

4.0 INDIVIDUAL BUILDING ASSESSMENTS IN REID STREET

REID STREET

21 Reid Street, Wilcannia Council Chambers
 25 Reid Street, Former Shop
 29 Reid Street, Former Garage
 30 Reid Street, Old Sandstone Shop
 37 Reid Street, Wilcannia Athenaeum
 39 Reid Street, Wilcannia CDEP Building (fmr West Darling Transport)
 40 Reid Street, Row of Shops
 41 - 43 Reid Street, Steam Engine
 44 Reid Street, cnr Myers St(Former) Knox & Downs Store
 45 Reid Street, cnr Myers, Wilcannia Post Office & Residence
 46 Reid Street, cnre Myers Street, Wilcannia Club Hotel
 48 Reid Street, Shop
 49 - 63 Reid Street, Baker Park and War Memorial,
 50 Reid Street, Butcher Shop
 54 Reid Street, Shop & House
 56 Reid Street, Shop
 58 Reid Street, Building Wall
 60 Reid Street, Wilcannia Auto Repairs
 64 Reid Street, cnr Cleaton Street, Queens Head Hotel,
 65 - 67 Reid St, Former Court House Hotel, cnr Cleaton Street
 66 - 68 Reid Street, Wilcannia Court House, cnr Cleaton Street
 70 - 72 Reid Street, Wilcannia Police Station and Gaol
 71 Reid Street, Rich & Company Bond Store
 73 Reid Street, Old Fuel Store
 Behind 73 Reid Street, House, Riversleigh
 74 – 76 Reid Street, Police Residence (adjacent to Police Station)
 75 Reid Street, Cottage
 77 Reid Street, Attached Cottages
 81 - 33 Reid Street, Sandstone Houses
 97 - 99 Reid Street, Sandstone Houses

OTHER STREETS

BARRIER HIGHWAY

Wilcannia Bridge
 Wilcannia Wharf

BYRNES STREET

24 Byrnes Street, House
 26 - 30 Byrnes Street, House

CLEATON STREET

26 Cleaton Street

HOOD STREET

19 – 21 Hood Street, House, Hillside
 93 Hood Street, Wilcannia Central School

MENINDIE ROAD

Wilcannia Cemetery

MYERS STREET

18 Myers St, Supermarket

24 – 26 Myers Street, stone houses

ROSS STREET

1 – 7 Ross Street, Wilcannia Hospital

6 – 8 Ross Street, Steam engines and water tower

19 – 23 Ross Street, House, former Brewery Residence

29 – 31 Golf Club, former Brewery

WARRALI AVENUE

St Theresa's Mission School

WOORE STREET

48 – 50 Woore Street, Former Convent

80 – 82 Woore Street, St James Anglican Church

OUTSIDE TOWNSHIP

Big Ampí Windmill, Big Ampí Station, 50 km's East of Menindee on the Ivanhoe-Menindee Road
S32 28.09 E142 53.79, Lot 4742 DP 762609

Wilcannia Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The Wilcannia Council Chambers is a two storey late Victorian public building, symmetrically fronted and built of local face sandstone with a two storeyed return verandah facing both street frontages. This building was erected in 1887 for the London Chartered Bank of Australia. The tender to build the new bank had been won by T Burnett of Goodwood, South Australia and announced in *Adelaide's Express and Daily Telegraph* on 23rd September 1886. (Burnett appears to have received a number of significant contracts in South Australia including the Baptist Church at Goodwood.) The former bank building was purchased by the Central Darling Shire in 1972 for use as the Wilcannia Council Chambers, and the Shire minutes show that \$8,000 was paid for the building and a budget of \$3000 was set for furnishing the new chambers.

The key feature of the building is the verandah. It has detailed cast iron work and timber decorative elements, including the balustrade, frieze, brackets and capital moulds to the paired chamfered verandah posts. The iron lacework features an acorn and leaf motif. The front façade facing Reid Street has four double hung timber sash windows with stone sills and sliding timber shutters, two on each level and either side of the central door (on both floors). There are also four windows to the Byrne Street elevation, two on either floor. The central front entrance door is surmounted with a transom light and the timber door's joinery is well detailed. The sandstone work is randomly-coursed and in good condition. The building has a hipped roof and is clad with early short-lapped corrugated iron sheeting, which has been painted red. The verandah roof is incorporated in the main roof of the building which has wide eaves. There are three projecting chimneys with a rendered finish. A later toilet block has been built at the rear of the property.

A *Conservation Management Plan* for the Council Chambers was completed in November 2008 and was used as a basis for a funding application for conservation to this building. This was successful and funding was obtained from the Federal Government Economic Stimulus Package in 2009.

Extensive conservation work was undertaken on this building commencing March 2009 and completed April 2010, with the overall contractor for the works being Heritage Stone Restorations from Adelaide. The works have included the rebuilding of the verandah (installation of a new timber floor, restructuring of posts, repairs to cast iron work, etc), repairs to the stonework, chimney repairs, and internal and external painting.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE:

This c1887 bank building is a rare surviving building in the Central Darling shire which makes extensive use of decorative cast iron components. It has strong associations with the historic spread of banking facilities within the region, and more recently with the administration of the shire. The building makes an important contribution to the streetscape.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
- 7. – Governing: Government and Administration

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to progressively implement the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals and maintaining the new timber floor boarding to the first floor verandah.



Early photo of council chambers

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item No 082

Wilcannia Council Chambers, 21 Reid Street, Wilcannia, Conservation Management Plan, November 2008, McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants

Former Commercial Bank, 25 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This is an early sandstone building, reputedly one of the earliest in Wilcannia. First owner of the property, in 1869, was William Crisp Pechey M.D. - possibly Wilcannia's first doctor. It is believed that the building was erected by Messrs Brayley and Co, in c1870. Title to the property passed to Pechey's widow Charlotte on his death around 1878 – subsequent owners were C. Vaughan, Charles Houghton, Butcher, then William Green. [See NSW Land Title Office Vol. 86 Folio 104, and Vol 622 Folio 243.]

