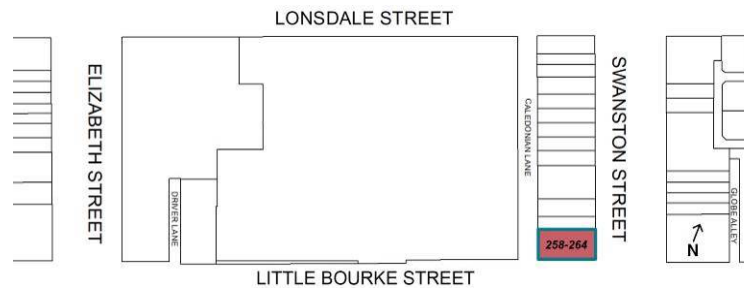


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Former State Savings Bank (258-264 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Former State Savings Bank



PS ref no: HO1344





What is significant?

The former State Savings Bank at 258-264 Little Bourke Street, completed in 1961 to a design by Meldrum & Partners and Robert Cousland.

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

- Original building form and scale
- Original non-loadbearing curtain wall
- Original masonry side and rear walls and windows
- Original commemorative plaque and clock (northern elevation).

Later alterations, particularly at street level, are not significant.

How it is significant?

The former State Savings Bank at 258-264 Little Bourke Street is of historical, representative and aesthetic significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

The former State Savings Bank, completed in 1961, is historically significant for the evidence it provides of Melbourne city's postwar development and rapid growth. The modernist architecture of the postwar period played a role in the formulation of company identities, as expressions of ambition and relevance, at a time when companies opted for construction and also naming rights of new city office buildings as a form of promotion. Built for the State Savings Bank of Victoria, the building at 258-264 Little Bourke Street is historically significant as a reflection of the growth and progress of locally established banks during the 1950s-60s, that resulted in architecturally designed company-named buildings being erected. (Criterion A)

The former State Savings Bank is significant as a highly intact example of postwar commercial development in central Melbourne, utilising the Post-War Modernist style that characterised this new wave of development. These buildings represented the new modernism in their modular, industrial Bauhaus inspired aesthetic incorporating features such as consistent access to daylight and open floor plans to meet new standards for commercial office accommodation. The former State Savings Bank demonstrates the key characteristics of the style. (Criterion D)

Designed by architects Meldrum & Partners and Robert Cousland, the building is aesthetically significant as a substantial Post-War Modernist style commercial building. It exhibits the prominent Bauhaus grid design aesthetic of the style with its lightweight aluminium framed, fine-graded modular curtain wall across the principal street façade (Little Bourke Street), with alternating clear glazed and coloured opaque glass spandrel panels superimposing a refined grid over the building. (Criterion E)

Primary source

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