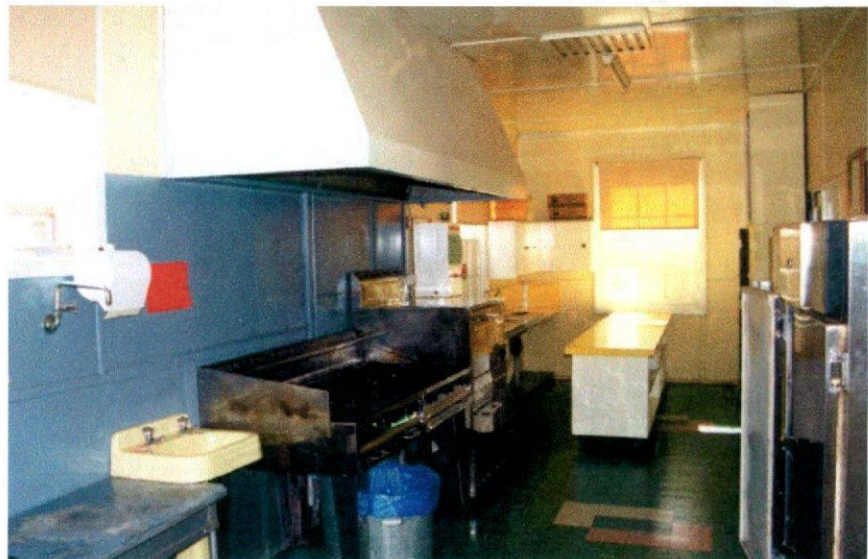
Ensure stability and protection of cast iron balustrade

**Stage and Proscenium**

No conservation action required

**Long Term Strategy****Climate control**

The cost effectiveness of an air conditioning system serving the Auditorium to supplement the existing ventilation should be investigated, as a means of increasing hall usage during the warmer months. Such installation must not impact on the finishes of the ceiling, the ceiling roses or the Kershaw ventilating cowl. Heating is effectively provided by wall mounted gas units.

**Catering facilities****54.  
Supper Room Kitchen**

The above recommendations for the kitchen arrangements will prove inadequate in the long term as expansion is impossible within the School of Arts building and delivery of supplies and food through public areas will never achieve a satisfactory solution. Continuing this situation will inhibit further growth in the potential use of the School of Arts facilities.

A number of alternatives have been investigated as part of this study including incorporating space into the Gallery/ milling area and rearranging the ablutions area. However the opportunity of including a kitchen in the rear of the building was lost in 1989 and the remainder of the site is constrained by property boundaries.

The idealistic scenario is for the acquisition of additional land to the rear of the building or into the adjacent post office property to construct a new purpose built catering kitchen.

In the event this option is unachievable in the foreseeable future, the following alternative is recommended as a balance between providing

effective catering arrangement while minimising impact on the fabric of the building:

1. The Supper Room kitchen should retain its role as the primary preparation and cooking area, following upgrade
2. The School of Arts Kitchen should become the serving facility to the main kitchen.
3. Independent access to this kitchen provided by inserting a carefully detailed door opening by increasing the height of the existing window opening.
4. A landing and ramp similar to the egress ramps to the hall is provided external to this door.
5. A carefully detailed transparent glass and fine metal covered way extends between the Supper Room kitchen and the new side entry, parallel to the north wall of the School of Arts. This covered way could also facilitate all-weather access between the school of Arts Auditorium, the Supper Room and the proposed forecourt.

This proposal will have some impact on the north elevation of the School of Arts which is considered justifiable and reversible in the interest of enhancing the long term viability and significance of the building as a whole. Nevertheless, the success of the above proposal will depend entirely on skilled design in the detailing and finishes of the covered way link, to ensure minimal impact on the School of Arts. Such arrangement should offer considerable enhancement to the complementary relationship between the two buildings and the amenity provided by the forecourt space.

The first principles of a proposed concept are illustrated on fig 55.

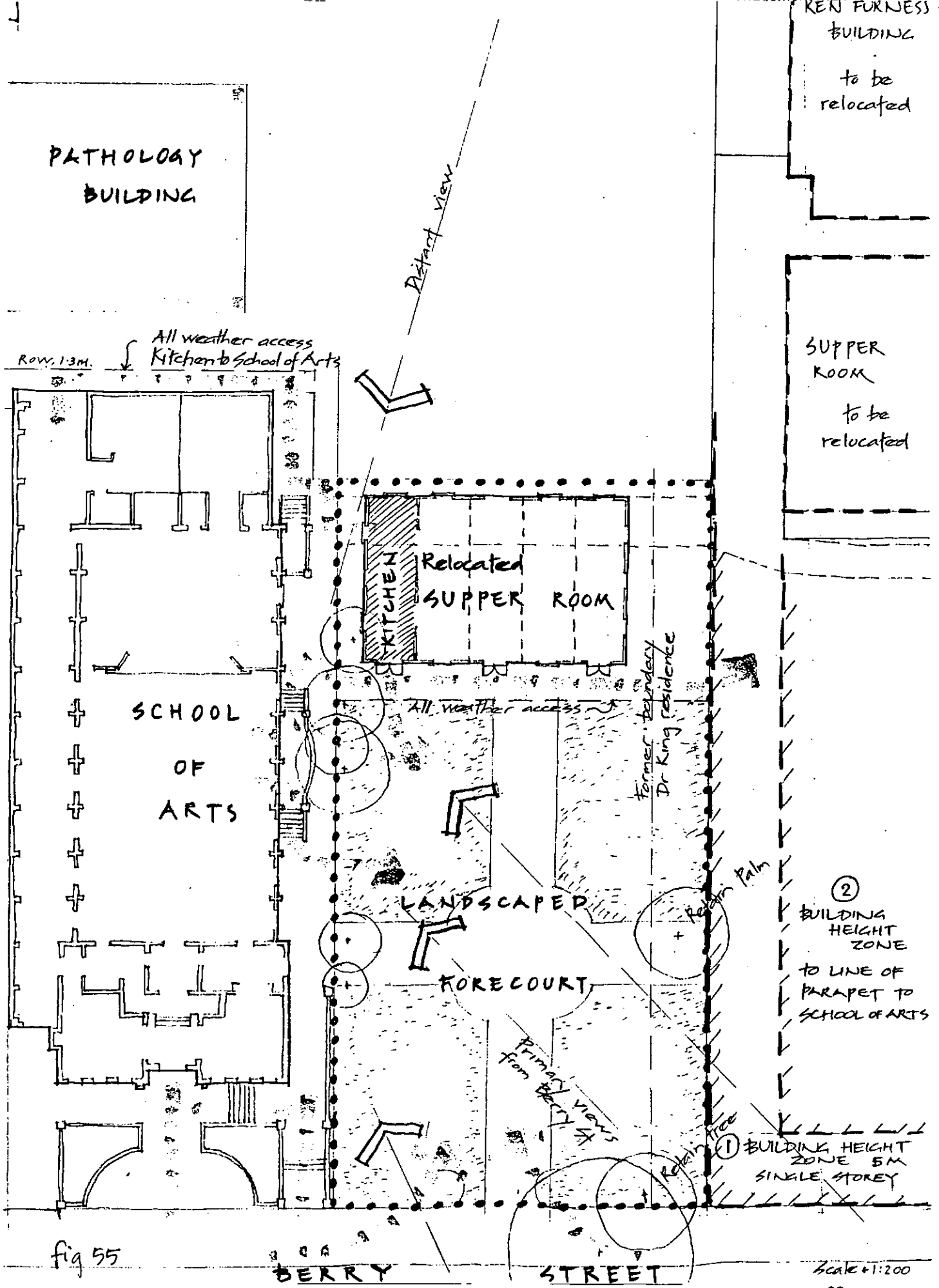


fig 55

Policy (15.1)

### **Promotion and Marketing**

The primary focus in the management of the facility must ensure its commercial viability within constraints of retaining heritage significance of identified elements. The higher profile of the building in recent years has demonstrated that demand in the community exists for the facilities offered. There is potential for improved returns with further upgrading of facilities, in particular in the kitchen and catering areas, and links to an outdoor precinct, which will attract a wider market in the future.

A concentrated promotion and Marketing program should be undertaken to raise the awareness of the special quality and uniqueness of the facilities available at the School of Arts.

Policy (15.1)

### **Grant Funding**

Council may be eligible for grant funding to assist in meeting the capital cost of the conservation and upgrading work at the outset.

As grant funding is normally allocated on a \$ for \$ basis, this support for the work will be limited by local resources.

Potential sources for conservation funding include:

NSW Heritage Office, Heritage 2001 program – remaining 2 years from 1999 - 2001

### **Future Planning and Maintenance Strategy**

The longer term management of the site should be overseen by the management committee and be subject to the terms and conditions of this Conservation Management Plan. Decisions for the future will be dependent on Council's policies, community input, and the manner in which the School of Arts is utilised.

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- Unpublished works
- DPWNSW                    *Lower Shoalhaven River Flood History at Nowra Bridge 1860-1980*, Public Works Department, NSW July 1981
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## APPENDIX 1

**Citations:  
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NOWRA

MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND  
SCHOOL OF ARTS BUILDING

Berry Street

(Town or District)

Post Code 2540 Shire of  
Local Govt Area Shoalhaven

Author of compiled by  
Proposal G Karskens

Date of Proposal November, 1981

Suggested Listing Category CLASSIFIED

Committee HBC/291  
(Trust Use)

Council APPROVED CL  
(Trust Use) 3/5/1982

(Name or Identification of Listing)

Bibliography

(Address or Location)

Owner and Address

Shoalhaven City Council  
NOWRA NSW 2540

Advised: 28/5/1982

Description

Briefly cover the points on the following check list where they are relevant and within your knowledge.

