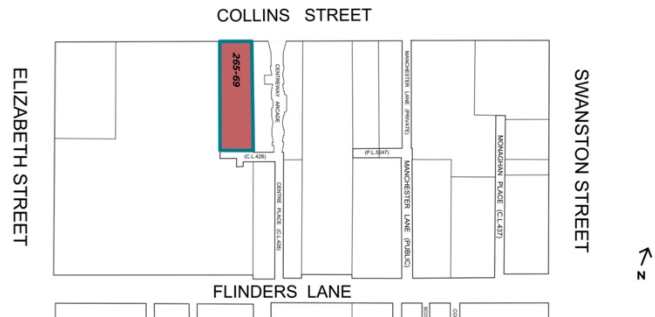


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Former Bank of Adelaide Building (265-269 Collins Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Former Bank of Adelaide Building



PS ref no: HO1317



What is significant?

The Former Bank of Adelaide Building, 265-269 Collins Street, a multi-storey office building constructed in 1959-60.

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 facade are not significant.

How it is significant?

The Former Bank of Adelaide at 265-269 Collins Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

Constructed in 1959-60, to a design by Godfrey & Spowers, Hughes, Mewton and Lobb, the Former Bank of Adelaide 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 prestige afforded by a dominant city presence. The Former Bank of Adelaide Building was constructed as one of the first buildings to exceed the pre-existing 40m (132 foot) height limit within the Melbourne CBD (Criterion A).

The Former Bank of Adelaide 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, incorporating a curtain wall street facade. The transparent front façade of alternating rows of aluminium-framed glazing and opaque spandrels, and vertical mullions which divide the façade into a grid-like pattern, demonstrate important aspects of the Post-War Modernist style. The incorporation of two contrasting grids in the front façade is unusual and distinctive (Criterion D).

Primary source

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