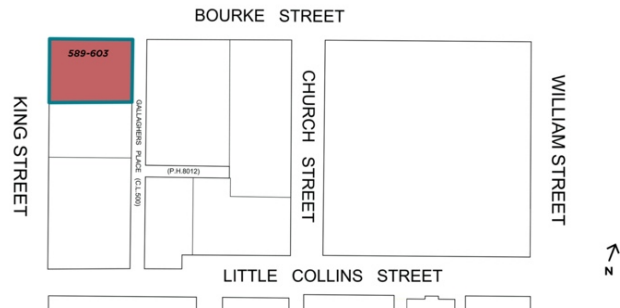


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Office building (589-603 Bourke Street, Melbourne), April 2022
Heritage Place: Office building

PS ref no: HO1311

What is significant?

The office building at 589-603 Bourke Street, a multi-storey commercial building constructed from 1973-75.

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 street level facades are not significant.

How it is significant?

The office building at 589-603 Bourke Street is of historical and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

Constructed from 1973-75 to a design by Peddle Thorp de Preu, the office building at 589-603 Bourke Street 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 office building at 589-603 Bourke Street is a fine and highly intact representative example of a Post-War Modernist commercial building. The building strongly reflects the architectural style popular

from the 1960s to the mid-1970s, particularly in central Melbourne, and clearly demonstrates typical characteristics of a later postwar structure including three grid-like facades of complex three-dimensional wall panels that combine to create a strong horizontal emphasis. The use of materials such as precast concrete and aluminium window frames, as well as the incorporation of sunhoods to shade windows, demonstrate important aspects of the Post-War Modernist style (Criterion D).

Primary source

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