Style  
Construction  
Use  
Architect/s  
Builder/s  
Date of  
Construction  
Present  
Condition  
History  
Owners  
Boundaries  
of proposed  
listing

The Nowra School of Arts was originally established in 1877 and J Green laid the foundation stone for the first building on the corner of Kinghorn and Plunkett Streets in 1878. The institution was active for some time but was too far from the centre of the town and a new School of Arts building was begun in 1891. A new Mechanics Institute was formed in December 1980 and to avoid confusion, it was proposed to amalgamate the two. The building was designed by Cyril Blacket and built by Hamlyn. It was opened in March 1892 when it was described in the SHOALHAVEN TELEGRAPH as an "outstanding piece of architecture and a substantial building." The building was also used by Nowra Municipal Council, provision having been made for a council chamber, library and town clerk's office. The building was used for public gatherings for many years. It is a brick building with a symmetrical stuccoed facade featuring a recessed central balcony above the main door, roundheaded windows with hood-mouldings and keystones to the second floor, moulded string coursing, decorative urns and a large triangular pediment bearing the construction date (1891) and the words "MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND SCHOOL OF ARTS". The building is in good condition, and has not been altered externally, except for the addition of unsympathetic iron balustrading to the balcony.

Reasons for listing

A substantial and externally intact late Victorian School of Arts building designed by a well-known architect which has strong historical links with the community of Nowra by its use as a School of Arts, Mechanics Institute and offices of the Nowra Municipal Council. It is one of the few surviving nineteenth century civic buildings in Nowra.

Sketch plan and photos  
Attach additional photos  
if any.



National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) Listing Proposal NTN.05

*(raball)  
copy sent to  
Cand Brock Co.  
29.6.82  
R. Fenner*





08300

15

# THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (New South Wales)

Incorporated by Act of Parliament

OBSERVATORY HILL SYDNEY 2000 Telephone 27 5374

2/GK/TM  
20 April 1982

Mr G.W. Lamond  
Town Clerk  
Shoalhaven City Council  
NOWRA NSW 2540

Dear Mr Lamond,

Mechanics Institute and School of Arts, Berry Street, Nowra

I am writing to inform you that the abovementioned building has been recommended by the Trusts Historic Building Committee to be CLASSIFIED in the Trusts REGISTER. This means that, in the Trusts opinion, the building falls within the following definition:


"Those places which are components of the natural or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community."

The reasons for listing the building are as follows:

"A substantial and externally intact late Victorian School of Arts building designed by a well-known architect which has strong historical links with the community of Nowra by its use as a School of Arts, Mechanics Institute and offices of the Nowra Municipal Council. It is one of the few surviving nineteenth century civic buildings in Nowra."

The Trust was contacted by a large member of local residents expressing an interest in this building. The Trust therefore hopes that the significance of the building will be taken into account when plans are made for its future. I will write to you again when the building is CLASSIFIED.

Yours sincerely,

  
JOHN MORRIS  
Director

ALD. INFORMATION  
FOLDER 10th MAY '82  
KD.

Shoalhaven City Council  
REGISTERED  
22 APR 1982  
INITIALS LB  
FILE 78/1840

wok  
wre/c

GN

*Ald. Information*

78/1840 *wre* 79/2911 *Boalcher*

wre 22/4



Copy sent to  
Canterbury Brick Co. on  
29.6.82 (see file  
79/2911)  
Dower.

THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (New South Wales)

Incorporated by Act of Parliament

OBSERVATORY HILL SYDNEY 2000 Telephone 27 5374

28th May, 1982  
2/GK/AKR

Mr W G Lamond  
Town Clerk  
The Council of the City of Shoalhaven  
Council Chambers  
NOWRA NSW 2540

Shoalhaven  
17 JUN 1982  
FILE 78/1840  
P2D24/5

Dear Mr Lamond,

Mechanics Institute and School of Arts Building,  
Berry Street, Nowra

I am pleased to inform you that the abovementioned property has been CLASSIFIED and included in the Trust's REGISTER. The REGISTER lists those buildings, sites and areas which, in the Trust's opinion, fall within the following definition:

\* Those places which are components of the natural or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community.

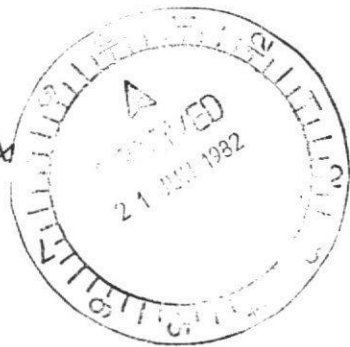
It must be emphasised that the inclusion of a building, site or area in the REGISTER does not mean that the Trust is wanting to purchase that item nor does it mean that the owners will be expected to open it for public inspection.

Listing by the Trust does not have legal force. It is, however, recognised as an authoritative statement of the historical and/or architectural importance of a building, site or area, and by listing such items in its REGISTER the Trust hopes to advise the public of the value of Australia's national heritage.

Enclosed is a report prepared in support of the Trust's listing and I would be pleased if you would advise me of any errors or significant omissions.

Yours sincerely,

John Morris  
JOHN MORRIS  
Director.



encl.

FORM CLERK	Xc	STAYOR	
DEPUTY CLK		ENGINEER	
CHIEF CLERK		HEALTH SUPERVISOR	
ACCOUNTS CLERK		PLASTER WRE	1
ACCOUNTS ASST.		ELECT. BR.	
SECRETARY		PAO CLERK	
RECEPTIONIST		STENOGRAPHER	
PROPERTY CLERK		POST OFFICE	
78/1840	PC	79/2911	77/1873

NOWRA

MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND  
SCHOOL OF ARTS BUILDING

Berry Street

(Town or District)

Post Code 2540 Shire of  
Local Govt Area Shoalhaven

Author of compiled by  
Proposal G Karskens

Date of Proposal November, 1981

(Name or Identification of Listing)

(Address or Location)

Suggested Listing Category CLASSIFIED

Bibliography

Owner and Address

Committee HBC/291  
(Trust Use)

Shoalhaven City Council  
NOWRA NSW 2540

Council APPROVED CL  
(Trust Use) 3/5/1982

Advised: 28/5/1982

Description

Briefly cover the points on the following check list where they are relevant and within your knowledge.

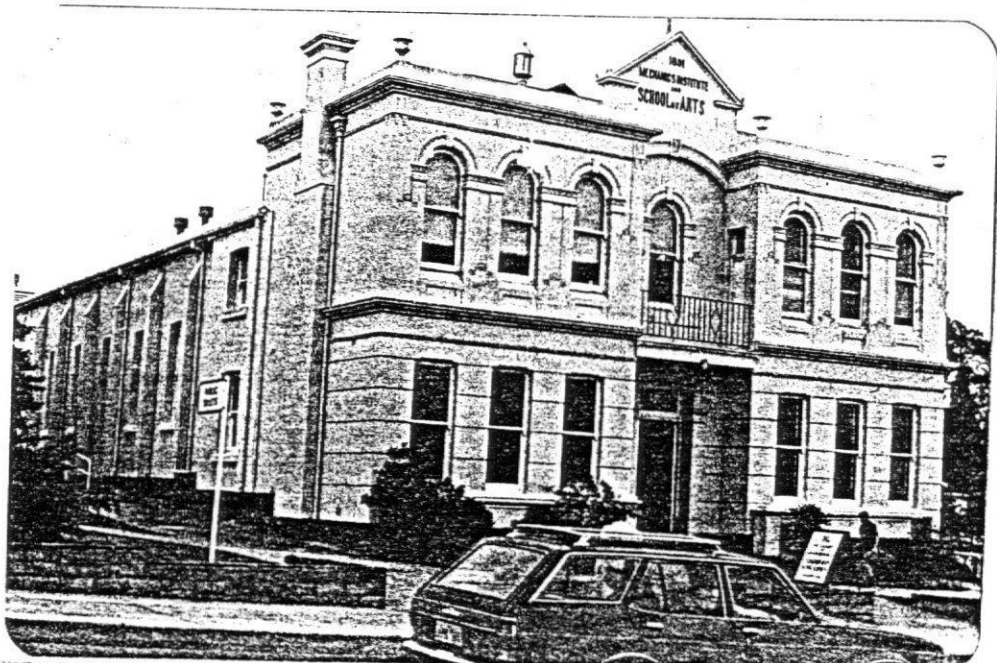
Style  
Construction Use  
Architect/s  
Builder/s  
Date of Construction Present  
Condition History  
Owners  
Boundaries of proposed listing

The Nowra School of Arts was originally established in 1877 and J Green laid the foundation stone for the first building on the corner of Kinghorn and Plunkett Streets in 1878. The institution was active for some time but was too far from the centre of the town and a new School of Arts building was begun in 1891. A new Mechanics Institute was formed in December 1980 and to avoid confusion, it was proposed to amalgamate the two. The building was designed by Cyril Blacket and built by Hamlyn. It was opened in March 1892 when it was described in the SHOALHAVEN TELEGRAPH as an "outstanding piece of architecture and a substantial building." The building was also used by Nowra Municipal Council, provision having been made for a council chamber, library and town clerk's office. The building was used for public gatherings for many years. It is a brick building with a symmetrical stuccoed facade featuring a recessed central balcony above the main door, roundheaded windows with hood-mouldings and keystones to the second floor, moulded string coursing, decorative urns and a large triangular pediment bearing the construction date (1891) and the words "MECHANICS INSTITUTE AND SCHOOL OF ARTS". The building is in good condition, and has not been altered externally, except for the addition of unsympathetic iron balustrading to the balcony.

