

Local Heritage Register: Taylor's Building



Taylor's Building, ca1935, State Library of Queensland image 05519

Building Name:	Taylor's Building
Street Address:	164 Victoria Street
Property Description:	Lot 1 on RP700765
Land Area:	997m ²



Daily Mercury Advertisement, 14 November, 1935

Description

Taylor's Building consists of four concrete shops to be tenanted individually.

History

The building has historical significance given its ties to the Taylor family, who had a notable impact on Mackay's economy and social fabric during the twentieth century. The Taylor family operated Taylors Hotel in Wood Street and the adjacent Theatre Royal (see the Fact Sheet for 126 Woods Street). The construction of this building was enabled through the Taylor Estate as John Taylor died in 1925. The hotel and other land holdings were overseen by his widow Mary.

The Building

The building was a was designed by Joseph Gabriel Rooney, a Townsville architect who also designed Wilkinson's, Taylors and the Ambassador Hotels. It was constructed by William Guthrie, whose work included numerous other buildings in the area.

The building is single-storey concrete, constructed to accommodate four individual tenancies. Approved in October 1933, the construction was valued at 3,600 pounds and was completed in 1934. Noxalls, a cycle works and motor business owned by Henry Hubert Simpson, occupied space in the building in the 1930s.

Cawte & Son, a local painting company, also conducted business in the building in 1935, before relocating in September 1936.

The original form has been retained with detailing above the parapet and classical elements such as pilasters and pediment, as well as other Art Deco elements such as a stepped skyline. Overall, it strongly contributes to the Victoria Street streetscape, and the heritage value of the area.

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Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	Local builder, William Guthrie commenced construction on Taylor’s Buildings in 1933, with the building officially opening by March 1934. The building was designed by Townsville architect, Joseph Gabriel Rooney who also designed Wilkinson’s, Taylors and the Ambassador Hotel. The building is historically important for its association with the Taylor Family, and in demonstrating the Interwar building boom 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	Taylor’s Buildings is a single storey concrete building constructed to accommodate four individual tenancies. It retains original detailing above the parapet including Classical elements such as pilasters and pediment bearing the date of construction and Art Deco elements including horizontal parallel banding and stepped skyline. It makes a strong contribution to the Victoria Street streetscape.
F: Aesthetic or other significance	Does not meet this criterion.
G: Social significance	Does not meet this criterion.
H: Historical significance	The building has strong associational links with the Taylor family who had significant interests in and impact on Mackay’s economic and social fabric for much of the twentieth century.

References:

- Heritage Context Study for the Mackay City Council Town Planning Review
- Daily Mercury “New Bank Premises,” Thursday 14 December 1933, p 8
- Daily Mercury “Building Activity Modern Premises Planned”, Friday 13 October 1933, p8.
- Daily Mercury, “Painting Business”, Thursday 24 September 1936, p8.

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