

## NEWSPAPER HOUSE MOSAIC



NEWSPAPER HOUSE  
MOSAIC SOHE 2008



1 newspaper house collins  
street melbourne front view  
feb1986



newspaper house collins  
street melbourne mosaic view



newspaper house collins  
street melbourne view above  
entrance

### Location

247-249 COLLINS STREET MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

### Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0447

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO592

### VHR Registration

May 16, 1979

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 14, 2000

What is significant?

The Newspaper House Mosaic was designed by Napier Waller in 1932. Waller was the leading neo-classical mural painter of the period. The mosaic was commissioned as part of a new facade for the original 1884 building. The new facade was designed by architects Stephenson & Meldrum for the Herald and Weekly Times Limited, who had recently acquired building. The theme of the mosaic was suggested by Mr. Theodore Fink, a director of the company, with the text, 'I'll put a girdle round about the earth'. The mural is read from left to right and in the classical style celebrates technological advances in the progress of mankind. It is located at first floor level and is affixed to slate panels fixed to the brickwork with copper dowels. It is in three sections divided by two windows. There are only two other mosaics by Napier Waller, who studied, lived and worked in Melbourne - one in Temple Court, Collins Street and the other at Monash House, William Street.

How is it significant?

The Newspaper House mosaic is of aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Newspaper House mosaic is aesthetically significant as a rare example of the use of wall mosaic for decorative purposes on the facade of a Melbourne building. The fusion of art and architecture to this extent is rarely apparent in a commercial building in Victoria. It is a superb example of Napier Waller's calm classical style.

### Permit Exemptions

#### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

**Places of worship:** In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

**Subdivision/consolidation:** Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1889,
Architect/Designer	Waller, Mervyn Napier,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	729
Property Number	

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## History

### Contextual History:

Napier Waller lived and worked in Melbourne for all but a few years of his creative life. The last forty years were concentrated on monumental works; mural painting, mosaics, stained glass. He is not as widely known outside Melbourne but has other important works in Canberra and Perth.

Waller's work was firmly classical, and stands apart from more familiar artistic movements in Australian art.

Waller's visions of an heroic past inform his use of classicism, but he also drew upon his belief in a utopian socialism and the teachings of William Morris and Walter Crane to celebrate the work of the craftsman and the artist's responsibility to society. This responsibility was translated into his mural art. His murals include the Melbourne Public Library and the T & G Building, both in 1928 and the Myer Emporium Dining Hall. Waller also worked in stained glass, a material he became interested in from about 1951.

Associated People: Theodore Fink

## Extent of Registration

Historic Building No.447 Newspaper House, 247-249 Collins Street, Melbourne (to the extent of the glass mosaic and the slate backing fixed to the facade).

[Victoria Government Gazette No.39 May 16, 1979 p.1494]

*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/>*