

Local Heritage Register: Hamilton's Building



North Side of Victoria Street ca. 1925

Building Name:	Hamiltons Building (2 Shops)
Street Address:	114 Victoria Street
Property Description:	Lots 2 on RP709818
Land Area:	361m ²

Description

This building is significant as it escaped the severe fires in 1915 and 1916 which were a constant danger for the timber buildings of the time.

The Hamilton's Building has a special association with Robert Hamilton who arrived in Mackay in 1883 at the age of 16. Robert had developed skills as a plumber and tinsmith prior to setting up his own ironmongery business. The construction of Hamilton's Building reflects the success of Robert Hamilton and his business in the early twentieth century. Mr Hamilton bought the site occupied by a timber structure in 1907 for £850.

The Building

Hamilton's building was built in by Mackay architect/builder Harry Hill for ironmonger, Robert Hamilton in 1912. The building is important in demonstrating the success of Hamilton and the development of his business following his arrival in the district in 1883, and the similar growth and success of Mackay.

The building opened with an open-invitation house-warming party on 14 March 1912. The evening included dancing and music and the official ceremony marked by the Mayor Alderman H.D. Petersen. The Mayor commented on Mr Hamilton's success since arriving in Mackay almost three decades prior.

Mr Hamilton responded graciously, observing that success is due to a dedicated staff of 10 and every person had the opportunity to equally succeed in the district.

The building was designed as two shops at ground level. Mr Hamilton occupied one shop and the entire upper level for showroom space.

Hamilton's building is one of the few in Victoria Street to survive the fires that destroyed 15 businesses along this stretch in 1915 and 1916, and is significant for its continued use as a commercial building for over a century.

The building is a good example of Federation Free Style architecture demonstrating the following key attributes:

- use of Art Nouveau lettering;
- parapeted gable with non-pointed apex;
- curvilinear parapet feature; and
- use of classical features such as window pediments.

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While Hamilton's is a landmark building in its own right, the building is part of a larger group of buildings along Victoria Street that make an outstanding contribution to the streetscape.

Statement of Historical Significance



Hamilton's Building, 2015, Mackay Regional Council

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	Hamilton's Building was built by architect/builder Harry Hill for ironmonger, Robert Hamilton in 1912. It is important in demonstrating the success of Hamilton and the development of his business after arrival in the district in 1883, and the similar growth and success of Mackay. Hamilton's Building is one of the few to survive the fires that destroyed 15 buildings in this stretch in 1915 and 1916, and is significant for its continued use as a commercial building for over a century.
B: All aspects of heritage significance	Does not meet this criterion.
C: Scientific significance	Does not meet this criterion.
D: Architectural significance	The building is a good example of Federation Free Style architecture demonstrating the following key attributes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use of Art Nouveau lettering; - parapeted gable with non-pointed apex; - curvilinear parapet feature; and - use of classical features such as window pediments.
E: Aesthetic / architectural significance	While Hamilton's is a landmark building in its own right, it is part of a larger group that make an outstanding contribution to the streetscape.
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 R. Hamilton who arrived at the age of 16. The building reflects the success of his business in the early 20th century.

References:

- Daily Mercury, 'Hamilton's Buildings', Page 5, 15 March 1912

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