

Other Names	N/A	
Street Address	33 Main Street	Proserpine
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	19RP726988	(E: 665103 N: 7743276)

Historical Context

The Proserpine district was first settled by European pastoralists in the 1870s. One property, Glen Isla, was set aside for a 3000 acre sugar plantation in 1882. Although land was cleared by Pacific Islander and Chinese labour, and machinery and a mill was ordered for crushing, the Crystal Brook Sugar Company Limited was not successful. The land was subdivided under the auspices of the Crown Lands Act 1884 which provided for the resumption of larger pastoral runs and conversion to small selections. In the 1890s, part of the Glen Isla property was included in the Proserpine township.

Proserpine township and district developed quickly after the establishment of the Proserpine Central Sugar Mill in 1897. The mill, which was financed under the provisions of the Sugar Works Guarantee Act 1893, was located in the centre of town, with frontage on Main and Mill Streets. Cane was transported to the mill via a tramway and then transported to a wharf on the Proserpine River.

The first shop on the site of the Hewitt building was a two story timber building owned by Alfred Harvey Hewitt who ran a saddlery in 1903. It was then used variously as refreshment rooms, tea rooms and as a shop. Between 1925 and 1928 it was renovated and run as a chemist by a Mr J.M Harkness followed by Phillip Sydney Reid. At the end of the 1920s, Mr Hewitt's widow, Mrs O'Hara decided to build a new building, with the original timber structure being moved to Den Island. The new single storey building was constructed from reinforced concrete and had a decorative parapet and cantilevered awning. It was built by Mr Robert Shaw.

The new building continued to operate as a chemist under a variety of owners until 1997 when Robert and Megan McKay, who had bought the business in 1996, moved to different premises. The building was then used as a travel agency until 2009, before reopening as the 'Tropical Beach Hut' in 2010.

Physical Description

The Hewitt building is located on the northern side of Proserpine's main commercial precinct, Main Street. It is a single storey reinforced concrete building with a cantilevered awning and an art deco-style parapet with decorative mouldings. The parapet contains the lettering 'Hewitt Building.' The shop front has been altered and currently comprises aluminum window framing and a central entrance door.

Integrity	Fair	Condition	Fair
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings		
Inspection Date	15/02/2011		

References

David Scobie Architects, 2005. Proserpine Main Street Study & Datasheets.

Historical information from the Proserpine Historical Museum.

Heritage Significance	
Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
Statement	The Hewitt Building demonstrates the evolution and process of retail premises in Proserpine's commercial precinct during the late 1920s at a time when the district was expanding with the sugar industry.
E	<i>The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance</i>
Statement	The Hewitt Building's art deco parapet, with decorative lettering and mouldings, and cantilevered awning contribute to the overall aesthetics of Proserpine's Main Street commercial precinct.

Location Map