Reasons for listing

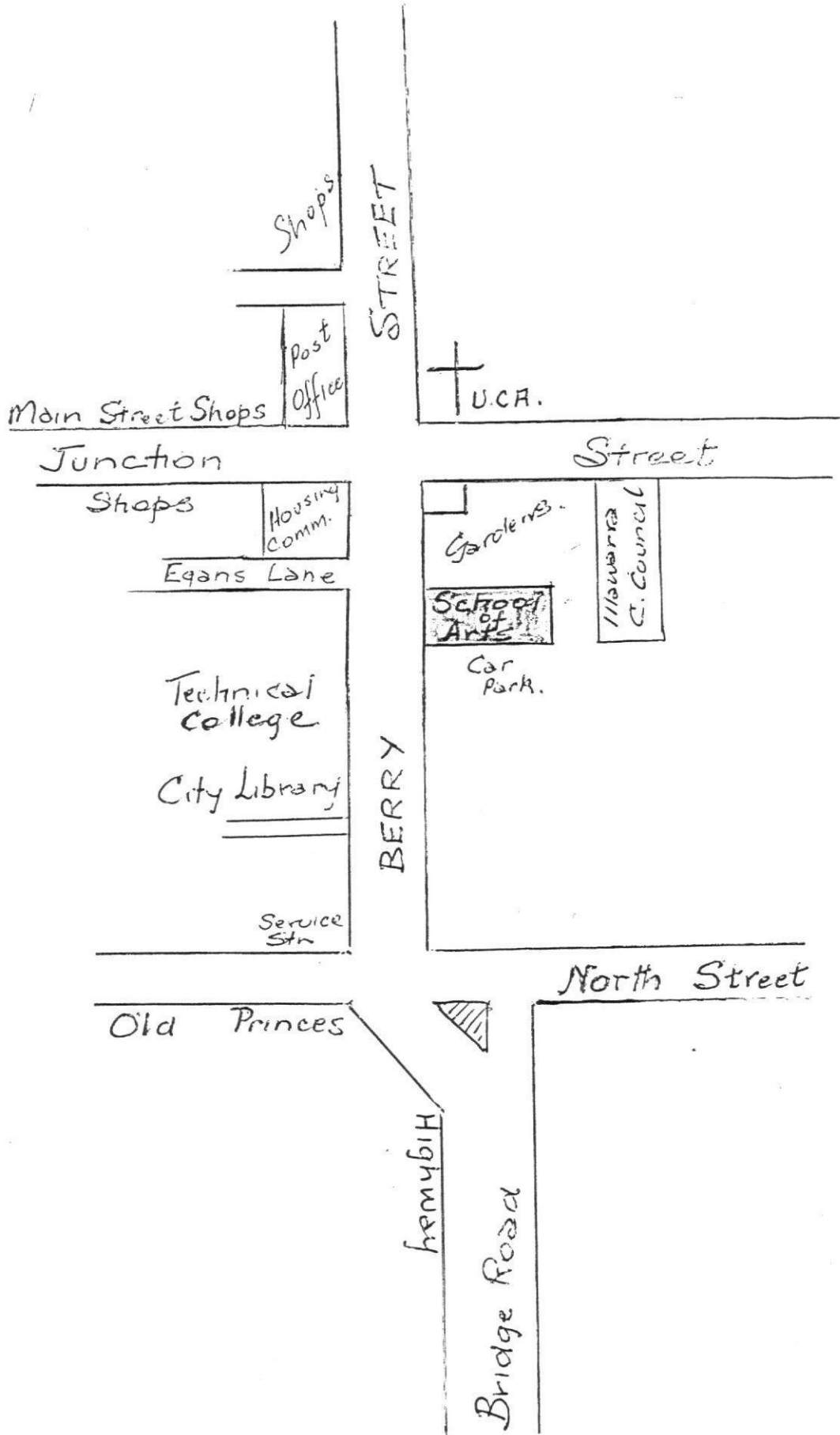
A substantial and externally intact late Victorian School of Arts building designed by a well-known architect which has strong historical links with the community of Nowra by its use as a School of Arts, Mechanics Institute and offices of the Nowra Municipal Council. It is one of the few surviving nineteenth century civic buildings in Nowra.

Sketch plan and photos  
Attach additional photos  
if any.



National Trust of Australia (N.S.W.) Listing Proposal NTN.05

*(Cabal)*  
Copy sent to  
Card Book Co.  
29.6.82  
P. Flower



From SYDNEY



NAME Mechanics Institute and School of Arts  
ADDRESS 25 Berry-Street  
Nowra

REFERENCE NO.  
NB004

NSW 2541

OTHER NAMES School of Arts  
GROUP

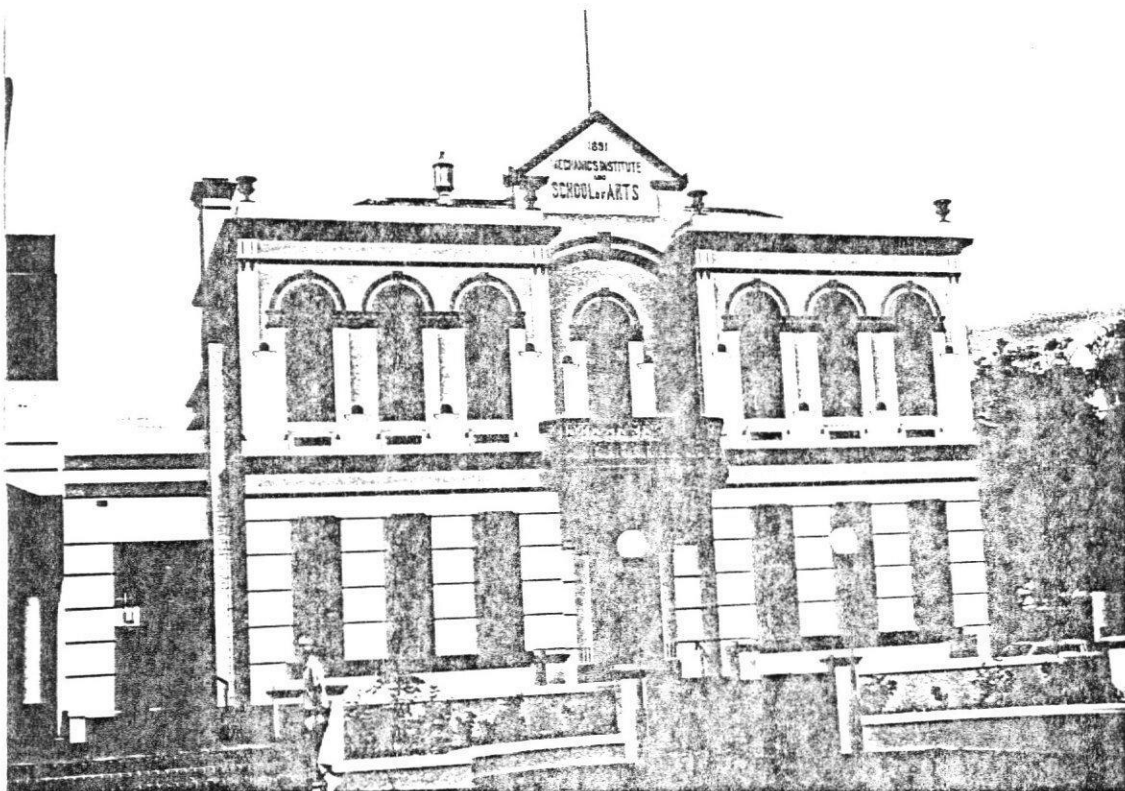
RELATED ITEMS Mafeking War Memorial in Rausch Park

HERITAGE LISTINGS

CATEGORY Bu  
SUB CATEGORY 0207 & 0399  
REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 20 DP 801794  
OWNER Shoalhaven City Council  
ZONING Business 3 (g)  
MAP Berry 9028-3-N  
GRID  
DATE OF SURVEY 20/7/95 RH  
PROPERTY NO. 77348

- Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Register
- Register of the National Estate (AHC) - Interim
- Register of National Trust (NSW)
- Within National Trust Conservation Area
- Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture (RAIA)
- Heritage Council Register - Section 130 Order
- Heritage Council Register - Permanent Conservation Order
- Heritage Council - Interim Conservation Order
- Heritage Council Register - Nomination
- NSW Government Department Heritage Register (S170 Heritage Act)
- Institute of Engineers (NSW) Heritage Register
- Regional Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule
- Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule
- Local Environmental Plan Heritage Schedule - Conservation Area
- Draft Listings
- Heritage Study Listings
- Other Listings :

PHOTOGRAPH / PLAN



FILM ROLL IRHS

NEGATIVE NO.

**NAME** Mechanics Institute and School of Arts  
**ADDRESS** 25 Berry Street  
 Nowra  
**OTHER NAMES** School of Arts

**REFERENCE NO.**  
 NB004

NSW 2541

**DESCRIPTION**

Description: A large, two storey Victorian Classical community building with a symmetrical facade. Construction is of brick with heavy grooved stucco to the ground floor, highly decorative mouldings to openings on second floor, arched label moulds with keystones and elaborate impostes, double hung windows, face brick to rear and side, and cedar joinery to the interior. Features a recessed central bay with open bed pediment to parapet above; arched windows to upper storey; entrance door with moulded frame and fanlight; and iron lace balconette to first floor. The main facade is in two bays; cornices and friezes to the ground and first floor levels interrupted by recess. There are six urns to the parapet, at corners of bays and at edges of cornice returns. Exterior paintwork accentuates detail and contrast.  
 Condition: The building appears to have been recently refurbished; some replacement of fabric but work is mostly sympathetic.

**HISTORICAL NOTES**

A School of Arts was formed in Nowra in 1877 and in its first decade, was involved in a range of activities. The foundation stone for the first Mechanics Institute building was laid in 1878, at the corner of Plunkett and Kinghorne Streets, Nowra. By 1888 the reading room was open six days a week and members were able to browse through a variety of newspapers, with magazines from Britain and the United States.

A new building designed in a free neo Roman style was suggested in 1885 and plans were drawn up by local architect Cyril Blacket and tenders for construction were called in 1890. The successful tenderer was a Mr William Hamlyn. The Trustees of the School of Arts purchased Lot 5 Sect 4 66ft x 198ft from John Morrison in November 1891 for £400 on which to erect the new Mechanics Institute & School of Arts. The foundation stone was laid on 3rd October 1891 by the then Minister for Works, the Hon. J.H. Young, MLA when Sir Henry Parkes was prevented by the illness of an aged sister from attending. The Mechanics Institute & School of Arts building was officially opened on 19th May, 1892.

The building measures 48ft wide by 94ft long and has a two storeyed thirteen windowed rendered brick front section which contains a smoking room to the right and a reading room to the left separated by the entrance hall. At the back of the reading room was the library and opposite the ladies reading room. All rooms contained fireplaces and to the rear of these rooms is the main hall with public gallery above. Four dressing rooms are located behind the stage. A feature of the roof is the four ventilating cones which all lead to a Kershaw ventilating cone in the centre. Two flights of stairs either lead to the main hall gallery (left) or to the Municipal Chambers to the right and the Town Clerks room to the left.

An auditorium seating 500 persons in the back section, has been the venue for Art Shows, eisteddfods, musicals, concerts etc. including a magic lantern show in 1897 ( a new invention at the time) and the exhibition of the Cinematograph, and Rontgen Ray in 1899.

