

# Local Heritage Register: Croker & Sons



James Croker & Sons ca 1920s

<b>Building Name:</b>	Croker & Sons
<b>Street Address:</b>	60 Victoria Street
<b>Property Description:</b>	Lot 1 on RP700878
<b>Land Area:</b>	202 <sup>m2</sup>

## Description

**This building has great historical significance due to the contribution made by the Croker's to the development of the region.**

Built in 1914, this building was the administration of Mackay's most prominent shipping agents James Croker & Sons.

## History

Born in 1859, James Croker arrived in Mackay in 1881 at the age of 22 to take up a position with W.H. Paxton and Co. before starting his own business eight years later. He was prominent on the Harbour Board, District Hospital Committee, instrumental in providing the Mackay Technical College (on the State heritage list) and in Anglican affairs.

Crokers Shipping agents was founded on 1 September 1889, operating in Sydney Street before construction of this building.

James married Miss Walker in 1890 and had two daughters and two sons. The sons, C.R. and A. Croker would later join the firm.

The firm opened the first motor dealership in 1924 in Wood Street along with the first petrol pump in 1927.

## The Building

The building at 60 Victoria Street, is constructed with thick walls of light orange, soft bricks, painted at ground floor level. The bricks were manufactured at the Walkerston brickworks.

A verandah is attached on both street fronts and the rear

extending over the footpath. The central roof is hipped in corrugated galvanised iron, overhanging with modest eaves, lined with timber boards.

The verandah has cast iron posts with decorative capitals. Several of the posts are hollow rainwater pipes! A spandrel below the upper floor is trimmed with a frieze of cast iron lace.

The veranda was originally enclosed, with rectangular casements. The veranda roof meets the building wall below the eaves of the main roof.

The ground floor is concrete, or concrete topped, but cast iron vents low in the outer walls indicate a timber floor may have been originally constructed.

Lower windows are protected by bars and feature rendered sills and low rise brick arches for heads. The front on Victoria Street is rendered with two doorways: the right leads to a single rectangular space occupying the whole floor, the left leads to a timber staircase up to

# Local Heritage Register: James Croker & Sons

the top floor.

A single large shop window is placed between the entry doors, separated from them by strong pillars, its sill set at around 600mm. A row of high windows is placed close under the awning

Right: brick detail above western windows and far right: cast iron posts with decorative capitals, 2016, Mackay Regional Council



## Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
<b>A: Historical significance</b>	This building was built as offices for shipping agents, James Croker and Sons who were established in 1889. As agents for the Adelaide Steamship Co Ltd, the firm controlled the shipment of the district's sugar. The firm was later responsible for the establishment of Mackay's first ocean oil terminal, both of which had direct economic benefit to Mackay.
<b>B: All aspects of heritage significance</b>	Does not meet this criterion.
<b>C: Scientific significance</b>	Does not meet this criterion.
<b>D: Architectural significance</b>	Does not meet this criterion.
<b>E: Aesthetic / architectural significance</b>	The first floor verandahs have been enclosed with weatherboards and aluminium window, however the wrought iron verandah detailing and original two storey form has been retained, and the building is important in important for its streetscape values.
<b>F: Aesthetic or other significance</b>	Does not meet this criterion.
<b>G: Social significance</b>	Does not meet this criterion..
<b>H: Historical significance</b>	The building has a special association with James Croker and Sons who were responsible for the establishment of the ocean oil terminal. The place has a special association with James Croker, who opened a shipping and general commission agency in September, 1889.

## References:

- Woods, R., 1996, 'Heritage Places Criteria', Mackay City Council, ID10
- Daily Mercury, 'James How Croker', Page 2, 21 March 1927
- Daily Mercury, 'Souvenir of Mackay and District', Page 32, December 1936
- Kennedy, K.H., 2002, 'Mackay Revisited', Mackay City Council

For more information phone strategic planning on 1300 MACKAY (1300 622 529)