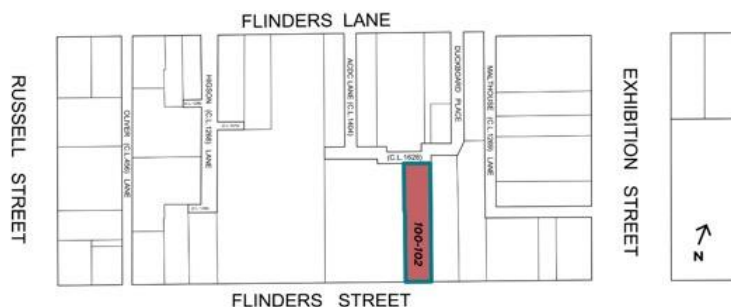


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Place: Former Sunday School Union of Victoria



PS ref no: HO1273



What is significant?

The Union Building at 100-102 Flinders Street, built for the Sunday School Union of Victoria in 1921.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The building's original external form, materials and detailing;
- The building's high level of integrity to its original design;
- Unpainted red brick walls at the upper levels with contrasting rendered detailing;
- Decorative elements including the rendered parapet, red brick piers at the building's edges, pilasters between timber frame sash windows and spandrel panels, deep bracketed major cornice and minor cornices; and
- Stone construction at ground level including rusticated piers with heavy base blocks, stylised capitals and smooth stone banding.

Later alterations made to the street level façade are not significant.

How it is significant?

The Union Building at 100-102 Flinders Street is of local historic, representative, aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

The Union Building at 100-102 Flinders Street is historically significant for its demonstration of a mixed use commercial premises. Built by and for the Sunday School Union of Victoria in 1921,

following a fire in a previous building on the site, 100-102 Flinders Street was occupied by a range of businesses including fabric retailers, clothing manufacturers, and furniture retailers. (Criterion A)

The Union Building at 100-102 Flinders Street is a fine example of a Romanesque revival warehouse, built during the early twentieth century commercial development of Melbourne. It is a notable example of a warehouse typology that demonstrates the city's evolution from a low-rise to mid-rise city. It is significant as one of several Flinders Street buildings of the same era and scale that form an impressive edge to the city, including the Dreman Building at 96-98 Flinders Street and Epstein House at 134-136 Flinders Street. (Criterion D)

The Union Building at 100-102 Flinders Street is aesthetically significant for its façade of red brick with bands of render detailing forming spandrels and contrasting elements to the vertical brick piers. The ground floor is highly distinctive for its massive stone piers in stylised sculptural form and the higher floor to ceiling indicated by a row of clerestory windows. The composition of the façade is enhanced by the decorative cornice and original window frames that contribute to its integrity. (Criterion E)

The Union Building at 100-102 Flinders Street is significant for its enduring association with the Sunday School Union of Victoria which was established in 1871 and moved to a building at 100 Flinders Street in 1919. The Union instigated a wide program of religious education, including the establishment of a Children's Church in Collingwood for the 'neglected poor' (1876-1932); a Teacher Training College (1886 -1943), a union book depot and lending library established by 1903, and the formation of Sunday school unions in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. The current building at 100-102 Flinders Street housed the headquarters of the Sunday School Union of Victoria from 1921 to the early 1950s. (Criterion H)

Primary source

Hoddle Grid Heritage Review (Context & GJM Heritage, 2020)