

22.04 HERITAGE PLACES WITHIN THE CAPITAL CITY ZONE25/07/2013
C186(Part 1)

This policy applies to the Capital City Zone.

Policy Basis

The heritage of the Capital City Zone area, comprising individual buildings, precincts, significant trees, and aboriginal archaeological sites, is a significant part of Melbourne's attraction as a place in which to live, visit, do business and invest. It is also important for cultural and sociological reasons, providing a distinctive historical character and a sense of continuity. Much of Melbourne's charm is provided by its older buildings, which, while not always of high individual significance, together provide cultural significance or interest, and should be retained in their three dimensional form, not as two dimensional facades as has sometimes occurred.

The identification, assessment, and citation of heritage places have been undertaken over decades, as part of an ongoing heritage conservation process and their recognition and protection have been a crucial component of planning in Melbourne since 1982.

Objectives

- To conserve and enhance all heritage places, and ensure that any alterations or extensions to them are undertaken in accordance with accepted conservation standards.
- To consider the impact of development on buildings listed in the Central Activities District Conservation Study and the South Melbourne Conservation Study.
- To promote the identification, protection and management of aboriginal cultural heritage values.
- To conserve and enhance the character and appearance of precincts identified as heritage places by ensuring that any new development complements their character, scale, form and appearance.

Policy

The following matters shall be taken into account when considering applications for buildings, works or demolition to heritage places as identified in the Heritage Overlay:

- Proposals for alterations, works or demolition of an individual heritage building or works involving or affecting heritage trees should be accompanied by a conservation analysis and management plan in accordance with the principles of the Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance 1992 (The Burra Charter).
- The demolition or alteration of any part of a heritage place should not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that that action will contribute to the long-term conservation of the significant fabric of the heritage place.
- The impact of proposed developments on aboriginal cultural heritage values, as indicated in an archaeologist's report, for any site known to contain aboriginal archaeological relics.
- The recommendations for individual buildings, sites and areas contained in the Central City Heritage Study Review 1993 except for the buildings detailed in the incorporated document titled Central City (Hoddle Grid) Heritage Review: Statements of Significance June 2013, in which case the Central City (Hoddle Grid) Heritage Review: Statements of Significance June 2013 will apply.

- All development affecting a heritage precinct should enhance the character of the precinct as described by the following statements of significance.
- Regard shall be given to buildings listed A, B, C and D in the individual conservation studies, and their significance as described by their individual Building Identification Sheet.

Statements of Significance and Key Attributes for Heritage Areas within the Heritage Overlay

Bank Place Precinct

Statement of Significance

The character of the intimate space within Bank Place is created by the architectural variety of the comparatively small, individual buildings that enclose it. They vary in style from the English domestic of the Mitre Tavern (1865), through to the Victorian facades of Stalbridge Chambers and the romanesque revival of Nahun Barnett's Bank Houses. The Savage Club, 12 Bank Place, was erected as a townhouse in the 1880s and is now on the Victorian Heritage Register. With its narrow entrances, flanked at the northern end by the impressive and ornately detailed Stalbridge Chambers on one side and on the other by a significant row of two-storey shops, representing the oldest legal offices in what was once Chancery Lane, it provides a pleasant and intimate space in the heart of the City. The area extends across Little Collins Street to include the Normanby Chambers, another sophisticated facade featuring Italian and English Renaissance design, another office long associated with the legal fraternity, and forming an architectural focus for Bank Place.

Key Attributes

- The intimate scale and character of Bank Place, as well as its strong social and traditionally pedestrian role.
- Architecturally interesting building facades and detailing throughout.

Bourke Hill Precinct

Statement of Significance

This precinct derives much importance from its association with Parliament House, which was built progressively from 1856. This 19th century complex dominates the Bourke Street vista from as far away as William Street, and is emphasised by the sympathetic scale of the buildings on either side of the Bourke Street Hill. The precinct also includes such stylish and prominent buildings facing Spring Street as the Princess Theatre (1886) and the Hotel Windsor (1883). These contribute to the high level of amenity of Spring Street and its gardens. The buildings on either side of Bourke Street reflect the variety of social activities that have taken place in this area since the mid-19th century. The scale of the City's buildings prior to the boom era of the 1880s is seen in the simple design and low scale of the two-storey Crossley's Building (1884-1885).

The area also comprises part of the entertainment precinct of the central city, and buildings such as the Salvation Army Temple (1890) reflect the interest of social reformers in the nearby 'back slums' epitomised by the nearby former Gordon House (1883-1884). A philanthropic venture built by a syndicate headed by the actor-manager and politician George Coppin, it was named after the martyr of Khartoum and was an ambitious venture intended to provide family accommodation for the respectable poor. However, the venture was not successful in achieving its purpose and Gordon House later became a shelter for

homeless men and now a hotel. It survives as a unique social document in the narrow confines of Little Bourke Street, and is complemented by the low-scale of surrounding red brick buildings.

