A
HERITAGE WALK
IN MACKAY

Mackay **REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Duration - a leisurely hour-and-a-half.
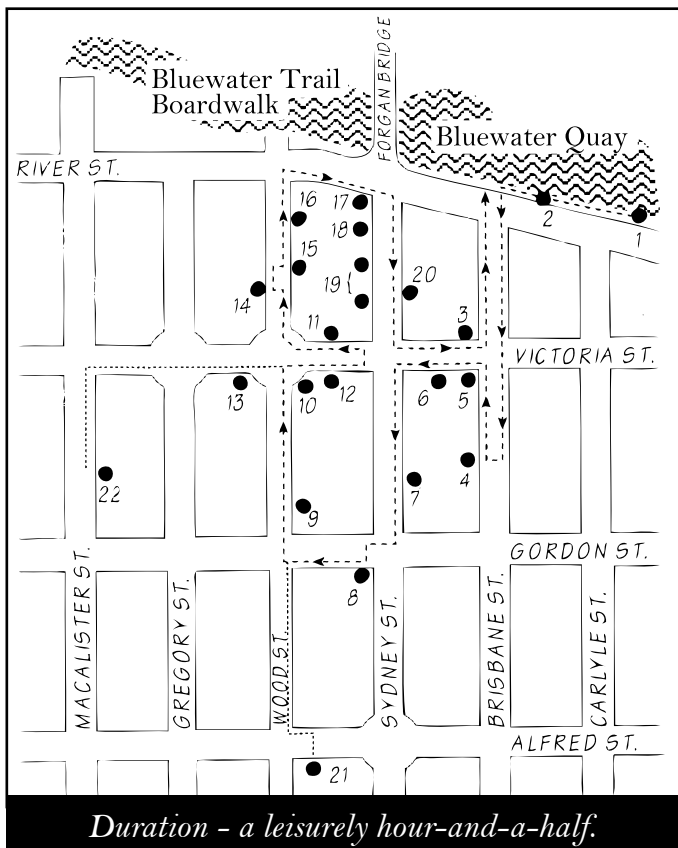
This brochure has been designed to introduce you to aspects of Mackay's architectural heritage and to generate a greater pride and enjoyment of the city by its citizens and visitors.

Mackay was named after John Mackay whose pioneering spirit led him and his party from New England (NSW) to discover the valley of the Pioneer River, which John Mackay originally named for his father George.

Within a few years, however, sugar became the dominant industry, thanks to the enterprising efforts of pioneers John Spiller, T. Henry FitzGerald and John Ewen Davidson. More recently, the hinterland coal mining developments and the tourism industry have added to Mackay's solid economic base.

The prosperity and confidence of the city are reflected in the fine older buildings which are highlighted in this brochure. Many of our historic buildings were lost to devastating fires, to the notorious cyclone of January 1918 and sadly, to progress.

We hope you enjoy your Heritage Tour of Mackay.

✸ *Listed with the National Trust of Queensland.*

1 Paxton's Building

W. H. Paxton & Co was a wholesale, retail, wine, spirits, and produce firm, as well as a shipping agency, and was founded in 1876. Between May and September 1899, Charles Porter constructed this building to the design of architect Arthur Rigby. The two-storeyed section contained storage space on the ground floor and offices above. Adjacent stores were built by J. Vidulich. Ships of the AUSN Company berthed at Paxton's wharves.

2 The Leichhardt Tree* Nauclea orientalis

This landmark on Mackay's Pioneer River has witnessed the passage of thousands of settlers, ships and cargoes ever since the arrival of the first supply schooner "Presto" in August 1862. Ships were tied up to the tree and wharves and warehouses soon developed along River Street. The river remained central to Mackay's history until the completion of the railway line from the south in 1921 and to the north in 1923, and the opening of the Outer Harbour in August 1939.

3 Tony Irelandes' Place

The architectural modifications of this 1914 building do not disguise the substantial nature of the two-storey painted brick construction, nor the attention to detail reflected in the cast iron decoration and columns. James Croker and Sons' shipping and executive offices were once housed here. Operating since 1889, Croker handled the shipment of Mackay's entire sugar production for more than 50 years, until the opening of the Outer Harbour in 1939.

