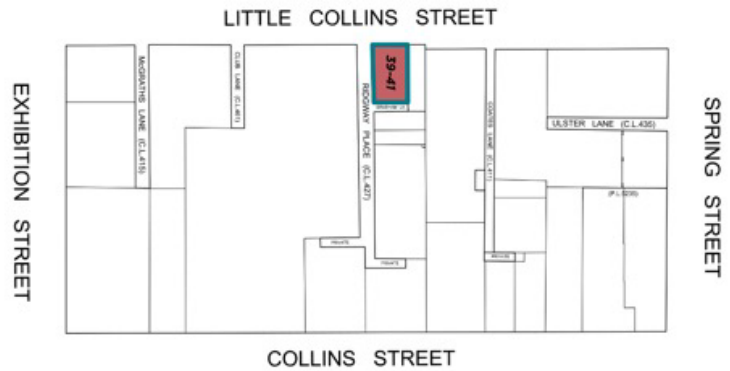


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Former Wenley Motor Garage (39-41 Little Collins Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Former Wenley Motor Garage

PS ref no: HO1277



What is significant?

Former Wenley Motor Garage at 39-41 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, built in 1919.

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

- The building's original external form

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- The building's relatively high level of integrity to its original design
- The brick parapet and rendered cornice
- The pattern and size of fenestration, segmented arched windows
- The brickwork and brick sills.

Later alterations are not significant.

How it is significant?

The former Wenley Motor Garage at 39-41 Little Collins Street, Melbourne is of local historic and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

The building at 39-41 Little Collins Street is historically significant for its association with the clothing manufacturing industry and with the provision of services for the motor car which increased significantly in the interwar period. Historically 37-41 Little Collins Street demonstrates overlapping uses by auto mechanics and clothing manufacturing. The upper floor workrooms were used by clothing manufacturers Adelaide Tailoring Co, and Alpha Manufacturing Co until the end of the 1920s and Chapman Manufacturing Co until the 1930s. From the 1920s to the 1940s, the ground floor of 39-41 Little Collins Street was in use by businesses servicing the then new and growing motor car service industry. This use was represented by motor engineer G A Drury (later Drury and Co) throughout the 1920s, and Parish Motor Service from the late 1930s to early 1940s. (Criterion A)

With its simple rectangular built form and small window openings, 39-41 Little Collins Street is representative of utilitarian brick warehouses and other manufacturing buildings constructed during the late Edwardian and the early interwar period. Built in 1919 it is characterised by brick construction with small segmented arched windows with parapet and cornice detail to the upper floor. Although now overpainted and with some alterations to wall openings, it is still legible as a small industrial building constructed in the Edwardian era. (Criterion D)

Primary source

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