The juxtaposition of the Parliament, the former deprived areas of Little Bourke Street and the style of Bourke Street gives the precinct an unrivalled historic texture and overall the theatres, hotels, cafes and quality bookshops contribute to the relaxed and elegant character of the eastern end of the city.

Key Attributes

- Low-scale Victorian buildings.
- The visual dominance of the parliamentary buildings on the Bourke Hill skyline, and the vista along Bourke Street to Parliament House.

Bourke West Precinct

Statement of Significance

Architecturally diverse but coherent in scale and picturesque setting, this precinct contains highly expressive elements of the late 19th and early 20th century city. Apart from containing a rare and interesting mix of diverse functions and building types, this precinct includes a range of government services located in the western quarter of the City. Some buildings such as Unity Hall (1916), Hudsons's Stores (1876-77) and the Old Tramways Building (1891) have important historical associations with transport and the Spencer Street railway yards. The comparatively low levels of even the tallest buildings contrast well with the single-storey structures on the southern side of Bourke Street, enabling the taller structures to be seen from their original perspective.

Key Attributes

- A group of architecturally diverse 19th and early 20th century buildings that are consistent in scale and associated with public services and warehousing.
- The dominance of the Tramways Building on the south side of Bourke Street and the Mail Exchange building on the north side.
- The amenity of the garden around St Augustine's Church.

Collins East Precinct

Statement of Significance

Collins Street has often been identified as Melbourne's leading street. This is due, in part, to the pleasant amenity and distinctive character of its eastern end. Its relative elevation and proximity to the Government Reserve and points of access to the City provided for its development as an elite locale. Initially a prestige residential area, the Melbourne Club re-established itself here in 1857 and by the 1860s the medical profession had begun to congregate. By the turn of the century it was firmly established as a professional and artistic centre of Melbourne, with part of its fame due to its tree plantations in the French boulevard manner (hence the 'Paris end'), which date from 1875.

A number of significant buildings come together in this precinct to form a series of prominent streetscapes. These include, at the western end, the Town Hall, Athenaeum, and Assembly Hall through to the Scots and Independent Churches, with the Regent Theatre through to the redeveloped T&G building opposite. The eastern end includes the early 19th

century residential and artists' studio buildings at the foot of No. One Collins, with the predominantly 20th century intact run to the north featuring Alcaston, Anzac Portland and Chanonry Houses, and Victor Horsley Chambers plus the nearby Melbourne Club.

At all times until the post 1939-45 war period, redevelopment took place in a quiet and restrained manner with an emphasis on dignity, harmony and compatibility with the intimate scale and pedestrian qualities of the street. These qualities are still embodied in significant remnant buildings and other artifacts, despite the intrusion of large developments. The qualities of the street are also embodied in the social functions of the buildings which include elite smaller scale residential, religious, social, quality retailing and professional activities.

Key Attributes

- The buildings remaining from before the Second World War.
- The boulevard quality of this end of Collins Street with street tree plantations and street furniture.
- A consistent height, scale, character and appearance of the remaining 19th and early 20th century buildings.
- The historic garden of the Melbourne Club.

Flinders Gate Precinct

Statement of Significance

This precinct comprises the City's southern face, a major access point at Princes Bridge, and the specialised commercial district of Flinders Street. The area has been a gateway to the City from the south ever since the first Prince's Bridge (1841) and Melbourne's first railway were constructed, and Flinders and Spencer Street stations were linked by a viaduct in 1879. A grand new Princes Bridge (1886) confirmed the trend to redevelopment in the latter decades of the 19th century. The present Flinders Street Station (1906-10) also dates from this period. Proximity to the centre of Victoria's railway system explains the location and the size of the Commercial Travellers' Club (1899) in Flinders Street.

It was here, at Melbourne's southern gate, that the Anglican community chose to build their grand new St Paul's Cathedral (1880-91), replacing an earlier church on the same site. The choice was a logical one as many of them lived in the southern and eastern suburbs. More commercial motives saw the construction in Flinders Street of large retail emporia such as the former Mutual Store (1891) and Ball and Welch (1899).

This precinct offers evidence of all these changes, and also includes two of Melbourne's earliest and best known hotels, the Duke of Wellington (1850) and Young and Jackson's Princes Bridge Hotel (1854). An important feature of Flinders Street's southern face of buildings is their uniform height facing the station, Federation Square and the Yarra River.

