

Local Heritage Register: Grant's Building

Building Name:	Grant's Building / Tick Tock Jewellers
Street Address:	121 Victoria Street
Property Description:	Lot 2 on RP700770
Land Area:	367m ²

Description

This quaint building is small but plays a significant role in remembering the past.

This address has had few residents over time, the first known was Scottish immigrant, Mr. Alexander Grant senior. The Grant family occupied the premises for over 75 years as a carpentry and furniture factory as well as the sale of musical instruments. At that time it was common that the local carpenter made coffins and Mr Grant was also the districts' oldest serving undertaker. Later the site was occupied by Tick Tock Jewellers for several decades, which ceased trading in 2011.

The Building

The building was described as furniture showrooms and erected in 1941 to replace the old timber building Alexander built in 1897,

after fire destroyed the original 1881 store.

Constructed by McDonalds Pty Ltd, the building provided two levels of showroom and space for the cabinet making factory at the rear. It is assumed that the factory is long gone, as the building occupies only about one third of the land area.

The parapet above the awning displays typical Art deco features, contributing to the Mackay collection and the Victoria Street streetscape.

The Grant Family

Alexander Grant was born in Scotland in 1851 and died in Mackay in 1932 at 81 years. He arrived by steamship to Rockhampton in 1872 and booked a ticket north to Charters Towers, however a stop in Mackay saw him offered work at Meadowlands Mill as a carpenter.



Tick Tock Jewellers, 2002, Mackay Regional Council

After some further testing of townships between Mackay and Cooktown, Grant opened a shop here in 1880 on this site.

Mr Grant contributed actively to the city's cultural development and was the first band master of the city band. He also produced local plays and led church choirs and was an active Gaelic poet.

Mrs Mary Ann Grant, also from Scotland in 1881, died in 1921 leaving six children. Mary and Alex were married in 1885 four years after settling. Alex jnr ran the business, Jack was killed in the great war before her death and the forth son, Robert, became a well-known local doctor. The family lived on the corner of Shakespeare and Grant Streets (western side) in a house which still stands. Grant Street and surrounding allotments were likely built by Alex senior and a final subdivision by Alex junior in 1938.

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Alex junior continued to run the business as both furniture factory and undertaker. He married in 1915 and had a son, also Alex or 'Lex' and a daughter Jean. They lived in 'Kalonia' house which faced west on the corner of Alfred and Gregory Streets where the Whitsunday Biscuit Factory and shops now stands. The undertaking business was in the

'back yard' which is now Mackay Funerals.

The business is advertised for sale in 1954 but the Victoria street site remained in the Grant family until 1963, 82 years after Alexander senior started his furniture factory. He purchased the land through a mortgage with the Australian Joint Stock Bank of £500 in 1884.



Daily Mercury advertisement, 1930

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	Grants Building was the 3rd to be constructed on the site. The original store constructed in 1881 was destroyed by the 1897 fire and the current building replaced the 2nd building in 1941. The building has historical importance for its association with the Grant family and in providing evidence of the nature and development of Art Deco buildings 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	The building has been subject to a degree of alteration, the original façade of the building above the awning retains Art deco detailing and is important in contributing to the streetscape values of Victoria Street.
F: Aesthetic or other significance	Does not meet this criterion.
G: Social significance	Does not meet this criterion.
H: Historical significance	The building has a special association with Alexander Grant and the Grant family, for over 82 years. Following the death of A. Grant Snr in 1932, the store continued its association, being run by subsequent generations until its closure in 1963.

References:

- Daily Mercury, 'Obituary', 9 December, page 8
- Daily Mercury, 'Grant Showrooms', 22 May 1941, page 6
- Daily Mercury, 'Mrs Alex Grant', 1921
- Transfer and title documents
- Wright, B. 2017, pers comm.

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