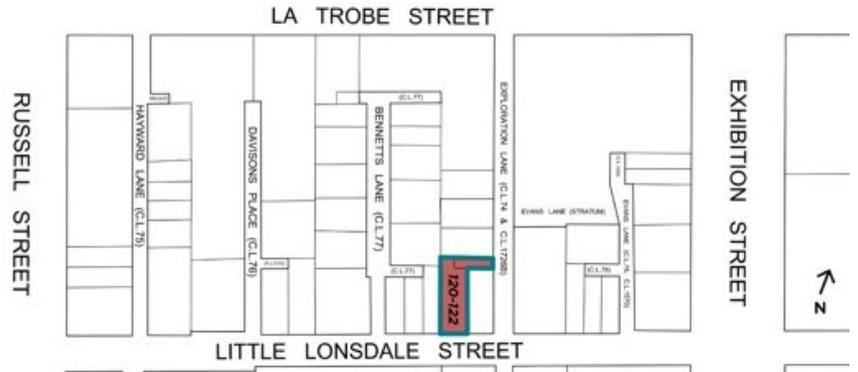


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Residences (120-122 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Residences

PS ref no: HO1296



What is significant?

The pair of houses at 120-122 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, dated to 1872 and located within the Little Lonsdale Street Precinct.

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
- Pattern and size of original fenestration, and original bluestone sills
- Simple rendered façade with simple classical detailing
- Moulded parapet cornice supported by brackets at each end and a plain string course at the first-floor level
- Original bluestone doorstep (at 120 Little Lonsdale Street).

More recent alterations, including the replacement sash windows, are not significant.

How it is significant?

120-122 Little Lonsdale Street, Melbourne is of local historic, rarity and representative significance.

Why it is significant?

The pair of houses at 120-122 Little Lonsdale Street is historically significant for its demonstration of less salubrious 'fringe' areas of mostly Irish immigrants, which had emerged by the late 1840s and early 1850s in an area referred to as 'Little Lon'. The two earlier houses on the site of 120-122 Little Lonsdale Street have their origins in this period, with the current houses replacing these in the early 1870s. (Criterion A)

120-122 Little Lonsdale Street is a rare example of early residences in the central city. Although several other early examples exist (all with individual HOs) at 74 Collins Street, 330 King Street and 261 William Street and 215-217 Swanston Street (recommended for HO), nos.120-122 Little Lonsdale

Street is unusual in its retention of the ground floor residential appearance. The pair of houses compare in period and style with 17 Casselden Place of 1876. (Criterion B)

The pair of houses at 120-122 Little Lonsdale Street is significant for its residential typology of the mid-Victorian period. Attributes of the place include the simple and unadorned façade that is reflective of early Victorian design and construction, and the plain rendered wall surface with minimal ornamentation. The sash windows and the one remaining door onto the street reinforce its residential typology. 120-122 Little Lonsdale Street contributes to an unusually cohesive early streetscape in Little Lonsdale Street. (Criterion D)

Primary source

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