

## HOTEL CECIL

15 Lowry Street, North Ipswich

### History

An article in the *Queensland Times*, 19 April 1887 announced that James Cooper was trading out of the 'recently erected and furnished' Imperial Hotel, on the corner of Downs and Lowry Streets, North Ipswich. The competition from this new hotel seems to have led to the closure within a year of the Royal Engineer's Hotel on the corner of Downs Street and The Terrace, which had been operating since the mid 1860s.



The *Queensland Times* of 5 April 1888 reported the transfer of the lease to John Abbott, but by April 1889 the *Queensland Times* reported that the hotel was part of John Abbott's Estate, and on 3 August 1889 the Government Gazette announced that John Cooper had regained the licence.

There was a push by Ipswich residents to close a number of hotels, as their numbers were then in excess of that allowable by legislation. John Cooper's Imperial Hotel was one of three that consequently lost their licences, as reported in the *Queensland Times* of 2 April 1891. However, in July 1891 there was an application by the National Workmen's Club for a club licence for the premises. Despite some reservations about whether the club had adequate control of the premises to satisfy the requirements for the licence, it was granted. The Government Gazette on 28 January 1904 announced the granting of a licence to Thomas Murray at the then-named Hotel Cecil. In 1905 the licence passed to W. Osborne and by 1911 it has passed to Alexander G Burnett. In 1918 it appears to have passed to his wife, Catherine. There has been a succession of licensees since this time.

### Description

The Hotel consists of a two-storeyed brick structure with rendered and painted ornamental detail on the street facades. The frontages to Downs and Lowry Streets have verandahs on posts over the footpath with corrugated iron roofs. Above the verandah roof the main walls are articulated with a cornice punctuated by a series of attached pilasters in low relief, each projecting slightly above a horizontal parapet. A rendered central parapet feature occurs between the middle pair of pilasters on each of the two street frontages. Much of the cast iron decoration balustrading and verandah posts appear to be recent.

A single storey wing extends along Lowry Street, most of it recent but the first three window bays date from an earlier stage, being part of the single storey wing designed by architect Henry Wyman in 1915, although altered in roof line.