
Cast Iron Public Urinal - Group Classification



B6883 Public Urinal

Location

East Side, Nicholson Street,, EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002 - Property No B6883

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

National

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 12, 2004

Group Statement of Significance: Melbourne's cast iron public urinals have national historic, technological, aesthetic and social significance. They are the survivors of a group of about 40 structures erected between c.1903 and 1918, and connected to the new underground sewerage system. Cast by C. Monteath & Sons, Ironfounders of South Melbourne, they employed a prefabricated interlocking post and panel system which enabled the urinals to be assembled on site, or dismantled and relocated. While all still function as toilets, the fabric of some is more intact than others, and a number have been converted from male urinals to unisex and disabled facilities. Being among the earliest public toilet facilities to be connected to the MMBW's new underground sewerage system, the above ground cast iron urinals are unique material reminders of Melbourne's evolution into a healthier, cleaner and more attractive metropolis in the first two decades of the twentieth century. As rare surviving examples of a highly sophisticated prefabricated iron building system applied to one of man's most basic needs, they demonstrate local technological accomplishment. Functional in their design, and compact in their use of city space, the cast iron urinals display elegant ornamentation, particularly in the delicate upper

grillework. The public urinals have important symbolic significance as historical vestiges of social inequality in the provision of public toilet facilities for men and women earlier this century.

Group Classification includes:

1. Princes Street, south side corner of Neill Street, Carlton, near Dan O'Connell Hotel, B 6875.
2. Queensberry Street, south side, west of Swanston Street corner, Carlton, adjacent to Queensberry Hotel (2 stall), B 6876.
3. North side Queensberry Street, east of Elizabeth Street corner, Carlton, adjacent to Royal Artillery Hotel (2 stall), B 6877.
4. Exhibition Street, median strip, between Lonsdale Street and Little Lonsdale Street (2 stall), B 2836.
5. Queensberry Street, median strip, east side of intersection of Errol Street, North Melbourne (4 stall), B 6879.
6. Flinders Street, south side, corner of Exhibition Street, File No. 6880.
7. La Trobe Street, north side, west of Russell Street corner, adjacent to Magistrates Court, B 6881.
8. Lonsdale Street, median strip, east of King Street intersection, B 6882.
9. Nicholson Street, east side, south of Albert Street corner, East Melbourne, B 6883.

Group Classified: 02/02/1998

Hermes Number 65374

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/>