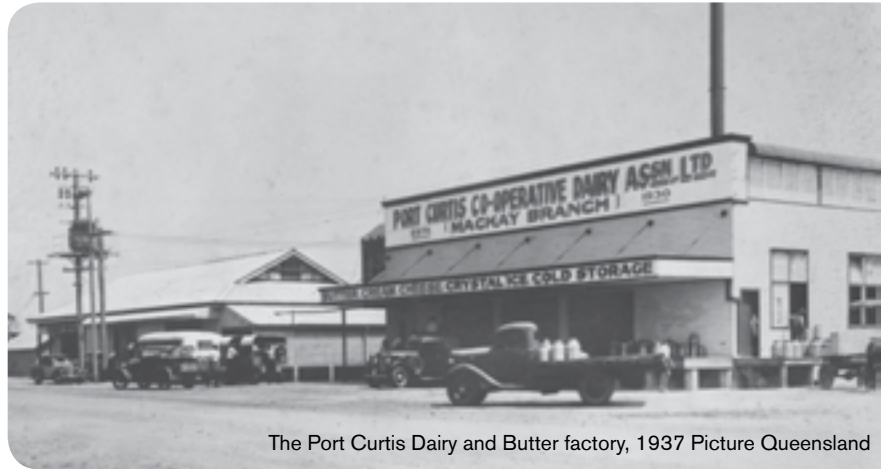


Local Heritage Register: Port Curtis Dairy



The Port Curtis Dairy and Butter factory, 1937 Picture Queensland

Building Name:	Port Curtis Dairy / The Butter Factory
Street Address:	14A Victoria Street
Property Description:	Lots 2 on Ci809692
Land Area:	1932m ²

Description

These distinctive buildings have significant value for their demonstration of a thriving dairy industry.

The decision to amalgamate, build and commence butter manufacture was completed within 12 months!

Talk of a butter factory in Mackay began 20 years prior, as a means of making dairying economic. From early years farmers were encouraged to build up pasture and herds, particularly in areas where sugar was not practical.

History

On March 27, 1929, shareholders voted 25 to 82 to amalgamate the Port Curtis Co-operative Dairy

Association and the Mackay Co-operative Dairy Association.

A curved section of railway track remained in the street until recent years, reminiscent of the former association with the railway.

The tracks ran directly past the building and along River Street when the station and goods yards were in the city.

The Building

Tenders were called in July, 1929 after the Hon E.B. Swayne M.L.A. announced funding of £6,000 from the government for the factory building.

The land was given by the City Council which required partial closure of an unconstructed section of what was then Goldsmith Street.

The required balance to £10,000 was raised by shareholders. Mr. W. Guthrie constructed the factory under the supervision of Mr. C. Williamson, assistant architect to Mr. R. Hall of Brisbane. The machinery was installed by Messrs. Waugh and Josephson.

Despite being officially opened in June, the first butter was produced in early March, just under 12 months from the day the shareholders voted to amalgamate.

The factory underwent many minor alterations until a new building was erected to the west, in 1939. It remains to the west of the factory. Mr. Frank Rollinson was the General Manager of the factory from opening until his retirement in 1957.

The building is timber-framed, set on low round log stumps (which facilitated loading) with a hipped corrugated iron roof. The original loading dock along the front has since been modified. The building is clad in chamferboards and is currently a place of worship.

Local Heritage Register: Port Curtis Dairy Building

The building as viewed from the Blue Water Trail from the north, 2016, Mackay Regional Council



Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	The former Port Curtis Dairy Co Op Association Limited was one of the largest dairying co-operatives in Queensland. These buildings are a result of the 1930s amalgamation with the Mackay District Cooperative Butter Factory Association Ltd. At its peak the factory had more than 240 suppliers. It is important in demonstrating the development of the dairy industry in Mackay.
B: All aspects of heritage significance	Does not meet this criterion.
C: Scientific significance	There are remains of a railway track in the vicinity of the buildings with potential to yield further information about the connection with the railway.
D: Architectural significance	The former Port Curtis Dairy Co Op Association Limited comprises a large factory building with loading dock, and smaller building accommodating cold stores and railway siding. These buildings are important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of an early to mid twentieth century dairy complex.
E: Aesthetic / architectural significance	Does not meet this criterion.
F: Aesthetic or other significance	Does not meet this criterion.
G: Social significance	The former Port Curtis Dairy Co Op Association Limited was a major employer in the Mackay region for over 90 years, and retains a strong association with those who worked there and their families. The place also has a special association with the Mackay Chamber of Commerce, and in particular Frank Rollinson, the manager of the factory from its opening in 1930 until his retirement in 1957.
H: Historical significance	Does not meet this criterion.

References:

- Woods, R., 1996, '*Heritage Places Criteria*', Mackay City Council
- Daily Mercury, 'Proposed Amalgamation', 28 February, 1929, p.9; 'Officially Taken Over', 7 June, 1930, p.9; and 'Butter Factory' 13 July, 1929, p.7

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