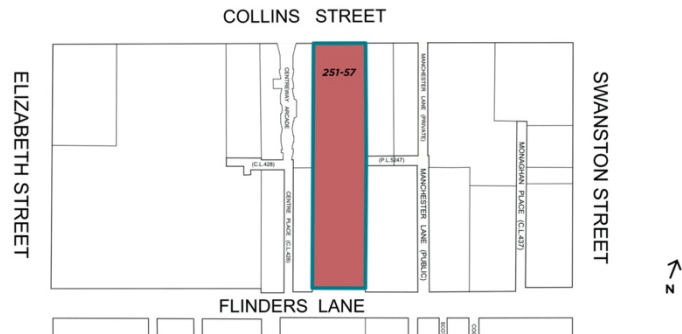


**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Former Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Building  
(251-257 Collins Street, Melbourne), April 2022**

**Heritage Place:** Former Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Building



**PS ref no:** HO1316



**What is significant?**

The Former Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Building, 251-257 Collins Street, a multi-storey office building constructed in 1971-73.

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 facades are not significant.

**How it is significant?**

The Former Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Building at 251-257 Collins Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

**Why it is significant?**

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Constructed in 1971-73, to a design by Bates Smart & McCutcheon, the Former Commercial Banking Company of Sydney 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 Former Commercial Banking Company of Sydney 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 1960s to the mid 1970s, particularly in central Melbourne.

Constructed as a 15-storey building in Collins Street, the Former Commercial Banking Company of Sydney Building clearly demonstrates typical characteristics of a later postwar structure including identically detailed front and rear structural facades which clearly express the structure externally, wall cladding with integral suspended sunhoods shading deeply recessed bands of continuous glazing, strong horizontal lines across the facades and the use of materials such as precast concrete panels. These details demonstrate important aspects of the Post-War Modernist style (Criterion D).

**Primary source**

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