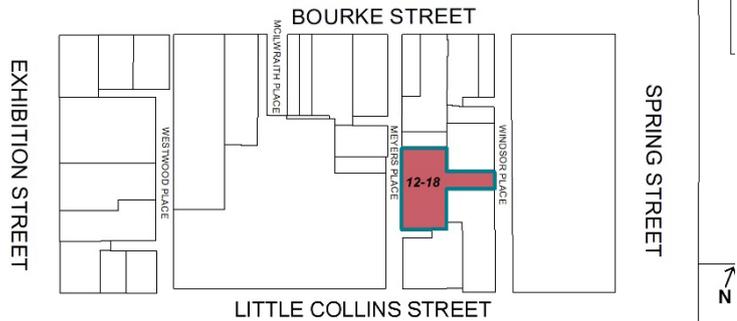


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Former Kantay House (12-18 Meyers Place, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Former Kantay House

PS ref no: HO1363



What is significant?

The former Kantay House at 12-18 Meyers Place, Melbourne, a two-storey interwar Functionalist style warehouse built in 1940 to a design by architect Harry A Norris is significant.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The original scale and form and scale
- The original face brick walls original pattern of fenestration, including corner treatment of thin dark 'Roman' bricks, parapet capped with Roman bricks laid on edge, modular concrete ventilation grill
- The recessed vertical panels of 'Roman' bricks separating panels of original steel windows.

Later alterations made to the street level façade, and the affixed ventilation shaft, are not significant.

How it is significant?

The former Kantay House at 12-18 Meyers Place, Melbourne, is of local historic and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

The former factory building at 12-18 Meyers Place, named Kantay House and constructed in 1940 for F W Kain, is historically significant for the evidence it provides of the rise of industry in the city from the 1940s. From the 1940s to the 1970s, Melbourne underwent the most sustained growth in its

history, mostly based on the manufacturing industry. Built as two factory spaces under the one roof, the first occupiers of the factory in 1940 were F W Kain & Co, millinery manufacturers, and Michaelis, Hallenstein & Co, tanners, curriers and leather goods dealers. Both firms occupied the building until c1960, demonstrating Melbourne's sustained growth from the end of World War Two to the beginning of the 1970s, mostly based on its manufacturing industry. (Criterion A)

The former Kantay House at 12-18 Meyers Place is significant as a substantially intact, modest example of industrial development in central Melbourne as the city recovered from the Great Depression and responded to the industrial demands of World War Two. It was built in the interwar Functionalist style to a design by architect Harry A Norris, one of Victoria's most prolific commercial architects in the 1920s and 1930s. The interwar Functionalist style was popular during the interwar and early postwar periods, usually for low rise industrial buildings, schools and institutional buildings. These new 'modern' industrial buildings were often located in minor streets and laneways with rear lane access to facilitate the movement of material in and out of the building. 12-18 Meyers Place exhibits key characteristics of the style, which emphasised a modern or progressive aesthetic and was characterised by its progressive image, using 'streamlined' horizontal spandrels and extensive horizontal bands of glazing. The building has a moderate to high degree of integrity, retaining defining elements of its style, including the blond face brick façade, recessed vertical panels of 'Roman' bricks separating panels of original steel windows and modular concrete ventilation grill. (Criterion D)

Primary source

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