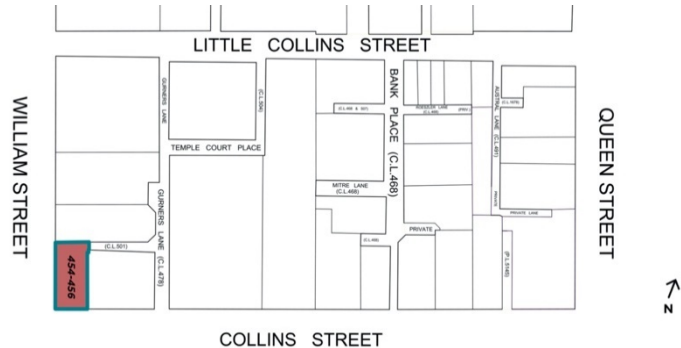


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Former Guardian Building (454-456 Collins Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Former Guardian Building



PS ref no: HO1324



What is significant?

The Former Guardian Building, 454-456 Collins Street, a multi-storey office building constructed in 1960-61.

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 Guardian Building at 454-456 Collins Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

Constructed in 1960-61 to a design by Bates Smart & McCutcheon, the Former Guardian 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 Guardian 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 through to the mid 1970s, particularly in central Melbourne. Constructed as a 10-storey building on a

prominent corner site, the Former Guardian Building clearly demonstrates typical characteristics of a 1960s to mid 1970s structure, including a solid external appearance with two grid-like curtain walls of regularly spaced rectangular windows set in plain facades, a contrasting upper level of closely spaced mullions, and the use of materials such as stone-faced precast concrete panels. These demonstrate important aspects of the Post-War Modernist style (Criterion D).

Primary source

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