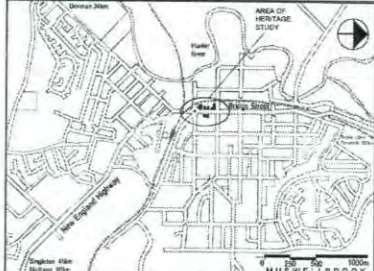
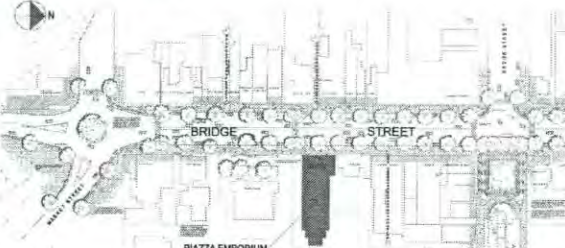



MUSWELLBROOK HERITAGE STUDY

Piazza Emporium (former cinema building) - Inventory 2000

PRESENT NAME <i>Tony's Footware, Donna's Florist, Bridal & Lingerie Boutique Gifts, Cane, Toys & Novelties</i>		REFERENCE No MUSW/R001a																															
PREVIOUS/OTHER NAMES Muswellbrook Cinema Building- "Piazza"		PREVIOUS REFERENCE No																															
LOCATION STREET No 17 STREET NAME Bridge Street TOWN/SUBURB Muswellbrook POSTCODE 2333 LOCALITY Muswellbrook LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA MUSWELLBROOK		DATE INSPECTED 27 October 2000 SITE SKETCH PLAN 																															
PRESENT OWNER TYPE Commercial NAME Bruttpatch Pty Ltd OWNERS ADDRESS PO Box 254 STREET No STREET NAME TOWN/SUBURB Robina POSTCODE 4226		PROPERTY DETAILS: a REAL PROPERTY DESCRIPTION Lot 51 DP 850159 b SITE AREA approx. 1090 sq.m c EXISTING ZONING 3(a) General Business																															
CATEGORY Building SUB CATEGORY Retail (Commercial)		MAP REFERENCE 																															
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION small timber house - 1870 single storey commercial building - 1889 "Strand" Double storey building - 1924 "Piazza" new entry - 1928 ARCHITECT/DESIGNER unknown BUILDER Walter Barrett (Strand)																																	
PHOTOGRAPH 																																	
HERITAGE LISTING <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE (AHC) - REGISTERED <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE OF AUST. (AHC) - INTERIM <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF NATIONAL TRUST (NSW) <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTER OF SIGNIFICANT TWENTIETH CENT. ARCHITECTURE (RAIA) <input type="checkbox"/> DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS HERITAGE AND CONS. REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> COMMONWEALTH HISTORIC SHIPWRECKS ACT (DECLARED SITE) <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - PERMANENT CONS. ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - INTERIM CONS. ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - SECTION 130 ORDER <input type="checkbox"/> HERITAGE COUNCIL REGISTER - NOMINATION <input type="checkbox"/> NSW GOVT DEPT HERITAGE REGISTER (S170 HERITAGE ACT) <input type="checkbox"/> NP&WS HISTORIC SITES REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> NP&WS ABORIGINAL SITES REGISTER (CONTACT SITES) <input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTION OF ENGINEERS (NSW) HERITAGE REGISTER <input type="checkbox"/> EXISTING HERITAGE STUDY (WRITE NAME BELOW) <input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN HERITAGE SCHEDULE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER		HISTORICAL PERIOD <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PERIOD</th> <th>BUILT</th> <th>USED</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PRE 1800</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1800 - 1825</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1826 - 1850</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1851 - 1875</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1876 - 1900</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1901 - 1925</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1926 - 1950</td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1951 - 1975</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>POST 1975</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		PERIOD	BUILT	USED	PRE 1800	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1800 - 1825	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1826 - 1850	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1851 - 1875	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1876 - 1900	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1901 - 1925	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1926 - 1950	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1951 - 1975	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	POST 1975	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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		HISTORICAL THEMES S.H.I.P. THEMES LOCAL THEMES <i>Persons</i> <i>The streetscape of the Commercial precinct, Townships</i> <i>Bridge Street</i>																															

