

Local Heritage Register: Andrew's Jewellers



Andrew's Jewellers (left), 1940

Building Name:	Andrew's Jewellers
Street Address:	49 Sydney Street
Property Description:	Lot 2 on RP706655
Land Area:	124m ²

Description

The notable owner of this early brick building was Mr WH Andrew, jeweller, a popular community member and skilled local craftsman.

History

William Henry Andrew was born in 1882 and arrived in Australia in 1887 with his family in Townsville. After learning his trade and practising in Sydney, he arrived in Mackay in 1908, trading firstly in Wood Street in the Elworthys Building.

Andrew's Jewellers was relocated to Victoria Street in 1909 and then to Sydney Street, north of Victoria Street in 1913.

WH Andrew married Annie Harvey of Charters Towers and had three

sons: Roy, Lyall and Keith; and a daughter Phyllis. Lyall managed the business with his father, but passed away after extended illness in 1942. Annie passed in 1944.

The Building

After a number of moves and expansions, Mr Andrew decided to construct his own shop which he occupied until his death in 1941.

A contract was signed for construction of three shops in June 1927 with prominent local builder Mr William Guthrie. In that same year the neighbouring Union Bank was completed making that section of Sydney Street quite attractive at the time; with Flemmings further south and the Town Hall built in 1912.

The shop was notable for its large clock mounted above the awning, referred to as the "Big Ben of Sydney Street". This was sometimes confusing as the Town hall was built with a clock tower and referred to in historical accounts as a clock tower, but the council was never able to afford a clock!

The building remains largely intact above the awning, and plays an important role in contributing to the low-scale character of the Sydney Street streetscape. Below the awning, the southern shop



Original shopfront features, Mackay Regional Council, 2017

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retains notable stained glass and the inset front door and display windows either side, typical of the era.

WH Andrew continued to trade in Sydney Street under the management of Keith and Phyllis, while Roy opened Andrews Treasure Store in Victoria Street. This business later moved to the 'Andrews Building' in 1966 (see Heritage Fact Sheet for 11 Wood Street) and traded until the 1980s.



Andrew's Building, 2017, Mackay Regional Council collection

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	In 1927 local builder William Guthrie constructed a single storey masonry building comprising four shops on Sydney Street. The building is important in demonstrating the building boom of the Interwar period in Mackay.
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	The building at 49 Sydney Street remains largely intact above the awning, retaining its brick parapet and windows above the awning. One of the four tenancies also remains highly intact at ground level, with two panels of leadlighting remaining. The building is important in contributing to the low scale character of the Sydney Street 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:

- Daily Mercury 'New Jeweller' 16 May 1908
- Daily Mercury "Union Bank Ltd" Tuesday 25 October 1927 page 3
- Daily Mercury 'Obituary' 3 January 1941
- Daily Mercury 'Obituary' 30 March 1942
- Daily Mercury 'Jewel Thefts' 26 Jan 1948

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