Key Attributes

- The traditional gateway to the central city from the south and an area associated with retailing.
- Major 19th and early 20th century buildings including Flinders Street Station, St Paul's Cathedral and Princes Bridge.

Flinders Lane Precinct

Statement of Significance

Proximity to the Yarra River, Queens Wharf and the Customs House marked Flinders Lane as an appropriate location for the establishment of wholesaling businesses in the 19th century. Up until the 1870s and 1880s, Melbourne was the centre of the colonial re-export trade. Overseas cargoes were received, re-packed and distributed to the southern colonies and New Zealand. This trade created a demand for functional warehouses offering large areas of space close to the ground without any need for external display. This generation of buildings were plain brick or stone, up to three storeys in height, and limited to one commercial occupant.

The international exhibition of 1880-81 helped change this. International agents were introduced into the commercial economy, together with a system of indented goods sent direct from manufacturer to retailer. As this system took hold and the southern face of the city became more accessible to rail and road (with the development of Flinders and Spencer Street stations, and the construction of the new Princes Bridge), it became uneconomic to maintain large areas of warehouse space in Flinders Lane. The new wholesaler was able to store his goods elsewhere, requiring only a rented office and sample room in the city proper. However, clothing manufacturers and designers did find the larger floor areas to their liking and a number of 'Rag Trade' activities were established in the area.

An intense period of building between 1900 and 1930 resulted in taller buildings incorporating large showcase windows to both ground and basement floors, characteristically separated by a floor line approximately 1 metre from the ground. The new buildings of the 1970s and 1980s were even taller, more architecturally pretentious, and presented a display to the street. Flinders Lane retains buildings from all three eras, and presents a striking physical display of the changing pattern of trading activity in Melbourne.

Key Attributes

- The scale and character of the six and seven-storey office and warehouse buildings constructed in Flinders Lane before the Second World War and the predominant building forms and materials of the precinct.
- The traditional association with 'Rag Trade' activities, other creative professions, or dwellings.
- The large showcase windows at the ground and basement floors of the warehouse offices constructed before the Second World War.

Little Bourke Precinct

Statement of Significance

Chinese immigrants settled in Little Bourke Street as early as the mid 1850s. Chinese occupation in the city centre then extended north and west, creating a distinct enclave. The buildings that they occupied were not distinctively 'Chinese' in their appearance but were rather the typical small brick shops, dwellings, warehouses and factories of the less affluent areas of Victorian Melbourne (indeed the area was not known as 'Chinatown' until the 1970s).

A number of architecturally distinctive, community-oriented buildings were constructed in the heart of the precinct on Little Bourke Street. These included the Num Pon Soon Chinese Club House (1861) and the premises of leading Chinese merchant Sum Kum Lee (1888). However, the most obvious features of Chinatown were the Chinese themselves, their characteristic trades, and the often run-down general character of their quarter of the City. In the late 19th century, the overwhelmingly Anglo-Celtic community stigmatised

both the Chinese and their portion of the city for an association with vice but, for many Chinese, Little Bourke Street was a centre of trade and community life. Today, Chinatown's shops, restaurants and distinctive character are popular with many Melburnians and tourists as well as the Chinese community.

The precinct is bordered on its northern boundary by taller strip development fronting Lonsdale Street. Many Victorian and Edwardian buildings survive in this location and they provide an important contextual link between the 'back streets and lanes' of the heart of the precinct and the more public areas of the City. Since the Second World War, Lonsdale Street has become a centre for Melbourne's Greek community, further enhancing the cultural diversity of this cosmopolitan precinct.

Key Attributes

- The small low-scale Victorian and Edwardian buildings densely located along Little Bourke Street and the adjoining laneways.
- The traditional association with the Chinese community expressed through uses and signage.
- The focus for Greek commercial, entertainment, professional and cultural activities on the southern side of Lonsdale Street.
- The Swanston Street, Russell Street and Exhibition Street entry points to Chinatown.
- The prominence of Sum Kum Lee (112-114 Little Bourke Street) and Num Pon Soon (200-202 Little Bourke Street) within Little Bourke Street.
- The amenity of Little Bourke Street and the adjoining laneways for pedestrian use.
- The attractiveness of the precinct for tourism and recreation.

Post Office Precinct

Statement of Significance

For the immigrant community of Victorian Melbourne, dependant on the mail for news of all kinds, the General Post Office (GPO) was an important social institution. The present building reflects this social standing in its imposing architecture and occupation of a prominent corner site. The present building replaced an earlier structure of 1841 and was constructed in three stages between 1859 and 1907. The importance of the post office ensured a variety of other commercial attractions in the vicinity, many of them of retail character. The confluence of omnibus and tramway facilities assisted this.

