



PROPERTY

Old bank icon on East St restored to former glory



Kieran Banks | 13th Dec 2013 6:00 AM



READY FOR TENANTS: Old Bendigo Bank building owner Bill George (left) and son Steven George (right), with Mitch Connell of Trident Corporation, take a look at the finished product.

AN ICONIC Ipswich building has been restored to its former glory.

The former Bendigo Bank building on East St is now ready to lease after a 12-month plan to renovate the building for office use.

Representatives from Trident made a final inspection of the finished works this week, along with the building's owner Bill George.

The renovation kept a number of the 120-year-old building's original features such as hardwood floors, glass windows and metal pillars discovered during the strip-out. It also included the construction of a lift and feature staircase.

The pillars were hidden by gyprock walls, but are now a prominent feature in the building's second storey.



A feature staircase and hardwood floors add polish.

The year-long project took six months to plan with heritage architects and another six months in construction.

Trident Commercial Property Services' Neill Read said it was the first heritage-listed building in Ipswich his team had taken on.

"Everyone is impressed by it. We all knew it was going to be good but it's come up better than we thought," he said.

Mr Read said interest from potential tenants had been strong, with the options to rent out the entire building to one organisation, or to have retail stores on the ground floor.

The building has 1500sq m of office available to rent.

Award-winning architects Cottee Parker were engaged to provide architectural and interior design; Blades Project Services managed the project and Hutchinson Builders has carried out the initial works program.



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