
Former Australian Mutual Provident Society Headquarters



B4097 Fmr AMP
Headquarters



B4097 Fmr AMP Building

Location

419-429 Collins Street,, MELBOURNE VIC 3000 - Property No B4097

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

State

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0421

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 3, 2007

One of the finest examples of the 1920s Renaissance revival commercial palazzo in Australia built in 1929-31 in the financial heart of Melbourne as the Victorian headquarters for the Australian Mutual Provident Society, which had been founded originally in Sydney in 1849. Though opened in 1931 in a time of economic depression, this impressively decorated structure of advanced building technology well reflects the role of the AMP as a contemporary strong and stimulating financial force - characteristic of the Society's history. The ten-storey

building designed by architects Bates Smart and McCutcheon was built to the maximum allowable height limit of 132 feet. Framed in steel and clad with sawn Sydney freestone and Casterton granite, the former AMP Society Building is a period exemplar of the influence in Australia of contemporary American high-rise office building design of the 1920s.

Styled in a mannered interpretation of the Italian Renaissance, the building is an excellent example of masonry veneer construction with outstanding and original details and an elaborate sculptural relief by sculptor, Orlando H Dutton over the main entrance on Collins Street. Two unique features of the building are the concealed panel heating system, the first of its kind in Australia, and the adjustable steel slatted sunblinds on the Collins Street and Market Street upper floor windows. The impressive ground floor chamber, free of columns and with an elaborate coffered ceiling, is a rare and intact commercial interior of the 1920s decorated in a classically derived manner. Other interior elements of period significance include the first floor timber panelled boardroom with its elaborate marble fireplace surround and timepiece, adjacent panelled vestibule and bathroom with substantially intact period sanitary fittings. Also the wire lift cage and surrounding stairwell complete with scalloped light fittings at the rear of the banking chamber. This conservatively styled building won the fourth Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Street Architecture Medal in 1932.

Classified: 21/07/1988

Other Names Bank of NSW,

Hermes Number 64683

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/>