



The Commissariat Store Museum from William Street

Credit:
Sue Finnigan



The Commissariat Store Museum from Queen's Wharf Road

Credit: RHSO



From the collection -
Isabella Petrie's workbox,
made from Queensland
timbers

Credit: Mark Stephen

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Presented by Museum & Gallery Services Queensland in partnership with the Commissariat Store Museum

'Did You Know' – intriguing facts about the Museum

- The Commissariat Store is one of only two convict-built buildings still standing in Brisbane today. Both of these buildings were constructed during Captain Patrick Logan's term as commandant of the penal colony and are a testament to the extremely harsh punishment suffered by the convicts of Moreton Bay. On display at the Commissariat Store Museum are many convict-era objects.
- Prisoners desperate to avoid heavy labour would deliberately injure themselves. The artifacts from St Helena Island, which functioned as a high-security colonial prison from 1867, includes a small glass jar of the remains of their human fingertips.
- The museum also contains the hanging beam from Boggo Road Jail- used between 1883 to 1913 to carry out capital punishment in Queensland. In 1913, it was used in the hanging of Ernest Austin, the last man hung in the state.
- Its collection also features 10 breastplates. One is inscribed '*Toompani/Amity Point/Awarded by the Governor for the assistance he afforded with five of his countrymen to the survivors of the wreck of the steamer 'Sovereign' by rescuing them from the surf of Moreton Island 11/03/1847 upon which melancholy occasion 46 persons were drowned and by the aid of the natives 10 were saved.*'

Our Profile

The Commissariat Store Museum is housed in the only occupied convict-built structure in Brisbane and holds a significant collection spanning Moreton Bay's penal colony, early free settlement in Queensland and social history in Brisbane and Queensland up to the 20th Century.

We offer a hands-on heritage experience to our visitors and provide informative and interesting guided tours detailing Brisbane during the years of convict settlement. Aside from a significant collection of convict items on display and available for handling, such as leg irons, keys, cooking utensils and convict made bricks, our collection also includes various items from St Helena Island, a substantial collection of furniture and household items bought to Queensland by our early free settlers, significant arts and craft items, such as pieces by L. J. Harvey and Muriel McDiarmid which reflect Queensland's unique arts movement in the early 20th Century, and various items which uncover the state's early shipping and maritime history such as items from the Government paddle steamer The Lucinda and the Queen of the Colonies shipwreck.

Additionally, the building itself is the star feature of our museum as it is the only occupied convict-built building in Brisbane. The Commissariat Store was constructed in 1829 through convict labour under the direction of Captain Patrick Logan; an individual who played a significant part in the establishment of the state of Queensland through his role as commandant of the penal colony between 1826 – 1830.

What the Standards Program has meant for our Museum

Recognition of past achievements

Participating in the Standards Program was a productive exercise for our museum volunteers to recognise our significant achievements with the museum so far, despite limited resources. This can give all involved a confidence boost and the assurance that we are heading in the right direction.

More support for our museum

Participating in the Standards Program has made us aware of the opportunities presented by other organisations and individuals, such as M&GSO, Museums Australia, our reviewers and university students, to assist us with the operation of the museum and specific projects.