



# CLEVELAND QLD (1)

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**2012: The first Cleveland School of Arts, now known as Edgar Harley Hall**

**The Memorial Hall, the second School of Arts, is in the background.**

**Name: School of Arts**

**Address: Shore Street, Cleveland. (1890 until moved to Redland Showground 1950s.)**

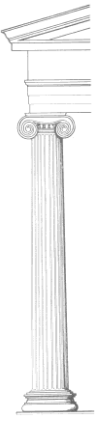
## **The Town/District:**

<sup>2</sup>*Cleveland, a suburb of Redland City, is situated on Moreton Bay opposite North Stradbroke Island, 26 km south-east of central Brisbane. It was named in 1840 after the Duke of Cleveland. The suburb's northern shoreline faces Raby Bay, which was the name of the castle where the Duke resided.*

*There was considerable shipping around Cleveland Point, some to the Brisbane River but much to the Cleveland port. The sand bar across the river made Cleveland an acceptable port, and for a short time it vied with Brisbane as the colony's capital. The Cleveland township was proclaimed in 1850.*

<sup>1</sup> Photo taken by Audrey Warner, August 2012

<sup>2</sup> [queenslandplaces.com.au](http://queenslandplaces.com.au)



*Cleveland's population grew to about 300 by the end of the 1870s. A school was opened in 1868, Anglican and Catholic churches were opened in 1874 and 1877, and a school of arts in 1888. The Cleveland local government division was established in 1885, four years before the railway line from Brisbane was opened. The Cleveland railway station was east of the present station, near Passage Street. Shops and a goods yard were nearby.*

*Cleveland Shire, with an area of 28 sq miles, included considerable farmland of good quality. Produce was readily railed to Brisbane, particularly bananas, citrus and strawberries. There were three hotels in the 1920s, upholding Cleveland's reputation as a watering place, as well as several stores and trades people and the office of the Redland Mercury newspaper. With rail access, the Shire's population more than tripled during 1911-47 to nearly 3400.*

Today, Cleveland, a commercial, residential and industrial area, is the Council seat for Redland City, with a population (in the 2006 census) of 13,585<sup>3</sup>. It is the terminating station for the rail line from Brisbane City and the terminal for ferries to and from North Stradbroke Island. There are public and private hospitals, many private and state schools, sporting grounds, a very active Arts community, many community 'Seniors' organisations and the home of the Redland Museum with its large collection of memorabilia from the area, plus ever-changing exhibitions. The Redland Performing Arts Centre attracts many renowned performers as well as being the venue for local school presentations.

There are many fine eateries in the area including the historic Courthouse Restaurant and Lighthouse Restaurant, both with views across Moreton Bay. The Lighthouse Restaurant is situated on Cleveland Point where the original Cleveland Light was built in 1864, replaced in 1969, but shifted as a project of the Redland Museum, and recently restored as an attraction for the many tourists who visit the area.

### **Establishment:**

<sup>4</sup>Originally known as the Cleveland School of Arts Reserve, the old Cleveland Showgrounds reserve, situated beside the road to Cleveland Point, was gazetted in 1882 under the trusteeship of William Finucane, James Honeyman and E. Kelk. The Cleveland School of Arts Hall was built on the site in 1890<sup>5</sup>.

The **Cleveland** Agricultural Horticultural & Industrial Society (A.H.& I.) held its first agricultural show in the School of Arts grounds in 1904<sup>6</sup>.

At the Annual Meeting in 1896 of members of the Cleveland School of Arts, the Treasurer reported receipts: £5.7.0 subscriptions and donations; £3.10.0 rent of hall; £2.11.09 Government subsidy. Expenditure: £3 on books; 1.6.0 for papers; £2.10.0 Insurance; £7.12.9 interest on Bank overdraft; £2.10.0 sundries. Debit balance: £100.12.0 due to bank<sup>7</sup>.

