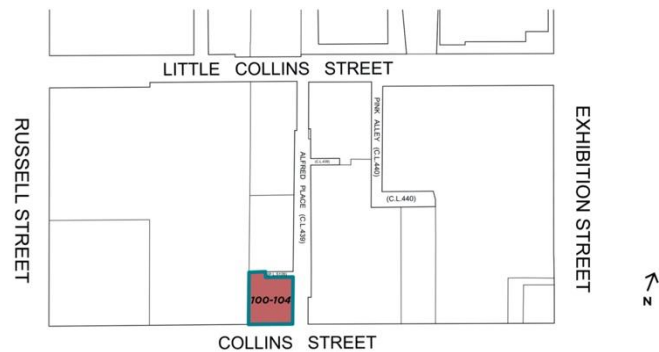


## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Heritage Place:** Former Gilbert Court

**PS ref no:** HO1314



### What is significant?

Former Gilbert Court at 100-104 Collins Street, a multi-storey office building constructed in 1954-55.

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 very high level of integrity to its original design.

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

### How it is significant?

Former Gilbert Court at 100-104 Collins Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

### Why it is significant?

Constructed in 1954-55, to a design by John A La Gerche, Former Gilbert Court 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).

Former Gilbert Court is a fine and highly intact representative example of a Post-War Modernist commercial building. The building strongly reflects the style which was emerging in the mid-1950s and was popular in the late 1950s, particularly in central Melbourne. Constructed to the prevailing 40m (132 foot) height limit of the time, Former Gilbert Court clearly demonstrates typical characteristics of

a 1950s structure with two adjacent, fully glazed curtain wall façades. The transparent façades of alternating rows of glazing and obscure glass spandrels, and vertical mullions which divide the facade into a grid-like pattern, and the use of materials such as blue obscure glass and aluminium window frames, demonstrate important aspects of the Modernist style. On completion it earned the title of Melbourne's first 'Glass Box' (Criterion D).

**Primary source**

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