The Commercial Banking Co of Sydney Ltd occupied the building from 1875 to 22nd April 1942, although title to the property was not passed to the bank until 27 June, 1883.

The stonework survives in good condition, with face stone still remaining on the east elevation. There is some evidence of cracking to the stonework on the front elevation, where the stone has unfortunately been painted. A later metal framed verandah has been installed to the building, with a flat roof which detracts from the appearance of the building. Original ogee profile guttering remains, although this appears to be leaking and causing some stone deterioration on the east elevation.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This small simple former bank building is a rare surviving early structure in the Central Darling Shire. It has strong associations with the historic spread of banking facilities within the region.

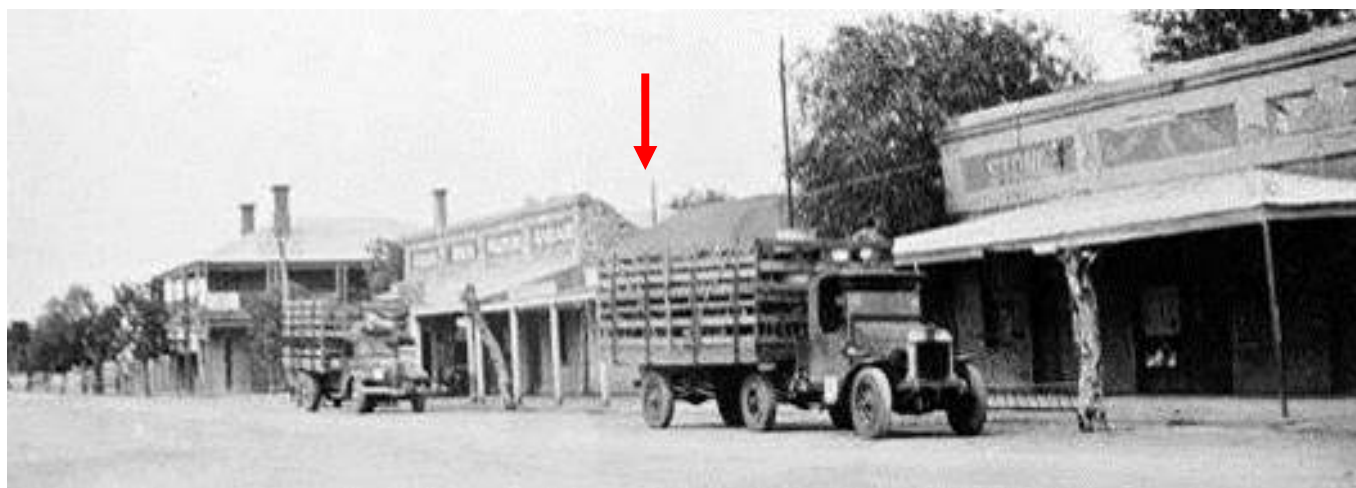
HISTORIC THEMES

3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals.

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil
 Barrass Bob "Wilcannia and District During the 1950's – A Bank Managers Overview", Wilcannia History, Volume 2
 Presentation folder given to Earl Beauchamp, Governor on the occasion of his visit to Wilcannia 29th September 1899 – early photo view



VIEW OF REID STREET

– note building arrowed is this building

(Source: Central Darling Shire Council, Ref:PA002323)



VIEW OF BUILDING

(Source: Presentation Folder 1899)

Former Garage, 29 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: a basic commercial building in Reid Street. The original building would appear to date from possibly c1870. In 1938, the Municipality of Wilcannia granted a building permit for the erection of a motor garage to E. S. Swift. The front parapet appears to date from c1940-50, replacing the earlier shop front, parapet and verandah visible in the early photograph, below. The building has the potential to contribute to the character of the streetscape.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: One of a number of early commercial buildings in Reid Street, retaining evidence of original form and materials despite later alterations.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area.

Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals. The construction of a traditional post supported verandah is recommended

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil



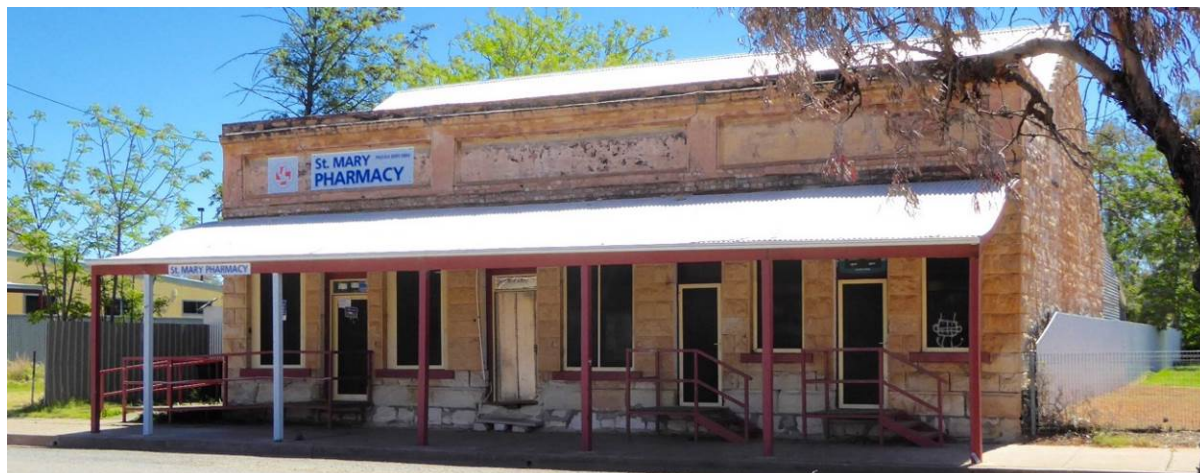
VIEW OF REID STREET

– note building arrowed is this building

(Source: Central Darling Shire Council, Ref:PA002323)

