

# Sydney Metro and Martin Place Station Precinct

## State Significant Development Application — Stage 1

### Statement of Heritage Impact

Prepared for

Macquarie Corporate Holdings Pty Ltd

August 2017 • Issue B  
Project number 16 1035

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Document/Status Register				
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P1	8 Feb 2017	Draft issue for review	RL/GP	GP
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B	10 Aug 2017	Revised final issue	RL/GP	GP
161035 SM+MPS Precinct - Application 1 SSDA - HIS				

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Purpose of the report

This Statement of Heritage Impact has been prepared to accompany a State Significant Development Application (SSDA) submitted to the Minister for Planning pursuant to Part 4 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

Macquarie Corporate Holdings Pty Limited (Macquarie) is seeking to create a World Class Transport and Employment Precinct at Martin Place, Sydney.

The application seeks Stage 1 approval for the establishment of building envelopes, maximum gross floor areas and design parameters for two predominantly commercial office Over Station Development (OSD) towers, located above the site of the future Martin Place Metro Station (part of the NSW Government's Sydney Metro project).

This statement identifies and assesses potential heritage impacts associated with the proposed building envelopes, and specifically, heritage impacts on subject and neighbouring heritage items, their context and setting and significant views. To mitigate or minimise heritage impacts, heritage guidelines are provided for the future detailed design of each of the buildings.

### 1.2 Background

The New South Wales Government is implementing Sydney's Rail Future (Transport for NSW, 2012), a plan to transform and modernise Sydney's rail network so that it can grow with the city's population and meet the needs of customers in the future.

Sydney Metro is a new standalone rail network identified in Sydney's Rail Future. The Sydney Metro network consists of Sydney Metro Northwest (Stage 1) and Sydney Metro City & Southwest (Stage 2).

Stage 2 of the Metro entails the construction and operation of a new Metro rail line from Chatswood, under Sydney Harbour through Sydney's CBD to Sydenham and eventually onto to Bankstown through the conversion of the existing line to Metro standards. The project also involves the delivery of seven new Metro stations, including Martin Place. This step-change piece of public transport infrastructure once complete will have the capacity for 30 trains an hour (one every two minutes) through the CBD in each direction catering for an extra 100,000 customers per hour across the Sydney CBD rail lines.

On 9 January 2017 the Minister for Planning approved the Stage 2 (Chatswood to Sydenham) Metro application lodged by Transport for NSW (TfNSW) as a Critical State Significant Infrastructure (CSSI) project (reference SSI 15\_7400).

TfNSW is also making provision for future Over Station Development (OSD) on the land it has acquired for the Stage 2 Sydney Metro project, including land acquired for the purposes of delivering Martin Place Station. The OSD development is subject to separate applications to be lodged under the relevant provisions of the EP&A Act.

An Unsolicited Proposal submission has been lodged by Macquarie to the NSW Government for the delivery of a single fully integrated station/OSD solution for the new Sydney Metro Martin Place Station.



## INTRODUCTION

### 1.3 Site location and description

The Sydney Metro and Martin Place Station Precinct (the Precinct) project relates to the following properties:

#### North Site

- 48-50 Martin Place, 9-19 Elizabeth Street, 8-12 Castlereagh Street, 5 Elizabeth Street, 7 Elizabeth Street, 55 Hunter Street.

#### South Site

- 39-49 Martin Place.

#### Martin Place

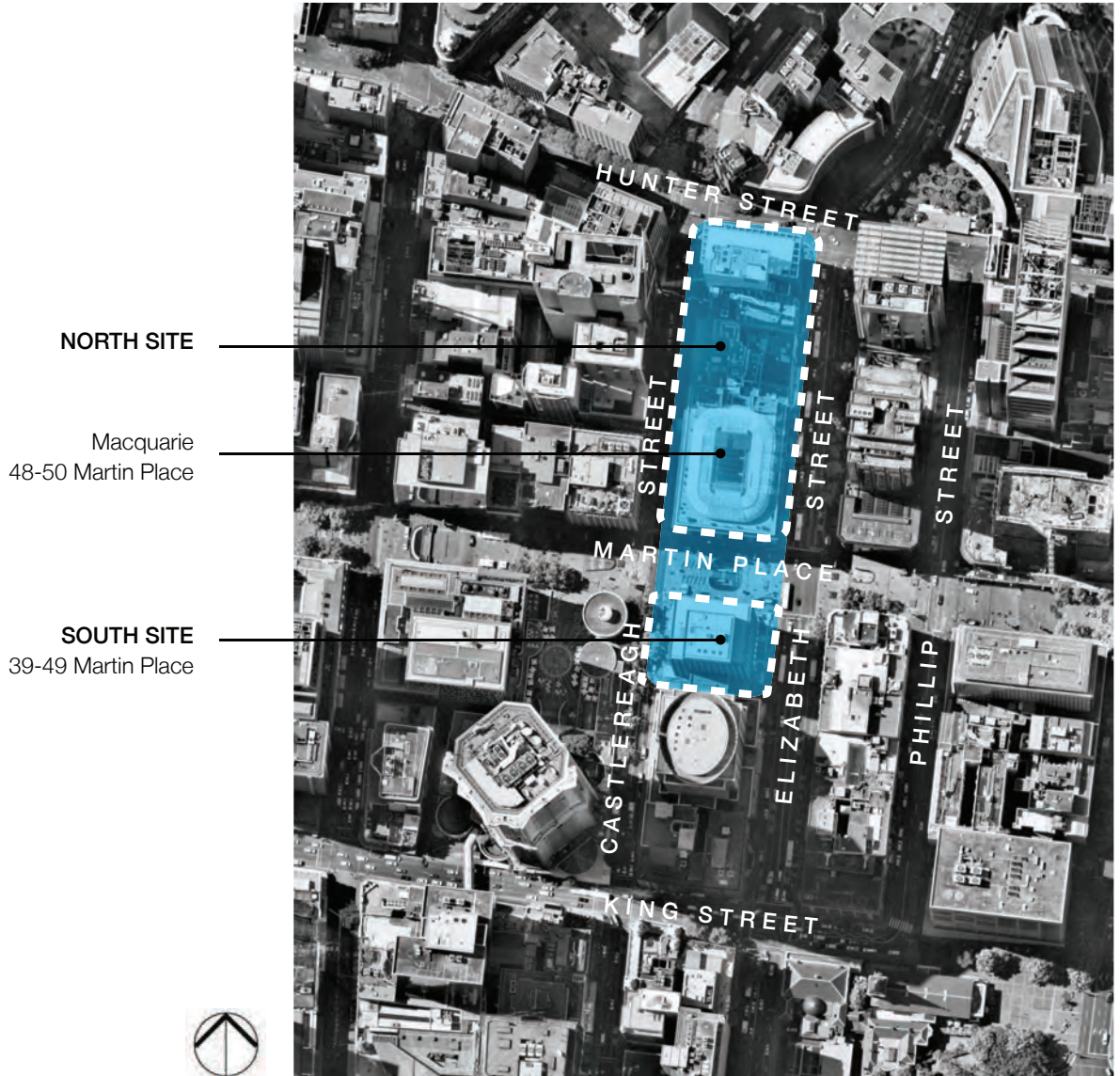
- that part bound by Elizabeth Street and Castlereagh Street.

The land the subject of this application relates only to the North and South Sites (refer to Figure 1). Each site will accommodate one OSD tower above the future Sydney Metro Martin Place Station (representing the northern and southern entries/gateways to the Sydney Metro station). The land acquired for the Sydney Metro Martin Place Station is the same as for the Macquarie proposal, except that the Macquarie proposal includes the two properties north of Martin Place owned by Macquarie, namely 50 Martin Place and 9-19 Elizabeth Street.

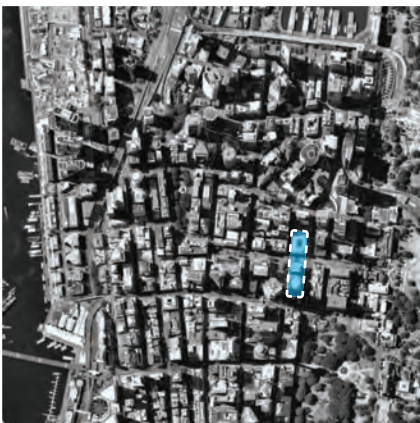
Both the North and South Sites are regular in shape and have areas of approximately 6,022m<sup>2</sup> and 1,897m<sup>2</sup> respectively, totalling 7,919m<sup>2</sup>.

Located close to the centre of the Sydney CBD, the Precinct comprises the entire City block bounded by Hunter Street, Elizabeth Street, Martin Place and Castlereagh Street; that portion of Martin Place located between Elizabeth Street and Castlereagh Street and the northern most property in the block bounded by Martin Place, Elizabeth Street, Castlereagh Street, and King Street. Together it constitutes an above ground site area of approximately 9,400 square metres, with a dimension from north to south of approximately 210 metres and from east to west of approximately 45 metres. It incorporates a significant portion of one of Sydney's most revered public spaces – Martin Place.

## INTRODUCTION



- 11 Location plan, not to scale, showing the Sydney Metro and Martin Place Station Precinct in blue. Proposed building envelopes for the North and South Sites - shown with a dashed outlines - are the subject of this application.  
Source: Nearmaps with TKD Architects overlay, 2017.



## INTRODUCTION

### 1.4 Context

#### Martin Place

Developed in stages from 1887, Martin Place is recognised as one of Central Sydney's great public, civic and commemorative spaces, as well as being a historically valued commercial and finance location. Martin Place and a large number of buildings on, or in close proximity to, Martin Place are identified as heritage items, either as items of National, State or Local significance. The former Government Savings Bank of New South Wales at 48-50 Martin Place, which forms part of the Macquarie North Site, is one of these major heritage items (Figure 2). A thematic history of Martin Place is included at Appendix A.

There has been a number of redevelopment and refurbishment proposals in recent years along Martin Place to improve existing assets and recapture their premium commercial status, e.g. 5 Martin Place, 50 Martin Place, 20 Martin Place, upgrades of the MLC Centre, and 60 Martin Place. The City of Sydney Council has also identified a need to reinvigorate Martin Place.

The surrounding locality is characterised by a variety of built form and architectural styles, with many of the buildings, including those of relatively recent years, not complying with current planning controls with respect to building heights, setbacks and street wall heights.

In terms of land use the area is characterised by a predominance of office uses, with some ground floor retail, cafés, or restaurants and hotels (most notably the Westin and the Wentworth) to support its primary business centre function.

#### Chifley Square

Developed in stages between 1957 and 1993, Chifley Square is a significant twentieth century exercise in city planning to create a new public open space in Sydney (Figure 3). The space is characterised by its semi-circular form, with the first building, Qantas House, establishing the western quadrant in 1957. Chifley Square provide a visual termination to the vistas looking north along Elizabeth and Phillip Streets.

The vicinity is characterised by large high-rise towers, such as Chifley Tower, Aurora Place, 8 Chifley Place and Deutsche Bank, interspersed with lower scale buildings. The buildings are predominantly commercial offices and comprise part of the legal and financial precinct of the city. Ground floor retail, cafes and restaurants are located variously throughout the area, including an outdoor cafe on the southern edge of Chifley Square.

#### Richard Johnson Square

Completed in 1974, Richard Johnson Square is an important example of late twentieth century civic planning (Figure 4). Located off Hunter Street at the intersection with Bligh Street, the small square is surrounded largely by office towers, including the significant 1936 City Mutual Life Assurance Building designed by Emil Sodersten. Incorporated within the square is the 1925 sandstone monument commemorating the first church service held in the colony, sited on the location of the country's first church erected in 1793.



