

Local Heritage Register: Cominos Building

Building Name :	Cominos Building
Street Address:	7-9 Wood Street
Property Description:	Lot 2 on RP712139
Land Area:	535m ²



Description

This two-storey building complements a row of mid-war Art Deco buildings on the eastern side of Wood Street and is located next to the State heritage-listed Pioneer Shire building and public park.

The building was constructed in the, mid 1930s for Nicholas Demetreus Cominos, a relative of the Comino family, trading in Sydney Street. According to land titles documents he was a cafe proprietor.

Designed by, Harold Vivian Marsh Brown, Cominos Building is a good representative example of a 1930s Art Deco shop, demonstrating key features of the style including:

- stepped skyline;
- roof concealed by a parapet;

- concentration of ornament on upper part of building; and
- emphasised verticality in fenestration and ornamentation.

The building is concrete framed with brick infill panels. The brick construction is painted in the vehicle tunnel , but is rendered externally. The stucco facade above the awning is moulded into rectangular sections. A central half contains a central double window flanked each side by a window each. The windows are in rectangular vertical recesses with brick chevron decorative panels above. These are now painted over and not readily visible. The spandrels over the central three windows contain '+' and 'T' motifs in projecting brick. The parapet is stepped up twice and has a token spire at the centre. The upper level windows are awning type timber framed.

The building is significant historically for its association with the interwar redevelopment of Mackay and in providing evidence of the development and nature of Art Deco buildings in Mackay.

It is also the only building in the city which straddles the laneway and is described in legal documents as a 'tunnel'. The second floor of the building is constructed across



Decorative panels now painted, 2016, Mackay Regional Council

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the full width of the allotment while at street level it provides access to the rear properties despite private ownership. Other laneways in the city are generally public roads.

The downstairs tenancy was later the 'Cosy Dell Cafe', and upstairs, Barton and Pollock, engineers, later Ullman and Nolan, engineers. The ground floor tenancy has been various restaurants since 1998.



Left: Pressed metal detailing under the awning; and Above: Cominos Building, 2016, Mackay Regional Council

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	The Cominos Building meets this criterion through significance of design by local architect, Harold Vivian Marsh Brown. The building is significant historically for its association with the interwar redevelopment of Mackay and in providing evidence of the development and nature 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	Designed by Mackay Architect, Harold Vivian Marsh Brown, Cominos Building is a good representative example of a 1930s Art Deco shop, demonstrating key features of the style.
E: Aesthetic / architectural significance	The Cominos Building is important in retaining its largely intact external form as a two storey Interwar shop which makes a valuable contribution to the Wood Street streetscape.
F: Aesthetic or other significance	Does not meet this criterion.
G: Social significance	Does not meet this criterion.
H: Historical significance	The place has a special association with the Cominos family who have conducted business in Mackay over a century.

References:

- Mackay Regional Council, 'Art Deco in Mackay' Brochure
- Woods, R., 1995, 'Heritage Places Criteria', Mackay City Council Council
- Mackay Regional Council Records

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