

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Place: Former Andrew Jack, Dyson & Co factory



PS ref no: HO1362



What is significant?

The former Andrew Jack, Dyson & Co factory at 594-610 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, constructed in 1924.

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

- The original building layout, form and scale, including the courtyard
- The original pattern of window openings, fenestration and decoration, such as the projecting pilasters and recessed articulated spandrels; and
- The external wall surface finish of course render similar to Shanghai plaster.

Later alterations made to the ground level facades, and windows replaced with modern glazing, are not significant.

How it is significant?

The former Andrew Jack, Dyson & Co factory at 594-610 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, is of local historic and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

The building at 594-610 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, constructed in 1924 for Andrew Jack, Dyson & Co Pty Ltd, stationery and printing merchants, to a design by architect R M King, is historically significant for the evidence it provides of the rise in manufacturing in the city from the 1920s, of the long-term industry and warehouse concentration in this part of the city, and of the many printing and linotype companies established from the interwar period in this northwest part of the city, including in 1926 the Argus Building. It is historically significant for its long association with printers and stationary merchants, initially with Andrew Jack, Dyson & Co Pty Ltd who occupied the building as their business offices, warehouse and factory for around 40 years, from 1924 to the early 1960s. By 1965, printers McCarron Bird Pty Ltd had purchased the premises and operated from there until the early 1980s, at a time when most city manufacturers had moved to the suburbs or closed. (Criterion A)

594-610 Lonsdale Street is significant as a relatively intact example of the wave of development in central Melbourne during the early interwar period that replaced the low rise masonry buildings dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. This early wave of building most commonly utilised the interwar Chicagoesque styles. The building exhibits many of the main characteristics of this style. This includes a regular rhythm resulting from projecting pilasters and recessed articulated spandrels at each floor with large horizontally proportioned window openings. More unusually the wall surfaces are treated with a course render similar to Shanghai plaster. (Criterion D)

Primary source

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