HISTORICAL NOTES

Miss Anne Hagarty in 1888-9 had a new single storey brick building erected which housed four shops. In 1912, pictures were shown at the then Skating Rink Open Air Theatre. In 1914 the building may have been adapted for showing pictures. With Walter Barrett as owner in 1917, the building soon was to be converted to a two storey building by 1924. The theatre complex was at this time called the "Strand". Entrance to the theatre was to the south end, with the screen at the street end. In 1928 the building's name was changed to the "Piazza" when a major entry from the street was constructed and the screen was relocated to the far end. Charles E Wall purchased the building in 1936 after running the complex since 1924.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS / DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

a **ARCH. STYLE** *Inter-War Art Deco*

MATERIALS: Exterior - Rendered masonry front with corrugated iron sheet clad gable building to rear.

b **OTHER DETAILS OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Street facing façade consists of wide metal clad awning with tensile support, three (3) bays of central double doors (with the two outer bays bi-folding), a monumental entrance, stepped parapet distinguished by curved edging, parallel banded/ stripped parapet relief and flat cantilevered awnings over upper level windows.

The outer two shops have maintained original grid type pressed metal sheet ceilings. The shoe store contains a large art deco wall display cabinet possibly once used in the foyer of the cinema. The central shop has maintained original cinema entry features such as custom designed light fittings, central curved granite stairs with decorative wrought iron balustrades, curved round timber handrail with stylised scroll endings, decorative parallel stripped relief ceilings / cornice plasterwork, decorative circular columns and grotto wall features.

c **MODIFICATIONS**

Ground floor street facing façade has been clad in ceramic tile (possibly early 1970's) up to awning height. Two outer shop windows have been replaced with aluminium window "shopfront" style framing.

d **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

✓ INTACT

✓ REPAIRS REQUIRED

✓ ALTERED - UNSYMPATHETIC

ALTERED - SYMPATHETIC

✓ ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The rear of the property (metal sheet clad gable building, former cinema hall) is no longer in use and has been subject to graffiti and vandalism over recent years. This section of the building is requiring extensive repairs with original timber windows in a state of advanced deterioration. Metal sheet wall & roof cladding displays a worn appearance with patches of rust and paint finish extensively flaking.

INFORMATION SOURCES

WRITTEN National Trust Classification Sheet
Muswellbrook Historical Society

ORAL
GRAPHIC National Trust Classification Sheet

EVALUATION CRITERIA (S) = STATE (R) = REGIONAL (L) = LOCAL

HISTORIC	RARE ✓(L)	REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>
AESTHETIC	RARE ✓(L)	REPRESENTATIVE <input type="checkbox"/>
SOCIAL	RARE ()	REPRESENTATIVE ✓(L)
SCIENTIFIC	RARE ()	REPRESENTATIVE ✓(L)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The establishment of a local picture theatre is historical evidence of the developing commercial precinct at the time. While it was operating the Cinema building also represented a rare central gathering point of people at a social event that was cinema entertainment. The cinema experience in earlier times was a more community based event where the national anthem was sung and sing-along jingles were common. Intermissions encouraged people to mix. Although the building no longer operates as a theatre, well maintained, intact features of the building are testament to the former social function the building conducted. It therefore is representative of typical local community social significance, yet is of rare local Historic significance due to intact, quality interior Inter-War Art Deco architecture remaining as evidence of a rare defunct community use. Not only was the function of rare use to the community, the experience of going to the movies was experiencing a building of specific expressive style unique in the town. As this rare expressive quality is still evident and in fair condition displaying rich examples of the style, the building therefore is representative of rare aesthetic significance. The large corrugated iron clad picture theatre hall with gable roof as a separate form is of no aesthetic significance.

The excellent condition of the internal furnishings of the Inter-War Art Deco section of the building, (including the grand central entrance and pressed metal ceilings of the flanking shops) are representative of past quality local craftsmanship. Items such as the detailing of the curved entry stairs or the decorative cornice / column plasterwork in the cinema's foyer demonstrate an increasingly scarce example of fine unique craftsmanship that acts as educational information of technical methods of the time. The building therefore contributes in part, local Scientific significance. The Large cinema hall does not offer Scientific significance.