The "Mafeking" Boer War Memorial, now situated in Rauch Park, was once located in the forecourt area of this building.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

A good example of a late Victorian Classical style community building designed by local architect Cyril Blacket. One of the best surviving examples of its style and type in the region. Considerable social and historical importance to the local community which benefits from its streetscape contribution. Long history of community use, and association with the School of Arts movement. Regional significance (Illawarra).

**HISTORICAL THEMES - STATE**

24 (Social Institutions)

**HISTORICAL THEMES - REGIONAL**

**EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE - SUMMARY**

	RARE	REPRESENTATIVE
EVOLUTION - ASSOCIATION (Historical)	L	L
CREATIVE - TECHNICAL (Aesthetic)	L	R
COMMUNITY ESTEEM (Social)		L
RESEARCH POTENTIAL (Scientific)		
OTHER		

**HISTORICAL THEMES - LOCAL**

24.1 (School of Arts/Mechanics Institutes)

NAME Mechanics Institute and School of Arts  
ADDRESS 25 Berry Street  
Nowra  
OTHER NAMES School of Arts

NSW 2541

REFERENCE NO.  
NB004

CONSERVATION ACTION RECOMMENDED

INFORMATION SOURCES - WRITTEN / ORAL / GRAPHIC

Written : Perumal Murphy Wu, Illawarra Regional Heritage Study Review, September 1993; Nowra School of Arts File SHS Archives; Fionance Robyn, The Old Police Station, Plunkett Street, Nowra, Stage 1 of a Conservation Plan, unpub. April 1993  
Oral :  
Graphic :  
Location :

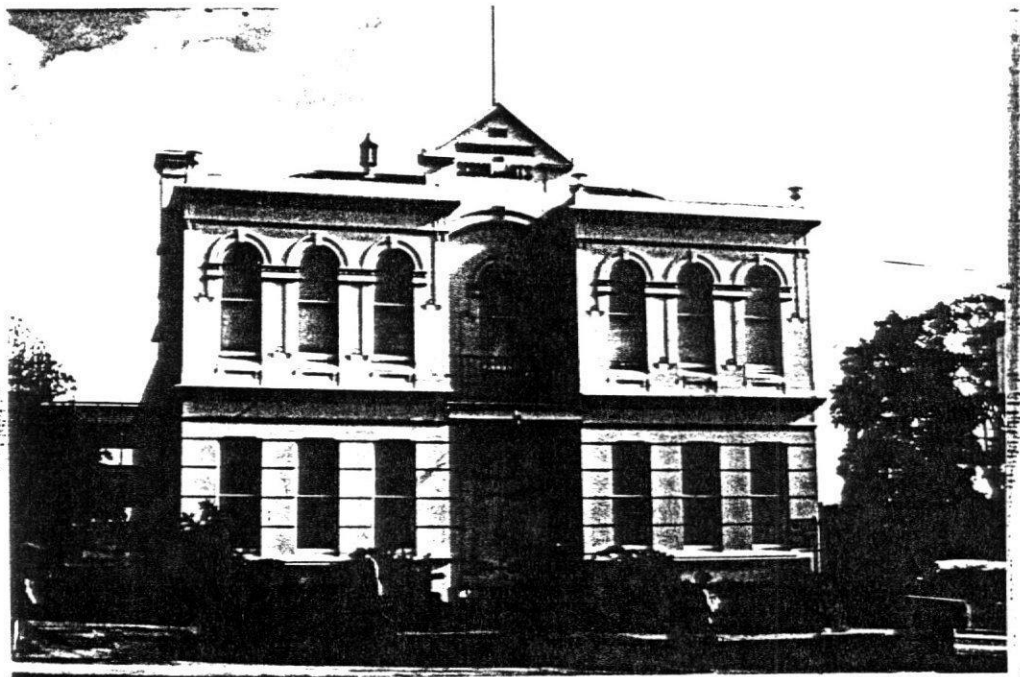
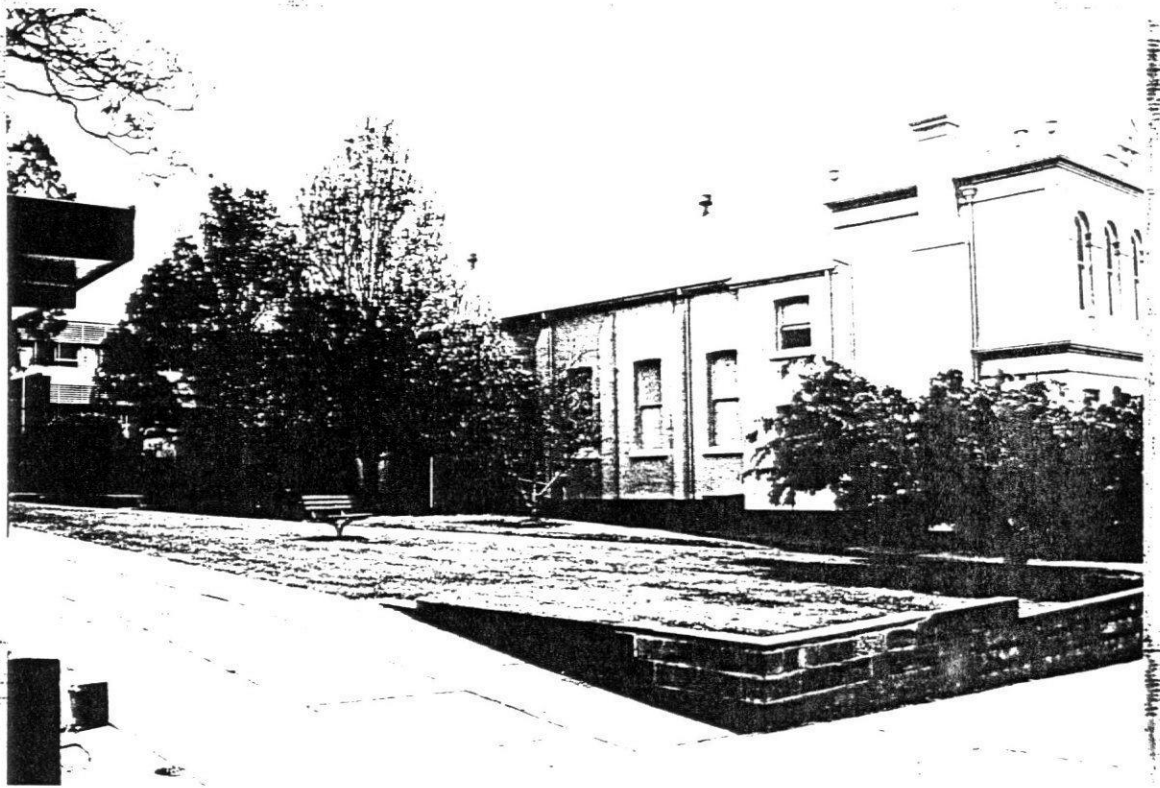
FURTHER INFORMATION

Date: 1891  
Historical Period: 1876-1900  
Architect/Designer: Cyril Blacket  
Builder: W. Hamlyn

A gymnasium and supper room were added to the rear of the building in 1910 from plans drawn by Cyril Blacket. (This building was moved probably circa 1960 to land adjacent to the School of Arts to make way for the new Council building in Junction Street, which is now the Integral Electricity Building)

On 17th February 1912 the Trustees purchased the adjoining land from James Monaghan for £450 on which to build a billiard room and library. On 13th May 1914, the Committee authorised Cyril Blacket to draw up plans and specifications for a new billiard room and library at an estimated cost of £1600 but the plans were pigeonholed until finance became available. In October 1917, the Trustees mortgaged Lot 4 and 5 to Ryan, Watkins and James Pritchard for £1450 in order to obtain funds to proceed with the building, which was supervised by Otto Beckett, a local architect. The new building was opened by the Premier of NSW Hon. W.A. Holman on 18th April 1918. It was used by the Defence Department during World War II but was later demolished and the land is now occupied by the new Post Office building. Nowra Council took over the control of the Literary Institute in 1938.

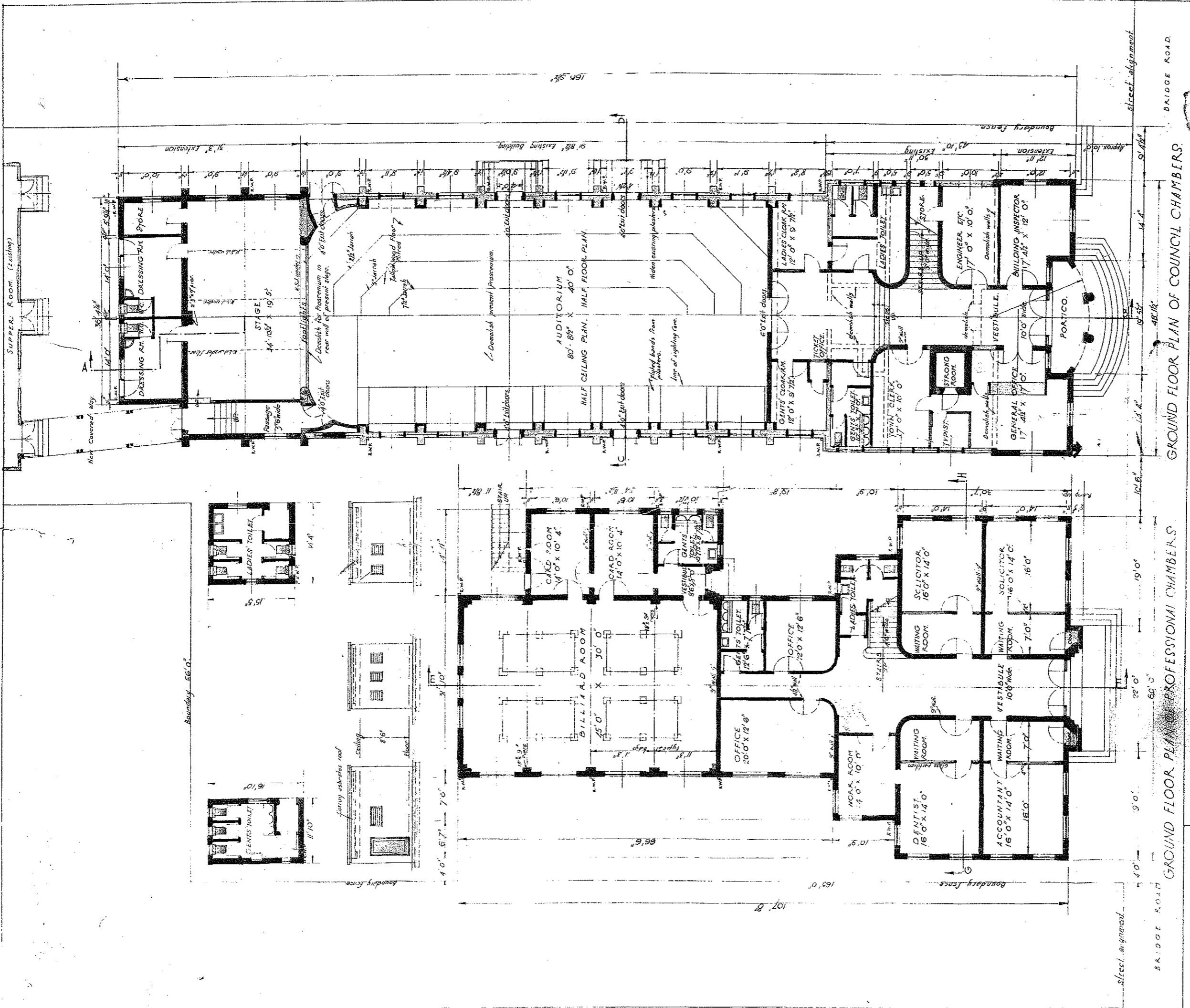
Footnote: The site of the old Mechanic's Institute was demolished to make way for the Nowra Police Station in 1905. The Police Station is now the Nowra Museum.