Overall, this precinct has maintained its place as a major retail centre for the metropolis, surviving the challenges of such suburban centres as Smith and Chapel Streets and Chadstone. In the inter-war period, such establishments as Buckley and Nunn redeveloped their properties, the Myer Emporium put on its present face, and London Stores, the Leviathan Public Benefit Bootery, G J Coles and Dunklings all developed as substantial variety and specialist stores.

Important 19th century buildings such as the Royal Arcade and the GPO are now intermingled with the commercial gothic and art-deco characteristics of the 20th century shops and emporia to create a precinct characterised by glamour and variety. The precinct also contains sub-areas of great cultural value, such as the post office steps and arcades and Myer's windows (especially when decorated at Christmas time). The precinct's status as a meeting place has been recognised and enhanced by the establishment of the Bourke Street Mall.

Key Attributes

- The traditional character of the precinct as a major retail centre.
- The scale, form and appearance of the buildings constructed before the Second World War and of the surviving 19th century buildings.

The Block Precinct

Statement of Significance

Within this precinct may be found not only the heart of Victorian Melbourne's most fashionable retail area but also the beginnings of its 'Chicago end' along Swanston Street. 'Doing the Block', a term coined to describe the popular pastime amongst Melbourne's middle classes of promenading outside the plush retail and accessory stores, reached its height in the boom years of the 1880s. The tradition of arcaded shopping was borrowed from nearby Royal Arcade and became a marked feature of this precinct. Block Arcade (1891-93), Centreway Arcade (1913), Block Court (1930), Manchester Unity Arcade (1932), and the Century Arcade (1938-40) testify to the continued popularity of this form.

The precinct contains a great number of significant and architecturally impressive buildings dating from the boom years of the 19th century through to the period immediately prior to the 1939-45 war. The Elizabeth Street end is dominated by the smaller buildings of the earlier period whereas along Swanston Street may be found the Manchester Unity Building, the Capitol Theatre and the Century Arcade, all based on precedents found in Chicago at the time, and pushed to the maximum height limit of 132 feet that existed in Melbourne until the construction of the ICI building in 1958.

Key Attributes

- The historic character of the precinct as a retail area, characterised by a large number of buildings from the late Victorian and early 20th century periods and by the network of arcade shopping.
- The comfortable pedestrian movement within the precinct.
- The commercial and retail buildings of the Victorian and 1900-1940 periods.

The Market Precinct

Statement of Significance

The Queen Victoria Market is one of the great 19th century markets of Australia and the only such market built by the Melbourne City Council to survive. The complex of enclosed food halls, open sheds, shops and stores illustrate a complete mode of commercial transaction, which is today substantially similar to the pattern in 1878 when the main fruit and vegetable market was opened. The Market was the principle market of fresh fruit and vegetable produce in Victoria from 1878 to 1975 and had a profound effect on the whole system of growing, selling and distribution in the state. As a retail market, it has been an important meeting place for a large component of Melbourne's population and remains a vital link with a part of Melbourne's domestic life.

Key Attributes

- The historic character of the precinct as a retail area.
- The generally simple, low-scale and remarkably intact example of a utilitarian form from the period of its construction. Taken as a whole, the Market and its component buildings are substantially intact in its 1923 form.

- The visual dominance of the Queen Victoria Market in the surrounding area.

Little Lon Precinct

Statement of Significance

The precinct is locally significant, historically, socially and aesthetically to the City of Melbourne. The building group, which epitomises the much publicised and interpreted 'Little Lon' district and its colourful past, represents three key development phases in the City's history, the immediate post golden era boom of the late 1850s and early 1860s, the development boom of the 1880s leading to the great Depression of the 1890s, and the Edwardian-era recovery with development of local manufacturing that also saw the establishment of a greater Chinatown in the street.

The building group commences with the gold rush era Exploration Hotel and develop through the 19th century with the associated boarding and row houses at 120-122 Little Lonsdale Street and the Leitrim Hotel, itself erected on an old hotel site. The next phase of building is from the Edwardian era with factory warehouse construction that was to serve the Chinese cabinet making and furniture trade.

Key Attributes

- A single and strong architectural expression derived from classical revival architecture that emerged in the Colony during the 1860s and is seen here extending into the Edwardian-era.
- Contributory elements include external walls and finishes, parapeted form, mouldings, fenestration, joinery two and three-storey scale, and roof form, along with any new material added in sympathy to the original fabric it replaced.
- The architecturally significant Leitrim Hotel displays a strong boom-era dynamism in its façade ornament.

Policy Reference

Urban Conservation in the City of Melbourne 1985

Central Activities District Conservation Study 1985

Harbour, Railways, Industrial Conservation

South Melbourne Conservation Study 1985

Central City (Hoddle Grid) Heritage Review 2011