Old Sandstone Shops, 30 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: A row of four small stone shops built in 1879-80 for Aime Louise Garot, jeweller. Garot was declared bankrupt in 1887 still owing money to James John Paskins, a builder, from Hurstville, NSW. Another jeweller, Charles A Wyssenback, then leased the building from the Commercial Bank until his death in 1895. Mark Tully, Stock Inspector, purchased the building in 1908 and used it as his residence.. After his death, it became government accommodation for teachers until 1924, then reverted to private ownership

This building retains important original elements including face stone, original parapet detailing, a pitched corrugated iron roof, and unpainted sandstone to side walls. The building was upgraded in 2009 including the reinstatement of the ogee profile verandah roof and also provision of steps and ramp to the entry doors. The building is now tenanted and is a good example of reuse of a sound building within the streetscape. Repointing to the stone has been undertaken in inappropriate cement render which is damaging the stone.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: This row of small shops reflects the provision of commercial services in Wilcannia during the 1870s and 1880s. Its distinctive form and style make an important contribution to the streetscape.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals. Conservation of stonework is recommended, including the removal of later cement pointing to the base of the building and re-pointing of stonework with lime mortar.

SOURCES:

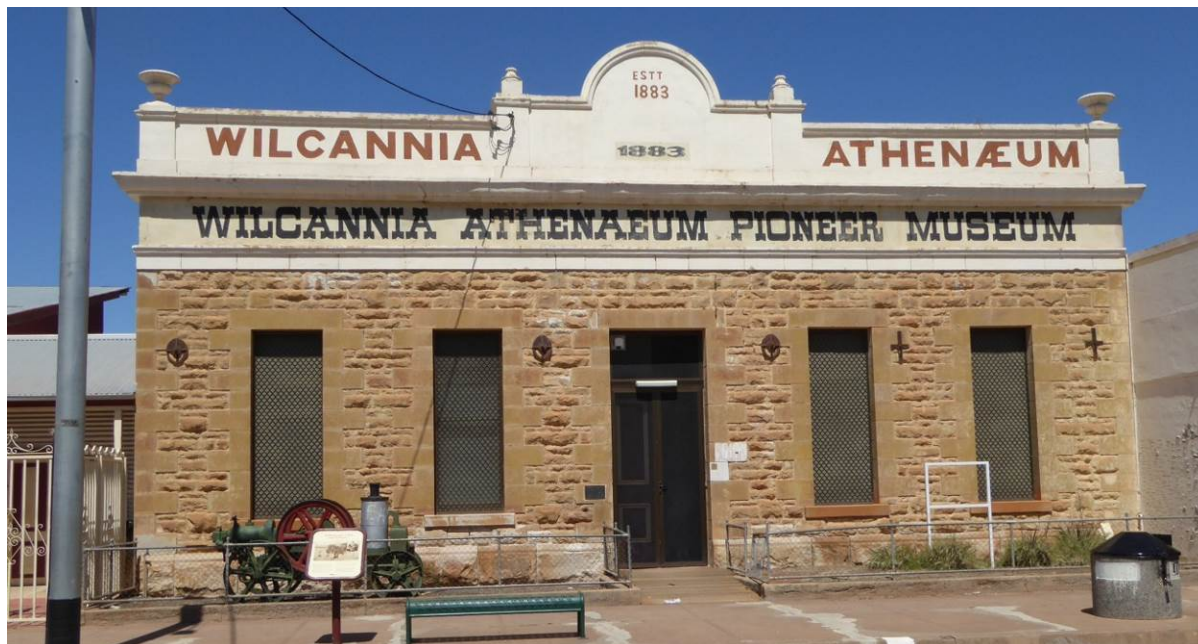
Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 083
 NSW Land Titles Office
 National Library of Australia: www.trove.nla.gov.au



2009 photo before front entry ramps erected

Wilcannia Athenaeum, 37 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The Wilcannia Athenaeum, constructed in 1883, by Mr. De Baun on a parcel of land originally granted as the site for the “Wilcannia Mechanics Institute” in 1879. It was officially opened on 10 January 1884 and was a grand occasion, accompanied by pomp and ceremony. A procession through the town of the Orders of the Oddfellows and Druids in full regalia, headed by a brass band, formed part of this occasion. Edward Dickens, the son of Charles Dickens the celebrated English author, was a founding member and office bearer of the Masons Lodge at Moorabin, and possibly participated in this ceremony. He later represented Wilcannia as a Town Alderman and State Member of Parliament. The cost of the building is not known however a prospectus for £2,000 was issued in 1881 asking for investors to contribute towards an Athenaeum store. In 1915 the building and fittings were valued at £1,000. Electric lights, to replace gas lights, were installed in 1935.

The Athenaeum offered a Subscription Library and Reading Rooms, and later a Free Public Library service. The Municipality of Wilcannia used part of the building for their offices and chambers from 1884 to 1896 and then from 1899 to 1972. The Municipality was appointed as trustees of the building after the demise of the Athenaeum committee in 1937.

The early 20th century photograph shows the building with a picket fence which was added in 1902 at a cost of around £25. The fence was removed in 1933. The building was taken over by the Council and part used as Council Chambers for Wilcannia, and then after 1959 for the Central Darling Shire, until the Shire offices were moved to 21 Reid Street in the early 1970s. It is now a museum, and continues to make an important contribution to the Wilcannia streetscape.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: the Wilcannia Athenaeum is a significant and rare community institution, dating from 1883, which provided educational facilities and activities for the local population. It demonstrates the aspirations of the residents of Wilcannia at the time, and is also associated with the local newspaper, the Wilcannia Times, and the Municipal Council.

