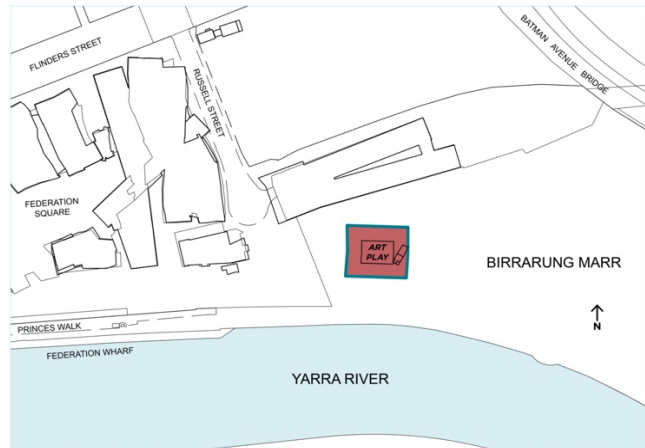


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Former Princes Bridge Lecture Room (Princes Walk, Birrarung Marr, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Former Princes Bridge Lecture Room



PS ref no: HO1379



What is significant?

The Former Princes Bridge Lecture Room, Princes Walk, Birrarung Marr, a purpose-built railway training building constructed in 1916-17.

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 additions and alterations made to the building, including the building addition to the east and screens added to the northern, part of the eastern and part of the western elevations, are not significant.

How it is significant?

The Former Princes Bridge Lecture Room, Birrarung Marr, Russell Street Extension is of historical significance to the City of Melbourne. It has rarity value as a lecture room constructed by the Victorian Railways Department.

Why it is significant?

Constructed in 1916-17, the Former Princes Bridge Lecture Room was built to support the electrification of the Melbourne metropolitan railway network by providing a training facility for railway staff. The electrification of the railway network in Melbourne in the twentieth century represented a substantial shift in the development of the rail network by increasing the efficiency of train services, increasing rail patronage and facilitating the growth and development of central Melbourne and surrounding suburbs. The building continued to play an important educational role for railway employees until at least the 1970s (Criterion A).

The Former Princes Bridge Lecture Room is the only remaining purpose-built educational facility constructed by the Victorian Railways Department within the City of Melbourne. Designed for the practical training of railway employees in preparation for the electrification of the railway network, the building remains highly intact to clearly demonstrate this uncommon building type in the City of Melbourne (Criterion B).

Primary source

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