
Department of Agriculture Annex



B6763 Treasury & 17 St
Andrews Place



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Department



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Location

17 St. Andrews Place,, EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002 - Property No B6763

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Demolished/Removed

Heritage Listing

National Trust

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 6, 2005

Designed by noted architect, and Chief of the Public Works Department, Percy Everett, and built in 1948, 17 St. Andrews Place is architecturally and historically significant at a State level. It is a most unusual design, where the stepped plan, angled site and contrasting horizontal and vertical glazing combine to create a dynamic and striking building. The almost total lack of ornament, and the reliance on form and fenestration alone to create interest displays an influence of the rationalist stream of European Modernism of the 1920s and 30s, one of the few such examples in Victoria. This modernist influence is also apparent in the vertical sections of glazing, which are important milestones in the development of curtain walling in Victoria. This building, along with two other structures, were the first major new buildings added to the Reserve since the 1910s, and were the first to adopt a modern style, contrasting with the generally classical style of the earlier buildings. 17 St. Andrews Place, along with the Western Annexe to 2 Treasury Place built in 1949, conform to a masterplan for the Treasury Reserve prepared by Percy Everett in 1944. This plan is of interest as the only masterplan prepared for the whole site (and one of the few produced for any public area in Victoria), and envisaged a regularising of the haphazard collection of buildings arranged around 2 Treasury Place. It is also important for housing the Department of Agriculture in the years following World War 11, during a period of increasing government provision of technical support for the rural sector, which included films and radio programs made on site. A cinema, now known as the Grierson, was included in the basement for these purposes and is individually architecturally notable as the most intact and as one of the most stylish Moderne cinemas in Victoria. Again, influenced by the more rationalist stream of European Modernism, its egg-shaped plan, etched glass ceiling lights, curved stage, intimate scale and intactness (including the sets) are quite unique.

Classified: 'State' 06/10/1996

Demolished: 1997

Other Names Grierson Cinema,

Hermes Number 65614

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/>