

Local Heritage Register: Wilkinson's Hotel



Wilkinson's Hotel, 1988. Copyright Mackay Regional Council Library image qmc03314

Building Name:	Wilkinson's Hotel
Street Address:	140 Victoria Street
Property Description:	Lot 1 on RP727588
Land Area:	756 ^{m2}

Description

This building is distinctive in its character contributing to the richness of the Mackay city streetscape.

Wilkinson's Hotel was opened without fanfare in early 1938 at the same time changing its name from the Pioneer Hotel.

History

Publican Les Wilkinson operated both the Pioneer and the Commercial (now Toyota Corner) Hotels, taking over the later licence in 1935.

The hotel was built by the storekeepers Marsh and Webster

after using the site for many years as their stock yard for horses and delivery carts.

The Pioneer Hotel was owned by notable Mackay publicans including Barney McGuire and Frank Manuel before Mr. Wilkinson purchased the property in 1927

The Building

The original timber Pioneer Hotel was demolished on this site in late 1937 to make way for the new structure. The new hotel was designed by Joseph Gabriel Rooney and was built by the Guthrie brothers. The demolition created some conversation due

to the 'treasure' unearthed from the site. One of the notable items was an oversized horsehoe.

Locals confirmed that none of Marsh and Websters horses would fit such a shoe. Mackay resident Mr. Warry was inclined to speculate that the over-sized horse shoe belonged to Mick Ready's draught horse who was known in the early days to be as 'big as an elephant'.

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Wilkinson's Hotel, 2004, Mackay Regional Council

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	The original hotel on the site, the Pioneer Hotel was a two storey timber building constructed in the late nineteenth century. The current hotel was built by the Guthrie Brothers in 1938, to a design by Architect, Joseph Gabriel Rooney. The hotel has been known as Wilkinsons since 1938 and is important in demonstrating the Interwar building boom 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	Wilkinsons Hotel is important in retaining its largely intact external form as a two storey corner hotel that contributes 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	Does not meet this criterion.

References:

- Daily Mercury, 'Echoes of early Mackay', Page 8, 11 August 1937
- Mackay Historical Society, on line m http://www.mackayhistory.org/research/hotels/hotels_l_to_z.html#WILKINSON'S

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