## APPENDIX 2

**Bishop and Hitchcock working drawings for Alterations and Additions, 1989**



SCALE 1/8 INCH = 1 FOOT

JOB N° 3910 DATE OCT '39

GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF PROFESSIONAL CHAMBERS

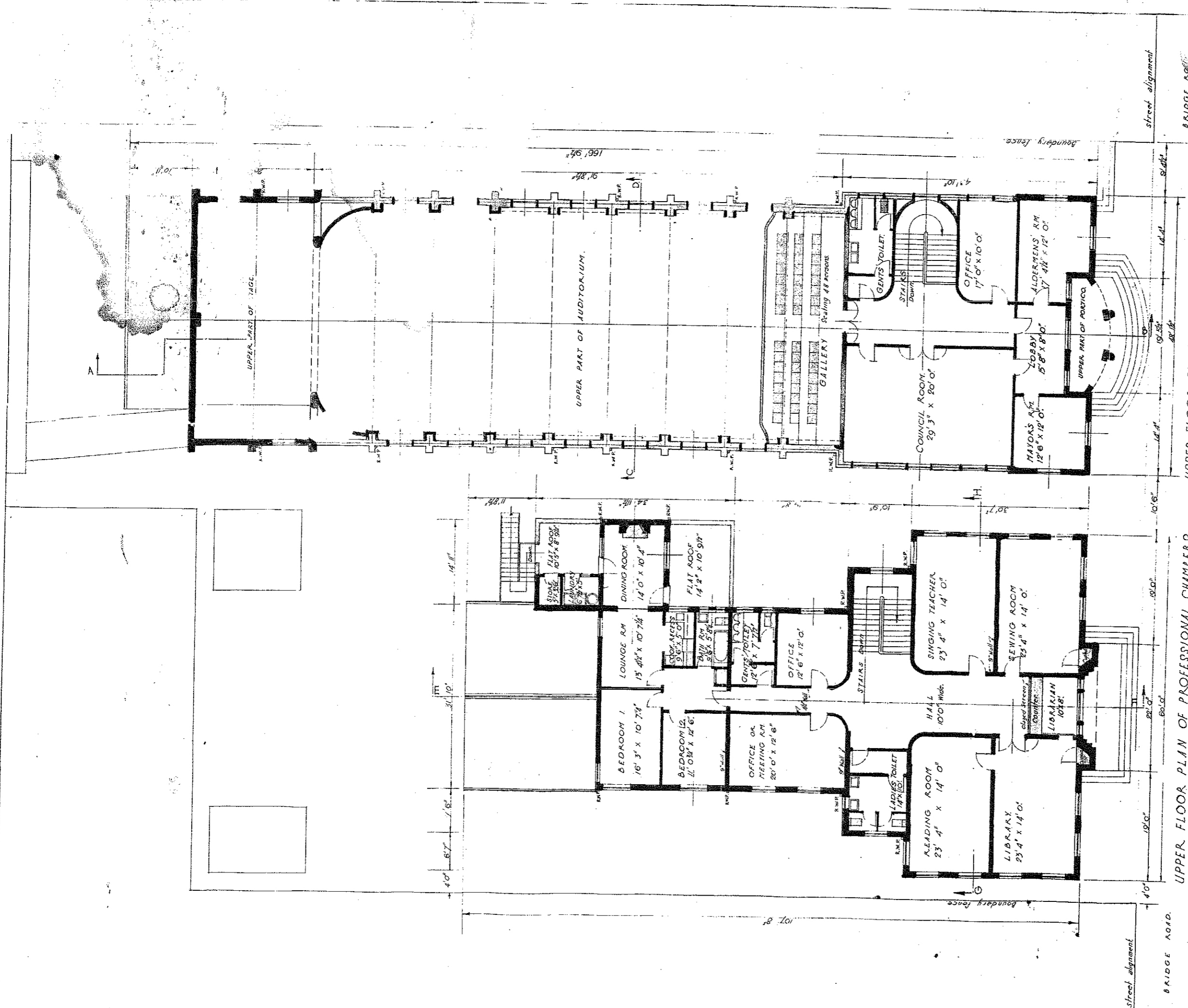
GROUND FLOOR PLAN OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS

DRAWING FOR COUNCIL & PROFESSIONAL CHAMBERS ETC.

BRIDGE ROAD

N O W R A FOR NOWRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

S. AJARVIL & I. KENWOOD  
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS  
1124 KING ST. SYDNEY.  
8.1473.



UPPER FLOOR PLAN OF PROFESSIONAL CHAMBERS. UPPER FLOOR PLAN OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

DRAWING FOR COUNCIL & PROFESSIONAL CHAMBERS, ETC.

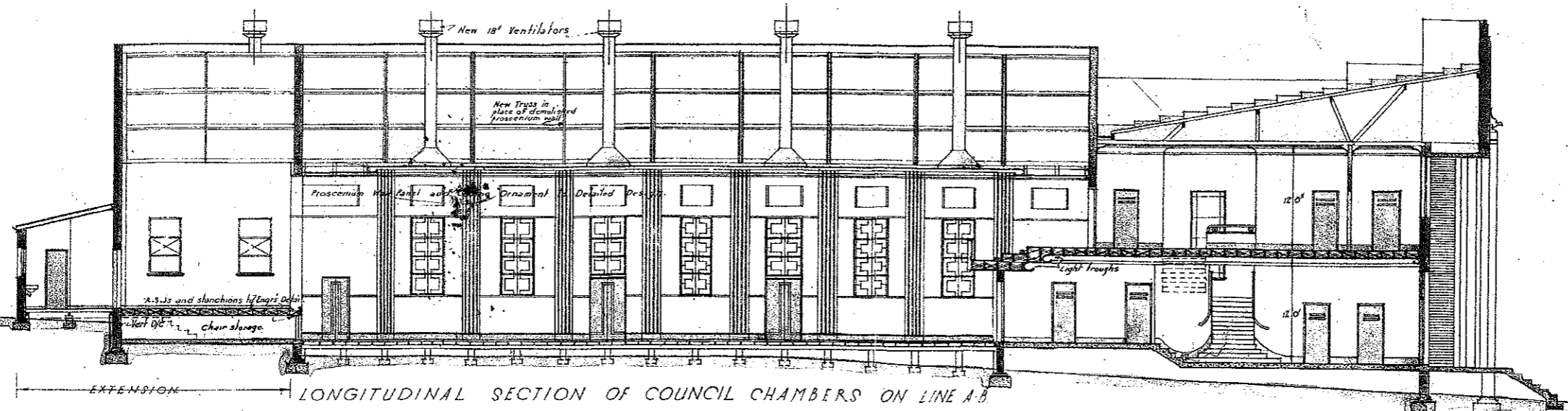
BRIDGE ROAD  
 N O W R A FOR NOWRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

SCALE 1/8 INCH = 1 FOOT.		
JOB N° 3910	DATE	OCT. '39.
DWG N° 2		

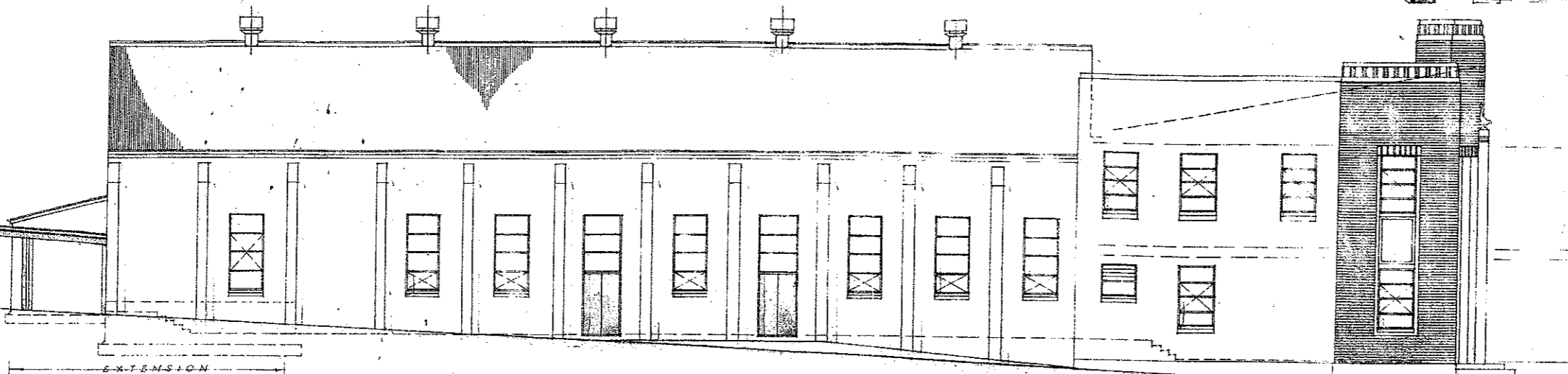
S. J. JARVIE & I. L. KENWOOD  
 ASSOCIATE ARCHT. & CIV. ENGRS.  
 1124 KING ST. SYDNEY

