
Former Australian Felix Hotel



B6214 Fmr Australian Felix
Hotel.JPG

Location

168-174 Bourke Street,, MELBOURNE VIC 3000 - Property No B6214

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Regional

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 10, 2004

This corner-sited, two-storey former hotel building in the Italian Renaissance manner was rebuilt in 1860 on the site of an earlier 1846 hotel structure. Last known as Richardson's Hotel, it was licenced to Robert Sawyers in 1847 as the Australian Felix Hotel. This building is of national cultural significance as the headquarters of the Richardson Hotel chain from the turn of the century until 1944. The chain's founder, James Richardson (1865-1951), who also lived in the hotel's upper floor, was acknowledged as Australia's largest hotel magnate at the time of his death and with a fortune of two million pounds was also one of Australia's wealthiest businessmen. Prior to Richardson the hotel was also associated with the Morell family; a son, Sir Stephen Morell, was Lord Mayor of Melbourne in 1926.

This building is of architectural significance as one of Melbourne's, and probably Victoria's, few remaining Italian Renaissance styled hotels. Historically, the early dating of the Australia Felix/Richardson's Hotel's construction and rebuilding makes it a valuable addition within the small group of immediate post-gold era hotels remaining within Melbourne and a contributor to the adjacent Little Bourke Street Historic precinct.

Classified: 20/03/1991

Other Names Morell's Hotel, National Australia Bank, Richardson's Hotel,

Hermes Number 64429

Property Number

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/>