

## FORMER GOLLIN AND COMPANY BUILDING



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COMPANY BUILDING SOHE  
2008



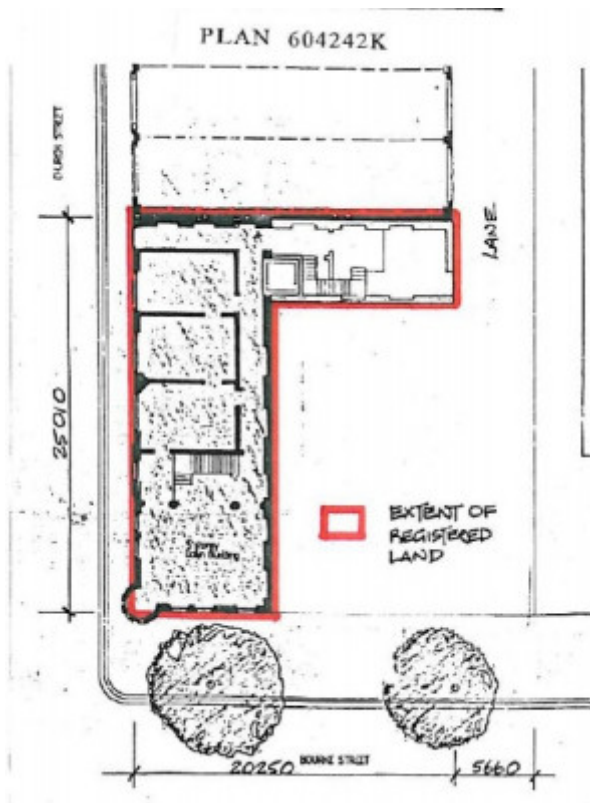
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2008



1 former gollin & company  
building bourke street  
melbourne frnt view



former gollin & company  
building bourke street  
melbourne front detail



H0685 H0685 plan

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### Location

561-563 BOURKE STREET MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

### Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0685

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO549

### VHR Registration

June 15, 1988

### Amendment to Registration

September 11, 1991

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 13, 1999

What is significant?

The Former Gollin and Company Building was designed by Charles D'Ebro and built in 1902 by Clements Langford. It is a five storey building, constructed of load-bearing brick with steel floor joists. It is decorated with stucco details, including elaborate main door and window surrounds, gables, and string courses at impost and sill heights. Features of the exterior are the corner sign surround front door case with a swan-neck pediment, metal eaves brackets and particularly the tourelle, which has an elaborately decorated base, foliated band, windows of different shapes and a flagpole-capped cupola.

How is it significant?

The Former Gollin and Company Building is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Former Gollin and Company Building is of architectural significance as a now-rare example of a Queen Anne-style commercial building in Melbourne which possesses a number of distinctive features. It is a rather late example of the Queen Anne style, this particular form of architectural expression flourishing only briefly from the late-1880s. But perhaps because of this belatedness, the Gollin building displays the full development of the style. The use of the corner tourelle as the principal facade feature appeared in England in the 1890s, but the premature demise of the Queen Anne style's popularity amidst the collapse of the property market in the 1890s depression in Melbourne meant that it was an uncommon architectural feature here. The Gollin Building's tourelle is one of the very few, and perhaps most intact, surviving in this city. The diverse range of stylistic elements upon which the Queen Anne style drew is illustrated in this building particularly in the windows. The ground floor windows in particular are uncommon, while the first floor openings have a classical flavour and those on the second floor exhibit eclectic French Renaissance Revival traits. The upper two floors are more restrained. The Gollin building is, in sum, a skilled composition making great use of its corner site.

The Former Gollin and Company Building is of architectural significance as the work of Charles D'Ebro, an important member of Melbourne's architectural community from the 1880s until his death in 1920. D'Ebro won many awards and designed numerous important buildings. He was also a leading civil engineer and a surveyor. Some of his better known works include Princes Bridge, Georges in Collins Street, Prahran Market and Stonnington.

The Former Gollin and Company Building is of historical significance as an illustration of a successful general merchant and import firm of the late-19th and early 20th centuries. Gollin and Company had a diverse business, handling kerosene and oil distribution and shipment of fruit from Mildura to England, amongst other activities. The substance and impressiveness of this building was a specific expression of the company's prosperity and importance, and a general indication of the revived Victorian economy in the first decade of the 20th century, after the 1890s depression, and of the importance of import companies to an economy with limited industrial capacity.

### Permit Exemptions

**General Exemptions:**

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Construction dates	1902,
Architect/Designer	D'Ebro, Charles,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	ABRAHAMS BUILDING,
Hermes Number	705
Property Number	

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## History

Contextual History:History of Place:

Gollin and Co Pty Ltd, general merchants and importers, was established as a company in Adelaide in the 1870s, and opened its first office in Melbourne in 1889 and an office in London in 1902. The principal owners and directors of the company were five members of the Gollin family. By the early 1900s, the company had secured sole agency rights for a large number of European and American exporters of foodstuffs, iron and steel, and oil. The most significant of these appears to have been the Shell Transport and Trading Co Ltd (forerunner of Royal Dutch Shell) for which Gollin and Co handled the distribution of oil and kerosene in most Australian states until 1905 when Shell established its first Australian branch. The building at 561-563 Bourke Street was constructed by Gollin and Co as their offices and showrooms in 1902. The company occupied the building until 1966 and was finally liquidated in 1976.

## Extent of Registration

AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Historic Building No. 685.

Former Gollin and Company Building, 561-563 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

Extent:

1. The whole of the building known as the former Gollin and Company Building at 561-563 Bourke Street, Melbourne at the time of registration; and
2. All the land shown on the plan (labelled 604242K) held by the Department for Planning and Housing being part of the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 9830 Folio 411.)  
[Victoria Government Gazette No. G35 11 September 1991 p.2544]

*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/>*