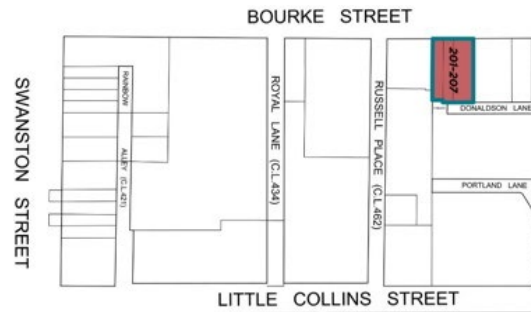


STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Shops and dwellings (201-207 Bourke Street, Melbourne), April 2022

Heritage Place: Shops and dwellings



PS ref no: HO1239



What is significant?

The row of shops and dwellings at 201-207 Bourke Street, Melbourne, built in 1874.

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

- Balustraded parapet with pedestals
- Decorative band with vertical markings that runs the full length of the façade at sill height
- Upper façade detailing including deep cornices with dentil course below; square brackets quoining at the building's corners; square windows with decorative moulded architraves (upper level); deep moulded architraves, window hoods, scroll brackets and key stone to windows at the mid-level
- Moghul-inspired stilted arch windows (No.207).

Later alterations made to the street level facades are not significant.

How it is significant?

201-207 Bourke Street, Melbourne is of local historic and representative significance to the City of Melbourne.

Why it is significant?

201-207 Bourke Street is historically significant as a late Victorian building that represents a key phase in the retail development of Melbourne when increasing numbers of investors developed retail premises in the city during the building boom of the 1870s and 1880s. Built in 1874 for investment partners F B Clapp and W G Sprigg, who developed up to 12 similar properties along Bourke Street between 1873 and 1885, 201-207 Bourke Street, is typical of retail buildings of the Victorian-era that housed retail outlets at ground level and residences and workspaces for business-owners on the floors above. (Criterion A)

207 Bourke Street is historically significant for its demonstration of its former use as an office for the cyclorama operating from 166-186 Little Collins Street in the 1890s, and once physically connected to no.207. This historical association is evident in the different window pattern to no.207. (Criterion A)

The three shops at 203-207 Bourke Street are historically significant for their association with hatter George Mountford and their occupation from the mid-1920s by well-known shoe retailer Mountfords. From the mid-1930s the business contracted to the two shops at 205-207 Bourke Street where it continues to operate as Mountfords. (Criterion A)

201-207 Bourke Street is a fine example of a row of shops with residences above built in the mid-Victorian era and characterised by stucco detailing. Built as one unified arrangement with Renaissance revival influences, the upper façade of the 201-205 Bourke Street retains the classical styling typical of the period. (Criterion D)

Primary source

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