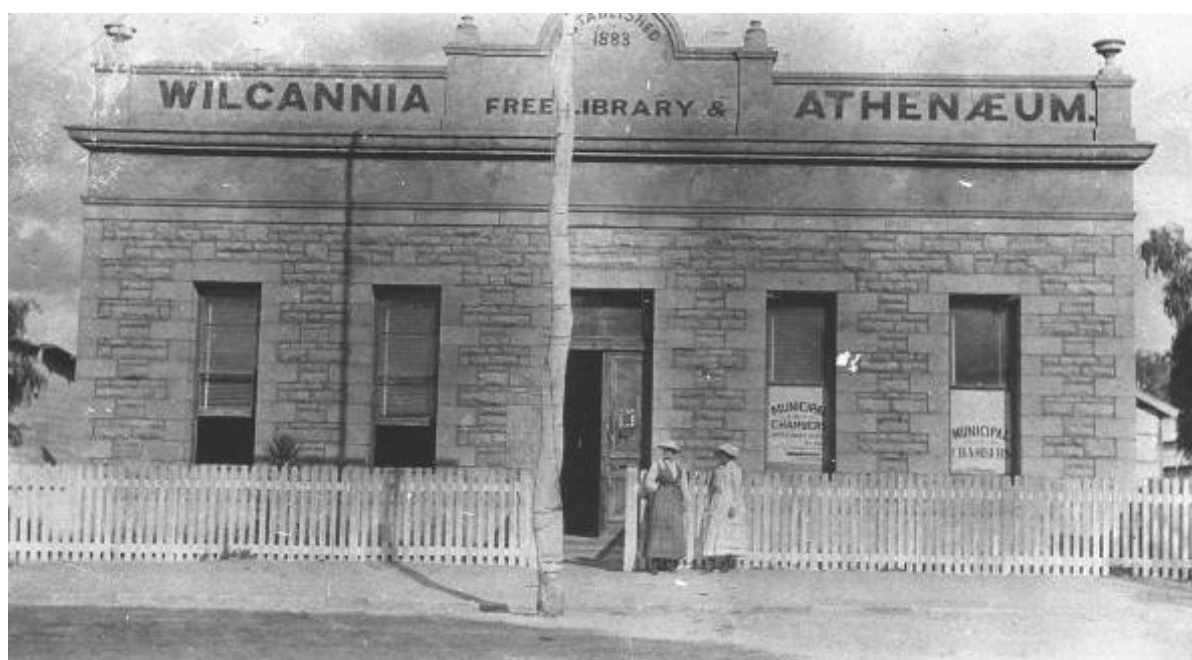
HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
- 6. – Educating: Education facilities for the Wilcannia community
- 7. – Governing: Local Government and Administration
- 8. – Developing Wilcannia’s cultural life: Social institutions

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals. Reinstatement of the original picket fence would add to the buildings appearance.



1899 view without picket fence
(Source: Presentation Folder 1899)



C1912 VIEW OF THE WILCANNIA ATHENAEUM

(Source: State Library of New South Wales 06744h)

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item No 085

NSW Land Titles Office

Wilcannia Athenaeum Minutes, 1897 to 1937

Presentation folder given to Earl Beauchamp, Governor on the occasion of his visit to Wilcannia 29th September 1899 – shows photo of building without picket fence

Wilcannia CDEP Building (fmr West Darling Transport), 39 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: A substantial former garage building constructed c1940, in the Art Deco style for West Darling Transport. This company was established by Harry Ding, the legendary Birdsville mailman who moved to Wilcannia in 1944. In the 1990s it served as the premises of Wilcannia Rural Supplies and is currently used as the Wilcannia CDEP Headquarters.

Despite changes, the building is an important component within the streetscape. It retains major Art Deco components including large rounded parapet elements. The original shop fronts and entrance doors have been removed, and a new cantilevered bullnose verandah has been added.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: This building is one of a small number of Inter War buildings deriving its detailing from Art Deco/Moderne design, and reflects the growth of Wilcannia at that time.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce, Agriculture, Transport
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals..

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 086
Ding, H. 1988 “Thirty Years With Men” p49



2010 View of former West Darling Transport - note awning detailing



*Former West Darling Transport building, c1950
(Source: John Evans)*

Row of Shops, 40 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This row of six attached timber and masonry shops reflects the character of early Wilcannia in the late 19th century. Two of the shops were upgraded in 2009 and are now tenanted. The remaining central section requires upgrading. There are issues regarding the ownership of the central three shops and urgent works are required to the interior of this section of the building where the walls are structurally dangerous. (The central three shops have recently been part of a major land fraud case which has resulted in the Central Darling Shire being unable to ensure safety of the building structure.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: this row of six attached small shops is associated with the growth of Wilcannia township in the late 19th century.

HISTORIC THEMES

3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This row of shops forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This row of shops should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to regularly maintain the row, particularly repainting at regular intervals and maintaining the verandah. It will be necessary to resolve the ownership issues of the central section of the building to allow for the building to be fully upgraded. Continue the colour scheme of the western end throughout the frontage to make this consistent.



