

Other Names	O'Duinns Irish Pub	
Street Address	29 Main Street	Proserpine
Title Details/ GPS Coordinates	17RP724069	(E: 665096 N: 7743282)

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 Palace Hotel in Proserpine was a two storey timber building constructed by August Schumake. Licenses changed hands a number of times during the first years, but a significant leasee was Henry (Harry) Deicke who took out the lease in 1903 and bought the property in 1907. In addition to running the hotel, Deicke, whose family was amongst the early settlers in Proserpine, farmed cane for a few years and later ran a cattle station. According to the Proserpine Historical Museum, Deicke undertook a number of alterations to the building during this time. The license changed hands regularly until 1928 when Mrs CE Henderson was proprietor of the Palace. Still owned by Deicke, it was extended and altered c.1939 to include additional accommodation facilities to cater for an increasing demand for accommodation.

Historic photographs from the late 1920s to 1950s illustrate a change in the building façade. Prior to the construction of the masonry frontage with stepped parapet, the building had a double square hipped roofline. Although the exact date of the façade addition is unknown, it is likely that the additions were influenced by the construction of a range of other masonry commercial buildings in Main Street during the 1950s when the sugar industry was prosperous and stimulating regional growth.

Following Mrs Henderson's lease of the hotel, Mrs OM Jones took over the hotel. She ran it until 1963 and it went on to have two more owners before it was bought by Jim Bowman in 1977. The Faust family purchased the building in 1995, and modernized the dining area and later added the TAB section to the hotel. They sold it to Paul McEnroe in 2004, who remodeled the building substantially. It was taken over in 2006 by Thomas and Audrey Dunne who remodeled the hotel and renamed it O'Duinns Irish Pub.

Physical Description

The Palace Hotel is located in the centre of Proserpine's commercial district, on the northern side of Main Street. The two storey hotel has a masonry façade with a stepped parapet and art deco motif. There is sufficient room on the parapet front for a name plate 'Palace Hotel'.

The façade wall extends around each side of the building, incorporating an open veranda with timber balustrading on the upper level to the front and to the west, and large, stop chamfered posts at street level which support the upper veranda and posts. The veranda is enclosed by board to the south east. The lower storey of the main street elevation comprises modified windows and aluminum entrance doors. Rooms on the second floor open onto the veranda via French-style timber doors.

The eastern elevation of the building comprises a wall with upper storey windows with tin window hoods. From the eastern elevation the former double square hipped roofline is apparent, as are building additions, one including an open veranda, the other comprising a large gabled roof structure.

Integrity	Fair	Condition	Fair
Statutory Listings	No statutory listings		
Non-Statutory Listings	No non-statutory listings		
Inspection Date	12/10/2010		

References

Historical information provided by Proserpine Historical Museum.

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

Townsville Daily Bulletin, 23 November 1951, p.5.

Townsville Daily Bulletin, 22 April 1939, p.6.

Heritage Significance

Criteria	Definition
A	<i>The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.</i>
Statement	The Palace Hotel Proserpine is important as the site of one of the early hotels in Proserpine and demonstrates the growth of Proserpine during the 1950s. Although modified over time, the stepped masonry parapet and modifications reflect the growing influence of the sugar industry in the district, and the hotel is strongly associated with the provision of accommodation in the town.
E	<i>The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance</i>
Statement	The Palace Hotel's decorative masonry facade and stepped parapet contribute to Main Street's overall aesthetic character and is evidence of the trend to use concrete for expansions and new buildings during the 1950s.

