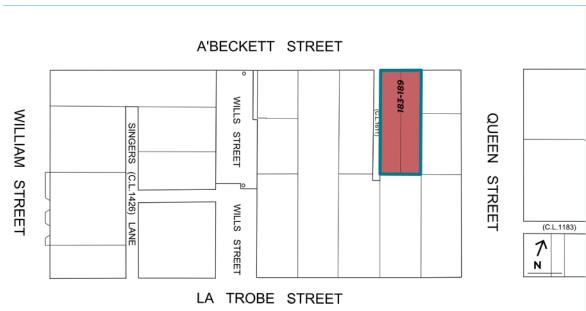


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Grange Lynne Pty Ltd (183-189 A'Beckett Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Grange Lynne Pty Ltd



PS ref no: HO995



What is significant?

This document is an incorporated document in the Melbourne Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the Planning and Environment Act 1987

The building at 183-189 A'Beckett Street Melbourne, built in 1937 for Grange Lynne Pty Ltd by architect Edward Billson.

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;
- Long horizontal windows with ledges of the ground and first floors, and concrete sun control hoods above the band of windows;
- Dark brown textured face brick façade in tapestry pattern and heeler (long narrow) brickwork;
- Red face brickwork and the vertical brick fin on the side (west) elevation, as well as the saw-tooth roof profile facing south at the rear;
- Curved vertical brick bay with six port holes above the entrance;
- Semi-circular concrete hood at the stair entry and the street address numbers set on three steel bars behind
- Curved metal stair handrail in the foyer.

Later additions and alterations to the building are not significant.

How it is significant?

The Grange Lynne Pty Ltd is of local historic, representative and aesthetic significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

The building at 183-189 A'Beckett Street is historically significant as a well-preserved interwar city workshop and warehouse and one of a small number of surviving designs by the noted architect, Edward Fielder Billson, a former pupil and associate of Walter Burley Griffin. The building is also a reflection of long-term industry and warehouse concentration in this part of the city, in particular the printing industry that developed in proximity to the new Argus newspaper building at the corner of Latrobe and Elizabeth streets. This demonstrates the evolution of buildings of similar uses that have been assessed as significant elements of the city's development. (Criterion A)

The Grange Lynne Pty Ltd building is a successfully designed and highly representative example of the Moderne style, as applied to a city commercial building, which juxtaposes curved verticals with horizontal elements. The decorative aspects of the dark brown brick façade, such as the vertical fin and round windows of the stairwell, are particularly noteworthy. While the skilful addition of a similarly detailed third storey by the firm of R M & M H King has changed the proportions of the façade, this has detracted little from the integrity of the initial concept. (Criterion D)

The factory at 183-189 A'Beckett Street is a fine and distinctive example of an inter-war factory and office building in the City of Melbourne. Built in 1937-38 to designs prepared by architect Edward F Billson, a former pupil and associate of Walter Burley Griffin, this building exhibits an unusual blending of International modernism with the Arts and Crafts-based aesthetic of the Amsterdam School. (Criterion E)

Primary source

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