View before upgrading of end premises – before upgrading



1910 PHOTO OF SIMILAR SHOP IN WILCANNIA, WITH CAMELEERS IN FRONT

(Source: State Library of New South Wales 06760h)

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 084

Portable Steam Engine, 41 – 43 Reid St (cnr Barrier Hwy)

HERITAGE LISTING – Nil



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This is a relatively intact lightweight portable steam engine, with single cylinder and single fly wheel, similar to many imported into Australia from the 1850s. This steam engine was built by Barrows & Co, Banbury, Oxfordshire, England. This engine, with a serial number 2514 would have been produced between 1901 (number 2506 “Waltzing Matilda”) and 1903 (number 2665). These portable steam engines were horse drawn and provided motive power for threshing machines, chaff cutters, sheep shearing sheds, saw benches and pumps. The main agent in NSW for these engines was Burgon & Ball Ltd, Sydney, who also manufactured sheep shearing equipment. Portable steam engines were superseded from the 1920s by internal combustion engine tractors and by electricity, but some remained in use until the 1950s.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This example of a portable steam engine reflects the significance of these machines in the development of agriculture and extended settlement in the Western Rivers region.

HISTORIC THEMES

3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Agriculture, Pastoralism, Technology

RECOMMENDATIONS: This item forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This item should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to regularly maintain the cast iron elements of the steam engine.

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 088

(Former) Knox & Downs Store, 44 Reid Street, cnr of Meyers Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The original building on this site was constructed by Donaldson, Coburn and Knox Limited after they took over the older firms of Stone & Corey and E. Rich & Co Limited store in 1899. It replaced the store known as “The Federal Store” that formerly occupied the prominent corner block. After several partners left and then returned the company was reformed as Knox and Downs in 1912. Advertising of the period shows that the name “Federal Store” was retained for some years.

The building was completely gutted by a fire in September 2002, and now only part of the facades facing Reid and Myers Street remain and are in very poor condition. The walls were constructed of sandstone, with painted brick quoins and brick surrounds to openings – and sections only survive. The original front elevation, when in good condition, incorporated double bay windows and a bull-nosed verandah runs along both principal street elevations with a splayed corner. Cast iron columns, manufactured by Stewart & Harley of Adelaide, are used as the posts along this verandah. The building was originally roofed by three separate gable roofs, partly visible behind the parapet. The parapet was pushed over due to the lack of safety in 2006 and now forms part of the rubble on the site.

The building was originally an important example of a substantial corner store in Wilcannia, and served the West Darling district as a major retail supplier of ‘everything’. It reflected the development of Wilcannia and the region in the early 20th century and the importance of Wilcannia in the Murray-darling River trade.

Currently there are proposals being investigated for rebuilding on this site. An engineer's report prepared in May 2010 confirmed that the cellar and ground floor walls had lost their ability to take any load. Therefore it is likely that a new building is the only outcome for this site, and this should follow the principles for new development outlined elsewhere in this report.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: The Knox and Downs building was originally an important example of a substantial corner store in Wilcannia, and served the West Darling district as a major retail supplier of ‘everything’ from 1899. It reflected the development of Wilcannia and the region in the early 20th century and the importance of Wilcannia in the Murray-darling River trade. The current very poor condition of the building makes retention and any reconstruction very problematic.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce, Transport
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Given the poor condition of the existing remains of the building, construction of a sympathetic new building (preferably for community purposes) is supported. Any new building should incorporate a post supported verandah and reinforce the historic character of Reid and Myers Street.



View of Store prior to 2002 fire, date unknown - (Source: Picture Australia, rt76350)



View of Store, 2005

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 089
Knox & Downs Store, 44 Reid Street, Wilcannia, Conservation Management Plan, June 2007,
 McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants

Wilcannia Post Office & Residence, 45 Reid Street, cnr of Meyers Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN



DESCRIPTION: A substantial post office for Wilcannia was first proposed in 1876. The Wilcannia Post Office and Post Master's Residence was constructed in 1880 and designed by the office of Colonial Architect, James Barnet, who forwarded the plans to Wilcannia in 1878. The contract for construction was awarded to builder D. Baillie in November, 1878. Baillie had been a successful Government tender applicant for many years.

The Post Office is a small, single storey neo-classical Victorian building with a three bay arcaded loggia to the front. The loggia arches openings are echoed by arch headed windows, and a door with an arch headed fanlight. The building has a chimney, a hipped roofed with a bracketed eave line and a raised semi-circular pediment bearing its name and date of construction. There is a timber verandah to the side which is enclosed at the rear. The walls are coursed sparrow pecked sandstone.

The attached Residence, not a usual feature of Barnet's post office designs, is a fine two storey Victorian Italianate structure. It is also composed of coursed sparrow pecked sandstone walls with a hipped corrugated iron clad roof and two prominent chimneys. Windows at the rear are double hung and french windows open at the front. The building's main feature is a richly detailed verandah to both floors on the front elevation. This two level verandah, with cast iron columns and verandah brackets, was added in 1890 by builder R B Spiers. There are also stone outbuildings associated with telegraph usage in the rear yard, constructed as stables and battery room.

A *Conservation Management Plan* was prepared for this building in February 2006, and outlines a progressive approach to conservation for this building. The building would make an ideal visitor information centre, due to its location in the centre of town.

Stage One conservation works were undertaken to the residence verandah in 2008 with financial support from the NSW Heritage Grants program.

Stage Two conservation works were undertaken to the Post Office section of the building, with the reinstatement of the open side verandah and extensive sandstone conservation works. Sydney Gosford stone was used for the stone thresholds of the verandah, which was a major component of the works. This was made possible by the Federal Government Economic Stimulus funding

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the NSW State Heritage Register.

A Conservation Management Plan was prepared for this building in February 2006 (and updated in 2016), and outlines a progressive approach to conservation for this building. Continue to implement progressive conservation works to this building in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan including the following:

- Repairs/ rebuilding of the unsafe verandah to the residential section
- Construction of the picket fence and installation of a community garden with suitable arid species is recommended.
- Use of this building, (in particular the former post office room and ground floor residence section as a Visitor Information Centre may be appropriate given its location at the centre of town, at the main intersection.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This is a significant group of regional government buildings designed by Colonial Architect James Barnet in 1878 and completed by 1880. It displays the exemplary Victorian neo-classical aesthetic for which Barnett is renowned, and is an important structure in Wilcannia and the region. The complex is also associated with the extension of post and telegraph communication systems in the Western rivers region.

