

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Place: Shop

PS ref no: HO1260



What is significant?

The four-storey building at 166 Russell Street, Melbourne, which was completed in 1877 and which survives as part of a pair.

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;
- Decorative parapet with scroll end detail (southern end);
- Round and segmented arched window openings with keystones and moulded architraves;
- Moulded major and minor cornices;
- Double-hung timber framed windows;
- Early built form at rear of building with face red brickwork and extant windows; and
- Remnant rubble basalt wall (at rear)

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

How it is significant?

166 Russell Street, Melbourne is of local historic, representative and aesthetic significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

166 Russell Street is historically significant as a Victorian-era building that represents a key phase in the retail development of Melbourne when investment in city property from the late 1870s culminated

in the economic and building boom of the 1880s. Built for owner and watchmaker John Powell, 166 Russell Street is typical of buildings of the Victorian era that housed retail outlets at ground level with residences and workspaces for business-owners on the floors above. It is a relatively early example, predating the 1880s boom period of development. The remains of a bluestone wall that border Golden Fleece Alley is significant as a reminder of earlier site development. (Criterion A)

166 Russell Street is a representative example of a retail and residential building from the mid-Victorian era. It demonstrates the Italianate style that was popular for many buildings of this period. While the building with which it was paired has been demolished, 166 Russell Street remains legible with its attributes of Victorian form, scale and stucco wall decoration. (Criterion D)

166 Russell Street is aesthetically significant as it exhibits key characteristics of the Italianate style, including a cohesive arrangement of classical elements such as a decorated parapet, moulded cornices, and arched window openings with moulded architraves and keystones. (Criterion E)

Primary source

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