

Local Heritage Register: Blacks Building

Building Name:	Blacks Building
Street Address:	75 Victoria Street
Property Description:	Lot 2 on RP700845
Land Area:	360m ²



Blacks Building, 1988, Copyright Mackay Regional Council Libraries image 03313

Description

This building has historical significance due to both the building and the contribution made by the Black family to the development of the region over an extended period of time.

The H.L. Black Stock Agent and Auctioneer enterprise started in 1881 in partnership with Mr. Middleton and continues to this day as Blacks Real Estate.

History

Henry L. Black was a very prominent stock trader, particularly horses and also operated a livery stable and sale yards at the rear of the lot. Mr. Black ceased involvement in the livery business in 1915 to concentrate on efforts as an agent.

Mr Black was a keen horse owner and racer, which was the purpose of his first visit in 1871. He then came to Mackay to run cattle stations in 1873.

Henry Lindesay Black died in October 1926, aged 79 and his funeral was the first motorised procession in the district. H.L. Black was a Director of the Daily Mercury for over 20 years, a member of the Mackay Masonic Lodge and the Secretary of the Mackay Turf Club.

At the time the building was built, the sons Francis and Archie were operating the firm. Francis (Frank) had considerable success as an amateur jockey. At the time of Frank's death in 1946 he had been Secretary of the Mackay Turf Club for 25 years. He also served as Secretary of the Show Association and the Amateur Turf

Club and an advisor to the North Queensland Racing Association. His wife Doris became ill shortly after and died less than 12 months later in May 1947. They had two daughters.

Archie was also active in the community and the Turf Club. He had two sons, confusingly named Henry Lindesay who continued the family tradition as a licensed stock agent and auctioneer. The youngest was named after his father Archie Lindesay who studied applied science at the Queensland University.

The Building

The first sod was turned on 8 August 1935 by the Mayor, Alderman G. Moody.

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Construction was undertaken by William. H. Guthrie to the design of Harold Vivian Marsh Brown and Mr. J.G.E. Gralow as advisor.

Construction is a rendered frame with brick filling. The building originally had two shop fronts finished with Spanish tiles.

The property remained in the Black family for more than a 125 years until its sale in 2007.



Blacks Building 2010, Mackay Regional Council

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	Blacks was established on this site in 1881. The current building was constructed in 1935 by William Guthrie to a design by prominent Mackay architect, H. V. M. Brown. The place is important for its association with the development of the region and the building is important in demonstrating building boom of the interwar period in Mackay.
B: All aspects of heritage significance	Does not meet this criterion.
C: Scientific significance	Does not meet this criterion.
D: Architectural significance	Does not meet this criterion.
E: Aesthetic / architectural significance	Blacks Building demonstrates an eclectic mix of Classical, Art Deco and Spanish Mission architectural characteristics which make a valuable contribution to the Victoria Street streetscape.
F: Aesthetic or other significance	Does not meet this criterion.
G: Social significance	Does not meet this criterion.
H: Historical significance	The site has a special association with the Black family who occupied the site from 1881, and continued ownership of the site into the 1950s.

References:

- Daily Mercury, 'First Sod', Page 10, 9 August 1935
- Daily Mercury, 'Tributes to Frank Black', Page 4, 11 November 1946
- Daily Mercury, 'Obituary, Mr. Frank Black', Page 2, 8 November 1946

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