

FRASER COAST BUILDING STYLES

COMMERCIAL

Approximate years

1920s – 1970s

Descriptions

Commercial buildings in Hervey Bay were timber and tin (and sometimes fibro) in the early period of settlement, up until World War II. Commercial buildings generally assumed a traditional gable design with a parapet and awning, a style common in small, regional settlements throughout Queensland. These types of buildings continued to be built in the postwar period (for example, along Fraser Street), demonstrating the cost effectiveness and utility of the basic design. Although not typical, they were occasionally built in brick, as in the former Torquay Post Office (now Simply Wok).

Commercial buildings in the postwar period tended to be built in the Modern idiom. They were generally brick veneer, with the occasional use of fibro. Roofs were skillion or, more commonly, flat (Conventional styles used a hipped roof). The flat roofed rectangular building was popular from an early period; see for example the shops attached to the Pacific Palais (1954). There are prominent outliers designed in the Streamline idiom made popular in the 1930s, most notably Pacific Palais on the corner of Queens Road and the Esplanade.

Arcades grew in popularity from the 1970s, with examples in Main Street, Pialba, Scarness and Torquay. A distinctive design feature of coastal buildings from the 1970s was the flared, ribbed or scalloped parapet, common in seaside resorts like Hervey Bay, the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast.

Elements

Tended to reflect common architectural design trends at the time of construction i.e. Federation, Interwar, Postwar Conventional and Modern.

Awnings and parapets in commercial buildings, with parapets often a distinctive ribbed or scalloped shape peculiar to coastal towns in the 1970s and 80s.





