

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Australia-Netherlands House (468-478 Collins Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Former Australia-Netherlands House



PS ref no: HO1325



What is significant?

The Former Australia-Netherlands House, 468-478 Collins Street, a multi-storey office building constructed in 1968-70.

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.

Later alterations made to the street level foyer are not significant.

How it is significant?

The Former Australia-Netherlands House at 468-478 Collins Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

Constructed in 1968-70 to a design by Peddle Thorp & Walker in association with Meldrum & Partners, the Former Australia-Netherlands 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-Netherlands House is a fine and highly intact representative example of a Post-War Modernist commercial building. The building strongly reflects the style which was popular in the 1960s to the mid-1970s, particularly in central Melbourne. Constructed as a 17-storey building, the Former Australia-Netherlands House clearly demonstrates typical characteristics of a postwar structure, with a curtain wall facade incorporating structural components. The front façade, displaying a regular grid composed of horizontal bands of glazing with dark spandrels and contrasting vertical mullions, and the use of a variety of materials, including granite and marble cladding and aluminium window frames, demonstrate important aspects of the Post-War Modernist style (Criterion D).

Primary source

Hoddle Grid Heritage Review (Context & GJM Heritage, 2020) (updated March 2022)