

Past plans for town hall

Contributed by Temora Shire Council Heritage Officer, Bill Speirs.

With planning presently well underway for the refurbishment of the Temora Town Hall, it is somehow serendipitous that the plans of Temora's first attempt to provide such a facility for the community, nearly 100 years ago, should come to light. For the first three decades of Temora's development, the town's larger public meetings were generally held in the private halls associated with local hotels.

When Charles Trefle was appointed administrator of the Temora Municipality on March 1, 1910, faced with sorting out the mess in which many months of dysfunctional governance had embroiled the Municipal Council, one of his first priorities was to push forward earlier efforts to build a town hall.

On March 14, he struck a special town hall rate of one penny in the pound on the Unimproved Value of all the rateable land in the municipality, and two months later he applied to the New South Wales Governor for permission to raise a loan of £4000 to build in accordance with plans that the council had earlier commissioned.

Following the re-instatement of a Municipal Council on June 22, 1910, the project was reviewed and new plans and estimates sought.

At a cost of £4750, the town hall was to be built on the site of the existing Council Chambers, which stood on Hoskins Street beside what is now "Paleface Park", and extend across the site presently occupied by "Dale's Camera Centre" and the old CBA Bank building, running back to the lane. The town hall was to include new Municipal Council Chambers.

The ultimate failure of the proposal hinged upon the fact that Council was anxious to include two shops at the front of the hall which could be leased to help pay for the cost of the building.

Under a strict interpretation of the legislation, the council was required to have at least a 40 foot frontage directly onto the street.

The plans drawn up by Henry Laker, local architect and Narraburra Shire Engineer, on August 1, 1911, were approved by both the municipal council and the relevant Government authorities subject to a proposed change in the Local Government Act, permitting the shops.

This change in the Act did not, however, come into effect until 1914, by which time the availability of funds was overshadowed by hostilities in

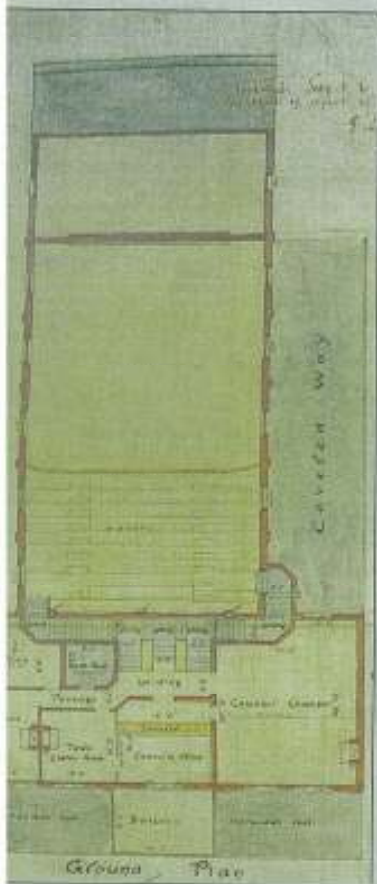
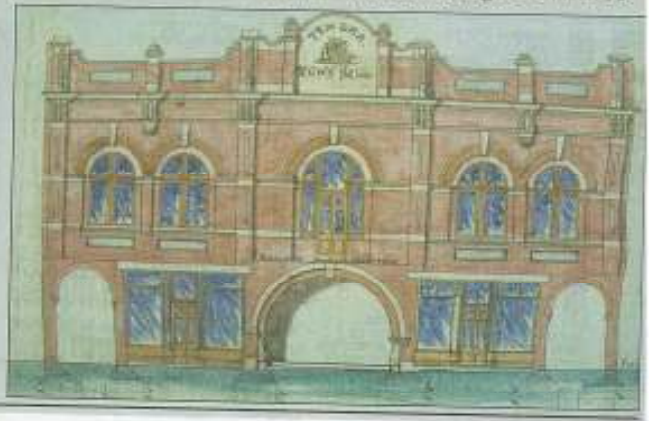
Europe.

After the war, in 1921, Council commissioned new chambers, without an associated town hall.

Four years later, a new School of Arts was erected on the opposite corner of De Boos and Loftus Streets, on a site Council had purchased in 1913, while the push to build the town hall continued.

Subsequent construction of St Paul's Parish Hall and the "Strand Theatre" catered for most of the needs the original town hall was designed to address and so it was not until the early 1960s that the matter was effectively revisited.

Temora's town hall was finally opened on June 23, 1966.



The plan for the proposed ground floor.