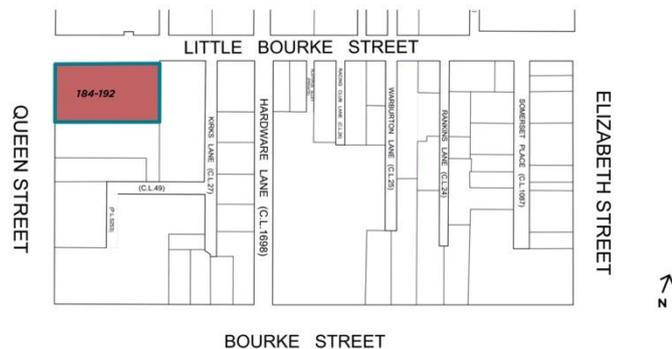


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Place: The Former
Houston Building



PS ref no: HO1370



What is significant?

The Former Houston Building, 184-192 Queen Street, a multi-storey office building constructed in 1964-1965.

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 street level frontages are not significant.

How it is significant?

The Former Houston Building at 184-192 Queen Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

Constructed in 1964-1965 to a design by E & G Kolle & Associates, the Former Houston 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 prestige afforded by a dominant city presence (Criterion A).

The Former Houston Building at 184-192 Queen Street 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 1960s through to the mid 1970s, particularly in central Melbourne. Constructed as a 17-storey building, the Former Houston Building clearly demonstrates typical characteristics of a 1960s to mid-1970s structure, including solid grid-like curtain wall facades of regularly spaced, frameless glazed openings set in plain cream brick facades, clear expression of the service core and the innovative and extensive use of decorative brickwork patterning. These demonstrate important aspects of the Post-War Modernist style (Criterion D).

Primary source

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