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# Freemasons Hospital



B7108 Freemasons Hospital

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## Location

166 Clarendon Street,, EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002 - Property No B7108

## Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

## Level of significance

State

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1972

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 24, 2007

The Freemason's Hospital designed by Stephenson and Turner, and built 1936/7, extended 1956, is of State level significance for historical and architectural / aesthetic reasons.

Historically this is considered a seminal modernist building in Victoria, hailed as one of the first and best expressions of 'functionalism' in architecture. Its long horizontal balconies, and lack of adornment were radical for the time.

Architecturally, the expression is notably severe, with long horizontal balconies dominating the design, the extension of the 1950s exaggerating this effect. This horizontality is contrasted by the vertical services tower, expressed only above the roof, and incorporates relief carving, which is the only decoration.

The Freemason's is one of a series of important modernist hospitals designed by the firm of Stephenson & Meldrum (Stephenson & Turner after 1937) who dominated hospital design in Australia for the next 20 years. Designs such as the Mercy, East Melbourne, 1934-35 and the King George Memorial in Sydney, culminating in the Royal Melbourne Hospital buildings in Parkville, 1936-41 introduced 'functionalist' architecture on a huge scale to this country. The firm are also credited with introducing the modern architectural practice, with efficiency and modern innovation in the office as well as in their architecture, and was the largest in the country for many years.

Classified: 05/03/2001

Hermes Number 64563

Property Number

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*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 source.*

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