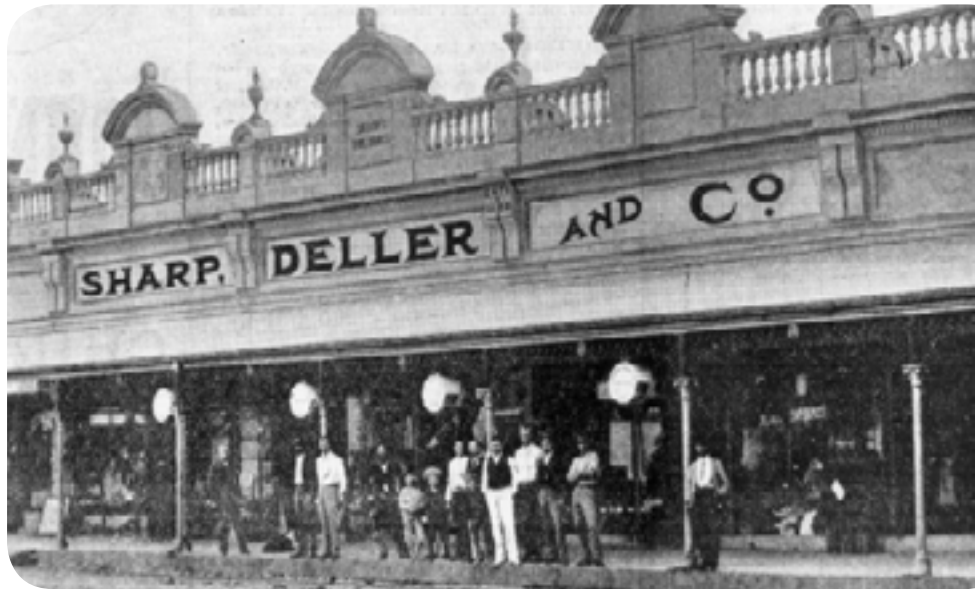


Local Heritage Register: Sharps Building



Sharp and Deller ca. 1895 Copyright Mackay Regional Council Library image qmc05289

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Building Name: | Sharps Buildings / Sharp, Deller & Co. |
| Street Address: | 26 - 28 Sydney Street |
| Property Description: | Lots 1 and 2 on RP707052 |
| Land Area: | 2 x 340m ² |

Description

These two shops remain from the original row of five which were known as Sharps Buildings.

This building was originally part of a row of five shops completed in February 1892, and is one of the earliest remaining buildings in Sydney Street. It forms one of the few surviving links with the Sydney Streetscape of the 1890s and is important in demonstrating the development of the Mackay region from the 19th century to the present day.

History

The building was completed for Mackay merchant, John Howard Sharp in February 1892. Mr. Sharp was in partnership with Mr. W. N. Deller. Mr. Deller was born in England in 1849 and immigrated to Australia with his young wife in ca. 1875. The Dellers came to Mackay and started a draper's business with Mr. Sharp who was a relative of Mrs. Deller.

Mr. Deller traded by himself for some time before the two men were again in business as Sharp, Deller & Co. Mr. Sharp died suddenly in ca. 1894 and Mr

Deller continued to operate the business until the early 1900s when ill health required him to stop work.

The Building

This distinctive building was constructed in 1892 by Charles Porter to the design of Otto Seidel. Commissioned by Mr J.H. Sharp, it originally featured the words 'Sharp's Building' in the centre.

The building had many tenants. One of the most notable was Peter Cominos who opened the Sydney Oyster Saloon in 1905. After the 1918 cyclone the cafe was reopened as the Britannia Cafe.

The northern-most shop has been a chemist since its construction. RGB Rose occupied the building in the early years, then Charles Morely and later Armati's and GreenSpot. The shop is now a

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health insurance firm.

Whilst the shopfronts and interiors of these two shops are modern, the parapet is richly ornamental. The awning shows some original construction, principally in the suspension rods.

The pediment is stucco with projecting piers at each end and in the centre, rising to form the curved newels of a turned

masonry balustrade parapet. Urns top these newels. The centre of each of the two bays contains a false front with arched heads and ribbed wide low relief pilasters. Scrolled brackets frame each front.

The southern shops became JC Penny's and later Coles in the 70s and 80s when that part of the building was extensively modified.



Mr. Peter Comino outside his Sydney Oyster Saloon in 1907. Photo contributed by the Daily Mercury

Statement of Historical Significance

| Criteria | Significance |
|--|---|
| A: Historical significance | Originally part of a row of five shops built by Charles Porter for a Mackay merchant, to the design of architect, Otto Seidel. It was completed in February 1892, and is one of the earliest remaining buildings in Sydney Street. It forms one of the few surviving links with the Sydney Streetscape of the 1890's and 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, original classical detailing is retained in the parapet above the awning with each of the two bays containing balustraded parapet with central arched head pediment flanked by ribbed pilasters. The building is important streetscape values. |
| 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., 1996, 'Heritage Places Criteria', Mackay City Council
- The Daily Mercury, "The Late Mr W.N. Deller", 4 August, 1914, p.7
- The Daily Mercury, 2012, Mackay in Pictures:150 years of History, Mackay Printing and Publishing Co.

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