## INTRODUCTION



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- 2| Martin Place looking east
- 3| Chifley Square
- 4| Richard Johnson Square

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.5 Heritage management context

#### Heritage items within the Precinct

Heritage Item	CHL	SHR	LEP
<b>Reserve Bank</b>   65 Martin Place	105456		I1897
<b>APA Building</b>   53-63 Martin Place		00682	I1896
<b>Commonwealth Bank</b>   48-50 Martin Place		01427	I1895
<b>MLC Building</b>   38-46 Martin Place		00597	I1894
<b>Martin Place Station</b>		01187	I1891
<b>Martin Place</b>			I1889
<b>GIO Building</b>   60-70 Elizabeth Street		00683	I1738
<b>7 Elizabeth Street</b>			I1737
<b>City Mutual Building</b>   60-66 Hunter Street		00585	I1675
<b>Qantas House</b>   68-96 Hunter Street		01512	I1811
<b>Richard Johnson Square</b>			I1673
<b>Chifley Square</b>			I1708

#### Sydney Development Control Plan 2012

Sections of the proposed development lie within the Chifley Square and Martin Place Special Character Areas, which are defined in Section 2 of the *Sydney Development Control Plan 2012*. The relationship of the subject sites with neighbouring heritage items and Special Character Areas is shown in Figure 5.

#### Conservation Management Plans

The following is a list of conservation management plans which have been prepared for the subject and neighbouring heritage items. Those marked with an asterisk have been endorsed by the NSW Heritage Council.

- **City Mutual Building**, 60-66 Hunter Street, Sydney, Conservation Management Plan, Tanner Architects, 2005 \*
- **Qantas House**, 1 Chifley Square, Sydney, Conservation Management Plan, Godden Mackay Logan, 2004 \*
- **Reserve Bank of Australia Head Office Building**, 65 Martin Place, Sydney, Heritage Management Plan, NBRS + Partners, 2012
- **APA Building**, 53 Martin Place, Sydney, Conservation Plan, Peter Romey, 1990
- **MLC Building**, 42-46 Martin Place, Conservation Analysis, Clive Lucas Stapleton, 1989
- **60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney**, Conservation Plan, Rod Howard Heritage Conservation, 2001
- **Former Government Savings Bank of NSW**, 48 Martin Place, Sydney, Conservation Management Plan, Tanner Architects, 2012



## INTRODUCTION



51 Relationship of the North and South Sites to adjacent heritage items and Special Character Areas.  
Source: Nearmaps with TKD Architects overlay, 2017.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.6 Planning Approvals Strategy

The *State Environmental Planning Policy (State and Regional Development) 2011* (SEPP SRD) identifies development which is declared to be State Significant. Under Schedule 1 and Clause 19(2) of SEPP SRD, development within a railway corridor or associated with railway infrastructure that has a capital investment value of more than \$30 million and involves commercial premises is declared to be State Significant Development (SSD) for the purposes of the EP&A Act.

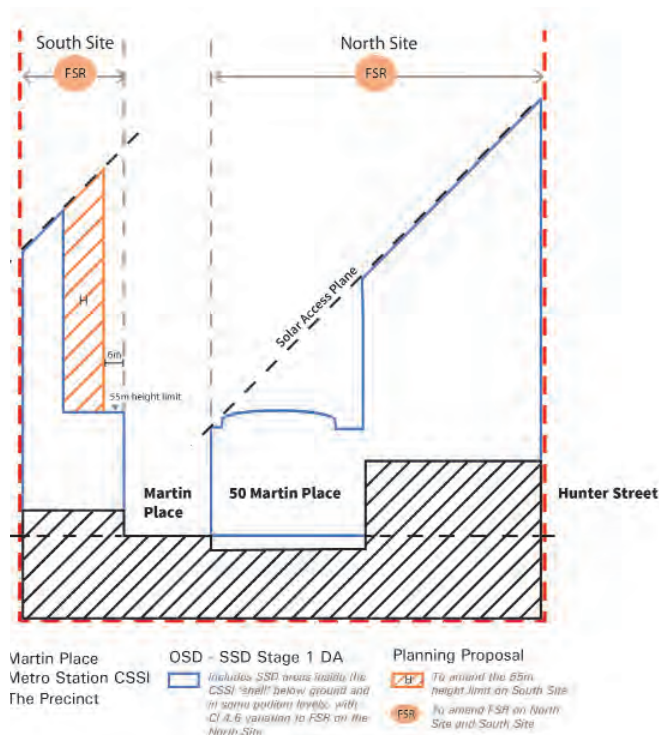
The proposed development (involving commercial development that is both located within a rail corridor and associated with rail infrastructure) is therefore SSD.

Pursuant to Section 83B of the EP&A Act a Staged DA may be made setting out concept proposals for the development of a site (including setting out detailed proposals for the first stage of development), and for which detailed proposals for separate parts of the site are to be the subject of subsequent DAs. This SSD DA is a staged development application made under Section 83B of the EP&A Act.

A detailed development application(s) (Stage 2 DAs) will accordingly follow, seeking approval for the detailed design and construction of all or specific aspects of the proposal in accordance with the approved staged development application.

Submitted separately to this SSD DA are applications to modify the CSSI approval together with a Planning Proposal relating to the North Site (FSR only) and South Site (height and FSR).

For clarity, Figure 2 below is a diagrammatic representation of the suite of applications proposed by Macquarie, to show the relationship of the SSD DA (the subject of this report) to the Planning Proposal and the Martin Place Metro CSSI.



61 Relationship of planning applications.  
Source: JBA

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.7 Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements

The Department of Planning and Environment have provided Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) to the applicant for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed development.

The assessment requirements which relate specifically to heritage are as follows:

*The HIS shall:*

*Include a detailed heritage impact statement (HIS) that identifies and addresses the extent of heritage impact of the proposal:*

- *on the site, the site curtilage and surrounding area, including any built and landscape items, conservation areas, views and settings, and in particular the impact of the proposal on:*
  - *heritage items: Martin Place, 48-50 Martin Place and Martin Place Railway Station; and*
  - *setting, context and views along Martin Place, Chifley Square and to Richard Johnson Square; and*
- *having regard to any endorsed conservation management plans for heritage items on the site and surrounding area; and*
- *consider opportunities and outline a process for how the detailed design (such as materials) and heritage interpretation within the proposal can reflect the heritage character of the site and surrounding area, including Martin Place; and*
- *outline a programme for regular consultation with the Heritage Council of NSW and Council (during Stage 1 and future stages of the planning process) to identify and discuss potential heritage impacts of the proposal and mitigation measures.*



## INTRODUCTION

### 1.8 Report structure

This report provides an outline historical overview of the development of the subject and neighbouring heritage items at Section 2. Summary statements of heritage significance for each of these sites are included at Section 3.

Section 4 provides a description of the proposal, comprising the building envelopes for the North and South Sites.

The assessment of heritage impacts of the proposal is discussed at Section 5. The proposal is assessed for potential impacts against relevant planning and heritage controls, the heritage values of subject, neighbouring heritage items and conservation management plan policies.

Heritage guidelines to assist in the future detailed design of each of the buildings – including possible connections between the north building and 48-50 Martin Place – are provided at Section 6, to minimise or mitigate potential heritage impacts associated with the proposal.

### 1.9 Methodology and terminology

This report follows the general guidelines for Statements of Heritage Impact, set out in the NSW Heritage Manual, Heritage Office and Department of Urban Affairs and Planning (1996).

This report also follows the methodology and terminology described in *The Conservation Plan*, Sydney, National Trust of Australia (NSW), 7th edition 2013 by Dr J.S. Kerr and in the Australian ICOMOS *Burra Charter*.

### 1.10 Author identification

This document was prepared by George Phillips, Practice Director, Roy Lumby, Senior Heritage Specialist, and Sarah-Jane Zammit, Heritage Specialist, of Tanner Kibble Denton Architects.

### 1.11 Project Team

<b>Client</b>	Macquarie Capital
<b>Architects</b>	Grimshaw and Johnson Pilton Walker Architects
<b>Town Planner</b>	JBA Urban Planning Consultants
<b>Urban Design</b>	Tzannes
<b>Heritage</b>	Tanner Kibble Denton Architects
<b>Project Manager</b>	Savills

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.12 Documentation

Documents referred to in this report include:

#### SSDA Envelope Drawings (*JPW Architects*)

Location Plan	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11101
Low-Rise	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11102
High-Rise	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11103
Roof Plan	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11104
East Elevation	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11105
West Elevation	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11106
North Elevation (Martin Place)	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11107
North Elevation (Hunter Street)	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11108
South Elevation (South OSD)	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11109
South Elevation (North OSD)	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11110
North-South Section A-A	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11111
East-West Section B-B (South OSD)	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11112
East-West Section C-C (North OSD)	MPS_COA_000_XX_DR_A_11113

#### Reports

- Environmental Impact Statement, JBA Planning, March 2017.
- The Urban Design of Sydney Metro and Martin Place Precinct, Tzannes, March 2017.
- View Impact Analysis Report, Sydney Metro and Martin Place Precinct, Tzannes, March 2017.
- Design Statement, Grimshaw and JPW Architects, March 2017.

## 2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The following provides an outline timeline for development across the Precinct and nearby heritage listed items during the twentieth century.

### 2.1 The North Site

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 1909 | The adjoining Blashki Building and Castlereagh House in Hunter Street were completed, transforming this section of the street. Both were designed by prominent firms of architects – Spain & Cosh and H E Ross & Rowe respectively. |
| 1940 | 7 Elizabeth Street, designed by Emil Sodersten, was completed. It contained 54 apartments plus a restaurant in the basement.  |
| 1961 | Plans for the new headquarters of P&O at 55 Hunter Street were lodged with City of Sydney for approval.   |
| 1964 | The completed P&O Building was officially opened by Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies in January. The building was designed by architects Fowell Mansfield & Maclurcan.   |
| 1966 | 9-19 Elizabeth Street, designed by Alexander Kann Finch & Associates, was completed. The Australia Taxation Office occupied space from 1967 and links formed to the neighbouring 48 Martin Place.                                   |
| 1970 | A building application for development at 5 Elizabeth Street, extending to 6 Castlereagh Street, was lodged with the City Council by architects Alexander Kann Finch & Partners.  |
| 1976 | 8-12 Castlereagh Street was completed. The building was designed by architects Fombertaux Rice Hanly.   |

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



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1. Castlereagh House
2. Intercolonial House, 1913
3. Mendes Chambers, c1915,
4. Castlereagh Chambers, 1909
5. Builder's Exchanges, 1907/1925
6. 58-50 Martin Place, 1928

7I The Blashki Building c1959.  
Source: SLNSW d7\_07616.

8I Castlereagh House c1959.  
Source: SLNSW d7\_07617.

9I 7 Elizabeth Street shortly after completion  
c1940.  
Source: *Building*, April 1940

10I Looking south west from the area of Chifley  
Square. Qantas House in the right foreground  
and the P&O Building (55 Hunter Street) under  
construction.  
Source: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS  
48/3105

11I Development along Castlereagh Street  
between Hunter Street and Martin Place,  
c1959.  
Source: SLNSW d7\_0617

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.2 Former Government Savings Bank of NSW, 48-50 Martin Place

- 1920 Acquisition of properties between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Streets near the top of Moore Street by the Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank of NSW. The properties included several that were to form part of Martin Place.
- 1922 The foundation stone of the building was laid on 13 March 1922. Its design was subsequently modified after the Municipal Council resolved to resume properties for the extension of Martin Place.
- 1928 Opening of Government Savings Bank Building in December.
- 1931 Government Savings Bank taken over by the Commonwealth Bank. 48-50 Martin Place became the Commonwealth Savings Bank.
- 1932 The Australian Taxation Office moved into 48 Martin Place. Over the ensuing years it progressively occupied much of the building.
- 1967 The adjoining building at 9-19 Elizabeth completed and occupied by the Australian Taxation Office.
- 1983 Relocation of the Australian Tax Office to other premises.
- 1985 Work begins on extensive conservation, refurbishment and modification works, documented by Australian Construction Services
- 1990 Conservation, modification and refurbishment works completed
- 2012-14 The Commonwealth Bank sold the building to Macquarie Bank, which undertook further conservation, modification and refurbishment works.



## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



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12| Buildings on Elizabeth Street demolished to make way for 50 Martin Place.  
Source: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 51/1083

13| Buildings on Castlereagh Street demolished to make way for 50 Martin Place.  
Source: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 51/1085

14| Buildings demolished for the construction of 50 Martin Place, some of which occupied land resumed for the Martin Place extension.  
Source: SLNSW hall\_35070

15| The original scheme for 50 Martin Place prior to the City Council's decision to proceed with the Martin Place extension.  
Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 14 March 1922

16| 50 Martin Place under construction.  
Source: National Library of Australia nla.obj-142760970-1

17| 50 Martin Place shortly after completion.  
Source: National Library of Australia nla.pic-vn3084842-v

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.3 Martin Place

The following provides a chronology of the development of Martin Place from the inter-war period to the present. A thematic history is provided at Appendix A.

- 1926 The lands designated for the extension of Martin Place from Castlereagh Street to Macquarie Street were formally resumed by a notice in the Government Gazette, 1 January 1926.
- 1933 Demolition of the block between Elizabeth and Phillip Street commenced during April.
- 1934 Council resolved to demolish buildings between Phillip and Macquarie Streets on 20 February. The roadway between Elizabeth and Phillip Streets was formed by June.
- 1935 The completed Martin Place was officially opened to traffic on 8 April 1935.
- 1936 The allotments on residual resumed land between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Streets (39 Martin Place) were offered for sale in September.
- 1937 The new building for Australian Provincial Assurance (APA) at 53-63 Martin Place was completed and officially opened in May. The building was designed by architect David W King.
- 1938 The new building for Mutual Life and Citizens at 42-46 Martin Place was completed. The building was designed by Bates Smart & McCutcheon, a firm of architects based in Melbourne.
- 1950 Commencement of work on the Eastern Suburbs Railway line and Martin Place Station was announced in July. The location of Martin Place Station and its basic concept were already in place. Construction was underway the following year.
- 1964 Completion of the Reserve Bank Building, bounded by Macquarie Street, Martin Place and Phillip Street.
- 1967 The contract for the civil and structural design of the Eastern Suburbs Railway line to the Snowy River Hydro-electric Authority.
- 1968 The proposal for the pedestrianisation of Martin Place between George and Pitt Streets, which was prepared by George Clarke and Don Gazzard in association with Professor Denis Winston, the Dean of the Faculty of Country and Town Planning at the University of Sydney, was tabled before the City of Sydney on September 10.
- 1969 The City Council decided to close Martin Place to vehicular traffic and create a civic square on 11 November.
- 1970 Design drawings and report by Clarke Gazzard presented to Council in March. Trial closure of the section of Martin Place between George and Pitt Streets commenced on 1 September. The closure was declared permanent on 9 December.

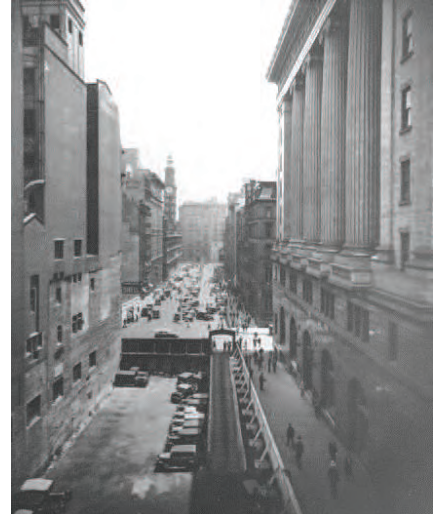
- 18I Western end of Martin Place  
Source: City of Sydney Archives CRS 66/1/22
- 19I Southern side of 50 Martin Place prior to the demolition of resumed buildings, c1933  
Source: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 51/2668
- 20I Forming the Martin Place roadway between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Streets, a great source of spectator activity, c1934  
Source: SLNSW hood\_01073
- 21I Looking west along the newly completed Martin Place, 1937  
Source: SLNSW d1\_26287
- 22I Looking west along Martin Place, c1940. The APA building is at left in the foreground.  
Source: SLNSW hall\_38655
- 23I MLC Building shortly after completion, 1938  
Source: SLNSW hood\_09588



## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



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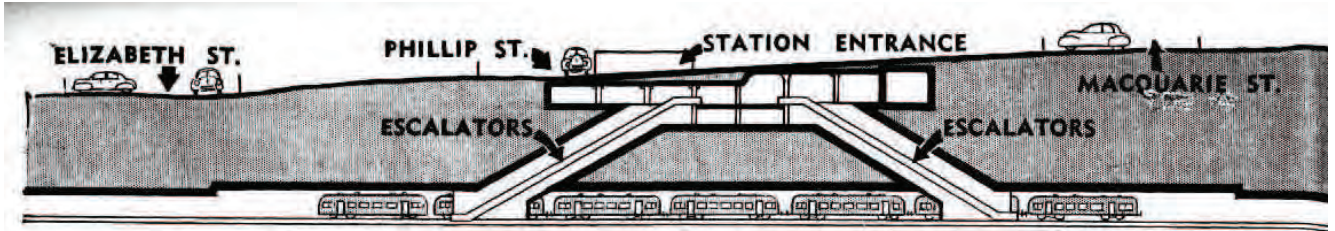


## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

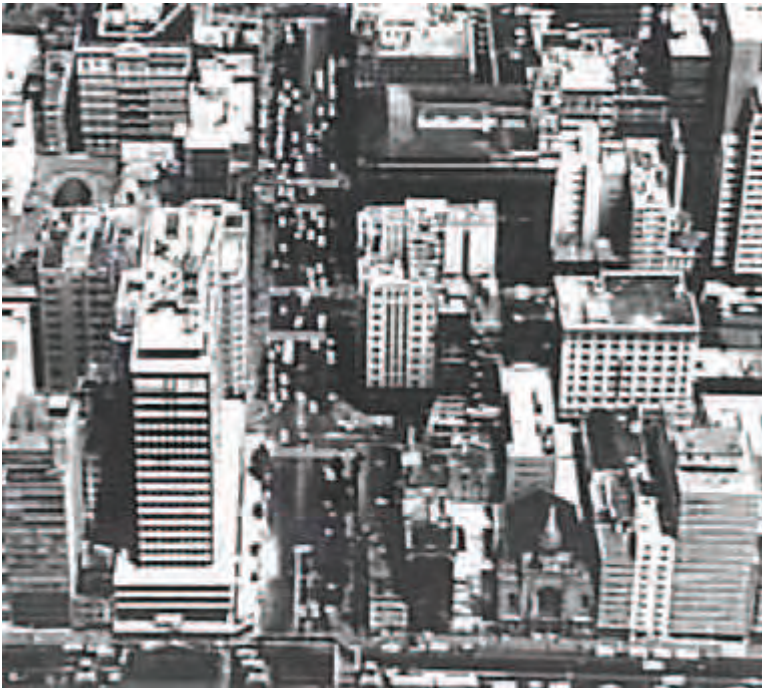
- 1971 The first plaza was officially opened on 10 September. The two eastern-most sections of Martin Place were closed temporarily for two years for the construction of Martin Place Station late in the year.
- The City of Sydney Strategic Plan. Action Plan No. 24 envisaged the integration of Martin Place Station and Martin Place through an arcade extending the station concourse to the west.
- 1972 New Prudential Building at 37-51 Martin Place completed. It was designed by architects Alan Williams & Associates.
- The Minister for Lands proposal to consider the closing of Martin Place from the eastern side of Pitt Street to the western side of Macquarie Street was gazetted on 24 November.
- 1977 The closure of Martin Place between Castlereagh and Phillip Street, was completed.
- The MLC Centre was completed. A condition of consent for the project was that a pedestrian subway be constructed to link scheme to railway.
- 1979 Opening of Martin Place Station.
- 1982 Connection to Martin Place Station at mid-year. Completion of Martin Place pedestrianisation.
- 1984 Gazzard and Partners prepared the Civic Design Study of Martin Place. It included recommendations for new regulatory measures concerning heritage preservation.

- 241 Sketch describing the proposed Martin Place Station, 1950  
Source: *The Sun*, 27 July 1950
- 251 Aerial photograph looking west along Martin Place, December 1963  
Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC1863
- 261 Reserve Bank shortly after completion in 1964  
Source: National Archives of Australia A1200, L50038
- 271 Martin Place Station, 1979  
Source: SLNSW d4\_02947
- 281 Eastern end of Martin Place, c1985  
Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC1286

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



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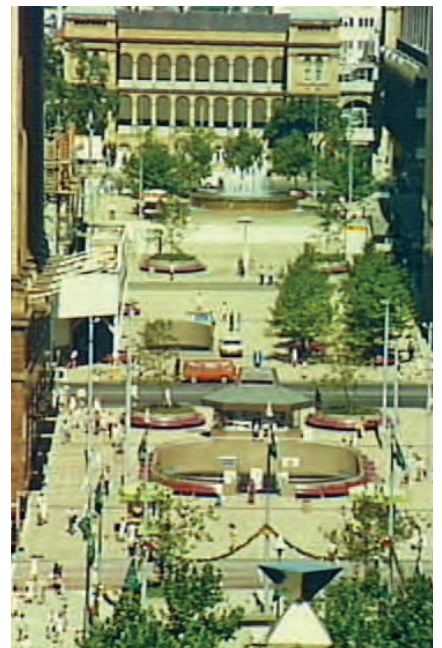
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## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.4 The South Site, 39 Martin Place

- 1876 Wangenheim's Hotel was opened at 34 Castlereagh Street. It continued to trade under various names until the first half of the 1920s.
  - 1885 The three storey Gothic style building for St Joseph's Building and Investment Society was constructed at 47-49 Elizabeth Street, to the design of prominent nineteenth century architect William Wardell.
  - 1895 The Australian Star newspaper moved into its new building at 32 Castlereagh Street in December.
  - 1911 32 Castlereagh Street was acquired by Sun Newspaper Limited about a year later.
  - 1913 The whole 32 Castlereagh Street was redeveloped for the newspaper publisher's new premises, designed by Joseph Kethel.
  - 1920 36-42 Castlereagh Street was purchased by Carroll Musgrove Theatres in September as the site of a new cinema.
  - 1924 The Prince Edward Theatre at 36-42 Castlereagh Street, also known as "The Theatre Beautiful", which was designed by the major architectural firm of Robertson & Marks opened on 22 November 1924. The first film screened there was Cecil B DeMille's epic "The Ten Commandments."
- A machine room and garage was erected on the site of the former Wangenheim's Hotel, which had been acquired by Sun Newspapers.
- 1926 The properties owned by Sun Newspaper Limited and St Joseph Building and Investment Society were resumed by the Municipal Council of Sydney as part of the extension of Martin Place to Macquarie Street.
  - 1933 Buildings occupying the resumed properties were mostly demolished. The Sun Newspapers' garage was extensively modified to become the Spanish Mission style Monterey Restaurant designed by architects S H Buchanan & Cowper, It was to stand for about five years.
  - 1936 The residue of the resumed land was subdivided into three allotments and offered for sale in September 1936. The title to the three allotments was transferred from the Council to Prudential Assurance on 26 October 1937. Prudential quickly developed the site – an application for excavation was lodged in December 1937 and one for a new building, designed by architects Hennessy, Hennessy & Co, in the middle of March 1938.
  - 1937 The Prudential Assurance Company finalised the purchase of three allotments on the southern side of Martin Place opposite the former Government Savings Bank in March.
  - 1939 The Prudential Building, designed by architects Hennessy, Hennessy & Co, was officially opened in May. The basement became home to Romano's Restaurant, internationally famous for its elegance and fine cuisine. The restaurant retained its prominence and popularity until 1964.



## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1965 The Prince Edward closed on 4 December 1965 and less than three weeks later its title was transferred to the Prudential Assurance Company.
- 1967 The sites of the Prudential Building and the Prince Edward Theatre were amalgamated onto one title in November 1967.
- 1968 Demolition of 1939 Prudential Building and adjacent Prince Edward Theatre (architects Robertson & Marks, 1924) for the construction of Prudential's new headquarters.
- 1971 Prudential's new building at 39 Martin Place was completed.



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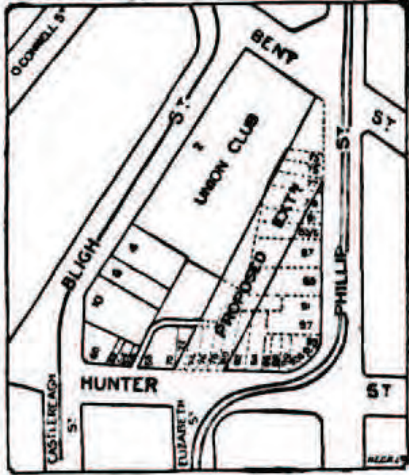
34

- 29| St Joseph's Building and Investment Society, c1930. Prince Edward Theatre is to the left and Sun Newspaper to the right. 48 Martin Place at far right.  
Source: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 66/1/9
- 30| Sun Newspaper Limited's building c1913  
Source: National Library of Australia nla.obj-162897500-1

- 31| The Hotel Graham (formerly Wangenheim's Hotel and the small commercial building at 36-42 Castlereagh Street that was to make way for the Prince Edward Theatre.  
Source: SLNSW a7812001h
- 32| The Prince Edward Theatre  
Source: SLNSW a6942005

- 33| Prudential Assurance's office building at 37-51 Martin Place  
Source: *Construction*, 17 November 1937
- 34| Prudential Building and Prince Edward Theatre photographed on 24 January 1966  
Source: City of Sydney Archives NSCA CRS 48/5202

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND



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### 2.5 Chifley Square

- 1916 A proposal to extend Elizabeth Street from Hunter Street to the intersection of Phillip and Bent Streets was made to the City Council. No decision was made.
- 1920 Further discussions about the extension of Elizabeth Street to Bent Street were held within the Municipal Council of Sydney.
- 1937 The Town Planning institute of NSW presented a plan to the City Council that included closure of the end of Phillip Street to form a pedestrian space. City Engineer Arnold Garnsey produced a scheme for the Elizabeth Street extension as a means of relieving traffic congestion at the junction of Hunter and Elizabeth Streets. The scheme, which included a formal semi-circular area flanked by curved building facades and a monument in the centre of the open space, was endorsed by the City Council two years later.
- 1947 The City of Sydney began implementing the scheme.
- 1949 Qantas acquired the site at the western corner of Hunter Street and the extension.
- 1953 Press reports announced the intention of Qantas and the Federal Government to construct office buildings on either side of the Elizabeth Street extension.
- 1955 Construction of Qantas House, designed by Rudder, Littlemore & Rudder, on the western side of the future Chifley Square, commenced.
- 1957 The completed Qantas House was officially opened by Prime Minister Robert Menzies in October.
- 1958 Demolition of buildings on the site of the Federal Government site, known as the Commonwealth Centre commenced.
- 1961 The public square encircled by roadways on the northern side of Hunter Street, at the southern end of the extension, was named "Chifley Square" in 1961 in honour of the late Hon. J.B. Chifley (1885-1951), Prime Minister of Australia between 1945 and 1949.
- 1962 The extension of Elizabeth Street was completed.
- 1963 The Commonwealth Centre was completed. Its rectilinear mass prevented completion of the scheme.
- 1988 The Commonwealth Centre and several adjoining sites were acquired by the bond Corporation. Construction of a new building, subsequently named Chifley Tower, commenced the following year.
- 1992 The final semi-circular form of the Square was formed with the completion of Chifley Tower, which complemented the curved form of Qantas House to the west.

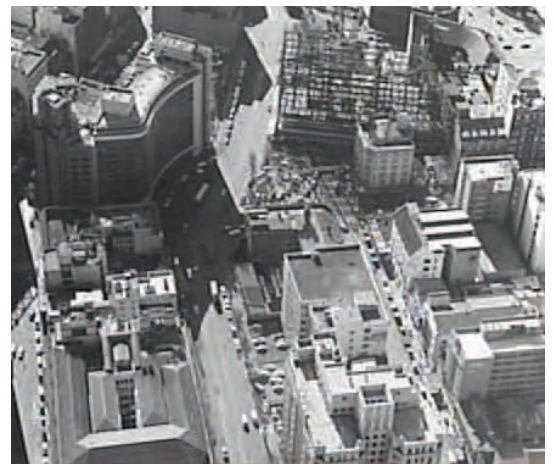


## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1993 The Chifley Square Civic Design Study was completed for the City of Sydney.
- 1995 The Chifley Square Redesign Concept Review was completed.
- 1997 Completion of landscaping and other works at Chifley Square. The concept was initiated by Tim Williams (City of Sydney) and the design developed by Hassell. The works included a grid of cabbage palms and a cafe on the southern edge of the Square. Artworks by Simeon Nelson included the cut-out statue of Ben Chifley and a glass installation forming an extension to the rear wall of the café.



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- 351 Planning proposal for the extension of Elizabeth Street c1920  
Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17 March 1920
- 361 Planning proposal c1937  
Source: *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1937
- 371 Planning proposal c1939  
Source: *The Design of Sydney*, p. 6

- 381 Aerial photograph of Hunter Street at its intersection with Elizabeth and Phillip Streets, 1943.  
Source: Spatial Information Exchange
- 391 Formation of Chifley Square, June 1961  
Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC1802
- 401 The Commonwealth Centre, c1963  
Source: National Archives of Australia A1200, L44754

- 411 Chifley Square viewed from the west, 23 June 1988  
Source: City of Sydney Archives CRS 422 2 267
- 421 Chifley Square following the completion of Chifley Tower, c1996.  
Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC4412.z

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.6 Richard Johnson Square

- 1925 The foundation stone of a memorial commemorating the first church service in Australia was laid by the Governor of NSW at a site at the intersection of Bligh and Hunter Streets on 19 March. The memorial, which was completed about two or three months later, was designed by the architectural firm of Burcham Clamp & Finch. It is located on the site of the first church to have been erected in Australia (1793).
- 1974 The island platform around the monument was enlarged and integrated with the western Bligh Street footpath. The works formed part of Sydney City Council's Strategic Plan for reshaping Sydney. The project was designed in the architectural office of Clarke Gazzard Pty Ltd.



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- 43I The memorial to the first church in Australia at the intersection of Bligh and Hunter Streets, c1935. The memorial was erected in the mid-1920s on the site of the church.  
Source: SLNSW hall\_35055
- 44I Richard Johnson Square, c1954  
Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC1154

- 45I Richard Johnson Square, c1971  
Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC1156
- 46I Richard Johnson Square, c1977. Works involving partial road closure and formation of the pedestrian plaza were undertaken in 1974.  
Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC6724
- 47I Richard Johnson Square, c1991  
Source: City of Sydney Archives SRC1157

### 3 HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

#### 3.1 Introduction

Located in the vicinity of the North and South sites are several items listed at Commonwealth, State and local level:

- **APA Building**, 53-63 Martin Place (SHR listing no. 00682; Sydney LEP Item I1896);
- **Chifley Square** (Item I1708).
- **City Mutual Life Assurance Building**, 60-66 Hunter Street (SHR listing no. 00585; Sydney LEP Item I1675);
- **Former Government Savings Bank of NSW**, 48-50 Martin Place (SHR listing no. 01427; Sydney LEP Item I1895);
- **GIO Building**, 60-70 Elizabeth Street (SHR listing no. 00683; Sydney LEP Item I1738);
- **Martin Place** (Sydney LEP Item I1889);
- **Martin Place Railway Station** (SHR listing no. 01187; Sydney LEP Item I1891);
- **MLC Building**, 42-46 Martin Place (SHR listing no. 00597; Sydney LEP Item I1894);
- **Qantas House** (1 Chifley Square), 68-96 Hunter Street (SHR listing no. 01512; Sydney LEP Item I1811).
- **Reserve Bank Building**, 65 Martin Place is included in the Commonwealth Government's (Commonwealth Heritage List item 105456; Sydney LEP Item I1897);
- **Richard Johnson Square including Monument and Plinth**, Hunter and Bligh Streets (Sydney LEP Item I1673).

Sections of the proposed development lie within the Chifley Square and Martin Place Special Character Areas, which are defined in Section 2 of the City of Sydney *Development Control Plan 2012*.

The statements of significance in the following sections have been adapted as relevant from the Commonwealth Heritage List, State Heritage Register Database or State Heritage Inventory Database entries.

Locality statements for the Chifley Square and Martin Place Special Character Areas have been adapted from the Sydney DCP 2012.



## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

### 3.2 Significance of listed heritage items



**APA Building, 53-63 Martin Place**

Completed in 1937 to the design of architect David W King, the APA Building is significant for its high level of architectural quality in terms of its proportions, facade treatment and vocabulary of detail. The building was designed to formalise and define the new major civic thoroughfare of Martin Place, emphasising the eastern end of Martin Place as a major commercial and professional precinct. Largely intact externally, the building is aesthetically significant as a good example of the inter-war Art Deco style and for its contribution to the Martin Place streetscape.



**Chifley Square**

Chifley Square is of historical and aesthetic significance as an early twentieth century exercise in city planning relieve traffic congestion, and for its naming to honour J.B. Chifley, Australia's prominent and well-loved wartime Prime Minister 1945-1949. The construction of Qantas House in 1957 (designed by Rudder Littlemore and Rudder) at 68-96 Hunter Street was integral to the creation of Chifley Square, and adds to the historical and aesthetic significance.



**City Mutual Life Assurance Building, 60-66 Hunter Street**

The City Mutual Life Assurance Building is significant as one of the foremost examples of high quality and well-designed commercial Art Deco architecture in Sydney's CBD, and represents the culmination of the work of one of Australia's foremost proponents of this style, Emil Sodersten. As a largely intact and well maintained late 1930s structure, the building demonstrates through its powerful elevations and dramatic interior spaces the aesthetic and commercial aspects of Art Deco architecture in Australia.

The building occupies a dominant position in the surrounding urban context, serving as a backdrop to Richard Johnson Square and as a landmark in the Bligh and Hunter Street streetscapes. Since its completion in 1936, the building has been a symbol of the Mutual Life Assurance Society and the building stands as a monument to the Society's participation in the evolution of Sydney's business and commerce.



**Former Government Savings Bank of NSW, 48-50 Martin Place**

The Government Savings Bank of NSW at 48 Martin Place is culturally significant at a national level as a rare example of the inter-war Beaux-Arts style, demonstrating outstanding aesthetic and technical accomplishment. Designed by Ross & Rowe, the building is located at a prominent address on Martin Place, the bank played an important role in the development of the economy in New South Wales during the 1920s. The building was constructed between 1925 and 1928 and is one of the most important examples of its style and type within Australia. The building derives historical significance from its long association with the Commonwealth Bank from 1932 to the present.

## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE



**GIO Building, 60-70 Elizabeth Street**

The GIO Building is historically significant because of its associations with Sun Newspapers Ltd newspaper publishing activities in Sydney during the first half of the twentieth century. Its site has associations with the historically prominent figure, Joshua Josephson. The building is aesthetically significant because it is possibly the first major Interwar Skyscraper Gothic style building in Sydney, of which it is also a rare example, and because it is a major building designed by architect Joseph Kethel. The building has technical significance, due to its early and extensive use of the proprietary building material, Benedict stone. It is possibly the first major application of this material in a large city building in NSW.



**Martin Place**

Martin Place has historic and aesthetic significance for its ability to provide evidence of the development of Victorian and Interwar Sydney as a prestige address for commercial businesses and public institutions. It is significant for its ability to contribute to understanding the nineteenth and twentieth century town planning intention. It is demonstrative of the Victorian period and interwar periods in direct response to the Height of Building controls. Martin Place has historic associations with Sir James Martin, premier and Chief Justice of NSW. Pedestrianisation of the street in the 1970s formalised Martin Place as Sydney's principal urban space.



**Martin Place Railway Station**

Completed in 1979, Martin Place underground railway station is significant as a representative of the latest major railway construction undertaken in the State in the eastern suburbs railway line. The whole of the structure being underground is a development of the structures built in the city in the 1930s and represents the latest in technology at the time.



**MLC Building, 42-46 Martin Place**

The former MLC Building, designed by Bates Smart and McCutcheon and completed in 1938, is aesthetically significant as one of the best inter-war commercial office buildings in Sydney, and the best example in Australia of the exterior use of Egyptian derived motifs in such buildings. Its quality of design and use of materials make it one of the principal contributors to the architectural character of Martin Place which is recognised as one of Sydney's finest urban spaces. The former MLC Building is historically significant as one of a small group (about a dozen) of major commercial office buildings constructed in Sydney during the second half of the 1930s.



## HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE



**Qantas House, 68-96 Hunter Street**

Qantas House, designed by Felix Taverner of Rudder, Littlemore & Rudder is a fine example in the Australian context of intact, post-war, multi-storeyed office buildings from the first phase in the 1950s in the Post-War International Style, and is from the small group in Sydney of this group designed prior to the amendments to the Heights of Buildings Act in 1957 that heralded the subsequent 'high-rise' phase. It has particular rarity within Australia for its unique shape, the outstanding quality of its curtain wall façade and its contribution to its urban setting. As such, it is considered to have heritage significance at a national level.



**Reserve Bank Building, 65 Martin Place**

The Reserve Bank, completed in 1964 and designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works, Bank and Special Project Section, is highly significant in the development of post-World War II multi-storey office buildings in Australia and a significant example of office building in the International style; its construction using high quality Australian materials; steel and concrete construction; and interior design details and artworks. The building's significance has been retained through a major extension (1974-1980), recladding (1993) and internal refitting. Through its prestigious design and function as Australia's central bank, the building makes an important contribution to the streetscape and character of Martin Place, Macquarie Street and Phillip Street.

The building has social significance being regarded by the Australian community as the home of the Reserve Bank function and the place where significant economic policy is carried out on behalf of the Nation.



**Richard Johnson Square**

Completed in 1974 to the design of Clarke Gazard, Richard Johnson Square is historically and culturally significant as an important example of late twentieth century civic planning. The square is significant for its 1925 monument commemorating the first church service held in Australia, sited on the location of the Country's first church erected in 1793.

## 4 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

### 4.1 Overview

The proposal by Macquarie is unique and innovative in aligning the aspirations for public transport, civic amenity and the long-term sustainability of Sydney as a financial centre. This will be achieved through a development designed to maximise the opportunities for an improved Metro Station, integration of the existing and new public transport infrastructure, integration of that infrastructure with modern commercial office towers and world class retailing, along with rejuvenating and complimenting some of Sydney's most revered public spaces, and substantially improving station access and connectivity.

More specifically the development will comprise a concept proposal (under section 83B of the EP&A Act) for the OSD for the North and South Sites. It will be designed as a fully integrated Station and OSD project that, subject to approval, will be built and delivered as one integrated project for opening at the same time as the Sydney Metro is commissioned.

The concept proposal establishes the vision and planning and development framework which will be the basis for the consent authority to assess future detailed development proposals (Stage 2 DAs).

No works are proposed for Martin Place Railway Station.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

### The North Site

The Concept Proposal for the North Site is for a new 40+ storey, predominately commercial office building. The proposal seeks to integrate with the existing 50 Martin Place building, supporting large commercial floor plates. No connections to 50 Martin Place are proposed for the basement levels of that building, including the level of the significant heritage Safe Deposit Vault.

### The South Site

The Concept Proposal for the South Site is for a new 28+ storey predominately commercial office building.

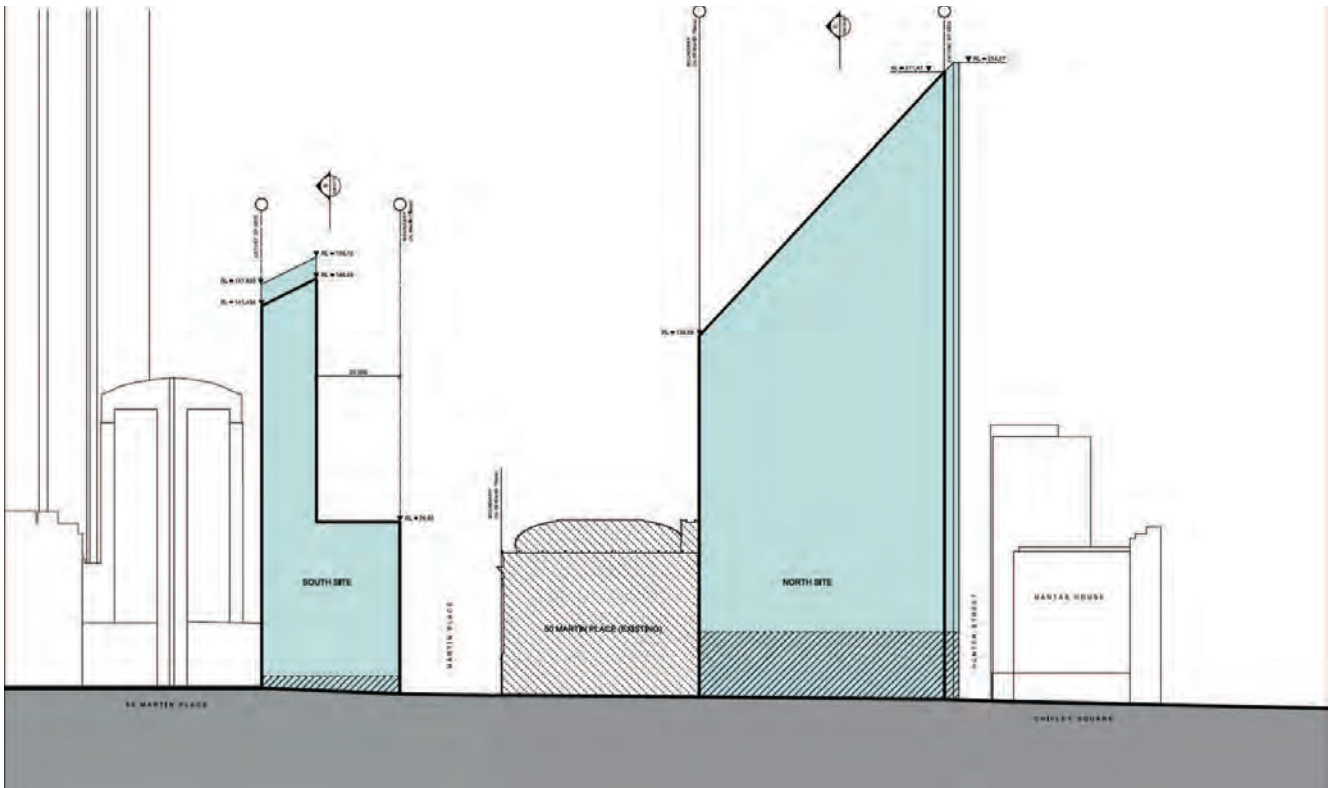
The detailed design of the OSD is still in its preliminary stages. Critically it requires an integrated design approach to be adopted between the commercial OSD components classified as SSD, and the Station components, which are classified as CSSI and have already been approved. This is to ensure:

- all the operational needs of the Metro Station are accommodated in accordance with TfNSW requirements and the structural and other requirements of the OSD are accommodated within the Station building beneath, in what is essentially one building; and
- a cohesive public domain and built form outcome is achieved for Sydney.
- In this regard, OSD uses and structural elements are located within the below ground and lower podium levels, as conceptually approved under the CSSI consent for the Martin Place Station.

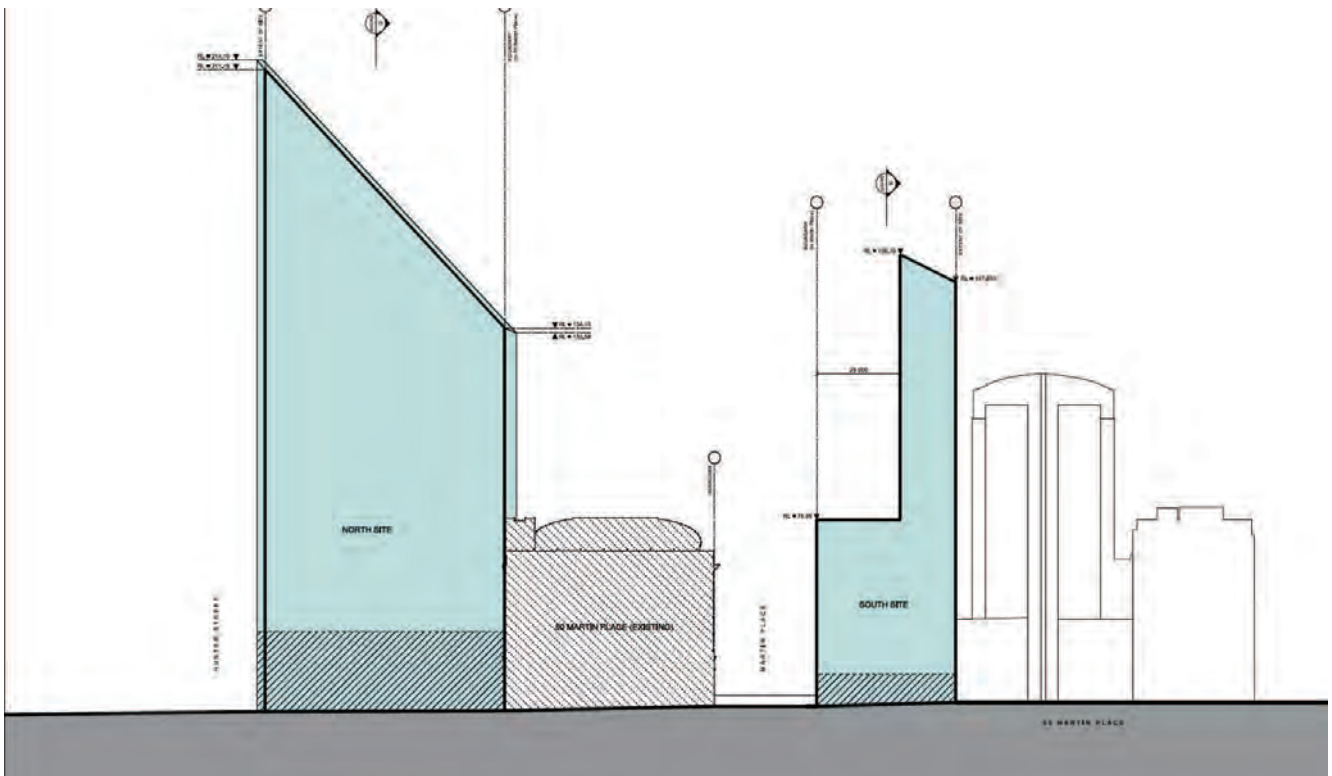
The Staged DA will seek consent for, amongst other things, land uses, gross floor area, building envelopes, and vehicle access arrangements.