In the Brisbane Courier of 8<sup>th</sup> March, 1897, it was reported that the Trustees of the School of Arts had decided not to take out a Mortgage deed because of conditions which would be imposed; instead a suggestion by Mr. Gray, Secretary, that sixteen £5 debentures should be issued bearing 10 per cent interest found favour<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia

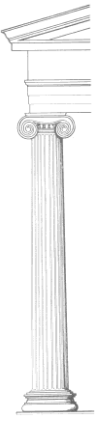
<sup>4</sup> Redland City Council History Pamphlet

<sup>5</sup> Redland Centenary Souvenir - A Hundred Years of Progress

<sup>6</sup> Redland Centenary Souvenir - A Hundred Years of Progress

<sup>7</sup> NLA Trove - Brisbane Courier 24 Jan 1896

<sup>8</sup> NLA Trove - Brisbane Courier 8 Mar 1897



### **Building: The Shore Street Building 1882**

Reporting in the Brisbane Courier of 19<sup>th</sup> March, 1900, the writer stated *The Cleveland School of Arts, possessing a large roomy hall and stage and a handy little library has been the scene of a good many pleasant gatherings and might be used more often than it is for purposes of instruction and amusement.....*<sup>9</sup>

The Country News Section of the Brisbane Courier of 6<sup>th</sup> December, 1929, stated: *It is probable that the old Cleveland School of Arts building will be converted into a pavilion for the local A.H. & I Association. As the result of a conference between the School of Arts Committee and delegates from the Show Society, a satisfactory arrangement was arrived at and the Trustees will hand over the building and land to the A.H. & I. Society. It is likely that the building will be shifted to a more suitable site on the show grounds adjoining the institution.*

The Brisbane Courier of 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1930, reported: *A transfer of the Cleveland School of Arts and land as a gift to the Cleveland A.H. & I. Association is regarded locally as a windfall and much of the optimism expressed at the annual meeting of the Association, held on January 15, was based on the important prospects brought about by the proposed conversion of the hall into a show pavilion. The meeting was held in the Redlands Memorial Hall and the retiring President (Councillor S.R. Trundel) presided.....*<sup>10</sup>



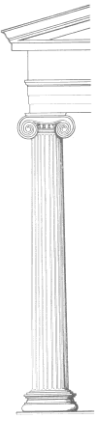
**The original School of Arts building was moved to the showgrounds in the 1930s. The showgrounds were re-located in the 1950s with the building also re-located to the new site.**

In 1948 the **Cleveland** A.H. & I. Society became the **Redlands** A. H. & I Society<sup>11</sup>. In the early 1950s, plans were made to move Cleveland's agricultural shows from this showgrounds reserve to the new showgrounds in Smith St, Cleveland. The School of Arts Hall was moved to the new grounds, converted into a two-storey building and renamed the Edgar Harley

<sup>9</sup> NLA Trove - Brisbane Courier 19 Mar 1900

<sup>10</sup> NLA Trove - Brisbane Courier 17 Jan 1930

<sup>11</sup> Redland Centenary Souvenir – A Hundred Years of Progress



Pavilion after the long-time secretary of the society. The poultry pavilion was also moved. The first show was held on the new grounds in July 1952.



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**1950s: Moving again to the location at the new Smith Street showgrounds. The building was located at the southern end of the new showgrounds. It was also raised to provide two stories.**

**REDLAND SHOWTIME '83** 3



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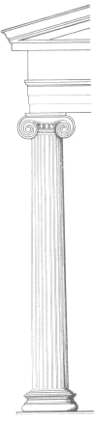
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**Redland Showground**

**1983**

This plan of the layout of the Showground shows the First School of Arts building (built 1890). It was located left of centre at the bottom of the diagram.





In 2008, the Edgar Harley Pavilion was again moved, this time to the northern side of the showgrounds, restored to a one storey building and placed behind the previously moved School of Arts & Memorial Hall.



14

2008: Moving once more. The former School of Arts is moved to the northern side of the showgrounds and restored to a single-storey building.

### Uses for Building:

An article in the Brisbane Courier of 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1881, reported: *However, even those who like Cleveland most because of the absolute rest it affords.....will be gratified to learn that the dear old Sleepy Hollow of Brisbane seaside resorts is now in possession of a School of Arts where they will find, if they want to, most of the leading English papers and many of those belonging to Queensland and the southern colonies.....Books are promised to start a library, and the gentleman to whose exertions this is mainly due has collected in and around Cleveland, as donations or subscriptions, £30 to meet preliminary expenses.....anyone who chooses to forward to the Courier office a book or books to help the Cleveland School of Arts Library, may be sure their gift will reach its intended destination.....*<sup>15</sup>

As outlined above, the Hall was later used by the A.H. & I. Association and for many Social occasions as below.