4 Old Mackay Police Station

This classical rendered-brick building with colonnaded portico opened in July 1886 as the Mackay Courthouse. It was built by Thomas Keleher to the design of colonial architect John James Clark and became the Mackay Police Station in 1939. Though replaced as the main station by the current police headquarters in Sydney Street in 1997, it is still used for police purposes.
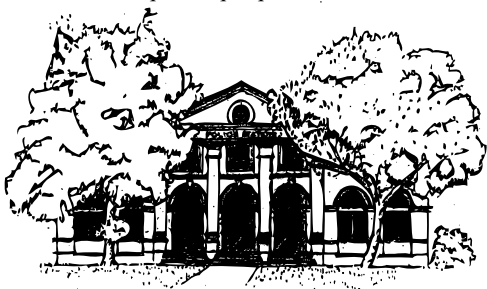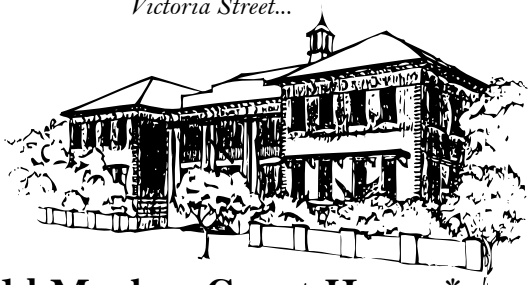
5 Old Mackay Court House*

An excellent example of the neo-Georgian style of public building popular with State Government architects in the 1930s, the Court House opened in April 1939. The foundation stone was laid on 31 March, 1938, by Member for Mackay William Forgan Smith, Premier of Queensland from June 1932 to September 1942.

It has a recessed central entrance with paired grand order columns. The ground floor window shades are supported on decorative brackets with matching eaves brackets and the roof is crowned with a large decorative fleche.

A large extension designed by architect Paul Ipson, and containing new court facilities was opened in Brisbane Street in March 2004 and the 1939 building has been remodelled for government offices.

6 The Commonwealth Bank*

This building, designed by colonial architect Francis Drummond Greville Stanley and supervised by architect Arthur Josling, is Mackay's oldest commercial building. Constructed in 1880, it opened for business on 5 February, 1881, as the Australian Joint Stock Bank. Building on highly-finished brickwork and stucco, it was renovated extensively by the Commonwealth Bank in 1978, with further extensions made at the back in 1986, however its historic front exterior was maintained. The upper floor once provided generous accommodation for successive managers and their families.

7 Mackay Town Hall

Designed by Arthur Rigby and built in 1912 by notable local businessman Charles Porter, this Edwardian/Federation design is one of the few buildings that survived the 1918 cyclone and sheltered homeless victims of that storm. Built of rendered locally produced brick, it features a central square tower designed to include a clock that was never installed. Columns and arches enclose the front verandahs and cast-iron balustrades adorn the upper verandah. The building was restored to its former glory in late 2001 by the former Mackay City Council, Queensland Heritage Trails Network and the Commonwealth Government. The Town Hall houses a permanent interpretive local history display and tourism information office on the ground floor and a studio space upstairs. The studio space is managed by Artspace Mackay to provide local artists with opportunities to exhibit and sell their work.

Recognising heritage significance

The National Trust is a community organisation that has been operating in Queensland for more than 40 years. The Trust commenced the 'listing' of heritage buildings and places in 1965. The Trust has had no legal powers to protect heritage places but has always advocated for their conservation.

With the introduction of the Queensland Heritage Act 1992, the National Trust has also nominated heritage places to the Queensland Heritage Register. Many of the buildings in this leaflet are now protected by being included on the State Register.

Mackay Regional Council also has an ability to recognise heritage places through the provisions of the Integrated Planning Act 1997 and has taken such action through its planning scheme.

If you would like to know more about the heritage system that operates in Queensland, visit www.nationaltrustqld.org and click on 'Heritage Identification'.

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8 Holy Trinity Church

A fine example of Spanish Mission-style architecture, Holy Trinity was designed by architect Lange L Powell, and built by A. Stonage and Sons, both from Brisbane. It was consecrated on 12 December, 1926. Features include "Barley Sugar" columns supporting the arch of the entry porch, the arched colonnade on either side of the nave and the circular rose-stained glass window above the entrance. Holy Trinity contains the most magnificent display of stained glass windows in Mackay. The Parish Hall (opened in 1938) and the Parish offices (1939) complement the style of the church. The site of these buildings has been the centre of Anglican Church life in Mackay since 1870.
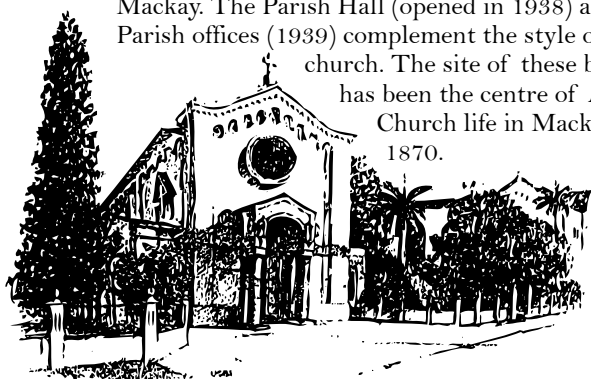
At this point you may choose to detour and walk to the corner of Wood and Alfred streets to view T.A.F.E. (21).

