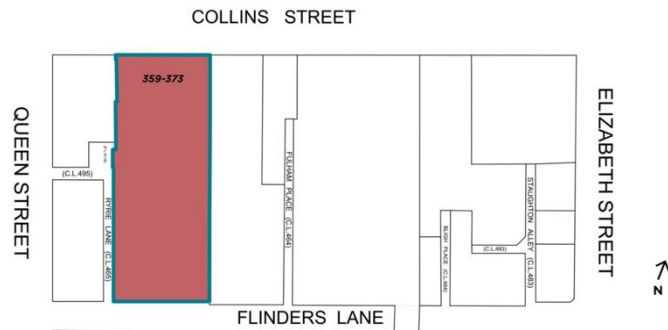


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Place: Former Commonwealth Banking Corporation Building



PS ref no: HO1322



What is significant?

The Former Commonwealth Banking Corporation Building, 359-373 Collins Street, a multi-storey office building constructed c1972-75.

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.

Later alterations made to the lower levels are not significant.

How it is significant?

The Former Commonwealth Banking Corporation Building at 359-373 Collins Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

Constructed in c1972-75 to a design by Bates Smart & McCutcheon, the Former Commonwealth Banking Corporation Building has a clear association with the postwar building boom which transformed central Melbourne into a modern high-rise city. The design of these commercial buildings from the late 1950s to the mid-1970s – many of which were architect designed – was driven by the commercial demands and the prestige afforded by a dominant city presence (Criterion A).

The Former Commonwealth Banking Corporation Building is a fine and highly intact representative example of a Post-War Modernist commercial building. The building strongly reflects the style which was popular in the 1960 to the mid 1970s, particularly in central Melbourne. Constructed as a 33-

storey structure, the Former Commonwealth Banking Corporation Building clearly demonstrates typical characteristics of a later postwar commercial building, including three grid-like walls of clearly expressed structure, and the use of materials such as granite-faced precast concrete panel cladding. These demonstrate important aspects of the Post-War Modernist style (Criterion D).

Primary source

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