

Local Heritage Register: McKeever's Building

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| Building Name: | McKeever's Building |
| Street Address: | 22-24 Sydney Street |
| Property Description: | Lots 1 and 2 on RP714910 |
| Land Area: | 263m ² and 376m ² |

Description

Little is known of these quaint early 20th century shops, save for the most prominent tenant until the 50s.

The building is believed to date from the early 1900s. Photographic evidence of adjacent stores built in the dying days of the 19th century show a small wooden structure in its place and evidence of this new building appears firstly in the early 1920s.

History

The address has had a single prominent tenant for 30 years. Mr. Frank J. McKeever was a women's

hairdresser and tobacconist who operated his store at number 22 from 19 January 1925. Initially the business was in partnership with Mr. Clem Clerc, but in later years hairdressing was exclusively by Mr. McKeever.

Mr. McKeever's daughter, Frances, was also a hairdresser working for her father.

Strangely in October 1951, F.J. McKeever makes a public notice stating he has opened a new store directly opposite at number 29 Sydney Street while Miss McKeever continues to operate at 22 as "The Glory Chest" hairdresser.

The occupants of number 24 are unknown precisely however



Western side of Sydney Street ca 1920s, Note the original brick detailing on the parapet. Copyright Mackay Regional Council Libraries Image No. qmc 1960

"Dunns" were an occupant for some time in the 40's.

The Building

While the building has been subject to a degree of alteration, the original patterned brickwork is visible under the paint of number 22 and likely still remains under the 'modernisation' of number 24.

It seems that the building has always been two tenancies, however it was not subdivided into two titles until December 1954 after F.J. McKeever vacated the business.

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The land owner at the time of subdivision was the Queensland Trustee's office and Ms. Marguerite Munro (spinster).

The builder, construction date and designer are unknown. The building facade features symmetrical brickwork in geometric patterns in four panels above the awnings.



Brickwork detail covered by paint, McKeever's, 2016, Mackay Regional Council

Statement of Historical Significance

| Criteria | Significance |
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| A: Historical significance | The building replaced an earlier timber building, and was likely constructed in the Interwar period and accommodated Frank McKeever, hairdresser and tobacconist. The building is important in demonstrating 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 has been altered with half of the masonry parapet concealed, and the original brickwork and concrete render details painted over. Does not meet this criterion. |
| 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, Monday 19 January 1925, 29 September 1951 and 1 October 1954
- Land Title documents

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