
Former Money Order Office



B5175 Money Order Office

Location

318 - 320 Little Bourke Street,, MELBOURNE VIC 3000 - Property No B5175

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Regional

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 8, 2008

Public Works Department Assistant Architect, H.J. Kerr, prepared plans for this building as part of the General Post Office in 1889 under Chief Architect, Henry R. Bastow. The builder was James H. Sutherland and the contract signed in 1890. This five storey stuccoed masonry building housed a money order office and savings bank on the ground level, for which arcades were designed and offices on the upper levels. Known early as the Money Order Building, it became Commonwealth Offices after Federation and, from the 1930's, the Federal Members Rooms housing distinguished members such as R.G. Menzies and J. B. Chifley. The trabeated, four-storey facade possesses a progression of Corinthian, Ionic and Doric orders in pilaster form, set around a central pedimented bay rising three stories; the whole being adapted from Italian Renaissance architecture. The ground level entablature is enriched to provide an appropriately massive base for the elevation, whilst the intermediate placement of the pediment allows for the limited angle of vision from the narrow street. The deep bracketing of the attic storey window hoods also counters this problem. Despite the intrusive lift shaft overrun, added in 1932 under works Director Mackennal, the facade is a competent if conservative design, near to original, and the

internal level arcading has survived. Its significance derives from this also, as one of the larger buildings constructed by the Victorian Colonial Government, and as the Melbourne office of Federal Parliamentarians.
Classified: 07/04/1983

Other Names Old Federal Chambers,

Hermes Number 65210

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/>