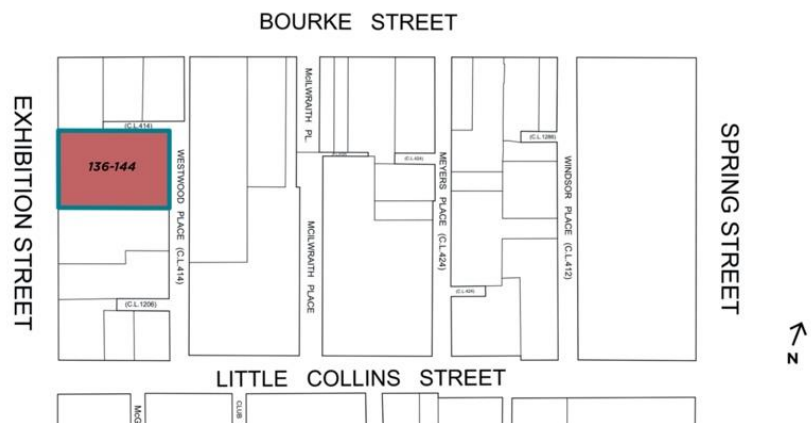


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Place: Former
Australia Pacific House



PS ref no: HO1331



What is significant?

The Former Australia Pacific House, 136-144 Exhibition Street, a multi-storey office building constructed from 1975-1978.

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 structural system
- The building's high level of integrity to its original design.

Later alterations made at street level are not significant.

How it is significant?

The Former Australia Pacific House at 136-144 Exhibition Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

Constructed from 1975-1978 to a design by McIntyre McIntyre & Partners, the Former Australia Pacific House 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).

The Former Australia Pacific House is a fine and highly intact representative example of a Post-War Modernist building. The building strongly reflects the style which was popular in the 1960s to the mid-

1970s, particularly in central Melbourne. Constructed as an 11-storey structure, the Former Australia Pacific House clearly demonstrates typical characteristics of a later postwar commercial building, including walls which clearly express the trabeated structural system with alternating horizontal strips of glazing and distinctive solid spandrels to the front and rear facades, as well as a grid of solid spandrels and round columns to the north, and the use of materials such as precast concrete. These demonstrate important aspects of the Post-War Modernist style (Criterion D).

Primary source

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