

# Local Heritage Register: Country Women's Association Hall



CWA Hall, 1954, State Library of Qld, Image 05679

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Building Name :</b>        | Country Women's Association (CWA) Hall |
| <b>Street Address</b>         | 43 Gordon Street                       |
| <b>Property Description :</b> | Lot 1 on RP700817                      |
| <b>Land Area:</b>             | 611m <sup>2</sup>                      |

## Description

**This single storey Art Deco stucco building is freshly painted in the renowned CWA blue.**

The Country Women's Association (CWA) is the largest women's association in Australia and the Mackay Branch is important in demonstrating the evolution of the association in responding to the isolation experienced by families in regional areas.

The CWA Mackay Branch has a long association with the region; established in 1923, and having its first permanent hall in Albert (Gordon) Street in 1928. The branch temporarily relocated

to new premises at 55 Gordon Street in 1937 until a new hall officially opened by the Mayor of Mackay, Alderman G. Moody in May 1938.

## The Building

The CWA Hall is a small, single-storey building opening directly off the street. It has a 'hollywood' front in Art Deco stucco, behind which is a simple hall with pitched roof and side windows. There is limited detailing on the front which rises to a parapet concealing the roof. Three pairs of doors are mounted centrally, with square pilasters between the pairs. A slit window is placed each side of the doors, protected with wrought iron bars.

A round medallion containing a shell design is placed above each of these two windows. The doors are divided into panes with mullions and transoms, the upper and lower squares of glass are divided by diagonal crosses. The front steps are brick. The same bricks are used to form a small planter box on each side.

The Mackay CWA Hall is a good example of a purpose built, regional CWA Hall. The building has a special association with the local members of the Queensland Country Women's Association. The regional importance of the building is also demonstrated by the fact that in 1949, the Mackay Branch had the largest membership in Queensland.

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CWA Hall, 2016, Mackay Regional Council

## Statement of Historical Significance



| Criteria  | Significance   |
|---|--|
| <b>A: Historical significance</b>               | The CWA is the largest women's association in Australia and the Mackay Branch is important in demonstrating the evolution of the association in responding to the isolation experienced by families in regional areas. The CWA Mackay Branch has a long association with the region, established in 1923, with its first permanent hall in Albert Street in 1928. The branch temporarily relocated to new premises at 55 Gordon Street in 1937 until a new hall officially opened in May 1938. |
| <b>B: All aspects of heritage significance</b>  | Does not meet this criterion.  |
| <b>C: Scientific significance</b>               | Does not meet this criterion.  |
| <b>D: Architectural significance</b>            | The Mackay CWA Hall is a good example of a purpose built, regional CWA Hall.   |
| <b>E: Aesthetic /architectural significance</b> | Does not meet this criterion.  |
| <b>F: Aesthetic or other significance</b>       | Does not meet this criterion.  |
| <b>G: Social significance</b>                   | The building meets this criterion through special association with the local members of the CWA. The regional importance is demonstrated through the 1949 largest membership in Qld.   |
| <b>H: Historical significance</b>               | Does not meet this criterion.  |

## References:

- Woods, R., 1995, 'Heritage Place Criteria Study', Mackay City Council (ID 21)
- Cairns Post, 15 May 1929, pg 14
- Warwick Daily News (Qld. : 1919 -1954), Tuesday 10 May 1938, pg 3, 'Mackay Rest Room'

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