

FEDERATION SQUARE, TENTERFIELD

The corner of Rouse and Manners Street, Tenterfield, remains largely unchanged from its appearance in the late nineteenth century. Each corner building represents four key aspects of the township's rich history, communications, public education, hospitality and commerce.

The Sir Henry Parkes School of Arts (1876) has operated continuously as a centre of cultural and educational activity. In 1889 the building hosted a public banquet at which Sir Henry Parkes delivered the first major speech by a Colonial politician on the subject of Federation. The complex has been expanded on four separate occasions and now houses a library, museum and theatre.

One of the most substantial masonry buildings constructed in Tenterfield was the W.Reid general store (1881). Reputedly it was the first building to have electricity, utilizing its own generator. During the mid twentieth century a gym was operated from the first floor by George Woolnough, grandfather of musical star, Peter Allen.

A public house has been located on the site of the Exchange Hotel (1890) since the early years of Tenterfield. In 2005 the hotel function ceased, reflecting the changing nature of commerce in the township.

In 1861 a repeater station for the telegraph communication system between Sydney and Brisbane was established in Tenterfield. Some 20 years later perhaps the grandest and most prominent public building ever constructed in the township, the Tenterfield Post Office (1881), was completed.

The buildings that form Federation Square have acted as the gateway to Tenterfield for nearly 120 years. Reinstatement of original features such as verandahs, colour schemes, street lighting and fencing will only reinforce the civic importance of this location.

Rouse Street looking North, circa 1920



Rouse Street looking South, circa 1920



Manners Street looking West, circa 1918