CRITERIA

The Wilcannia Post Office and Post Master's Residence is recognised for its high level of significance by its listing on the Register of the National Estate and its listing in the heritage schedule of the Central Darling Shire Local Environment Plan. It was nominated for listing in the NSW State Heritage Register in December 2005. It is considered to satisfy the following criteria under Part 3A of the *Heritage Act* (as amended in 1998):

Criterion (a) *An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history*

Wilcannia Post Office and Post Master's Residence is part of the growth of postal services in New South Wales. Colonial investment in postal infrastructure began during the 1850s and major rural centres began to have a postmaster of its own. Built in 1880, the Post Office and Residence is part of an official precinct comprising a courthouse, jail and police residence, typical of many towns across New South Wales.

Criterion (b) *An item has strong association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history*

The Post Office and Post Master's Residence was designed by the office of Colonial Architect, James Barnet. As Colonial Architect between 1862 and 1890, Barnet was responsible for many of the most significant buildings in Sydney, along with hundreds of public buildings in rural NSW. He believed in designing buildings which properly reflected the authority of the state, and was responsible for the Australian Museum (1864), the GPO in Martin Place (1866-90) and the Garden Palace in the Royal Botanic Gardens (1879).

Criterion (c) *An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW.*

Wilcannia Post Office and Post Master's Residence, completed in 1880, is an attractive complex which forms part of an important group of older institutional and civic buildings on Reid Street. Located in the centre of town within an official precinct comprising a courthouse and other late nineteenth century buildings, the Post Office and Residence are a major element and contribute to the historic streetscape qualities of central Wilcannia.

The Post Office and attached Residence are excellent examples of neo-classical Victorian buildings. The single storey Post Office is of a simple, formal design with a three bay arcaded loggia to the front with a raised central semi-circular entablature bearing its name and date of construction. The building has a hipped roofed with a bracketed eave line.

The attached Residence is a fine two storey Victorian Italianate structure with cast iron columns and verandah brackets, a hipped corrugated iron clad roof and two prominent chimneys. The building's main feature is a richly detailed verandah to both floors on the front elevation.

Criterion (g) *An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.*

From the 1850s, each major rural centre had a postmaster of its own as the post office became a symbol of the presence of civilisation in many prosperous outback towns. Dating from 1880, the Post Office and Residence helps to show Wilcannia's development and increasing prosperity during the late 19th century as the town evolved into a major river port in the region.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Communications
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
- 7. – Governing: Administration
- 8. – Developing Wilcannia and the regions cultural life: creative endeavor



Current view of Post Office & Residence, - note verandah opened up and detailing reinstated



*View of Post Office & Residence, 2006
Prior to Stage One Conservation Works
With verandah filled in at the side*



*Early Photograph of Post Office & Residence, 1946
(Source: NAA 3031644)*



Rear view of Post Office

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 090
Wilcannia Post Office History, Commonwealth Archives Office, Post Office Section, copy held by
Wilcannia Historical Society
NSW Government Gazettes

*Wilcannia Post Office and Post Master's Residence Conservation Management Plan, February 2006
(and updated 2016), McDougall & Vines Conservation and Heritage Consultants*

Wilcannia Club Hotel, 46 Reid Street, cnr of Meyers Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: The Club Hotel occupies the site of the first hotel built in Wilcannia by Jemima McGeorge in 1864. The stone building was erected in 1879 after fire destroyed the original wooden building. Originally called “The Five Alls” then the “Wilcannia Hotel”, it traded under a variety of names, often reflecting the name of the licensee of the time, though the “Club Hotel” became the commonly used name. It was owned by Edmund Resch from 1871 until Resch was bought out by Tooth Brewing in 1929. The property was then subdivided both portions sold in 1931. The Hotel was leased to various publicans during this 50 year period.

Wilcannia’s first court sessions were held in this building, as were dental clinics and innumerable community meetings.

This significant two storey corner section of the hotel has been altered over time with the change of the verandah structure to cement blocks and infilling of the verandah. A single storey section remains to the main road.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The location of this two storey corner hotel is indicative of its importance in the development of Wilcannia township, despite the later alterations to its appearance.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce and hotel facilities
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia, recreation
- 7. – Governing: Administration: Law and Order

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals. Long term reinstatement of the original open verandah detailing could be considered for this building. It is likely that the verandah structure is hidden under the later structure, and it could be possible to reinstate this. Conservation of this building is recommended as it is an important two storey element at the key major road intersection within the town.



Current view of Club Hotel from Reid Street



*Early photograph of Hotel, licensee Flannery, 1899
(Source: 1899 Presentation Folder)*

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 076

NSW Land Title Office

Government Gazettes (for dates of licences)

Wilcannia newspaper advertisements

Presentation folder given to Earl Beauchamp, Governor on the occasion of his visit to Wilcannia 29th September 1899 – photo of building

Shops, 48 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: A previously handsome and well detailed c1880-90 building retaining similar elements to the Knox and Downs Store.

The building is on a parcel of land originally part of the Wilcannia Club Hotel. The land was subdivided and this building was purchased by Reuben Swift, who owned Cobrilla Station in the 1920's. Albert Ossola, occupation restaurant proprietor, was listed as the title holder in 1945, when it was known as Ossola's Café.

