

Local Heritage Register: Taylor's Hotel

Building Name:	Taylor's Hotel
Street Address:	126 Wood Street
Property Description:	Lot 2 on RP745797
Land Area:	1287m ²



Description

This site has been continually occupied by a hotel since 1883 and today Taylor's stands as an impressive landmark on this prominent city corner.

Taylor's Hotel is a good, representative and intact example of an interwar functionalist style hotel and is representative of the number of hotels constructed in Mackay in the booming interwar years.

History

This structure was built for the Taylor family, in conjunction with the remodelling of the adjoining Theatre Royal. The original hotel on the site was built in 1883 by Charles Porter, for Willheim Loge:

the first licensee. Indeed, Charles Porter arrived in Mackay in 1883 especially to build "Loge's Hotel" as it was first known.

Mr. Loge quickly renamed the hotel 'Empress of India', which lasted only a short time, renaming it the 'Queensland Hotel' in 1885 until 1936.

John Taylor purchased the hotel and around 1907 but did not record the first licence until 1910. The Taylor family owned a large number of commercial properties in Mackay including six picture theatres, shops and hotels. The adjacent Theatre Royal (demolished in 1990) was built for John Taylor in 1912.

Mr. Taylor died in 1925, leaving Mary to run the hotel and the

theatre. Mary Taylor died suddenly on October 24, 1937, survived by seven children, only months after the new hotel's completion.

The Building

The Queensland Hotel was demolished in 1935 to make way for a modern building designed by Architect, Joseph Gabriel Rooney. It was constructed in 1936 by local builder William Guthrie, and believed to be the first reinforced concrete building in the city.

Many of the materials were supplied by the previous builder: Charles Porter & Co. in the total cost of £12,000, including:

- 20 tons of steel
- 1,000 tons of concrete; and
- 1,100 bags of cement

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The hotel is an extensive two storey building with upper floor rooms opening to a veranda over the footpath. The two street fronts are parapeted with a central higher, peaked section bearing "Taylor's Hotel" and the date "1936".

The street fronts featured black tiles. The door and window openings, and most of the doors and windows are original.

The bar interior is partially altered. The first floor contains glazed timber french doors from bedrooms and single doors at the ends of corridors. Strong piers rise from the kerb to veranda handrail height, above that, in the form of twin square posts. The veranda roof is timber, clad with corrugated asbestos cement, unlined on the underside. A deep concrete spandrel hangs below the veranda.



Taylor's Hotel, 2016, Mackay Regional Council

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	Originally known as the Empress of India Hotel, the 1883 hotel constructed by C. Porter was demolished in 1935 in favour of a modern building by J.G. Rooney. Constructed in 1936 by, William Guthrie, it is historically important as one of a number of hotels constructed during the booming interwar period.
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	The Taylor's Hotel is important in retaining its largely intact external form as a two storey corner hotel.
F: Aesthetic or other significance	The Hotel was constructed by prominent Mackay contractors, W. Guthrie and C. Porter and Co., and is reportedly the first reinforced concrete building to be constructed in Mackay
G: Social significance	Does not meet this criterion.
H: Historical significance	The Hotel has strong associational links with the Taylor family who had significant interests in and impact on Mackay's economic and social fabric for much of the twentieth century.

References:

- Woods, R., 1995, 'Heritage Places Criteria', Mackay Regional Council
- Daily Mercury 3 Oct. 1925, 13 Feb. 1937 and 27 Oct. 1937,
- Mackay historical Society, on-line:
www.mackayhistory.org/research/hotels/hotels_I_to_z.html#TAYLORS

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