A more detailed and comprehensive description of the proposal is contained in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by JBA.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL



48| Proposed north and south tower envelope drawing, not to scale  
Source: JPW Architects, 2017



491 Proposed north and south tower envelope drawing, not to scale  
Source: JPW Architects, 2017

## 5 ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

### 5.1 Introduction

This section of the report identifies and assesses potential heritage impacts associated with the building envelopes proposed for the North and South Sites, as part of the Sydney Metro and Martin Place Station Precinct.

The proposal is assessed against relevant statutory provisions, guidelines of the NSW Heritage Office relating to heritage impacts, and relevant policies from the 2012 Conservation Management Plan for 48-50 Martin Place.

The assessment includes a discussion on the potential impacts of future buildings on the North and South sites on adjoining heritage items with regard to their setting and streetscape presence.

Heritage Development Guidelines at section 6 provides objectives and principles to assist in minimising or mitigating the potential heritage impacts identified below.

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

### 5.2 Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

The Reserve Bank Building is identified as a National Heritage Place.

The Commonwealth publication *Actions on, or Impacting Upon, Commonwealth Land and Actions by Commonwealth Agencies Significant Impact Guidelines 1.2*, Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (2013) has guidelines for any person who proposes to take an action that is either situated on Commonwealth land or which may impact on Commonwealth land. Guidelines for impacts on heritage are included in the document.

**Permanently remove, destroy, damage or substantially alter the fabric of a heritage place**

Not applicable to this proposal.

**Involve extension, renovation, or substantial alteration of a heritage place in a manner which is inconsistent with the heritage values of the place**

Not applicable to this proposal.

**Involve the erection of buildings or other structures adjacent to, or within important sightlines of, a heritage place which are inconsistent with the heritage values of the place.**

Not applicable to this proposal.

**Substantially diminish the heritage value of a heritage place for a community group for which it is significant.**

Not applicable to this proposal.

**Substantially alter the setting of a heritage place in a manner which is inconsistent with the heritage values of the place.**

39 Martin Place and the Reserve Bank Building share a visual association when viewed from vantage points around Martin Place, especially from Macquarie Street.

Although taller than the Reserve Bank, the tower component is sited at a distance sufficient to ensure it is not visually dominating.

**Substantially restrict or inhibit the existing use of a heritage place as a cultural or ceremonial site.**

Not applicable to this proposal.



## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

### 5.3 NSW Heritage Office

The assessment of heritage impacts has been undertaken in reference to the model questions given in the NSW Heritage Office's publication '*Statement of Heritage Impacts*'. The responses assess the potential heritage impacts of the proposed building envelopes of the North and South sites on neighbouring heritage items.

#### **How is the impact of the new development on the heritage significance of the item or area to be minimised?**

The proposed envelope for the South Site is purposefully designed to the predominant street wall height of buildings in its vicinity, in order to reinforce the existing significant urban form of the eastern end of Martin Place. Heritage Development Guidelines at section 6 are provided to ensure the design of a future building on the South Site relates in its scale and architectural expression to the historic former Government Savings Bank of NSW Building at 48-50 Martin Place, the APA Building at 53-64 Martin Place and the GIO Building at 60-70 Elizabeth Street.

A future building on the North Site has the potential to form a street frontage along the Hunter and Elizabeth Street boundaries which reinforces a sense of spatial enclosure to Chifley Square. Heritage guidelines at section 6 are provided to ensure the design a future building on the North Site relates in its scale to the former Qantas House and the former Government Savings Bank of NSW building. Guidelines are also provided to ensure that any physical connections between a new building and the Government Savings Bank building are designed to minimise impact on historic spaces and fabric, and that the independent identity and functioning of the historic building are maintained.

#### **Why is the new development required to be adjacent to a heritage item?**

The North and South Sites are situated in close proximity to several heritage items.

#### **How does the new development affect views to, and from, the heritage item? What has been done to minimise negative effects?**

The GPO clocktower is identified as an important landmark visible from various vantage points within Martin Place. The proposed envelope for the South Site will not result in the obstruction of views to the clock tower.

Heritage items in the vicinity of the North Site - No additional heritage impacts on the setting of heritage items in the vicinity will arise from a

#### **Is the development sited on any known, or potentially significant archaeological deposits? If so, have alternative sites been considered? Why were they rejected?**

The site of the building at 7 Elizabeth Street is the only site associated with the North and South building sites identified in the Central Sydney Archaeological Zoning Plan. It is identified as an Area of Archaeological Potential – Deep Sub-surface Features. Demolition of 7 Elizabeth and bulk excavation of its site was been approved in the Stage 2 Metro application lodged by Transport for NSW.

**Is the new development sympathetic to the heritage item? In what way (e.g. form, siting, proportions, design)?**

The proposed envelope for the South Site has the potential to reinstate a street massing that is comparable to that of the 1939 Prudential Building, which was lost after the demolition of the building in the second half of the 1960s. This would enhance the character and urban form of Martin Place and complement the significant buildings at 48-50 Martin Place, 42-46 Martin Place, 53-63 Martin Place and 60-70 Elizabeth Street. The heritage development guidelines at section 6 are provided to ensure the design of a future building relates in its scale and architectural expression to these neighbouring heritage items.

The heritage guidelines for a future building on the North Site aim to maintain the significant streetscape presence of the former Government Savings Bank of NSW Building in the Elizabeth and Castlereagh Street streetscapes, and to reinforce the enclosed spatial quality of Chifley Square.

**Will the additions visually dominate the heritage item? How has this been minimised?**

The proposed envelope for the South Site is designed to allow for a future building which relates purposefully to heritage items in the vicinity. This includes the setback of the tower component – which corresponds to the 25 metre setback of the Martin Place Special Character Area – and the height of the podium – which together will reinforce the historic ‘street wall’ of Martin Place. Although taller than the Reserve Bank, the tower component is sited at a sufficient distance that it will not be visually dominating. Views of the GPO clocktower from street level vantage points will not be obstructed by the tower.

Guidelines provided for the North Site aim to ensure that a future building relates in its scale to the neighbouring Government Savings Bank of NSW building and the nearby Qantas House at Chifley Square.

**Will the public and users of the item, still be able to view and appreciate its significance?**

Future development within the proposed envelopes will not prevent the public and users of surrounding items viewing and appreciating their significance.

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

### 5.4 Sydney Harbour Catchment Regional Environmental Plan 2005

The subject site falls within the boundaries of the REP. Heritage items listed in Schedule 4 of the REP are located in close proximity to the Harbour and to associated waterways. None are in close proximity to the subject site.

Clause 15 of the SREP contains heritage provisions, as follows:

#### 15 Heritage conservation

*The planning principles for heritage conservation are as follows:*

- a. Sydney Harbour and its islands and foreshores should be recognised and protected as places of exceptional heritage significance,*
- b. the heritage significance of particular heritage items in and around Sydney Harbour should be recognised and conserved,*
- c. an appreciation of the role of Sydney Harbour in the history of Aboriginal and European settlement should be encouraged,*
- d. the natural, scenic, environmental and cultural qualities of the Foreshores and Waterways Area should be protected,*
- e. significant fabric, settings, relics and views associated with the heritage significance of heritage items should be conserved,*
- f. archaeological sites and places of Aboriginal heritage significance should be conserved.*

There are no impacts arising from the proposal that will relate to the planning principles above.

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

## 5.5 Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012

The proposal is assessed below against the relevant heritage provisions of the 2012 *Sydney Local Environmental Plan*.

LEP Provision	Response
<b>Clause 4.3 Height of buildings</b>	
4.3 (1) The objectives of this clause are as follows:	
(a) to ensure the height of development is appropriate to the condition of the site and its context, (b) to ensure appropriate height transitions between new development and heritage items and buildings in heritage conservation areas or special character areas,	<p>The proposed envelope for the South Site will accommodate a future building which enhances and reinforces the historic urban form of Martin Place and which relates purposefully in its scale to neighbouring heritage items at 38-46 Martin Place, 48-50 Martin Place, 53-63 Martin Place and 50-60 Elizabeth Street.</p> <p>Guidelines provided at section 6 for the North Site aim to ensure that a future building relates in its scale to the former Government Savings Bank of NSW and Qantas House.</p>
<b>Clause 5.10 Heritage conservation</b>	
(1) Objectives The objectives of this clause are as follows:	
(a) to conserve the environmental heritage of the City of Sydney, (b) to conserve the heritage significance of heritage items and heritage conservation areas, including associated fabric, settings and views,	<p>The South Site at 39 Martin Place is not identified as a heritage item, however the property is located within the Martin Place Special Character area in the 2012 Sydney Local Environmental Plan and is located within the vicinity of a number of local and state significant heritage buildings.</p> <p>The proposed building envelope for the South Site achieves the objectives of this clause through the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– retention of the fabric and setting of Martin Place;</li> <li>– retention of views within Martin Place, and specifically the retention of unobstructed views to the GPO;</li> <li>– establishment of a building envelope which reinforces the existing urban character of Martin Place;</li> <li>– establishment of a building envelope which reinstates the street frontage along Martin Place, reinforcing its significant 'street wall'.</li> </ul> <p>Guidelines at section 6 are provided to ensure the design of a future building relates in its scale and architectural expression to the heritage items in the vicinity.</p> <p>The guidelines provided for a future building on the North Site aim to achieve the objectives of this clause by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– ensuring the architectural form and expression of the building relates and responds to heritage items in its vicinity, including 48-50 Martin Place, Chifley Square and former Qantas House;</li> <li>– the careful design of connections to 48-50 Martin Place, to minimise adverse impacts on fabric and spaces of exceptional heritage significance.</li> </ul>
(c) to conserve archaeological sites,	The site of the building at 7 Elizabeth Street is the only site associated with the proposal identified in the Central Sydney Archaeological Zoning Plan. It is identified as an Area of Archaeological Potential – Deep Sub-surface Features. Demolition of 7 Elizabeth and bulk excavation of its site was approved in the Stage 2 Metro application lodged by Transport for NSW.
(d) to conserve Aboriginal objects and Aboriginal places of heritage significance.	Neither the North or South Sites are identified as places of Aboriginal heritage significance.



## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

### 5.6 Sydney Development Control Plan 2012

#### Clause 2.1.7 Martin Place Special Character Area

*Martin Place is of social, cultural and historic significance, being the site of various monuments, in particular the Cenotaph, as well as the site of many historical events, which reinforced its image as the civic and ceremonial heart of the City. Its initiation was after the siting of the GPO in 1863, as a small meeting place in the front of the post office. Its subsequent planned evolution and development illustrates the application of city planning principles of the 1880s to 1930s, which culminated in its complete pedestrianisation in 1970. It represents the financial heart of the City, containing significant public and financial buildings.*

*Martin Place consists of a cohesive group of buildings with a consistent street wall of up to 45m. These buildings have similar architectural features, characterised by the use of richly textured masonry facades, intricate architectural detailing, vertical emphasis and grand proportions at street level, representative of their function as housing various major public and business institutions. The built form encloses a significant linear public space, with strong vistas terminated to the east and west by significant buildings. The GPO clock tower is an important landmark visible from various points within Martin Place.*

*Martin Place is also significant for its supportive network of lanes, being rare examples of pedestrian thoroughfares reminiscent of Victorian Sydney laneways such as Angel Place and Ash Lane.*

The proposal is assessed in the following section against the relevant provisions of the Martin Place Special Character Area DCP.