Generally, this building is in poor condition. The verandah roof has been lifted off by wind damage and verandah posts are now propped up. There are only three original cast iron verandah posts, with remaining four posts replaced in galvanized pipe. The original posts are similar to the Knox and Downs Store posts, from Stewart and Harley Iron Founders, Adelaide. The shopfront retains slate to the base and elegant timber shopfront elements. Despite its condition, it provides an important element in the streetscape.

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to progressively implement the recommendations of the Main Street Report. Upgrade this building as follows:

- Reconstruction of a post supported verandah (reusing the remaining posts) and conservation of remaining original elements is recommended.
- Retention of original timber shopfront profile should form part of this restoration.
- The owner should consult with the Wilcannia Heritage Advisor who is able to provide free architectural advice and guide the upgrade of this building.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This originally finely detailed shop premises is indicative of the quality of construction in Wilcannia township during the 1880s and 1890s. It reflects the period of economic growth and development of that time.

HISTORIC THEMES

3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia



2010 Views of Shop

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 091
NSW Land Title Office

Baker Park and War Memorial, 49 - 63 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN (War Memorial)



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This War Memorial was erected in memory of local residents who died in World War One on the footpath in front of the Post Office. The memorial cost £600 and was made by W. Larcombe & Sons, Sydney and Dubbo. It was erected by Verman Larcombe and unveiled on Sunday, 3 August, 1924 by Senator Major General Cox. The memorial which cost £600 was made by W. Larcombe & Sons of Sydney and Dubbo, and erected by Verman Larcombe. The funds came from the Darling Empire League. After a number of complaints that it was used by layabouts the Memorial was moved to this location Baker Park in 1933-4. Additional names were added to the memorial after World War Two. A plaque in honour of local men who served in Korea was added in 2012. It forms the focal point of the park, the planting of which is comprised of both native and exotic species of trees. Along the park's riverside edge a walkway has been established.

Baker Park was initially part of the first Wharf Reserve, a parcel of Crown Land that ran down river from Myers Street to Cleaton Street where the punt was located, along Cleaton Street to Reid Street, from Reid Street back to Myers Street, then down to the river, an area of 7 acres. A portion of this area was later excised for the construction of the Post Office complex. In 1925 this reserve was named Garden Park, and then renamed Baker Park following the death of the mayor, William Ernest Baker in 1926. The area continued as a flower garden, and the public could purchase the flowers. The prices in 1927 were 2 shillings for a large bunch, 1 shilling for a small bunch (no roses) - the price of roses was set by the Town Clerk.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The War Memorial and Baker Park are important community sites which represent the commemoration the war service of Wilcannia district's population.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 4. – Building the township of Wilcannia: memorials, parkland creation
- 8. – Developing Wilcannia's cultural life: Social institutions

RECOMMENDATIONS: This monument forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly conserve and maintain the site. Upgrading of the War Memorial is recommended given its deteriorated appearance.



Base of the War Memorial



WAR MEMORIAL IN ITS ORIGINAL LOCATION - (early photo, Anthony Pease)



In Baker Park, 1948
(early photos, Anthony Pease)

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 098

Wilcannia Municipal Council and Central Darling Shire Minutes

Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1907), Saturday 24 November 1888, p15

Western Grazier, Saturday 9th August 1924

Butcher Shop, 50 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: A c1900 single storey shop retaining original shop front configuration and timber awning above. The building is in poor condition and is currently vacant. The front verandah has recent steel posts inserted at a set back line. However, the verandah roof structure appears early, but is in poor condition.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: This small shop is one of a number constructed in timber and corrugated iron, probably c1900. It reflects the more modest premises of many shopkeepers at this time – in contrast to the more substantial stone structures elsewhere in the Wilcannia township.

HISTORIC THEMES

3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to progressively implement the recommendations of the Main Street Report and upgrade the building as follows:

- Rebuild parapet.
- Rebuild verandah
- The owner should consult with the Wilcannia Heritage Advisor who is able to provide free architectural advice and guide the upgrade of this building.

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 093

Shop & House, 54 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: A corrugated iron cottage, originally with shop element attached to the front which has been removed as part of the re-presentation and conservation of the building in 2010.

The small shop front was used as a haberdashery shop, probably after 1934, and was closed by the late 1950's. The house was lived in by sisters May and Nellie Barratt until their deaths (1990 & 1976) and was thus known as "Miss Barratts". The current appearance of the building is that of the original house before the shop addition. The Municipal minutes of 5th August 1918 show that J J Barratt (May and Nellie's father) approved the building of a cottage in Reid Street. The current building is next door to the business of J. J. Barratt (died 1936 after becoming bankrupt in 1934) (photo available) which appears to have been on 56 Reid Street. Haberdashery remnants were found during the 2010 renovations.

The cottage retains most of its original detailing, and a new verandah now returns around the re-exposed cottage section. A new picket fence has been constructed to the front.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This small shop is one of a number constructed in timber and corrugated iron, probably in 1918. It reflects the more modest premises of many shopkeepers at this time – in contrast to the more substantial stone structures elsewhere in the Wilcannia township.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals.



2010 Views of Shop & House



*1991 photo of shop
(Source: Anthony Pease)*

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 095
Wilcannia Cemetery records
Wilcannia Historical Society archives

Shop, 56 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This simple building has been constructed in stages and the rear of the structure displays its early stone and brick walls. The front elevation, metal parapet and cantilevered awning appear to have been added in 1954, when the previous building, a clothing store known as “Rasheeds” was destroyed by fire.

The building was upgraded externally and internally in 2009, and currently serves as an employment agency.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: One of a number of early commercial buildings in Reid Street, retaining evidence of original form and materials despite later alterations.

HISTORIC THEMES

3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce
4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Continue to regularly maintain the building, particularly repainting at regular intervals.