street alignment  
 BRIDGE ROAD

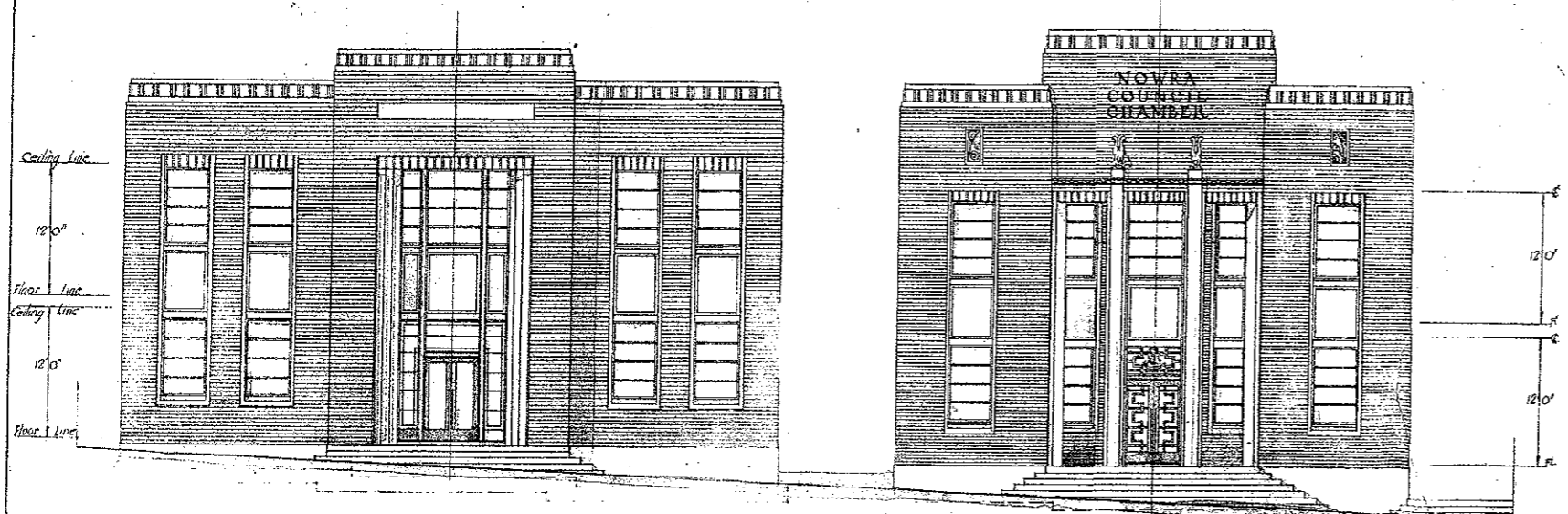
street alignment  
 BRIDGE ROAD



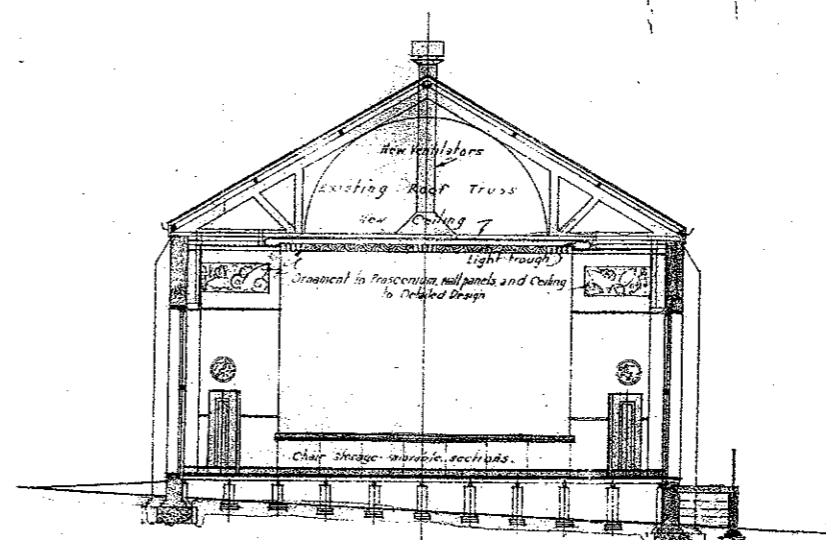
LONGITUDINAL SECTION OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON LINE A-B



SIDE ELEVATION TO COUNCIL CHAMBERS



PROFESSIONAL CHAMBERS • ELEVATION TO BRIDGE RD • COUNCIL CHAMBERS

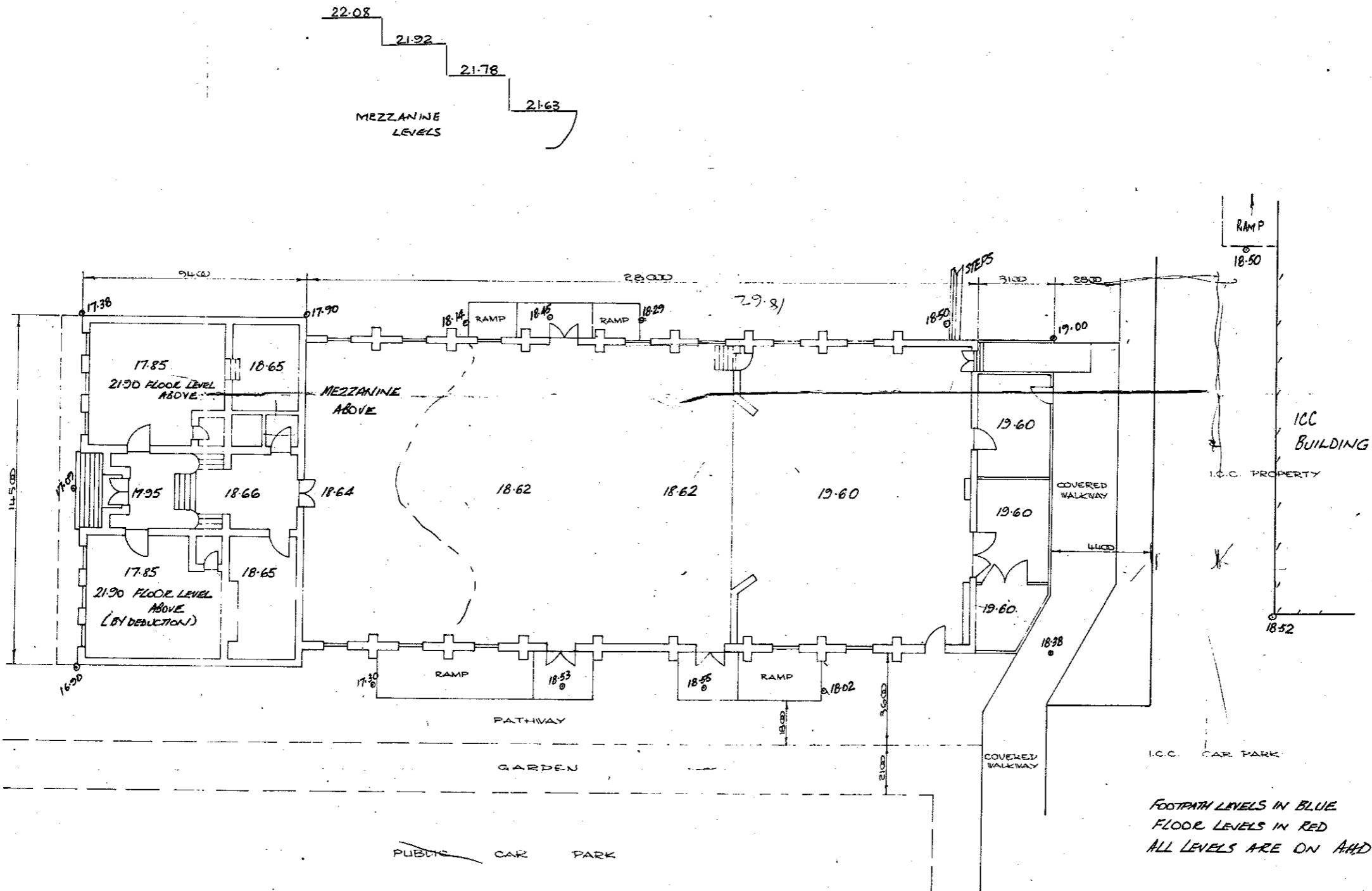


CROSS SECTION OF COUNCIL CHAMBERS C-D

SCALE: 1/8 INCH = 1 FOOT  
 JOB NO 3910 DATE: OCT '39  
 DWG NO 3

DRAWING FOR COUNCIL & PROFESSIONAL CHAMBERS ETC  
 BRIDGE ROAD  
 NOWRA FOR NOWRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

S. J. JARVIS & T. L. KENWOOD  
 ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS  
 1121 KING ST SYDNEY



DESIGNED:	SURVEYED: J. PERRY 9/3/89
DRAWN:	FIELD BOOK:
TRACED:	LEVEL BOOK: JP1
CHECKED:	ORIGIN OF LEVELS: PM 17316
	DATUM: AHD.



