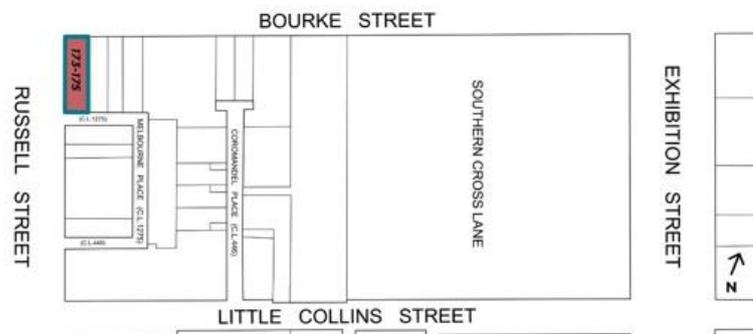


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Place: Shops



PS ref no: HO1238



What is significant?

The complex of buildings at 173-175 Bourke Street (142 Russell Street), Melbourne, comprising; a three-storey corner building dating from 1857, a three-storey addition either replacing or extending an existing building from 1920 (142 Russell Street), and a pair of adjoining shops rebuilt in brick in the 1920s, also facing Russell Street (138-142 Russell Street).

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

- The buildings' cohesive external forms (two and three storeys), with consistent banding continuing across the façade of each section;
- The three-storey corner building's high level of integrity to its 1937 design;
- The three-and two-storey Russell Street buildings' high level of integrity to its original design;
- Pattern and size of original or early fenestration (Bourke and Russell streets), including the early ground floor arched opening at 142 Russell Street; and
- Large square industrial steel-framed windows (Little Collins Street).

More recent alterations, including the modern cantilevered verandah and ground level shopfronts, are not significant.

How it is significant?

173-175 Bourke Street (142 Russell Street), Melbourne is of local historic and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

173-175 Bourke Street is historically significant as a complex of retail buildings dating from 1857, with additions in the first decades of the twentieth century that reflect key phases in the expansion of retail development in the City of Melbourne. The building complex is historically significant for its association with the Hordern family, a well-known Australian retailing dynasty who first came to prominence as merchants and retailers in Sydney, and who owned both the corner site and the Russell Street frontages until 1872. 173-175 Bourke Street, is historically significant for its long occupation by Richard White's Shoe Store from the mid-1890s to the 1970s. (Criterion A)

173-175 Bourke Street is significant as an early commercial building, but with its current presentation dating from the interwar period and incorporating both nineteenth and twentieth century elements. The corner building remains legible in scale and form to its 1857 design by architect Albert Purchas despite two major alterations to its elevations. The elements of the 1857 building are evident in the three rectangular openings on each of the upper levels on the Bourke Street façades, and the pattern of tripartite and single rectangular windows to the Russell Street façade. Evidence of the previous two separate buildings facing Russell Street is provided by the arched ground level opening with timber doors and fanlight. The substantial alterations and extensions by Godfrey & Spowers in 1920, incorporating 138-142 Russell Street, contribute to the interwar character of the Russell and Bourke Street corner. (Criterion D)

Primary source

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