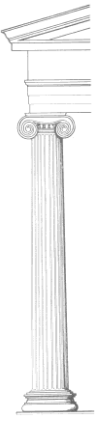
### Social History:

Christmas Eve, 1896, and guests attending the School of Arts viewed a Maypole dance performed by local boys and girls. There was also a *shapely Cyprus pine* Christmas tree with about 200 presents bought from money collected from ladies and gentlemen of the area. Tea and Christmas cake were provided and later the adults took to the floor dancing waltzes etc.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Photo by Les Warner

<sup>15</sup> NLA Trove - Brisbane Courier 22 Jul 1881

<sup>16</sup> NLA Trove - Brisbane Courier 26 Dec 1896



Celebrations in the Cleveland area for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria included a large combined picnic for adults and children on the Fellmongery near Ormiston followed by a free social and dance for adults only in the Cleveland School of Arts<sup>17</sup>.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1899, the Brisbane Courier reported a presentation by Mr. Winship, Chairman of the School of Arts, to Mr. Gray, ex head teacher of Cleveland State School, who had been of great assistance in guiding public opinion some 10 years previously in the matter of a School of Arts<sup>18</sup>.

*On October 15, 1904, the Cleveland Horticultural Society held the first show in the grounds of the School of Arts, which was located near the old Cleveland Point railway station in Shore Street.....In the early days of the association, a big number of entries were received for the dairy cattle and horse sections, and coach builders from Brisbane regularly entered their work. Naturally, there were magnificent displays of citrus fruit, strawberries, custard apples and vegetables from all parts of the district<sup>19</sup>.*

The Cleveland Branch of the Library Association held their meetings in the School of Arts Hall. Indeed meetings were held by many local organisations including the Cleveland District Rifle Club, the Redland Bay, Mt. Cotton, Cleveland, Ormiston and Wellington Point fruit growers in 1906, the Cleveland Horticultural Society; and for other many and varied reasons as well, including a discussion regarding proposed swimming baths, also in 1906.

Prize giving ceremonies were also held there, one for the Cleveland State School in 1910. Many political meetings were held in the School of Arts over the years by different electoral parties including the Progressive Party, the Socialist candidate, the Anti-Socialist party, the Liberal candidate, Federal and State members.

Dances were held as fund raisers for many organisations including the Cleveland Horticultural, Agricultural & Industrial Society, Cleveland State School piano fund, the Patriotic Fund, Redlands Sub Branch of the RSSILA, the Redlands Bluebird Orchestra, and St. Paul's Church.

In 1924 the Cleveland Sailing Club held a "Grand Smoko" complete with dance band.

A gala day for the diggers of the Redlands Sub Branch of the RSSAILA took place on September 18, 1926, in aid of the proposed Redlands District Memorial Hall<sup>20</sup>.

### **Currently (2012):**

Today, the Edgar Harley Hall, once the first School of Arts in Cleveland, is reserved for the use of the local Pipe Band which practices there regularly and stores their instruments in the building<sup>21</sup>.

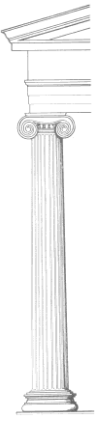
<sup>17</sup> NLA Trove - Brisbane Courier 1 Jun 1897

<sup>18</sup> NLA Trove - Brisbane Courier 12 Sep 1899

<sup>19</sup> Redland Times – 29 Jun 1983

<sup>20</sup> NLA Trove - Brisbane Courier 21 Sep 1926

<sup>21</sup> Redland City Council



**Acknowledgements:**

Redland City Council  
Redland Museum

**References:**

National Library of Australia (Trove)  
Wikipedia  
A Redland Centenary Souvenir  
Redland Times  
queenslandplacenames.com

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**Photos:**

Photograph album donated to the Redland Museum.  
Newspaper cuttings.  
Recent photos by Les & Audrey Warner.

