

Victorian Heritage Database Report

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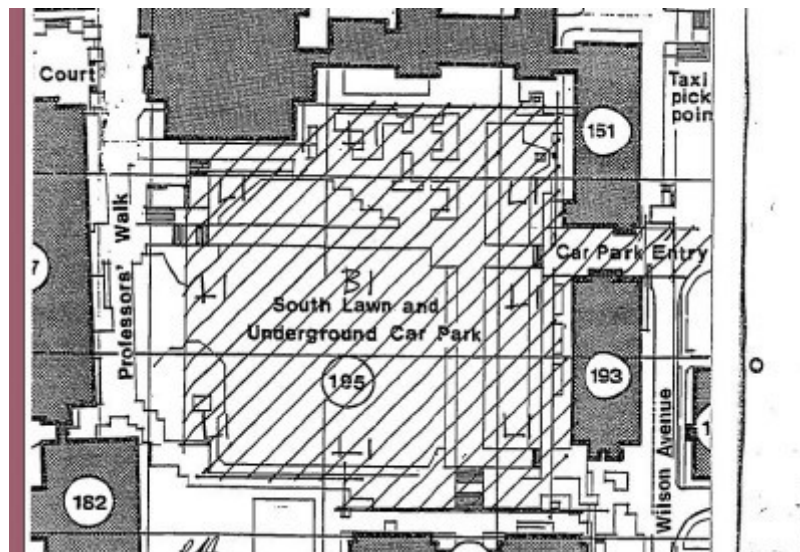
UNDERGROUND CAR PARK



UNDERGROUND CAR PARK SOHE
2008



1 underground car park university of
melbourne parkville walking entrance
former colonial bank entrance may1989



h01004 plan h1004

Location

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, 156 - 292 GRATTAN STREET PARKVILLE, MELBOURNE CITY

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1004

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO342

VHR Registration

April 14, 1994

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 3, 2000

What is significant?

The Underground Car Park is located in the heart of the University of Melbourne's Parkville campus. The car park had been provided for in the Campus Master Plan which was prepared by Bryce Mortlock in 1970. The scheme provided a solution to the problem of too many cars on the campus whilst simultaneously providing a landscaped area above. It was designed by the architectural firm Loder and Bayly in association with Harris, Lange and Partners. The engineer in charge of the project was JL van der Molen. Excavations commenced in May 1971 and the car park was completed by November 1972. Landscaping of the South Lawn area above the car park and areas adjacent to the Baillieu Library and John Medley Building were carried out by the firm of Stones and Rayment. The Underground Car Park is constructed of reinforced concrete shells with parabolic profiles supported on short columns. The columns contain drainage pipes which allowed for the planting of the lawn and trees of the South Lawn. The east entrance contains a door from a 1745 house in St Stephen's Green, Dublin whilst the west entrance is framed by two Atlas figures from the demolished Colonial Bank, Elizabeth Street.

How is it significant?

The Underground Car Park is of architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Underground Car Park is architecturally significant as an extraordinary example of a building type. At the time of its construction no other car park in Australia was fully enclosed and concealed underneath landscape. The vaulted form of the car park interior creates a dramatic and evocative space. The design demonstrates an innovative and imaginative solution to the mundane and utilitarian problem of car parking. Additionally it is significant as an unusual form of reinforced concrete, but demonstrates the versatility of the material and the architectural expression that it can achieve. The car park's appearance on ABC television as setting for a ballet sequence and its use in the internationally successful film Mad Max is indicative of the car park's wide aesthetic impact on public consciousness. The arched entrance flanked by the Atlas figures and the addition of a 1745 door from Saint Stephens Green, Dublin represents a notable application of decorative schemes and material in construction and design.

Construction dates 1971,
Architect/Designer Loader & Bayley,
Heritage Act Categories Heritage place,
Other Names MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY CARPARK,
Hermes Number 3808
Property Number

History

Associated People:
Owner MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY;

Extent of Registration

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Under section 14 of the Historic Buildings Act 1981 the Governor in Council amends the Register by adding Historic Building No. 1004.

Underground Car Park, South Lawn, University of Melbourne, Parkville, City of Melbourne.

(To the extent of:

1. All of the building known as the underground car park and associated works including the Dublin and Colonial Bank doors and the reflective pool, shown BI on Plan 605536 (A) signed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council;

and

2. All of the land marked L1 on Plan 605536 (A) signed by the Chairperson, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council.)

Dated 6 April 1994

Responsible Minister:
ROBERT MACLELLAN
Minister for Planning

KATHY WILSON
Acting Clerk of the Executive Council

[Victoria Government Gazette G15 14 April 1994 937]

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place data owner.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>