

Local Heritage Register: R.A.O.B Hall and Club



Miss C. Box's and Lonegrans Store, SLQ image 5525

Property Description :	Buffalo Club and Hall / Miss Box's Store
Street Address	39-41 Victoria Street
Building Name :	Lot 4 on SP122887 and Lot 1 on RP711697
Area:	911m ²

Description

41 Victoria Street has a special association with the R.A.O.B who acquired the site following the loss of their hall: the "Trocadero" located at the Cremorne which was damaged in the 1958 floods.

In around 1963 the lodge acquired an old cottage in Carlyle Street next to the store.

The cottage also contained the lodge bar.

The Victoria Street frontage was acquired later and the brick building erected and became the Lodge rooms.

The corner store which was operated by Harvey and Mary Sheperd was acquired later and then incorporated, after renovations, with the Victoria Street building.

History

The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes (R.A.O.B) have had a presence in Mackay since 1931 when the Mackay Lodge No. 34 opened with a handful of members

In the war years the order had significant membership and after operating for some years from the Oddfellows Hall in Wood Street, moved to North Mackay. The order purchased the Trocadero dance hall in 1939 when the roll featured almost 300 members.

By 1952 this number was 150 members, however the order maintains a strong presence in Mackay and special association with the region.

The Building

39 Victoria Street comprises the corner shop constructed by William Guthrie in 1936 to a Harold Vivian Marsh Brown design. This building

is significant in demonstrating the development and nature of Art Deco buildings in Mackay during the interwar period.

The corner shop retains Art Deco detailing above its awnings and has a degree of aesthetic value in contributing to the low scale character of the streetscape.

The first tenant was likely Miss Clarice Box, who operated a store on the corner. Interestingly Miss Box married Mr. Guthrie's son, John Andrew on 15 September 1936 but filed for divorce on the grounds of abandonment in 1951.

41 Victoria Street has a special association with the R.A.O.B who acquired the site following loss of their hall: the "Trocadero" in the 1958 floods.

The builder and age are unknown. It is also not known when the R.A.O.B. merged the two buildings with the intervening structure.

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Statement of Historical Significance

The corner store at 39 and the now adjoining hall at 41, 2016, Mackay Regional Council

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	39 Victoria Street comprises the corner shop constructed by William Guthrie in 1936 to a H.V.M. Brown design. 41 Victoria Street is a single storey masonry building constructed in the 1930s. The buildings are significant in demonstrating the development and nature of interwar Art Deco buildings.
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	39 Victoria Street retains Art Deco detailing above its awning. 41 Victoria has a prominent parapet bearing the RAOB name and emblem. Both have a degree of aesthetic value in contributing to the low scale character of the streetscape
F: Aesthetic or other significance	Does not meet this criterion.
G: Social significance	41 Victoria Street has a special association with the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes who acquired the site following loss of their hall in 1958. The RAOB have had a presence since 1931 when the Mackay Lodge No. 34 opened with a handful of members. By 1952 this number had grown to more than 150 and the order maintains a strong presence and special association with the region.
H: Historical significance	Does not meet this criterion.

References:

- Woods, R., 1996, 'Heritage Places Criteria', Mackay City Council
- Daily Mercury, 'Wedding Bells' 23/09/36 p.3, 'Divorce Action', 09/06/51, p.3, and 'Trocadero Changes Hands', 18/07/39 p.8.

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