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

DCP Provision	Response
<b>Clause 2.1.7 Martin Place Special Character Area</b>	
<b>Principles</b>	
<i>(a) Development must achieve and satisfy the outcomes expressed in the character statement and supporting principles.</i>	The proposed envelope for the South Site reinstates the street alignment and provides the potential to contribute to the significant character of the street through the massing, detailed design and materials of future development on the site.
<i>(b) Conserve and enhance the significance of Martin Place as one of Central Sydney's grand civic and ceremonial spaces, and as a valued business location.</i>	The proposed envelope for the South Site provides the potential for future development to comply with this provision.  Any future development within the envelope of the South Site will have no impact on Martin Place as a civic and ceremonial place.
<i>(c) Retain and enhance the urban character, scale and strong linear enclosure of Martin Place by requiring new buildings to:</i> <i>i. be built to the street alignment;</i> <i>ii. have street frontage heights consistent with the prevailing form of buildings in the area; and</i> <i>iii. to have building setbacks above those street frontage heights.</i>	The proposed envelope will permit the construction of a building that complies with these provisions by: i. locating the podium on the street alignment; ii. having a podium height that is related to the height of 48-50 Martin Place, which is consistent with the historic building height in this section of Martin Place; iii. setting the tower above the podium back from the street alignment
<i>(d) Protect and extend sun access and reflected sunlight to Martin Place during lunchtime hours from mid-April to the end of August</i>	South Site: The impacts of reflected light from future development on the South Site will be addressed in a separate application.  North Site: The proposed envelope complies with the Martin Place solar access plane.
<i>(e) Provide sun access to significant sandstone buildings in Martin Place to improve the ground level quality of the public space.</i>	This provision is not applicable: 39 Martin Place is located on the southern side of the street, and there are no significant sandstone buildings in Martin Place that will be potentially affected by a building on the North Site.
<i>(f) Protect existing significant vistas to the east and west and ensure new development will not detrimentally affect the silhouette of the GPO clock tower.</i>	Views to east and west protected by the establishment of a podium for the South building and the setback of the tower above the podium.
<i>(g) Retain human scale at street level, while respecting and positively responding to the monumental nature of the place.</i>	The proposed envelopes provide the opportunity to fulfil this provision. Detailed building design will be the subject of a future development application.
<i>(h) Conserve and enhance the heritage significance of the nineteenth and twentieth century institutional and commercial buildings and their settings.</i>	The proposed envelopes of the North and South Sites will have no impacts on the heritage significance of heritage items in their vicinity but have the potential to impact on their settings and views to the items. Refer to Section 5.7.

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

DCP Provision	Response
<b>Clause 2.1.12 Chifley Square Special Character Area</b>	
<b>Principles</b>	
<i>(a) Development must achieve and satisfy the outcomes expressed in the character statement and supporting principles.</i>	The proposed envelope for the North Site is consistent with present built form of Chifley Square, which is characterised by tall buildings. The proposed predominantly commercial use of the site is also consistent.
<i>(b) Recognise and enhance Chifley Square as one of the important public open spaces in the heart of the financial centre of the city,</i>	The North Site envelope provides future development with the potential to fulfil this provision.
<i>(c) Promote and encourage the use of the space as a destination and meeting place for people.</i>	The North Site envelope provides future development with the potential to fulfil this provision.
<i>(d) Interpret the history of the place and its evolution in the design of both public and private domain and create a distinct sense of place inherent in the character of Chifley Square.</i>	Interpretation would form part of future development on the site. The incorporation of artworks by Tom Bass and Douglas Annand salvaged from demolition into interpretation associated with the future development should be encouraged.
<i>(e) Reinforce the urban character and distinct sense of enclosure of Chifley Square by:</i> <i>i. emphasising and reinforcing the semi-circular geometry of the space;</i> <i>ii. requiring new buildings to be integrated with the form of existing buildings; and</i> <i>iii. limiting the height of new buildings.</i>	The proposed North Site envelope provides the opportunity for future development to form part of a strong defining southern edge to Chifley Square, thus reinforcing the spatial geometry of the urban space.
<i>(f) Protect and extend sun access to Chifley Square during lunchtime hours from mid-April to the end of August.</i>	The North Site, because of its location on the southern side of Hunter Street, will have no impact on sun access to Chifley Square.
<b>Clause 3.2 Defining the Public Domain</b>	
<b>3.2.1.2 Public views</b>	
<b>3.2.1.2(1) Buildings are not to impede views from the public domain to highly utilised public places, parks, Sydney Harbour, Alexandra Canal, heritage buildings and monuments including public statues, sculptures and art.</b>	Views to the east and west within Martin Place are protected by the establishment of a podium at the South Site and the setback of the tower above the podium. Views to the GPO clocktower will not be obstructed by the proposed building.  Refer to Section 5.7 below for a discussion on the potential impact on the settings and views of neighbouring heritage items.

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

DCP Provision	Response
3.2.1.2(2) <i>Development is to improve public views to parks, Sydney Harbour, Alexandra Canal, heritage buildings and monuments by using buildings to frame views. Low level views of the sky along streets and from locations in parks are to be maintained.</i>	<p>The proposed South Site envelope has the potential to enhance east and west views through the reinstatement of built form at the street frontage, enhancing the historic 'street wall' character of Martin Place.</p> <p>The proposed North Site envelope has the potential to enhance the spatial quality of Chifley Square by forming a strong defining southern edge.</p>
<b>Clause 3.9 Heritage Provisions</b>	
3.9.5(3) <i>Alterations and additions to buildings and structures and new development of sites in the vicinity of a heritage item are to be designed to respect and complement the heritage item in terms of the:</i>	
(a) <i>building envelope;</i> (b) <i>proportions;</i> (c) <i>materials, colours and finishes; and</i> (d) <i>building and street alignment.</i>	<p>The proposed South Site envelope allows for the reinstatement of built form on the street boundaries to Castlereagh Street, Elizabeth Street and Martin Place, which will enhance and reinforce the historic urban form of Martin Place and which relates purposefully in its scale to neighbouring heritage items.</p> <p>The proposed North Site envelope allows for the development of built form on the street boundary at Hunter Street of a scale which will enhance the spatial quality of Chifley Square.</p> <p>Detailed building designs - including materials, colours and proportions - will be the subject of future development applications.</p>
3.9.5(4) <i>Development in the vicinity of a heritage item is to minimise the impact on the setting of the item by:</i>	
(a) <i>providing an adequate area around the building to allow interpretation of the heritage item;</i>	The extent of development defined by the North Site and South Site envelopes will continue to allow interpretation of heritage items in their vicinity.
(b) <i>retaining original or significant landscaping (including plantings with direct links or association with the heritage item);</i>	This provision is not applicable to either site. There are no significant landscape elements associated with the sites.
(c) <i>protecting, where possible and allowing the interpretation of archaeological features; and</i>	This provision is not applicable to the proposal.
(d) <i>retaining and respecting significant views to and from the heritage item.</i>	<p>Although taller than the Reserve Bank and 48-50 Martin Place, the tower component of the South Site is sited at a sufficient distance that it will not be visually dominating.</p> <p>Views of the GPO clocktower from street level vantage points will not be obstructed by the building.</p> <p>Refer to Section 5.7 below for a discussion on the potential impact on views and settings of heritage items in the vicinity.</p>



DCP Provision	Response
<b>Clause 5.1 Central Sydney</b>	
<i>5.1.3 Street frontage heights and setbacks for Special Character Areas</i>	
<i>5.1.3(1) Minimum and maximum street frontage heights and front setbacks for buildings in or adjacent to a Special Character Area must be provided in accordance with Table 5.1 and as shown in Figures 5.12 to 5.19. Where the figure shows the entire site as shaded, additional storeys above the street frontage height is not permitted.</i>	<p>The proposed envelope for the South Site conforms to the street frontage height and front setbacks defined in Figure 5.16 of the Martin Place Special Character Area.</p> <p>There are no defining setback provisions relating specifically to the Chifley Square Special Character Area.</p>
<i>5.1.6 Building Exteriors</i>	
<i>5.1.6(1) Adjoining buildings, particularly heritage buildings must be considered in the design of new buildings in terms of:</i> <i>(a) street alignment;</i> <i>(b) street frontage heights;</i> <i>(c) setbacks above street frontage heights; and</i> <i>(d) facade proportions including horizontal or vertical emphasis and enclosed corners at street intersections.</i>	<p>The proposed envelopes for the North and South buildings define only the extent of future development on both sites.</p> <p>Guidelines at section 6 are provided for the future detailed design of the buildings to ensure they relate in scale, street alignment and street frontage heights to neighbouring heritage items.</p>

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

### 5.7 Conservation Management Plans

#### 5.7.1 48 Martin Place Conservation Management Plan

##### Conservation Management Plan - Policies

The proposal is evaluated against relevant policies from the 2012 'Former Government Savings Bank of NSW Conservation Management Plan' by Tanner Architects, as follows:

##### 7.4.2 Context and Setting

*Policy 22 Respect and enhance the building's streetscape contribution to Martin Place, Castlereagh Street, Pitt Street and Elizabeth Street. The major visual contribution of the building to Martin Place should not be altered nor compromised.*

Heritage Development Guidelines provided at Section 6 aim to ensure that the significant architectural presence of the Former Government Savings Bank of NSW on Martin Place, Castlereagh Street and Elizabeth Street is respected, retained and enhanced through the responsive design of a future building on the North Site. The guidelines relate to scale, architectural expression and materiality, and encourage a design which purposefully relates to the historic building while allowing it to maintain an independent identity. Visibility of the original lift overrun towers from street level vantage points is to be maintained.

The proposed envelope for the South Site allows for a future building which relates positively in its siting and scale to the former Bank. Guidelines are provided to encourage a design which relates positively to the historic building and to Martin Place generally in its architectural expression, form and materiality, and to enhance and reinforce the Martin Place 'street wall'.

##### 7.4.3 Exterior Elements and Fabric – General

*Policy 23 The external form and architectural detailing of the primary envelope of 48 Martin Place should be conserved.*

The external form and architectural detailing of the Former Government Savings Bank of NSW will be conserved. Linkages proposed to the north of the building will not impact on its primary facades or streetscape presentation.

##### 7.4.4 Roof

*Policy 28 Retain and conserve the two 1928 service towers at the northern end of the roof*

Objectives and principles are provided at Section 6 to protect visibility of the north-east and north-west lift overrun towers from street level vantage points.

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

*Policy 29 Retain and conserve the 1928 colonnades and vaulted roofs.*

The original rooftop colonnades are proposed to be retained. Heritage guidelines are provided to minimise physical and visual impacts of proposed linkages to a future building on the North Site.

### *7.4.5 Interior Elements and Spaces – General*

*Policy 31 Retain, conserve and enhance the significant interior spaces, fabric and elements of 48 Martin Place, including:*

- *Basement Safe Deposit Vault and associated public spaces including the Safe Deposit Vault Lobby, Safe Deposit Counter, Safe Custody Department counter and Safe Deposit Vestibule...*
- *All spaces and original fabric associated with the Grand Hall, including the vestibule and lift lobby at Castlereagh Street entrance;*
- *The north western lift lobbies and the original sections of the north eastern lift lobbies on all upper levels;*
- *The northern stairs on both sides of the building;*
- *Spaces in the northern service towers and the colonnades on the roof.*

Many of the interiors on the north side of the building are assessed as having exceptional heritage significance. The guidelines at section 6 are provided to minimise or mitigate adverse impacts arising from potential connections to a future building on the North Site.

