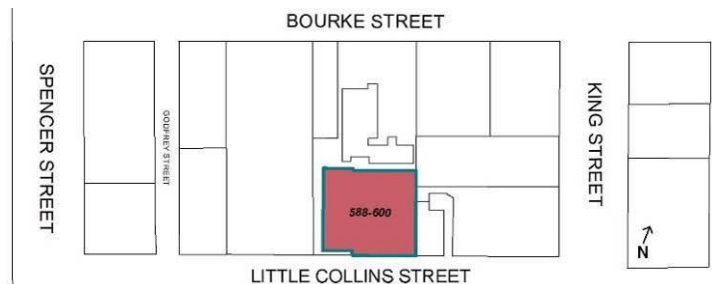


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Heritage Place: Stella Maris Seafarer's Centre

PS ref no: HO1355



What is significant?

Stella Maris Seafarer's Centre at 588-600 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, a postwar club building built in 1972 and extended in 1981, is significant.

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

- Early building form;
- The 1981 additions that consolidated and extended the use by Stella Maris; and
- The building's use as Stella Maris Seafarer's Centre.

How it is significant?

The Stella Maris Seafarer's Centre at 588-600 Little Collins Street is of historical and social significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

The Stella Maris Seafarer's Centre is historically significant for the tangible evidence it provides of part of the history of Melbourne as a trading port, and of the prevailing concerns for the religious, moral and social welfare of people in the shipping trade. The place has a long association with the adjoining St Augustine's Church through its role from the late 1960s in continuing the Catholic Church's official missionary work to provide pastoral care, services and support for seafaring people, begun by the Church in the mid-nineteenth century. It is also important for its links to St Augustine's Church (631-653 Bourke Street) built in 1867, one of Melbourne's oldest Catholic churches, and the associated St Vincent de Paul Society, whose members were active in caring for seafarers from the late 1880s. (Criterion A)

The Stella Maris Seafarer's Centre is of social significance for its strong association with a Catholic community of lay staff and volunteers, and religious staff, that offer a dedicated mission to seafarers through their work at the Centre and at Melbourne port. The Stella Maris Seafarers' Centre was created through the efforts of this community, and the association is long-standing. The social significance of the Stella Maris Seafarer's Centre is reflected through a strong sense of connection

and shared community identity along with a sense of ownership and pride in the Centre as a place and the services offered. (Criterion G)

Primary source

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