

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Commercial Building (582-584 Little Collins Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Commercial building

PS ref no: HO1279



What is significant?

582-584 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, built in 1873 for William Welshman and designed by architects Crouch and Wilson.

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

- Parapet with simple arched pediment
- Major bracketed cornice and minor cornices
- Original size and pattern of fenestrations
- Decorative rosettes
- Ground level rusticated façade over rock-faced bluestone base
- Deep architrave with plaster plaque to recessed porch entry.

Later changes including the insertion of a large glazed timber panel into the window opening at street level and the new flooring to the entry are not significant.

How it is significant?

582-584 Little Collins Street, Melbourne is of local historic, representative, aesthetic and associative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

582-584 Little Collins Street historically significant for its representation of mercantile development in the mid-Victorian period when Melbourne was rapidly expanding. Dating from the early 1870s, the building is a relatively early example of a commercial office of which not a great many remain from this period. (Criterion A)

The building at 582-584 Collins St is a fine example of a classical revival building from the mid-Victorian period. The recessed entry is unusual and the composition of the façade is a scholarly example of Victorian-era classical architectural traditions. (Criterion D)

The building at 582-584 Collins St is of aesthetic significance for the high quality of its Victorian architecture. The quality of detailing to the façade is notable for a building from the early 1870s, with this level of detailing more common in the later Victorian period. Details include a rusticated base at street level, a parapet wall with a heavy bracketed cornice and central pediment, a squared entry porch to one side of the building and a set of three rounded arched windows across the upper façade. (Criterion E)

The building at 582-584 Little Collins Street is significant for its association with businessman, Colonial Magistrate and St Kilda councillor William Welshman who commissioned prominent architects Crouch and Wilson to design both it and the Union Bond Melbourne Storage Company stores in King Street and Little Collins Street. (Criterion H)

Primary source

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