

Local Heritage Register: The Railway Hotel



Nobles Railway Hotel, Date unknown, published 1912, Mackay Regional Council Library, image qmc0804

Building Name:	The Railway Hotel / Nobles Railway Hotel / Langfords Hotel / The Old Railway Hotel
Street Address:	40 Tennyson Street
Property Description:	Lot 13 on SP159746
Land Area:	1590m ²

Description

This two-storey hotel is situated directly opposite the historic location of the Mackay rail yards. The rail yards were moved to Paget in 1990.

Originally known as the Railway Hotel, Langfords was constructed opposite the Mackay railway yards for Robert Henderson Noble and was sometimes referred to as Nobles Railway Hotel.

Built in 1908, it has had continuous use as a hotel for over a century and is currently the oldest hotel operating in the Mackay Central Business District.

History

Born in 1863, Robert came to Australia from York, settling in Mackay with his parents in approximately 1883. He was a farmer prior to taking up the licence in 1912. He held the licence to 1922 and again from 1924 to 1925. Robert married a french girl; Francesse Constable, at Holy Trinity in 1894 . He died in 1928 and is buried in the Mackay cemetery.

The hotel remained popular with goods yards workers even after the Mackay railway station moved to Boddington Street in 1924.

The hotel passed through several hands and was taken over by A.L.

Langford in 1951 when it was renamed. It remained Langfords until 2010 when the name reverted to The Old Railway Hotel for a short period before returning to Langfords in mid-2015.

The Building

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, two storey timber buildings were prevalent across the region. The interwar building boom in Mackay saw many of these buildings replaced with modern masonry structures. Langfords Hotel is a rare remaining two storey timber hotel in the Mackay CBD.

The hotel was designed by Arthur Rigby and built by John Beenleigh

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Phillips. While the building has undergone alterations, including enclosing the first floor verandah and installation of aluminium doors and windows, it retains principal characteristics of an early twentieth century hotel, and remains a dominant feature in the streetscape. The hotel is a rare example of a timber structure which has survived fires and the 1918 cyclone.



Langfords Hotel, 1992, Mackay Regional Council

Statement of Historical Significance

Criteria	Significance
A: Historical significance	Known as the Railway Hotel, Langfords was constructed opposite the Mackay Railway Station for R. H. Noble, in 1908. It has had continuous use as a hotel for over a century and is currently the oldest hotel operating in the Mackay Central Business District.
B: All aspects of heritage significance	In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, two storey timber buildings were prevalent across the region. The interwar building boom replaced many wooden buildings with modern masonry. Langfords is a rare remaining two storey timber hotel in the CBD.
C: Scientific significance	Does not meet this criterion.
D: Architectural significance	Does not meet this criterion.
E: Aesthetic / architectural significance	While the building has undergone alterations, including enclosing the first floor verandah and installation of aluminium doors and windows, it retains principal characteristics of an early twentieth century hotel, and remains a dominant feature in the streetscape.
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:

- Butler, G., & Associates, 1994, 'Mackay Region Heritage Pilot Study', page 159, Mackay City Council
- Mackay Regional Council Records
- Woods, R., 1995, 'Heritage Places Criteria', Mackay City Council

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