9 Masonic Temple

The strength of the Masonic Fraternity in Mackay is reflected in the imposing facade of the Temple. Four massive grand order columns dominate the entrance supporting a classical frieze and pediment. The Temple was constructed in 1924 by William & Frank Guthrie. Formerly of Bundaberg, they planned to stay in Mackay for 12 months to complete the former National Bank on the corner of Victoria and Wood streets, however the partnership continued for a further 36 years as they completing many well-known buildings in the city.
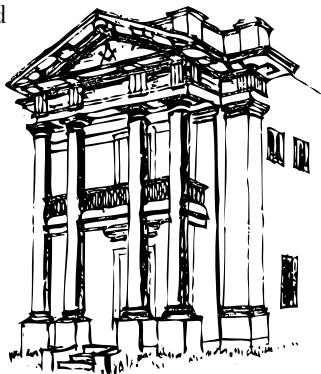
10 Old National Bank

The tradition of banking chambers to provide premises to impress the customer and hold his confidence was embodied in the then Queensland National Bank. The prosperity and confidence in Mackay's sugar industry was epitomised in this impressive example of classical revival architecture, built in 1922 by W. Guthrie to the design of architect F.H. Faircloth at a cost of £15,300. It occupies a commanding site in the city and has a delightful colonnaded facade, rendered arches, columns and pilasters, and an ornate cornice and parapet. The real gem, however, is a former manager's residence. Its rendered brickwork is made to resemble sandstone and has an elegant cantilevered balcony. The building accommodates restaurants and offices.

11 Victoria Streetscape (front cover)

The facades of Victoria Street form the most visually cohesive streetscape of commercial premises within the Mackay Central Business District. Robert Hamilton, ironmonger, built his Art Nouveau-style premises some years after establishing his business in 1899. Other facades include (L-R): Armati's (1925 - FH Faircloth, architect; W Guthrie, builder) Dalrymple's 1 (1917), Dalrymple's 2 (1918 - Chambers and Powell, architects; A Anderson, builder). Dalrymple's earlier buildings were destroyed by fire in July, 1916. Mr (later Senator) Ian Wood, noted for his committment to developing the tourism industry in Mackay, encouraged the planting of the Royal palms during his first term as Mayor (1930-1933).

12

Next door to the old National Bank is Black's Building. The original auctioneers and livery stable business (1881) evolved into Black's Real Estate, which is now located at 43 Wood Street. The brick building was erected in 1935 by Guthries.

13 Adjacent to the Australian Hotel is Lambert's Economic Store facade designed by J. Vidulich. The Lambert family business was established in 1887 by Samuel Lambert, and the building dates from 1895-1896. The business moved to Gregory Street in 1979 and closed in 2000.

Continue along Wood Street in the direction of the river and view...

14 **Ian Carlisle House** former Daily Mercury Building

Erected by Guthries in 1922 to the design of F.H. Faircloth, it housed Mackay's chief newspaper The *Daily Mercury* until 1985. The paper was first published in April 1866 under the name of *Mackay Mercury and South Kennedy Advertiser* and was re-named on 1 January, 1906, when it became a daily.

Cross to the other side of Wood Street and look towards...

15 **McGuire's Hotel**

Originally named the "Belmore Arms" and operated by "Barney" McGuire Snr and members of his family from 1882, it was rebuilt by Barney McGuire Jr in 1938 and was considered the "Ritz of the North".

The latter had set up and operated a zoo at the rear of the hotel, which proved very popular with American servicemen on leave during WWII. In a special room, he exhibited his collection of stuffed animals and birds, marine shells, Aboriginal and Papua New Guinean weapons and artefacts. The weapons and artefacts are now housed at James Cook University, Townsville.