# CITY OF SHOALHAVEN

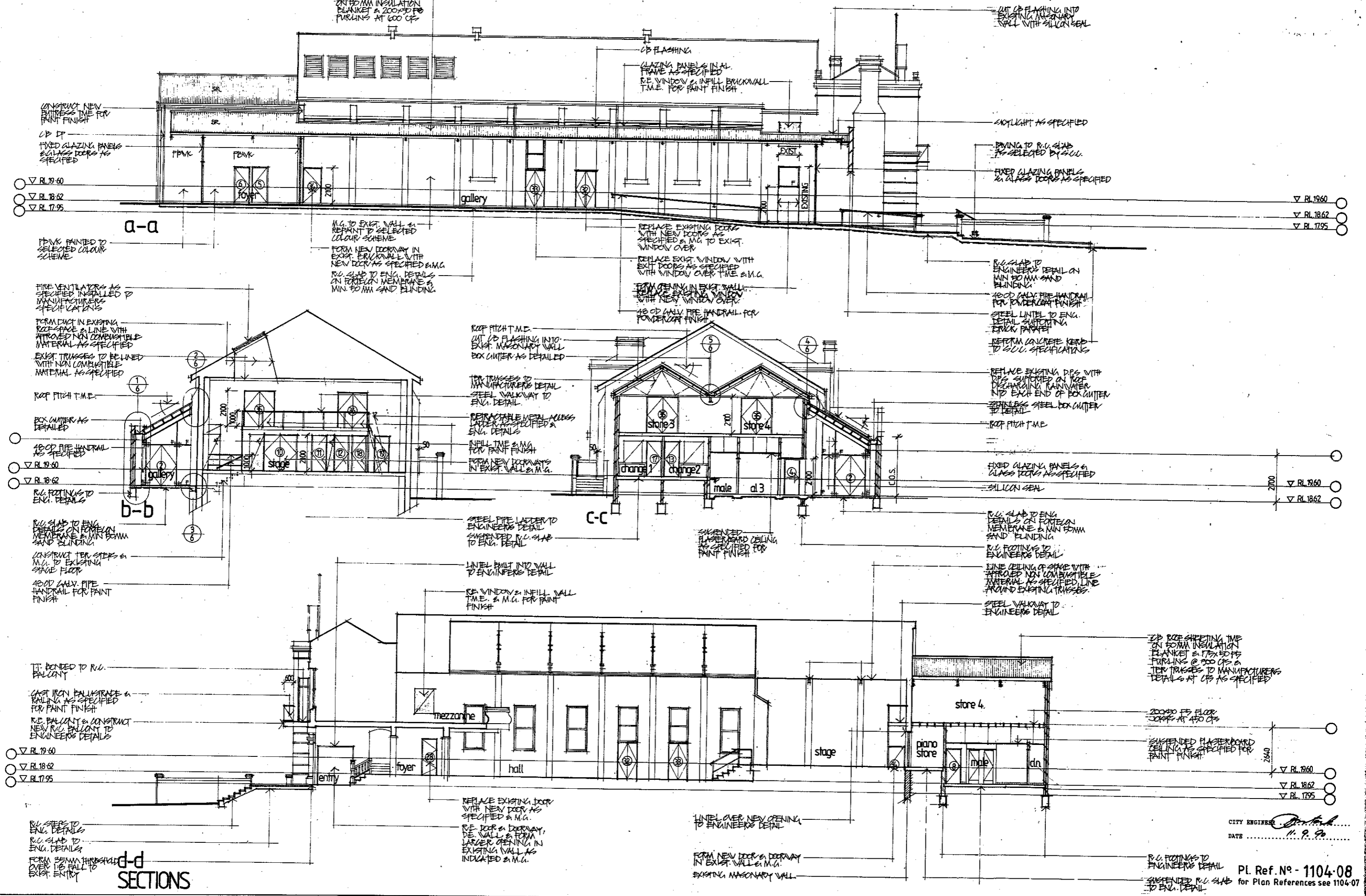
WOMPA - PERRY ST  
SHOALHAVEN - ACTS

REDUCTION RATIO  
1:100



CITY ENGINEER: DATE:

--PLAN REFERENCE--



**NOTES**  
 Figured dimensions to be taken in preference to scaling. Check all dimensions on site before fabricating any item. Drawing to be checked and certified by a practicing structural engineer prior to construction.

**LEGEND:**

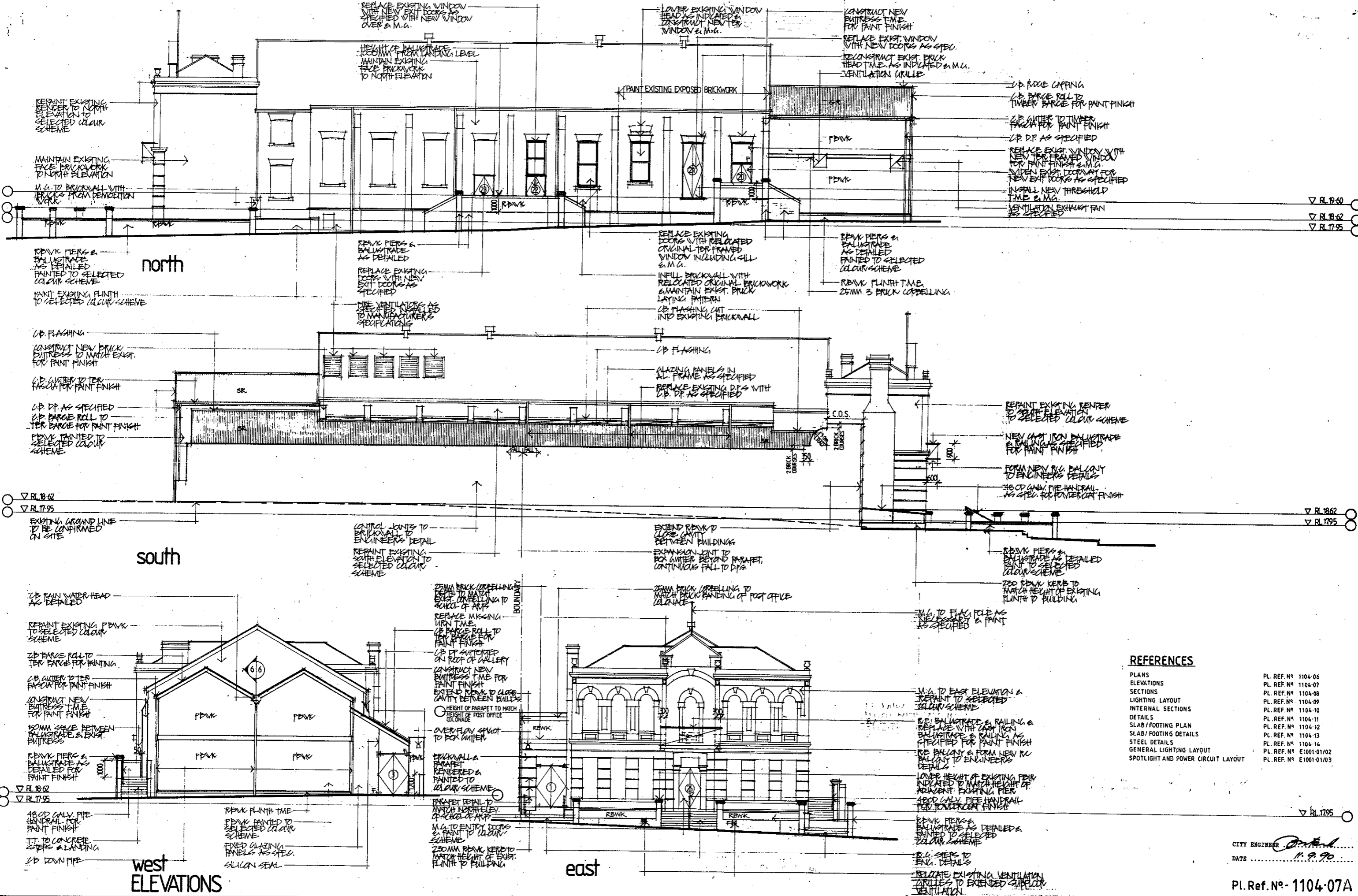
CE	DEMOLISH EXISTING	AL	ALUMINIUM	RBWK	RENDERED AND PAINTED BRICKWORK
TME	TO MATCH EXISTING	CS	COLORBOND ZINCALUME	RC	REINFORCED CONCRETE
MG	MAKE GOOD	CPT	CARPET	SR	COLORBOND ROOF SHEETING
RE	REMOVE EXISTING	CT	CERAMIC TILES	TR	TIMBER
		OP	DOWNPIPE	TT	TERRACOTTA TILES
		PBWK	PAINTED BRICKWORK	V	VINYL



PROJECT:	PROPOSED ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO SCHOOL OF ARTS	SCALE:	1:100	SHEET	3
SITE:	BERRY STREET, NOWRA	DATE:	SEP 09	OF	6
CLIENT:	SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL	DRAWN:	RCH/ML	CHECKED:	
DRAWING:	WORKING DRAWINGS - SECTIONS	JOB No:	89 400 W 3		

CITY ENGINEER: *[Signature]*  
 DATE: 11.9.08

Pl. Ref. No - 1104-08  
 for Plan References see 1104-07



**REFERENCES**

PLANS	PL. REF. NO 1104-06
ELEVATIONS	PL. REF. NO 1104-07
SECTIONS	PL. REF. NO 1104-08
LIGHTING LAYOUT	PL. REF. NO 1104-09
INTERNAL SECTIONS	PL. REF. NO 1104-10
DETAILS	PL. REF. NO 1104-11
SLAB/FOOTING PLAN	PL. REF. NO 1104-12
SLAB/FOOTING DETAILS	PL. REF. NO 1104-13
STEEL DETAILS	PL. REF. NO 1104-14
GENERAL LIGHTING LAYOUT	PL. REF. NO E1001-01/02
SPOTLIGHT AND POWER CIRCUIT LAYOUT	PL. REF. NO E1001-01/03

**NOTES**

Figured dimensions to be taken in preference to scaling. Check all dimensions on site before fabricating any item. Drawing to be checked and certified by a practicing structural engineer prior to construction.

