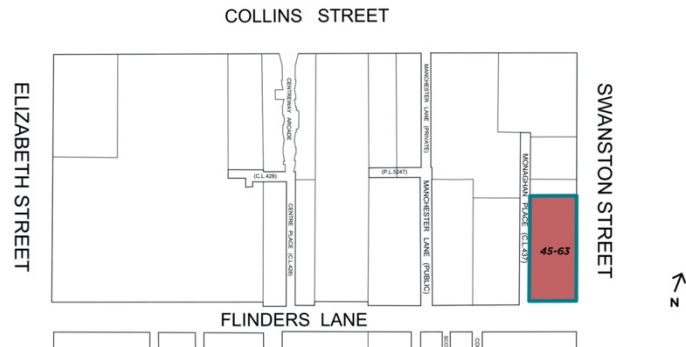


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Former State Savings Bank of Victoria (45-63 Swanston Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Former State Savings Bank of Victoria

PS ref no: HO1375



What is significant?

The Former State Savings Bank of Victoria, 45-63 Swanston Street, a multi-storey commercial building constructed in c1974.

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 lower levels of the building are not significant.

How it is significant?

The Former State Savings Bank of Victoria at 45-63 Swanston Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

Constructed c1974, to a design by Buchan, Laird & Buchan, the Former State Savings Bank of Victoria 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 State Savings Bank of Victoria 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 13-storey structure, the Former State Savings Bank of Victoria clearly demonstrates typical characteristics of a postwar commercial building, including a heavy arcaded podium base and two grid-like walls with vertical accent, formed from dominant precast concrete structural mullions which divide rows of glazing and glass spandrels, as well as the use of materials such as precast concrete panels, aluminium window frames and opaque glass. 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)