

Local Heritage Register: The Hotel Mackay



The Hotel Mackay, 2000, Mackay Regional Council

Building Name	Hotel Mackay / The Lucky Aussie Hotel
Street Address:	177 Victoria Street
Property Description:	Lot 1 on RP717268 and Lot 1 on RP700737
Land Area:	381m ² and 1147m ²

Description

The Hotel Mackay was designed by local Mackay architect, Harold Vivian Marsh Brown and constructed by Barbat and Stronach.

Hotel Mackay is a good representative example of an inter-war functionalist style hotel with Art Deco detailing.

While the building has undergone some alterations, it retains key features of the style including:

- asymmetrical massing;
- columns, not emphasized;
- metal framed windows;
- rounded corner;
- long, horizontal balconies; and
- roof concealed by a parapet

Hotel Mackay is important in

retaining its largely intact external form as a two storey corner hotel which makes a valuable contribution to the Victoria Street streetscape.

History

The original "Federal Hotel" was built in 1911. The original licence was granted to Mary Sharpley on 5 July 1911. Mary Sharpley was the daughter of hotelier and member of a well known Mackay family of publicans, Michael Ready. The name was changed to Hotel Mackay on 19 February 1923. The hotel was destroyed by fire on Wednesday 28 September 1938 and rebuilt by Curley and Florence Poole.

In 1942 the Americans took it over as an officer's mess and

quarters and the Pooles had a temporary bar a few doors down in Victoria Street.

The building is important in providing physical evidence of the interwar building boom in Mackay and in demonstrating the development of the region and the part it played in accommodating soldiers during World War II.

The hotel was later leased by the Poole's daughter and son-in-law, Bill and Iris Knobel (nee Poole). In 1966, Tom and Dulcie Knobel leased the hotel and from 1968 to 1976 it was leased by their daughter and son-in-law Gib and Marie Shanks. When the Shanks' lease expired, Mrs Iris Knobel once again took over the hotel. However, she passed away

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unexpectedly. The lease was later taken over by the Merrick family. The name was changed to the Lucky Aussie Hotel in 2010 and returned to the Hotel Mackay in 2013.

The Lucky Aussie Hotel, 2010, Mackay Regional Council



Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical Significance	The Mackay Hotel was designed by H.V.M Brown and constructed by Barbat and Stronach. During WW2 the place was taken over by US personnel. The building is important in providing physical evidence of the interwar building boom and demonstrates the development of the region and its role accommodating soldiers during WW2.
B – All Aspects of Heritage Significance	Does not meet this criterion.
C – Scientific Significance	Does not meet this criterion.
D – Architectural Significance	The hotel meets this criterion as an interwar functionalist style hotel with Art Deco detailing. While it has undergone some alterations, it retains key features of the streamline modern style of Art Deco architecture: asymmetrical massing; columns, not emphasized; metal framed windows; rounded corner; long, horizontal balconies; and roof concealed by a parapet.
E – Aesthetic /Architectural Significance	The hotel meets this criterion through its quality, intactness, setting and location context and the valuable 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	Does not meet this criterion.

References

- Butler, G & Associates, 1994, 'Mackay Region Heritage Pilot Study,' p.170 Mackay City Council
- Hall, G.D., 2014, 'Pubs of Mackay 1862-1962', published by Mackay Historical Society and Museum Incorporated
- Mackay Regional Council records

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