

Local Heritage Register: Mackay Spare Parts



Western side of Sydney Street ca 1920s, Note the original awning on the building. Copyright Mackay Regional Council Libraries Image No. qmc05523r

Building Name:	Mackay Spare Parts / Petersen & Tait Ltd / Browns Pty Ltd
Street Address:	21 Sydney Street
Property Description:	Lot 153 on M912
Land Area:	4012m ²

Description

Having survived cyclones and devastating fire, the distinctive facade is all that remains from this early 20th century building.

The building is believed to coincide with the success of the Petersen & Tait partnership as storekeepers.

History

Petersen and Tait formed their partnership in 1893. The storekeepers did not occupy the entire building at that time.

The address has had only three major tenants for more than a century, housing prominent Mackay businesses for over 125 years. The first notable tenants were the storekeeper partnership of Petersen & Tait which commenced trading in 1893 and continued until 1909. Thereafter James Tait continued to trade on the premises under that name but without H.D. Petersen as partner, until his retirement in 1923.

Mr. Tait died unexpectedly in 1927, but had sold the business prior to Messrs. E.M. & D.M. Brown. Browns Pty Ltd

traded for over 20 years into the 40s until Mackay Spare Parts business commenced in approximately 1946 as Hodge & Rasmussen, occupying the entire building since then.

The Building

While the building has been subject to a degree of alteration and fire damage, the original façade above the awning has been retained and is important in contributing to the streetscape values of Sydney Street.

The facade was retained after the 1988 fire almost destroyed the entire building. The remainder of the building was demolished.

The original construction and design is by George Wolfe who purchased the property to redevelop. It included a traditional awning and posts to the kerb (see plate above). The awning structure now features three

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mansard-like elements to replace the original single slope of corrugated iron.

The facade of stucco on brick is now reinforced with steel and concrete. The parapet has three gables between which, is a frieze of round pierced masonry surrounded by ribbon moulding. A ledge above the awning, a projecting coping and engaged piers modulated the parapet. Urns stand at each corner and beside the lower corners of the three gables.



Mackay Spare Parts, 2016, Mackay Regional Council

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	The building was constructed in the late 19th century and used as a Department Store. A fire in 1988 destroyed the building, and the facade is all that remains of the original construction. It is important in demonstrating the development of the Mackay region from the 19th century to the present day.
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 building has been subject to a degree of alteration the original façade of the building above the awning has been retained and is important in contributing to the streetscape values of Sydney Street.
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:

- Woods, R., 1995, 'Heritage Places Criteria', Mackay Regional Council (ID30)
- Daily Mercury, Obituary Mr. James Tait, 31 August 1927
- Mackay Spare Parts <http://mackayspareparts.com.au/>

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