

# Local Heritage Register: The Post and Telegraph Offices

<b>Building Name:</b>	Mackay Post Office
<b>Street Address:</b>	35 River Street
<b>Property Description:</b>	Lot 15 on RP729825
<b>Land Area:</b>	2848m <sup>2</sup>

## Description

**This two-storey building has dominated the River Street location since its construction in 1883.**

The Mackay Post Office and Telegraph Office was designed in the 1870s, but the first stage was not constructed until 1883 with the adjoining Telegraph Office constructed in 1884.

The construction is only two years after the city's oldest building: The Australian Joint Stock Bank at 63 Victoria Street, constructed in 1881. Thus, the construction of such prominent buildings, both designed by the Colonial Architect, F.D.G. Stanley, demonstrates the growth and importance of the Mackay region

in the late 19th century. The government architect, F.D.G. Stanley, was responsible for design and construction of Queensland post offices from 1872 – 1881, and George Connolly between 1881-1883 and 1885-1891.

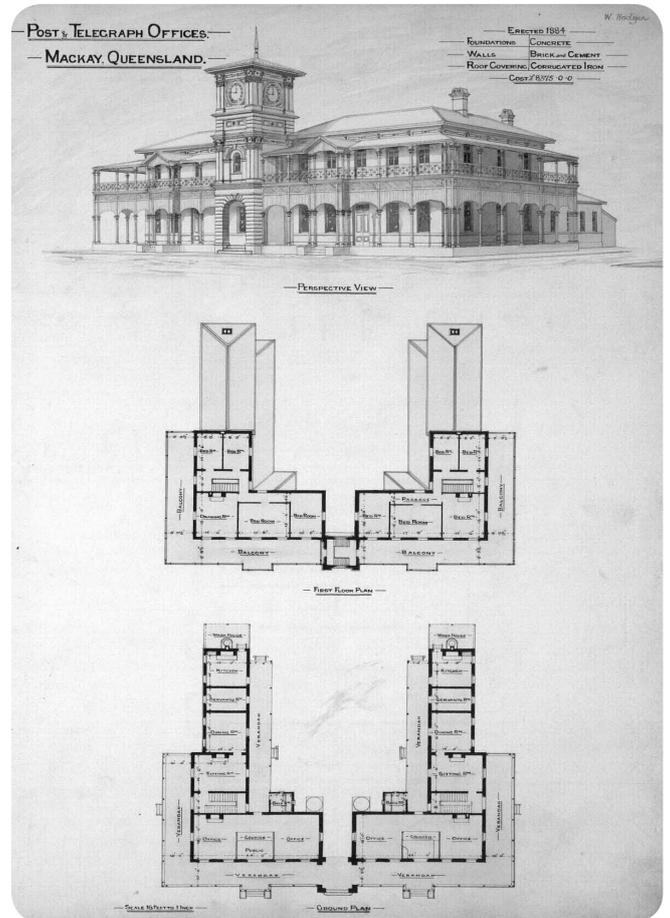
## The Current Building

The Post Office is a substantial two-storeyed masonry building with some remnant classical detailing, typical of Government designed buildings of the period. It was extensively remodelled in 1938, to an understated art deco style, in which the decorative elements occur in the column

capitals and in patterns of brick corbels on the central tower and in the entrance canopy which has a horizontal concrete awning supported on two balls over a portico with moulded decoration around the arch and doors and also in the red glazed tiles on the tower base. The post office moved to Post Office Square corner of Sydney and Gordon Streets in 1995.

## History

The place has strong association with past and present residents of the Mackay region as the primary centre for communication, by mail, telegraph or telephone



Mackay Post and Telegraph Office Plans, 1884, Qld State Architect, image 2590

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since 1874 when the site was a postmasters residence and office. The new buildings were constructed in stages: the left(east) side of the tower is the original post office opening in 1883. The tower and the telegraph office was constructed in 1884. Originally the lower level was post and telegraph services, kitchen and servants while the upper level was the post and telegraph masters residences.



The remodeled Post Office, 2004, Mackay Regional Council

### Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
<b>A: Historical significance</b>	The Post Office meets this criterion through significance of design by the Colonial Architect in the 1870s. The building was not constructed until 1883 with the adjoining Telegraph Office constructed in 1887. The construction of such a prominent building by the Colonial Architect demonstrates the growth and importance of the Mackay region in the late nineteenth century.
<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 building meets this criterion as a substantial masonry building with remnant classical detailing typical of Government designed buildings of the period. It is a strong feature in the River Street streetscape and is significant as a landmark building in Mackay.
<b>F: Aesthetic or other significance</b>	Does not meet this criterion.
<b>G: Social significance</b>	The Mackay region was the primary centre for communication, by mail, telegraph or telephone since 1877.
<b>H: Historical significance</b>	The Mackay Post Office has special associations with Government architects, F. D. G. Stanley from 1872 – 1881, and George Connolly between 1881-1883 and 1885-1891.

### References:

- Butler, G. & Associates, 1994, 'Mackay Region Heritage Pilot Study', Mackay City Council
- Daily Mercury, 25 April, 1883
- Woods, R., 1995, 'Heritage Places Criteria', Mackay City Council

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