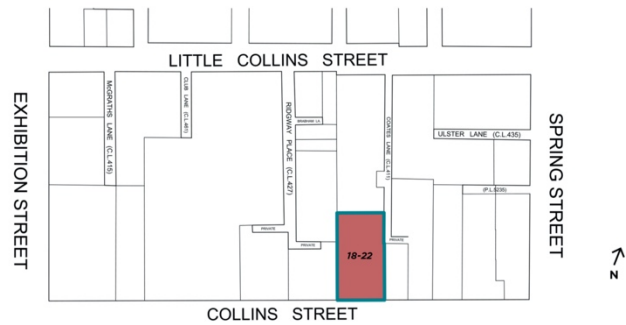


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Coates Building (18-22 Collins Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Coates Building

PS ref no: HO1312



What is significant?

The Coates Building, 18-22 Collins Street, a multi-storey office building constructed in 1958-59.

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 very high level of integrity to its original design.

Later alterations made to the street level facade are not significant. Air conditioning units are not significant.

How it is significant?

The Coates Building at 18-22 Collins Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

Constructed in 1958-59, to a design by John A La Gerche, the Coates Building 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 Coates Building 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 1950s, particularly in central Melbourne. Constructed to the prevailing 40m (132 foot) height limit of the time, the Coates Building clearly demonstrates typical characteristics of a 1950s structure with a curtain wall street façade. The front façade of horizontal rows of framed glazing and vertical mullions which divide the facade into a grid-like pattern, and the use of materials such as aluminium window frames, demonstrate important aspects of the Post-War Modernist style. The fully glazed and transparent front façade is both unusual and distinctive in the Melbourne context (Criterion D).

Primary source

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