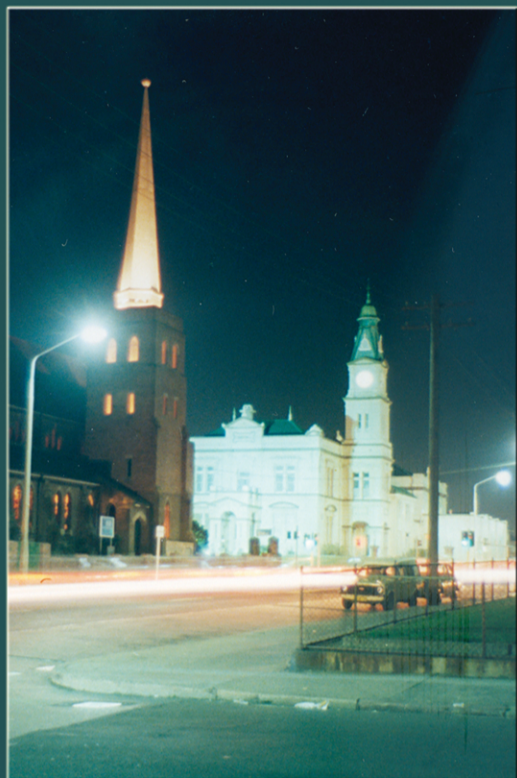


# Architectus

Public buildings & spaces that have shaped Leichhardt



## 1 Pioneer Memorial Park



After years of neglect the cemetery was destroyed in 1941 to make way for the creation of the Pioneers Memorial Park. The 1941 Old Balmain Cemetery Act dedicated the area as a public park with the understanding that the monuments and headstones would be placed around the site.

Unfortunately this did not happen and the cemetery was levelled and many of the headstones and monuments were used in the building of the park and park wall. Only 16 memorials including those of the Blackets were rescued and relocated in the 1940s.

A search of the register today reveals only a handful of Italians were buried here, no doubt reflecting the predominantly Anglo-Celtic population of the time, however no Catholic burials took place at Balmain Cemetery.

## Methodist Church

The Methodist congregation had modest beginnings in 1880 with services being held in a house in Carlisle Street. The seating at these services were planks put across the room, one end on chairs and the other on the bed as the room was the living quarters of the household.

## 2



In 1888 a new brick church was built at 1 Wetherill Street to provide for the increased numbers. In the English Methodist tradition places of worship were called halls not churches to attract people, especially the young, who did not want to go to "church".

By 1906 more space was needed and the central hall was built. It seats.

Since 1977 It has been known as the Leichhardt Uniting Church

Leichhardt Council acknowledges the traditional owners of this land. The Gadigal and Wangal people who form part of the Dharug nation and their descendants. Images are courtesy of Leichhardt Library Local History collection.

## 3

### Leichhardt Post Office



The first official post office in Leichhardt operated from a small building on Parramatta Road and then at George Purdie's general store on the corner of Wetherill Street and Balmain Road.

Around 1883 the first official post office opened at 9 Short St. It was replaced by this building in Norton Street which opened for business in 1889. The building, with its tower designed by colonial architect, James Barnet, was completed in 1888 and is a good example of the Victorian Italianate style.

1921

\*9 staff

\* despatched more than 600,000 letters.

\*delivered more than 1.3 million letters

In 1979 the building, was registered with the National Trust and restored to its former glory. The post office continued to operate in the building until 2000 when postal functions were relocated to the Norton Street Plaza.

## Leichhardt Town Hall

Town halls were not only centres for local administration but also venues for meetings of Oddfellows and Masons, concerts and bazaars and an array of other activities -they were a social focus for the community.

Leichhardt Town Hall was completed in the centenary year of 1888. Built by architects Drake and Walcott in the Victorian Free Classical style at a cost £6000. The Town Hall marked the 'coming of age' of the Leichhardt area which was undergoing a period of rapid development.

## 4



The site of Town Hall is the highest west of Sydney between Martin Place in the city centre and the Blue Mountains. It was officially opened in September 1888 by Governor Carrington with 5000 attending and a public holiday being declared for schools in the district.

The tower clock was installed in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee. It was an extension of a square central tower of 27 metres which was built with the original structure.

## 5

### All Souls Anglican Church



In October 1880 a meeting of Church of England residents was held to take steps to provide church accommodation for the district of Leichhardt.

A temporary school church opened in Marion Street in 1882 and shortly afterwards it was decided to erect this church.

In 1880 Edmund Blacket took his son Arthur into his architectural practice which then became known as Blacket & Son. It was under this name that All Souls was designed in 1883. They designed the church in the simple brick ecclesiastical Gothic Revival style with brick facades and a tiled roof. It cost £6000 to build and could seat 600.

It Boasts several fine memorial windows and a memorial board containing the names of over 200 Church of England men of the Parish who gave their lives in WW1.

The tower and spire in the Inter-War Gothic style was added later. The nearby rectory of rendered masonry and slate roof was designed by architects Coward and Bell in 1887.