

Local Heritage Register: T&G Building



The T&G Building, 2010, Mackay Regional Council's collection

Building Name:	T&G Building
Street Address:	116 Victoria Street
Property Description:	Lots 1 on RP700823, RP700828 and RP709818
Land Area:	642m ²

Description

This distinctive building is a local heritage icon, not only for its architecture and design pedigree but also for its construction from local materials and pre-construction controversy.

The building was constructed by the Queensland Building and Engineering Company for Mr George Charles Wood Jnr in 1937, most likely using local Pindi Pindi bricks. The State-heritage listed brickworks is visible from the Bruce Highway, just north of Mackay.

History

The site was the subject of a court case in 1936, which resulted in an order to demolish

the previous derelict wooden structure housing Mr Wood's news agent and book store.

The site was originally owned by one of the city's forefathers: Mr David Hay Dalrymple in 1883 until he sold to Mr George Woods Snr in 1906. The property passed on to G.C. Woods Jnr after the death of his mother in 1924. The property remained in descendants hands after George Jnr's death in 1940 until T&G's purchase in 1953 and opened in 1954.

Upon opening in 1937 the city had the benefit of a modern Central Cash Service (CCS) grocery store managed by Mr Charles Davie and leased by Shepherd's Anvil Stores of River

Street. The store commenced trading on 5 October 1937. In addition, the ground floor was occupied in part by Woolworths Ltd and later fully until 1985.

The Building

The building was designed by Edwin Roy Orchard, one of Australia's most notable Art Deco Architects, who designed a number of buildings in the town. The original building is intact above the awning. Small windows are placed regularly along the building just above the awning.

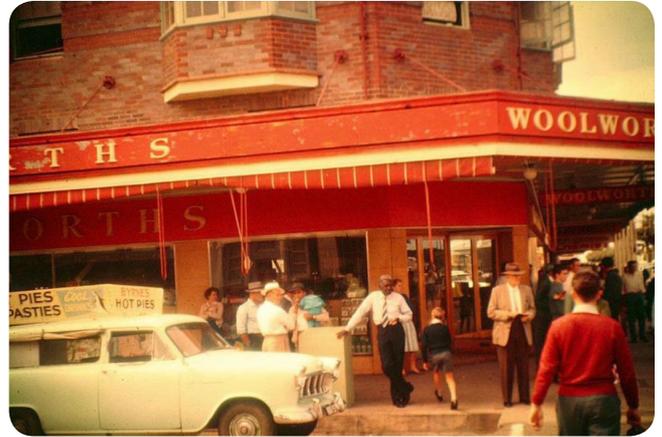
The photograph below shows the original casement-style windows, now replaced with aluminium. The pressed metal original awning treatment can still be seen on the return end in Victoria Street. The awning soffit is coffered in wood panelling.

The building is constructed of dark clay brick, smooth, slightly glossy and containing a high proportion of dark blue. This is offset by the use of dark red matt brick used to make three

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recessed bands and panels within the parapet. These are infilled with a diagonal basket weave bond. The shorter elevation on Victoria Street contains two bay windows.

The premises may have been attractive to T&G, displaying common features of the Society’s buildings including the prominent location commonly at a major intersection in the CBD, signage featuring the initials “T & G” that is able to be seen from a distance, and a canopy overhanging the street. The T&G Building is a landmark building that makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Mackay.



From 1937 to ca 1985 the ground floor of the building was a supermarket

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	The T&G Mutual Life Insurance Building, originally known as Woods Building, was constructed by Queensland Building and Engineering Company in 1937 following demolition of the earlier 1880s timber building on site which had fallen into disrepair. The building owner, George Charles Wood, commissioned ER Orchard, one of Australia’s most notable Art Deco Architects, to design the building for the establishment of Mackay’s first supermarket-style cash and carry store. The building is important in demonstrating the evolution of commerce in the region and its contribution to the development of Mackay as a regional centre.
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 T&G Building is a landmark building that makes an important contribution to the streetscape of Mackay
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, “Petty Sessions” 1 April 1936; “Woods Building”, 29 March, 1937; “CCS Opens” 15 October, 1937; and “GC Wood probate”, 25 September 1942
- Woods, R., 1995, ‘Heritage Places Criteria’, Mackay City Council, ID 13
- Mackay Regional Council records and titling documents

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