

Local Heritage Register: Lamberts Economic Stores

Building Name:	Lamberts
Street Address:	89 Victoria Street
Property Description:	Lot 4-6 on RP700800
Land Area:	281m ² x 3 = 843m ²



Lamberts Economic Stores with staff, Victoria Street c1920

Description

This building is significant representing more than a century of trading by the Lambert family in the city.

Lamberts Economic Stores commenced trading in 1887 after the enterprise of Thornber and Lambert ceased. The partnership traded on this site known as the Palace Stores. Mr. Thornber opened the 'New' Palace Stores at 44 Victoria Street (Moohins Second Hand until demolition in 2005).

History

Mr. Lambert was a general storekeeper operating with partners and then as a sole trader until 1905 when Lamberts became a limited liability company to allow staff and children to enter the business.

By the late 1800s general stores

were departmentalising, and by 1895 Lambert had 'experts' running various sections including groceries, ironmongery and drapery.

From accounts, Lamberts operated a customer-focussed store. Sam Lambert was well liked by staff and the townsfolk, participating in numerous civic activities. He was a member of the Harbour Board, Mackay Mayor in 1899 and on the Mackay District Hospital committee.

Mr. Lambert relinquished control of the store after 1905 to Mr. E.J. Marryatt and later to son, Mr. Richard Lambert.

Sam Lambert came to the region in 1884 and died in June 1911 at 53 years of age. He is buried in the Mackay cemetery. He had six children with his wife Esther.

After the construction of the modern arcade building

'Centrepoin't' in 1979 the department store moved to a Gregory Street frontage. The firm went through numerous transformations over time as shopping habits changed. The grocery section closed in 1964 after 'supermarkets' became the norm and Lamberts closed in 2001 after the opening of Caneland Shoppingtown in 1979.

The Building

The building is believed to have been built between 1895 and 1896 by 'day labour' (as opposed to contractors) to a design by prominent Mackay architect Joseph Vidulich.

The building contains three tenancies on the ground floor. Part of the awning retains its soffit of pressed metal ceiling sloping up towards the building, another part is possibly concealed.

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The parapet consists of three matching portions stepped up in the centre of each shop, of painted brickwork with stucco embellishment of cornice and pilasters. The top line is decorated with brackets at the steps and balls atop the pilasters.

The premises were enlarged over the years to cater for increased trade. Extensive renovations to the interior were made in 1964/65 and in 1970 the region's first escalator was installed.



Lamberts Building, 2004, Mackay Regional Council

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	Lamberts Economic Store was established in 1887 by S. Lambert, and continued use in its location until relocation to Gregory Street in 1979. The building is important in providing physical evidence of a late 19th century department store, constructed at a time when department stores offering a wide range of goods and services, were being established across Queensland.
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	While the interior has been altered for use as a nightclub, and the ground floor shopfronts and awning have also undergone some alteration, the building retains a strong streetscape presence. The building demonstrates key characteristics of the Federation Free Classical style including: symmetrical façade; parapet concealing roof; cornice and pilasters; string course; and semicircular openings.
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 the Lambert family, through 114 years of continuous ownership. Following the death of Samuel Lambert in 1911, the store was run by subsequent generations until its closure in 2001.

References:

- Daily Mercury, 'Samuel Lambert Obituary', Page 6, 22 June, 1911
- The Sydney Mail, 'Mr. Samuel Lambert', Page 1061, 23 November 1895
- Butler, G & Associates, 1994, *Mackay Region Heritage Pilot Study*, p.148, Mackay City Council,
- Woods, R., 1995, *Heritage Places Criteria*, ID 13, Mackay City Council
- Dalton, R., Jacobs, A., and Wright, B., 1996, '*Heritage Context Study for Mackay City Council - A Town Planning Review*', Mackay City Council

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