

Local Heritage Register: Aroney's Building

Building Name:	Aroney's Building
Street Address:	84 Wood Street
Property Description:	Lot 2 on RP709178
Land Area:	944m ²



84 Wood Street, 2004, Mackay Regional Council

Description

This distinctive small building provides visual attraction to the Wood Street streetscape with the upper level Art Deco detailing.

Tenders were called for its construction in 1937 for Andrew Aroney's "modern concrete office and shop". The contractors were the Queensland Building and Engineering Co.

The building, is two storeys traditionally with shops below and offices or administration above. It is Art Deco style with a horizontal concrete cantilever hood over the upper windows, with moulded decoration on its edge. Two rows of horizontal, grooved mouldings are run at window level. Until recently the shop front retained some original elements including chromed glazing sections and a marble step threshold at the street (see 2004 image, above).

The building is significant historically for its association with the interwar redevelopment of Mackay and in providing evidence of the development and nature of Art Deco buildings in Mackay.

While the building has been subject to a degree of alteration, the original façade of the building above the awning retains Art deco detailing and is important in contributing to the streetscape values of Wood Street.

Aroney's Building is a good representative example of a 1930s Art Deco, demonstrating key features of the style including:

- stepped skyline;
- roof concealed by a parapet;
- concentration of ornament on upper part of building;
- parallel line motif (threes); and
- stylised and distinctive bold lettering.

History

Mr Andrew Aroney was born on Cherigo Island, Greece in 1904 and immigrated to Australia in about 1922. Andrew came to Mackay to join his brother Peter who together operated cafes in the town in Sydney Street and Victoria Street. The brothers later purchased McGarry's Hotel on 23 September 1946. Peter took over the licence in September 1953 when it was sold to the Commercial Bank. Westpac now stands on the site.

Andrew was a member of the Greek Progress Association. He died quite young on 9 December 1947, at 43 years of age and was survived by his wife and three daughters.

In 1931 the brothers were noted in court documents as 'fish merchants' and at other times 'cafe proprietors'. Their brother -in- law, James (Jim) Aroney also

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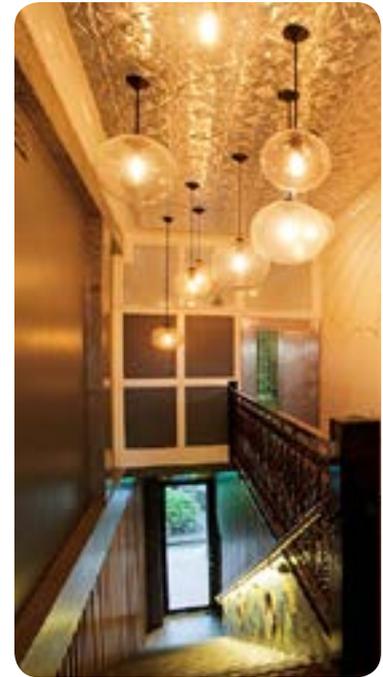
operated a fish and chip shop in Victoria Street.

Tenants

In recent decades, the building was Dimitrios Pharmacy until it was purchased by the Connors family in 2012. The building has been extensively renovated and won a Heritage Award in 2015 in the refurbishment category. The building is now an entertainment venue and in-keeping with its past is called "The Dispensary".



Above: The Art Deco facade, 2016 and Right: Interior of 84 Wood Street, 2015 Heritage Awards, Mackay Regional Council



Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	The building is significant historically for its association with the interwar redevelopment of Mackay and in providing evidence of the development and nature of Art Deco buildings in Mackay.
B: All aspects of heritage significance	Does not meet this criterion.
C: Scientific significance	Does not meet this criterion.
D: Architectural significance	Aroney's Building is a good representative example of a 1930s Art Deco building, demonstrating key features of the style.
E: Aesthetic / architectural significance	Aroney's is a two storey building flanked on either side by single storey buildings. It is a strong feature in the Wood Street streetscape and significant as a landmark building in Mackay.
F: Aesthetic or other significance	Does not meet this criterion.
G: Social significance	Does not meet this criterion.
H: Historical significance	The building has association with prominent architect, Roy Edwin Orchard, who was also responsible for the design of the Australian Hotel and a number of buildings entered in State heritage registers.

References:

- Daily Mercury, 2 June 1937, 11 December 1947; and 25 September 1946
- Mackay Regional Council records
- Land Title Documents

For more
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