**LEGEND:**

DE	DEMOLISH EXISTING	AL	ALUMINIUM	RBWK	RENDERED AND PAINTED BRICKWORK
TE	TO MATCH EXISTING	CB	COLORBOND ZINCALUME	RC	REINFORCED CONCRETE
MS	MAKE GOOD	CPT	CARPET	SR	COLORBOND ROOF SHEETING
RE	REMOVE EXISTING	CT	CERAMIC TILES	TBR	TIMBER
		DP	DOWNPIPE	ST	TERRACOTTA TILES
		PBWK	PAINTED BRICKWORK	V	VINYL

**Amendments**

A	FRONT COURTYARD WALLS LOWERED	27/11/90
---	-------------------------------	----------



**PROJECT:** PROPOSED ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO SCHOOL OF ARTS

**SITE:** BERRY STREET, NOWRA

**CLIENT:** SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL

**DRAWING:** WORKING DRAWINGS - ELEVATIONS

**SCALE:** 1:100

**DATE:** Sep. 89

**DRAWN:** RGH/mal

**CHECKED:**

**JOB No:** 89 400 W 2

**SHEET:** 2 of 6

CITY ENGINEER *[Signature]*

DATE 11.9.90

Pl. Ref. No - 1104-07A

## APPENDIX 3

**Jarvie and Kenwood design drawings for redevelopment of  
the School of Arts and Municipal Offices, 1938**



- DEMOLITION NOTES**
1. ALL WINDOWS INCLUDING FRAMES & SILLAS THAT ARE TO BE REMOVED OR RELOCATED ARE TO BE REMOVED WITH CARE, REPAIRED WHERE REQUIRED, STORED & MAINTAINED IN GOOD ORDER.
  2. FULL EXTENT OF DEMOLITION OF EXISTING CONCRETE PAVING TO BE DETERMINED ON SITE BY S.C.U.
  3. ALL EXISTING SERVICE LINES & FITS TO BE COMPLETELY REMOVED FROM SOUTHERN SIDE OF SCHOOL OF ARTS BUILDING UNLESS DIRECTED BY S.C.U. & RELEVANT AUTHORITIES.
  4. MAKE GOOD TO ALL SURFACES WHERE EXISTING SERVICES HAVE BEEN REMOVED OR RELOCATED.
  5. REMOVE EXISTING BRICKWORK AS INDICATED WITH CARE. RETAIN BRICKS IN GOOD ORDER FOR LATER REUSE.
  6. REMOVE ALL EXISTING EXTERNAL LIGHT FITTINGS & CONDUIT & MAKE GOOD.

D.E. CONCRETE PAVING REFER DEMOLITION NOTE 2

D.E. TERR ROOF & ROOF OVER

D.E. TERR STRUCTURE INCLUDING WALLS, FLOOR WINDOWS, ROOF & ROOF OVER

LINE OF EXIST. TRUSSES OVER

D.E. CONCRETE STEPS & LANDING

D.E. TERR WALL

D.E. CONCRETE STEPS

D.E. CONCRETE PAVING REFER DEMOLITION NOTE 2

FORM NEW DOORWAY IN EXISTING BRICK WALL & MAKE GOOD

STEEL FRAME ACCESS WALKWAY TO STORES & STREETS & ENG. DETAILS

400 CALV PIPE HANDRAIL FOR PAINT FINISH

REIN. PERS & BALUSTRADE AS SPECIFIED

TT TO CONCRETE STEPS, ROW & LANDING

CONSTRUCT NEW ENTRANCE TIME FOR PAINT FINISH

FORM 35MM THRESHOLD OVER 180 FALL SHOWN SHADDED

CONSTRUCT NEW TERRACE TIME FOR PAINT FINISH

FORM 35MM THRESHOLD OVER 180 FALL SHOWN SHADDED

FORM 35MM THRESHOLD OVER 180 FALL SHOWN SHADDED

FORM 35MM THRESHOLD OVER 180 FALL SHOWN SHADDED

- CONSTRUCTION NOTES**
1. FORM NEW DOORWAYS FOR D10, 11, 12, 18, 19 IN EXISTING WALL & MAKE GOOD
  2. LEVELS TO BERRY STREET PAVING & PAVING TO NORTH ELEVATION TO BE DETERMINED ON SITE BY S.C.U.
  3. FRONTAGE TO BERRY STREET TO BE DETERMINED BY S.C.U. AS PER PREVIOUS BOUNDARY.
  4. RAMPING & DISABLED ACCESS FROM BERRY STREET TO FUTURE DESIGN

LEGEND:

DE DEMOLISH EXISTING

TR TIME TO MATCH EXISTING

MS MAKE GOOD

RE REMOVE EXISTING

AL ALUMINUM

CB CORRUGATED GALVANIZED STEEL

GT GRANITE

OP DOWNPIPE

PBWB PAINTED BRICKWORK

RBWK RENDERED AND PAINTED BRICKWORK

RC REINFORCED CONCRETE

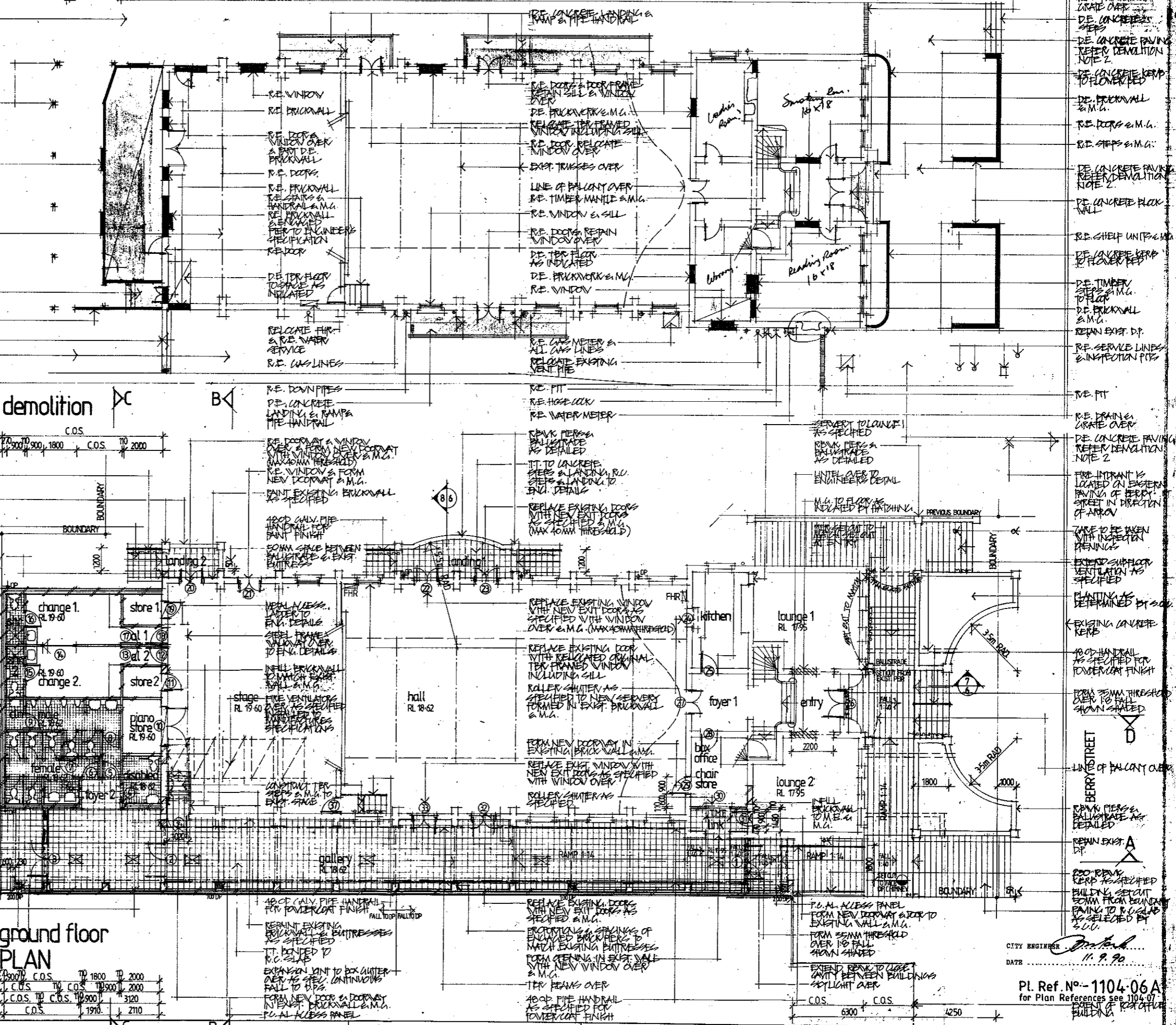
COL CORRUGATED ROOF SHEETING

SB STRAIGHT BRICK

TBR TIMBER

TT TERRAZZOTA TILES

V VENTILATION



RE. DRAINAGE GRATE OVER

D.E. CONCRETE STEPS

D.E. CONCRETE PAVING REFER DEMOLITION NOTE 2

D.E. CONCRETE REPAIR TO FLOORED

D.E. BRICK WALL & M.G.

D.E. ROOF & M.G.

D.E. STEPS & M.G.

D.E. CONCRETE PAVING REFER DEMOLITION NOTE 2

D.E. CONCRETE BLOCK WALL

RE. SHELF UNIT & M.G.

D.E. CONCRETE REPAIR TO FLOORED

D.E. TIMBER STEPS & M.G.

D.E. BRICK WALL & M.G.

REMAIN EXIST. D.P.

RE. SERVICE LINES & INSPECTION PITS

RE. FIT

RE. DRAINAGE GRATE OVER

D.E. CONCRETE PAVING REFER DEMOLITION NOTE 2

FIRE HYDRANT IS LOCATED ON EXISTING PAVING OF BERRY STREET IN DIRECTION OF APPROX

CARE TO BE TAKEN WITH INSPECTION OPENINGS

EXTEND SUPPLY VENTILATION AS SPECIFIED

PLANTING AS DETERMINED BY S.C.U.

EXISTING CONCRETE REPAIR

400 HANDRAIL AS SPECIFIED FOR POWDERCOAT FINISH

FORM 35MM THRESHOLD OVER 180 FALL SHOWN SHADDED

LINE OF BALCONY OVER BERRY STREET

REIN. PERS & BALUSTRADE AS SPECIFIED

REMAIN EXIST. D.P.

200 REIN. REPAIR AS SPECIFIED BUILDING SETBACK 500MM FROM BOUNDARY PAVING TO B.C. GRAD AS SELECTED BY S.C.U.

CITY ENGINEER *[Signature]*

DATE 11.9.90

Pl. Ref. No. - 1104-06A  
for Plan References see 1104-07

**NOTES**

Figured dimensions to be taken in preference to scaling. Check all dimensions on site before fabricating any item. Drawing to be checked and certified by a practicing structural engineer prior to construction.

**Amendments**

A	PIERS ADDED & MOVED IN FRONT COURTYARD WALLS	27/11/90
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**ARCHITECTS**

BISHOP and HITCHCOCK

91A/95B ST. NOWRA, 2556

**PROJECT: PROPOSED ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS TO SCHOOL OF ARTS**

**SITE: BERRY STREET, NOWRA**

**CLIENT: SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL**

**DRAWING: WORKING DRAWING - PLANS**

SCALE: 1:100

DATE: SEP 89

DRAWN: RH mal

CHECKED:

JOB No: 89 400 W1

SHEET 1 of 6