16 Old Pioneer Shire Chambers

This building was constructed in 1935 to the design of Mackay architect Harold Brown. The Shire Council, formed in 1903, was previously known as the Pioneer Divisional Board, constituted in 1879. Its area of responsibility included the coastal stretch north to the O'Connell and Andromache rivers and south to Cape Palmerston, excluding the Mackay Municipality. Initially chaired by John Ewen Davidson, the board held its early meetings in the School of Arts building located on the site of the City Plaza Arcade, 45 Wood Street, until its own premises was completed in 1889, on a site opposite this building.
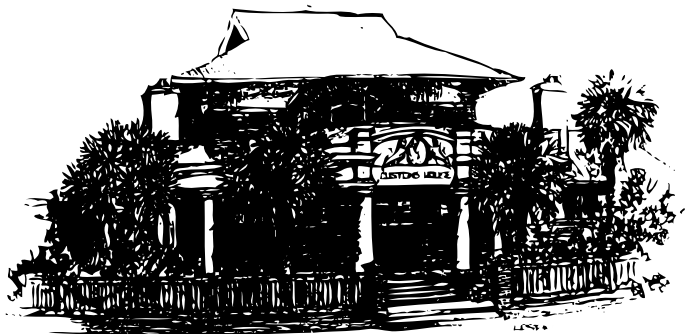
17 Former Customs House *

Customs duties were carried out on this site from 1863 to 2003. The building was designed by John Smith Murdoch and construction commenced in 1901, and officially completed on 29 April, 1902, for the sum of £3797. The Customs House bears the Queensland Coat of Arms although the Commonwealth assumed responsibility for Customs on the Declaration of Federation on 1 January, 1901.

The Edwardian/Federation style is seldom found in public buildings in Queensland. Notice the varied roof forms and gable treatments, the use of rough-cast stucco panels and the classical semi-circular Tholos entrance. The building has pressed metal ceilings, cedar joinery and leadlight in the entrance doors.

The building beside Customs House on Sydney Street is the former Bond Store built in 1927 to replace the original Bond Store on the river bank.

Cross the eastern side of Sydney Street and look over to the...

18 Ambassador Hotel

Art Deco in style, the solid concrete structure was built in 1937 with a bucket brigade of men who passed along hand-mixed cement. It once featured a roof garden.

Immediately next door is a timber and iron building from the early 20th Century, a relic of Mackay's business centre dating back to the 1860s.

Further along, view...

19 Facades of Sydney Street

The facades above the Sydney Street businesses (including Comino's) date from 1890 and 1892 (Sharp's building), and form one of the few surviving links with the Sydney streetscape of the late 19th Century.

Across the street, the facade of the Mackay Spare Parts building dates from 1902.

The Comino family has conducted business in this section of Sydney Street since 1906, with their Sydney Oyster Saloon and later the Britannia Cafe (both located in different parts of Sharp's building), and finally as General Drapers and Merchants on their present site since 1932.

Continue along Sydney Street until you come to...

20 J.M. Ramsamy Memorial Building

Constructed in 1934-1935 for the National Bank of Australia, this building has undergone many changes but retains a striking appearance. The new parapet disguised the original frieze and pediment but the original circular window has been retained and the neo-classical facade of columns and pilasters dominates the streetscape.

Your tour finishes with a final view of the Commonwealth Bank and Court House. Turn left into Victoria Street and left again into Brisbane Street.

For those who didn't detour to view T.A.F.E. and St Paul's Uniting Church, you may now like to take the opportunity to visit these sites by car or on foot.

21 T.A.F.E. *

Refurbished in 1987, this Queensland colonial-style building of brick and rough-cast stucco features a wide verandah on two levels wrapping around the front and western side, with balustrading in timber. The internal walls are rendered and ceilings are of pressed metal. Built in 1911 and opened in 1912, it combined both a technical college and the first state high school in Mackay. The building withstood the fury of the 1918 cyclone and was used as a maternity home accommodating the birth of six babies, the sewing work-tables doubed as delivery beds! This building was heritage listed in November 2000.
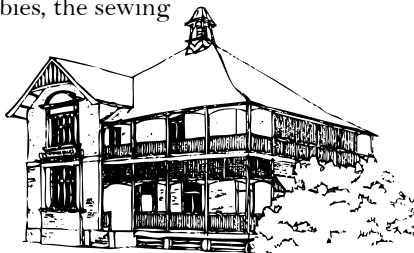
22 St Paul's Uniting Church *

St Paul's is the oldest timber church of its size in Northern Australia. The laying of the foundation stone on 22 June, 1897, coincided with the Empire-wide Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Queen Victoria. Designed by Brisbane architect Walter Carey Voller and built at a cost of £1200, the church was opened and dedicated by the Rev S.G. Crawford on 27 February, 1898.

The building is set on low timber and concrete stumps and clad in spotted gum chamfer boards. Mouldings of hoop pine decorate the exterior with detailing reminiscent of that of stone buildings. The church interior reveals a gothic arch, full pitch roof and exposed rafters of hoop pine. The ceiling is Kauri pine. The belfry contains a ship's bell donated by parishioner Captain H.S.C Adrian in 1897. St Paul's was re-opened after restoration on 3 December, 2000.