2009 view of shop prior to upgrade

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil
Newspaper reports of November 1954 and personal communication

Building Wall, 58 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL



DESCRIPTION: The front wall remains only of a previous building which has now been demolished. The wall is considered of minimal historic significance although it indicates an earlier building in this location. The wall was recently cleaned by sand blasting, and also re-pointed, unfortunately in cement mortar which is too hard for this stone.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This wall has minimal significance.

HISTORIC THEMES

3. – Developing local and regional economies: Commerce

4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area.

- Continue to maintain - incorporate into new building if possible in the future.
- The owner should consult with the Wilcannia Heritage Advisor who is able to provide free architectural advice and guide the upgrade of this facade.



View of Building Wall – prior to paint removal - 2009

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Nil

Wilcannia Auto Repairs, 60 Reid Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This building has a brick front elevation, constructed in Art Deco design with curved stepped parapet. The brickwork has now been painted, but the overall impression is retained of an original Art Deco garage frontage. Date of construction is probably pre-1940. The building was recently used as a mechanics workshop for a time - an appropriate use, given its original use as a garage.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: This building is one of a small number of Inter War buildings deriving its detailing from Art Deco/Moderne design, and reflects the growth of Wilcannia at that time.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce, Transport
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items. This building is an important streetscape element providing a strong Art Deco element.



2010 View of Wilcannia Auto Repairs

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 092

Queens Head Hotel, 64 Reid Street, cnr Cleaton Street

HERITAGE LISTING – CENTRAL DARLING SHIRE LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: An important single storey hotel, begun in c1876, and built in stages, the Queen's Head hotel is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Wilcannia.

The site was first bought from the Crown by a puntsman called Charles Smith in 1870. Alfred Andrews bought it in 1875, and records show the first hotel licensee was Harry Moon in 1877. Moon was also licensed to operate a Billiard Room. The original hotel was almost completely destroyed by fire in 1880 when the owner was John Penrose. The current building appears to date from 1881.

In 1889 Andrews leased the Queens Head to Resch who eventually purchased it from Andrews' widow Lucinda in 1914. Edmund Resch had built the Red Lion Brewery at the Northern end of Reid Street in 1879. Resch, and then the Tooth Brewing Company held the hotel until 1930, and Monty Andrews leased it in 1936 (title). The hotel continued licensed operation until 1989 and was delicensed in 1991.



Left to Right (Front): 1. Tom Howard, 2. ? Bashman, 3. ?, 4. Tom Palmer (Up river towards Menindee), 5. ?, 6. ? Ready (was a plumber)

Back: 7. Bob McKay, 8. Tom Finlayson (obscured) 9. ? (with pipe), 10. ? (with pipe), 11. Monty Andrews (Owner Queens Head Hotel)

This photo shows Alfred Andrews out the front in about 1939 (2nd from right, no hat).

The hotel retains much original form, materials and detailing including window openings, overall configuration and general profile perimeter verandah. This verandah has recently been upgraded by the current owner. The building has been converted into a local gallery planned for official opening in August 2017 with conservation works funded by the NSW Heritage Near Me program.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: The Queen's Head is one of a number of hotels in the township which began to trade in the early years as Wilcannia developed into a River Port. It reflects the importance of the town at that time and the provision of facilities for residents and visitors to Wilcannia.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce, Transport
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
- 8. – Developing Cultural Life: Leisure

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. Ongoing general maintenance and conservation is recommended for this important corner building, maintaining the excellent recent upgrade work of the current owner.



Current view from Reid Street



prior to upgrade, note deteriorated verandah

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 096
 Conservation Management Plan, by Andrew Stacey, owner of the building, 2015 and updated 2017
 Copy of Original Title documents – held by Andrew Stacey
 List of licensees of local hotels [untitled, hand-typed] provided to Andrew Stacey by Mary Wilson, Broken Hill.
 NSW Government Gazettes

Former Court House Hotel, 65 – 67 Reid Street, cnr Cleaton Street

HERITAGE LISTING – NIL



HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION: This site was initially occupied by the Punt Hotel, as the punt across the Darling operated from the end of Cleaton Street. The first hotel on the site was a timber building which burnt down in July 1876. Mrs Elizabeth Peter was the licensee. The brick portion, on the corner was built first followed by stone section later in 1879. (This may be the section now used as the residence.)

The premises was first recorded as the Court House Hotel in the 1900 list of Publicans, due to its proximity to the Wilcannia Court House (completed in 1880). This building complex comprises two buildings constructed in stone. The corner building on Cleaton Street has been rendered over. The buildings were changed with the removal of the verandah and installation of a later parapet. However conservation works (undertaken 2012 – 2016) have included the installation of front verandahs, at the original verandah line and to original configuration. Removal of paintwork to the stone has exposed the original stone. The premises has been successfully adapted to use as a café over the period 2010 – 2015 by the owner who purchased the property in 2010 when it was nearly derelict. The verandahs have been reconstructed, and sensitive conservation has been undertaken.

STATEMENT OF SIGNICANCE: The former Court House Hotel is one of a number of hotels in the township which first traded in the 1860s as Wilcannia developed as a River Port. It reflects the importance of the town at that time and the provision of facilities for residents and visitors to Wilcannia.

HISTORIC THEMES

- 3. – Developing the local and regional economies: Commerce, Transport
- 4. – Building settlements, towns and cities: Building the township of Wilcannia
- 8. – Developing Cultural Life: Leisure

RECOMMENDATIONS: This building forms part of the recommended Reid Street Conservation Area. This building should be added to the Central Darling Shire LEP Schedule of Heritage Items.



View of building after verandahs reinstated



Sept 2010 views of building with verandahs being reinstated



2009 Views of Former Hotel prior to reinstatement of verandah

SOURCES:

Godden Mackay Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study (1998) – Item no 097