

Mackay Regional Council is committed to preserving the heritage and character of our city.



Looking after your Bungalow

For more information on maintaining heritage houses, please refer to council's publication "Conserving Heritage Houses in the Mackay Region" or visit council's website and enter "heritage planning" into the website's search function.

References

For information about building in West Mackay contact council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 622 529.

Information in this brochure has been taken from:
Berenice Wright, Anne Jacobs and Roger Dalton, 'Heritage context study for the Mackay City Council town planning review' 1996
Graeme Butler and Associates, 'Mackay region pilot heritage study' 1994.

More Resources

There are many sources of information for assistance in looking after your house, including the following:

- Mackay Regional Council, *Conserving Heritage Houses in the Mackay Region*, 2010.
- Ian Evans and the National Trust of Queensland, *The Queensland house: history and conservation*, 2001.
- Rod Fisher (ed), *The Queensland house: a roof over our heads*, 1994.
- Graeme Butler, *The Californian bungalow in Australia*, 1992.
- Ian Evans, *Restoring old houses: a guide to authentic restoration*, 1989.

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Bungalows near the cane:

The houses of West Mackay

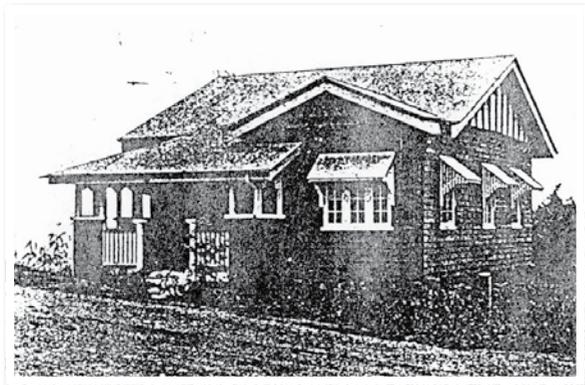


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The suburb of West Mackay is a special part of the wider city area. This is a result of its history, how it was developed and its consistent building form.



The wider city

Mackay was settled by Europeans as a river port in the early 1860s, to serve the pastoral and agricultural hinterland. Sugar cane cultivation became a major industry and by the early 1900s the town had a population of a few thousand.

The violent cyclone that hit Mackay in January 1918 destroyed many of the town's buildings. The reconstruction that was necessary and the general expansion in the sugar industry in the 1920s and 1930s saw a major building boom in the city in the interwar period.



While many new buildings were constructed in the central city area the population of Mackay almost doubled between 1920 and 1940, for much of this period Mackay was the fastest growing city in regional Queensland. The physical boundaries of the city expanded, and an area west of the city centre was developed to house the growing community.

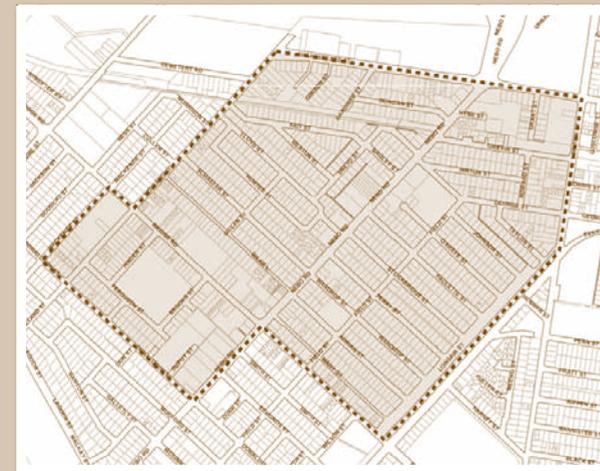
From the late 1910s land was subdivided in West Mackay into a series of residential allotments. Continuous grids of streets were surveyed in the suburb at 45° to the main part of the city, dictated by the alignment of Nebo Road from the first survey of the 1860s. Subdivisions continued into the 1930s and 1940s and many houses were constructed in the suburb at this time.

The bungalows of West Mackay are just one of the character precincts identified in the Mackay City, the other two precincts include Queen's Park and the Railway Station.

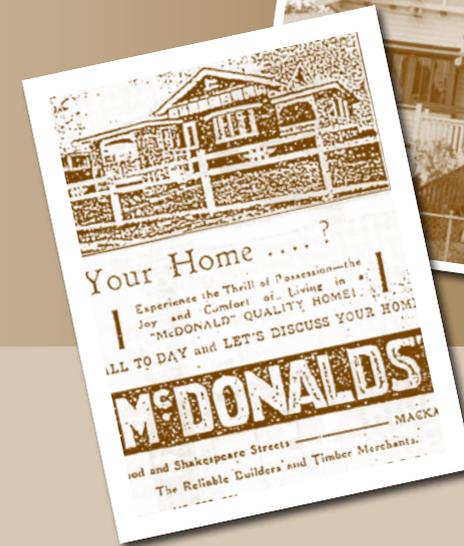
The Bungalow Form

In Mackay in the interwar period local builders advertised their services in constructing houses designed to standard plans. Other 'kit homes', usually prefabricated at another location, were available for purchase.

There were many government programs in this period to encourage residential construction. Most prominent of these was the Workers Dwellings scheme, a government initiative whereby people on low incomes could access low interest loans to build houses. Other schemes included the Commonwealth War Services Homes, Workers' Homes, Flood and Cyclone Restoration Scheme, and the Building Revival Scheme. Some were especially tailored for residents of North Queensland.



A series of standard plans were available, prepared by government architects, for prospective home builders to choose from.



While many styles of houses were possible under the Workers Dwelling scheme, the 'Californian Bungalow' and derivations of this style were the most popular.

Bungalows can be broadly defined as a house with a low pitched roof, overhanging eaves and prominent gables. Front verandahs and side verandahs for sleepouts were also distinctive features. Timber construction was the norm. While the typical house was elevated on high timber stumps, low set houses were also constructed in this period.

Many of these types of houses were constructed in West Mackay in the 1930s and 1940s, and indeed other parts of the city. However West Mackay is one of the more intact precincts of interwar housing in the city with little modern intrusion. As a result, the character of the suburb is special with the surviving houses demonstrating many of these qualities, with a consistency of building form, stylistic details and construction materials.