

# Local Heritage Register: Friendly Societies Dispensary

<b>Building Name:</b>	Friendly Societies Dispensary
<b>Street Address:</b>	5 Sydney Street
<b>Property Description:</b>	Lot 3 on RP700872
<b>Land Area:</b>	158m <sup>2</sup>

## Description

**Completed on 22 June 1934, the Friendly Societies Dispensary is a small but valuable contribution to the Sydney Street streetscape.**

Opened by the Mayor, Mr. G. Moody, in an evening celebration, the building was known as the Mackay Association of Friendly Societies (M.A.F.S.) Dispensary.

## History

The Friendly Society Building is a two storey brick and render building with parapet bearing the words "FRIENDLY SOCIETIES DISPENSARY EST. 1915."

The date on the building refers to the establishment of the Dispensary rather than the

building, which operated on the site since 1915.

The Friendly Societies were created under the *Friendly Societies Act 1894* and later the *Friendly Societies Act (Old) 1913*, which continues today under the *Friendly Societies Act (Old) 1997*.

The dispensary was a collaborative effort between various Friendly Society orders of Mackay hence the name: M.A.F.S Dispensary.

In the years before social welfare, Friendly Societies in a range of 'orders', provided members with a support network in the case of accident and injury.

It was estimated in 1932 that the combined wealth of Australian Friendly Societies was £13,000,000.



Friendly Societies Dispensary , 1938.

The building is currently occupied by SB Wight Wright and Condie, Notary Public, themselves, potentially the oldest and longest practicing law firm in the city.

Samuel Bryant Wright started his practice in 1883 and was joined by his son, William Alfred in 1910, then trading as Messrs. SB Wright & Wright. Mr. James Condie was admitted as a partner in 1929 after Samuel's death in 1923. James' son David followed as a solicitor in 1951.

## The Building

Designed by local architect Harold Vivian Marsh Brown and built by William Guthrie the M.A.F.S. Dispensary was completed in 1934 at a cost of £3,000.

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This shop is two storey brick with stucco embellishment. The ground floor shop front is modern and contains the dispensary and storerooms. An awning was suspended from the facade. The upper floor is brick in the centre and rendered outside that. It originally contained a waiting area, amenities and offices. A continuous corrugated iron

awning originally shaded the windows, which was held up by wrought iron brackets. The parapet rises to the centre in low relief mouldings of overlapping gables. The windows are tall, divided into small square panes with glazing bars. The upper light of each is an awning window.



Friendly Societies Building, 1992, Mackay Regional Council

### Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
<b>A: Historical significance</b>	The Friendly Society in Sydney Street was designed by prominent architect, H.V.M. Brown, and constructed by William Guthrie, and officially opened on the 22 June, 1934. The place is important for its association with the development of the region and demonstrating building boom of the interwar period.
<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 is two-storey brick and render with a parapet displaying "FRIENDLY SOCIETIES DISPENSARY ESTd 1915." It makes an important contribution to the streetscape.
<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>	Does not meet this criterion.

### References:

- Woods, R., 1995, 'Heritage Places Criteria', Mackay City Council
- Daily Mercury, 23 Jun. 1934, p10, 13 Oct. 1933, p.8 and 26 Aug. 1939
- Queensland legislation on-line: [www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/REPEALED/F/FriendSocA91\\_02A\\_.pdf](http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/LEGISLTN/REPEALED/F/FriendSocA91_02A_.pdf)

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