

Local Heritage Register: The Palace Hotel



The Palace Hotel ca. 1950s

Building Name :	The Palace Hotel
Street Address:	82 Victoria Street
Property Description:	Lot 8 on SP105575
Land Area:	670m ²

Description

The Palace Hotel has historical significance for its continuous use as a hotel for over a century. The building is evidence of the interwar building boom in Mackay.

The Palace Hotel is an intact and representative example of an interwar functionalist-style hotel with Art Deco detailing. While the building has undergone some alterations in recent years including replacement of original windows and tiles to the ground floor, it retains key features of the streamline modern style of Art Deco architecture including:

- rounded corners;
- long, horizontal balconies,
- cantilevered balcony; and
- roof concealed by a parapet

with wide, horizontal bands.

History

The first hotel on the site dates back to 1884 and was a two-storey timber building known first as the Bobby Burns, then the Oxford Arms Hotel before becoming the Palace Hotel in 1905. Mr. P. Dunworth auctioned that building on 21 April 1939 for demolition.

The Building

A new building designed by architectural firm Hall and Phillips was constructed by McDonald and Sons in 1939 using bricks from the local Pindi Pindi brickworks (itself a State heritage-listed site just north of the city). The publican, Fred Lehfeldt, opened the new Palace Hotel in December 1939.

The Palace Hotel retains its largely intact external form which makes a valuable contribution to the streetscape of Mackay.

It is believed to be the first concrete building in Mackay with a fully cantilevered verandah, demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement.

The first floor contains bedrooms with french doors onto the verandah, spanning the footpath of both streets. The doors are timber framed, glazed with obscured glass, with awning hopper fanlights above. The verandah cantilevers on tapering concrete beams which step up on their soffits. A spandrel hangs below floor level containing advertising. The railing is of horizontal flat metal bars with the flat face vertical and a fifth is set horizontally on top as a handrail. The verandah roof also cantilevers, with concealed structure in both directions. The fascia is ribbed metal, curved around the corner. The parapet is moulded, decorated and raised

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in the central corner with “Palace Hotel” set in relief lettering. A finial is set in the centre of the coping. Four finials break the coping of the Sydney Street frontage and two in the Victoria Street frontage. The parapet is grooved to form equal, wide horizontal bands.

The hotel is a striking example of Art Deco architecture, and one of the finest buildings of its type in the State.



The Palace Hotel, 2004 - Mackay Regional Council

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	The first hotel dates back to 1884, becoming the Palace Hotel in 1905. A new building designed by Hall and Phillips was constructed by McDonald and Sons in 1937 using bricks from the Pindi Pindi brickworks. The hotel has historical significance for its continuous use as a hotel for over a century, and as physical evidence of the interwar building boom.
B: All aspects of heritage significance	Does not meet this criterion.
C: Scientific significance	Does not meet this criterion.
D: Architectural significance	The Palace Hotel is a good, representative and intact example of an inter-war functionalist style hotel with Art Deco detailing.
E: Aesthetic / architectural significance	The Palace Hotel is important in retaining its largely intact external form as a two storey corner hotel which makes a valuable contribution to the streetscape of Mackay.
F: Aesthetic or other significance	The Palace Hotel meets this criterion as it is likely the first concrete building in Mackay constructed with a cantilevered verandah, demonstrating a high degree of technical achievement. It is a striking example of Art Deco architecture, and one of the finest buildings of its type in the State.
G: Social significance	Does not meet this criterion.
H: Historical significance	Does not meet this criterion.

References:

- Butler, G., & Associates, 1994, 'Mackay Region Heritage Pilot Study', p.165, Mackay City Council
- Hall, G.D., 2014, 'Pubs of Mackay 1862-1962', published by Mackay Historical Society and Museum Incorporated
- Daily Mercury, 19 December 1939, 'Palace Hotel' p.6 and 9 April 1939, 'Important Building Sale', p.12

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