## **5.8 Other Conservation Management Plans**

Although there are Conservation Management Plans and other heritage management documents for a number of the listed heritage items in the vicinity of the project site, only two have been endorsed:

- Qantas House, No. 1 Chifley Square Conservation Management Plan (Godden Mackay Logan, amended July 2004). It was endorsed in July 2004. The endorsement expired in July 2007.
- City Mutual Building, 60-66 Hunter Street, Sydney Conservation Management Plan (Tanner Architects, March 2005). It was endorsed in April 2005. The endorsement expired in April 2009.

### 5.8.1 Qantas House Conservation Management Plan

The Qantas House Conservation Management Plan includes a policy and implementation guidelines for the building as follows:

#### *Policy 8.3.8 Setting and Curtilage*

*An appropriate physical and visual setting should be maintained for Qantas House.*

- A minimum curtilage for Qantas House is the parcel of land upon which it stands, being Lot 101 DP 706740.
- A broader expanded curtilage should be adopted to protect from inappropriate adjacent development. This would include the Qantas House site, Chifley Square, the sections of Hunter and Phillips Streets adjacent to the building and Chifley Square and the sections of the significant Wentworth Hotel and former CML building that adjoin Qantas House.
- The owner should notify the consent authorities (particularly the City of Sydney) of the need to extend the curtilage boundary to protect the visual and historic relationships between Qantas House and its surrounds as shown on Figure 6.1 in this report.
- Evidence of the planned link to the Wentworth Hotel is of considerable significance and should be retained and interpreted where possible.
- No new structures or landscape elements should be erected in the vicinity of Qantas House which would impact on the setting of Qantas House and views to and from Qantas House.
- No new structures and landscape elements should be placed between Qantas House and Phillip Street.

The proposed envelope on the north site fulfills the requirements of this policy in the following ways:

- There will be no change to the minimum curtilage for Qantas House defined by the parcel of land on which it stands;
- The proposed envelope would be included in the expanded curtilage for Qantas House recommended by this policy;
- The northern edge of the subject site is adjacent to part of the southern boundary of the recommended curtilage for Qantas House described on Figure 6.1 of the CMP. The site is not identified as being significant to the setting of Qantas House.
- The proposed envelope will have no impact on the planned link between Qantas House and Wentworth Hotel.
- The proposed envelope will have little appreciable impact on the setting of Qantas House. Sites on the southern side of Hunter Street in the vicinity of the Qantas House site have been occupied by buildings that are taller than the building since the first half of the 1960s. For this reason there will be little appreciable impact on the views to and from Qantas House from the public realm.
- The north site is located at some distance from Phillip Street, so that the recommendation that new structures and landscape elements should be placed between Qantas House and Phillip Street is not applicable to this application.



501 Curtilage Assessment for Qantas House  
Source: Figure 6.1 of the Qantas House  
Conservation Management Plan



### 5.8.2 City Mutual Building Conservation Management Plan

The City Mutual Building Conservation Management Plan includes a policy section on setting, which outlines its importance and provides a management policy, as follows.

*Setting: The setting of the City Mutual Building is significant within the overall streetscape of Bligh and Hunter Streets and the setting of Richard Johnson Square. Despite the close proximity of other surrounding buildings, the exceptional detailing and siting at the corner of a prominent city block gives the building a special prominence within its context. The building has always been eminent within the streetscape, and this has been recently enhanced by extensive conservation work.*

*Policy 3.1 The traditional setting of the City Mutual Building should be preserved by allowing the building to remain prominent when viewed from the south and west, and retaining visual links to other nearby significant buildings and spaces.*

The proposed envelope on the north site fulfils the requirements of this policy in the following ways:

- The proposed envelope on the north site will have no impacts on views to the City Mutual Building from the south and west - the subject site is located to its south east. Visual links to nearby significant buildings and spaces are not affected by the envelope. Impacts of future development on the site will be the subject of a separate application.

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

### 5.9 Potential impacts on neighbouring heritage items: settings and views

Future buildings on the North and South Sites have the potential to impact on the curtilages of neighbouring heritage items. Heritage curtilage is defined in the publication *Heritage Curtilages*, prepared by the Heritage Branch, NSW Department of Planning (now Office of Environment and Heritage) as:

*The area of land (including land covered by water) surrounding an item or area of heritage significance which is essential for retaining and interpreting its heritage significance.*

*It can apply to either:*

- *land which is integral to the heritage significance of items of the built heritage; or*
- *a precinct which includes buildings, works, relics, trees or places and their setting.*

The concept of heritage curtilage recognises that the heritage significance of a place can be adversely affected even if no significant fabric is altered within the place.

For many of the heritage items within the vicinity of the site, a heritage curtilage has not been formally established or identified other than their Lot boundary or, in the case of Martin Place and Chifley Square, their boundaries as defined in the City of Sydney's LEP. The 2012 Heritage Management Plan for the Reserve Bank prepared by NBRS provides conservation policies for the protection of significant views and vistas, noting that the building is an important gateway feature at the head of Martin Place. Similarly, the 2012 Conservation Management Plan for the former Government Savings Bank building at 48-50 Martin Place prepared by Tanner Architects provides a policy for the retention and enhancement of the significant streetscape contribution made by the building, and identifies significant views in a visual analysis. As previously noted, the 2004 CMP for Qantas House provides a curtilage for the building which extends to the whole of Chifley Square and part of Hunter Street (refer section 5.8.1). The 2005 CMP for the City Mutual Building provides policies for retention of the streetscape presence and prominence of the building within the Hunter Street and Bligh Street streetscape (refer section 5.8.2).

For the other neighbouring heritage buildings, it is generally understood that they derive considerable aesthetic significance from the visual contribution they make to the streetscape.

This section provides an assessment of potential impacts of the proposal on the setting and significant views of neighbouring heritage items through an analysis of photomontage images at street-level vantage points. The photomontages have been prepared by Arterra and depict the proposed building envelopes for the North and South Sites in a translucent blue shading. The additional height proposed for the South Site building envelope is depicted in a dark grey shading.

A summary of potential heritage impacts on neighbouring heritage items is provided on page 52.

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

### South Site: Martin Place looking east



The western end of Martin Place is enclosed by the sandstone facades of the GPO, Challis House, the former Colonial Mutual Life Building and the former Head Office of the Commonwealth Bank. From this western vantage point looking east, these buildings will largely occupy the foreground. In the mid-distance, a tower on the site at 39 Martin Place will rise prominently beyond the Commonwealth Bank building.

From within the block between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets, the podium of a future building on the South Site will come into view, reinforcing the 'street wall' of Martin Place and enhancing the perspective looking east.

The podium will largely occupy the foreground of street level views from within the block between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Streets, and at close range. Subject to detailed design, a future building on the site has the potential to enhance and reinforce the significant spatial qualities of the street and relate purposefully to the former Government Savings Bank building at 48-50 Martin Place and the former APA Building at 53-64 Martin Place, and ensure that the tower component merges visually with the skyline of existing office towers beyond.



Photomontages: Arterra.  
Proposed building envelopes for the North and South Sites are depicted in a translucent blue shading.

## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT



### South Site: Martin Place looking west

The Reserve Bank and the building at 60 Martin Place (presently under construction) frame westerly views down Martin Place. Seen from within the eastern-most block of Martin Place, the podium of a future building at 39 Martin Place will relate visually to the inter-war era buildings in its scale and setback, and reinforce the ‘street wall’ and the perspective looking west. The tower will be prominent from this vantage point.

From within the block between Phillip and Elizabeth Streets and at close range, the podium will largely occupy the foreground of street level views, and the tower will recede visually to the background.

Subject to detailed design, a future building on the South Site has the potential to enhance and reinforce the significant spatial qualities of the street and relate purposefully to the former Government Savings Bank building at 48-50 Martin Place, the former APA Building at 53-64 Martin Place and the former MLC Building at 38-46 Martin Place.



Photomontages: Arterra.  
Proposed building envelopes for the North and South Sites are depicted in a translucent blue shading.





#### North Site: Chifley Square

A future building on the North Site will be a prominent in views from Phillip Street to the immediate north of Chifley Square, extending the full length of the Elizabeth Street up to 48-50 Martin Place.

Subject to its detailed design, a future building has the potential to positively reinforce the southern edge of Chifley Square, reinforcing its sense of spatial enclosure.



Photomontages: Arterra.  
Proposed building envelopes for the North and South Sites are depicted in a translucent blue shading.



## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT



### North and South Sites: Elizabeth Street

Future buildings on both the North and South sites will be visible together in views looking north and south along Elizabeth Street.

#### *Views looking north along Elizabeth Street*

From Elizabeth Street, part of the southern facade of the former Government Savings Bank building at 48-50 Martin Place which is presently visible will be obscured by a new building on the South Site. The encroachment into this view, and a comparable view from the south-west on Castlereagh Street, will reinstate the historic streetscape views which existed prior to the demolition of the 1939 Prudential Building.

Subject to detailed design, a future building on the South Site has the potential to enhance and reinforce the significant spatial qualities of Martin Place the street and relate purposefully to 48-50 Martin Place, the former APA Building at 53-64 Martin Place and the former GIO Building at 60-70 Elizabeth Street.

A tower on the North Site will form a strong focal point at the northern end of Elizabeth Street.



#### *Views looking south along Elizabeth Street*

Looking south along Elizabeth Street, the a future building on the North Site will abut the northern end of 48-50 Martin Place and rise prominently, forming a focal point at the intersection with Hunter Street. There is the potential that the north-east tower of 48-50 Martin Place, presently visible, will be obscured by a new building.

A future building on the South Site will be prominent in the mid-distance, rising beyond 48-50 Martin Place.

Photomontages: Arterra.  
Proposed building envelopes for the North and South Sites are depicted in a translucent blue shading.



## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT

### Potential impacts on neighbouring heritage items: summary

The following provides a summary assessment of likely potential heritage impacts on identified heritage items within the immediate vicinity of the proposed Sydney Metro and Martin Place Station Precinct.

**Reserve Bank Building** | 65 Martin Place (SHR item 105456)

Heritage impacts are neutral. Although taller than the Reserve Bank, the tower component of the South Site is sited at a sufficient distance that it will not be visually dominating. The visual prominence of the Reserve Bank and its landmark qualities will remain.

**City Mutual Life Assurance Building** | 60-66 Hunter Street (SHR item 00585)

Heritage impact neutral. A new building on the North Site will not materially affect the setting of or views to the City Mutual Life Assurance Building. The present visual prominence of the building in the Hunter Street streetscape will remain.

**Former Qantas House** | 68-96 Hunter Street (SHR item 01512)

Potential positive heritage impact. A new building on the North Site has the potential to relate positively to Qantas House in its scale and architectural expression, mutually reinforcing the spatial enclosure of Chifley Square.

**APA Building** | 53-63 Martin Place (SHR item 00682)

Potential positive heritage impact. A new building on the South Site has the potential to relate positively to the neighbouring APA building in its height, scale, materiality and architectural expression, mutually reinforcing the Martin Place 'street wall'.

**Former MLC Building** | 42-46 Martin Place (SHR item 00597)

Potential positive heritage impact. A new building on the South Site has the potential to relate positively to the former MLC building in its height, scale, materiality and architectural expression, mutually reinforcing the Martin Place 'street wall'.

**Martin Place Railway Station** | (SHR item 01187)

There are no heritage impacts on Martin Place Railway Station arising from the proposal.

**GIO Building** | 60-70 Elizabeth Street (SHR item 00683)

Potential positive heritage impact. A new building on the South Site has the potential to relate positively to the GIO building in its height, scale, materiality and architectural expression.

**Richard Johnson Square** | Corner Hunter and Bligh Streets (LEP item I1673)

Heritage impact neutral. The significance of Richard Johnson Square is derived from its pedestrian use and 1925 memorial, rather than from the surrounding buildings.

**Chifley Square** | (LEP item I1708)

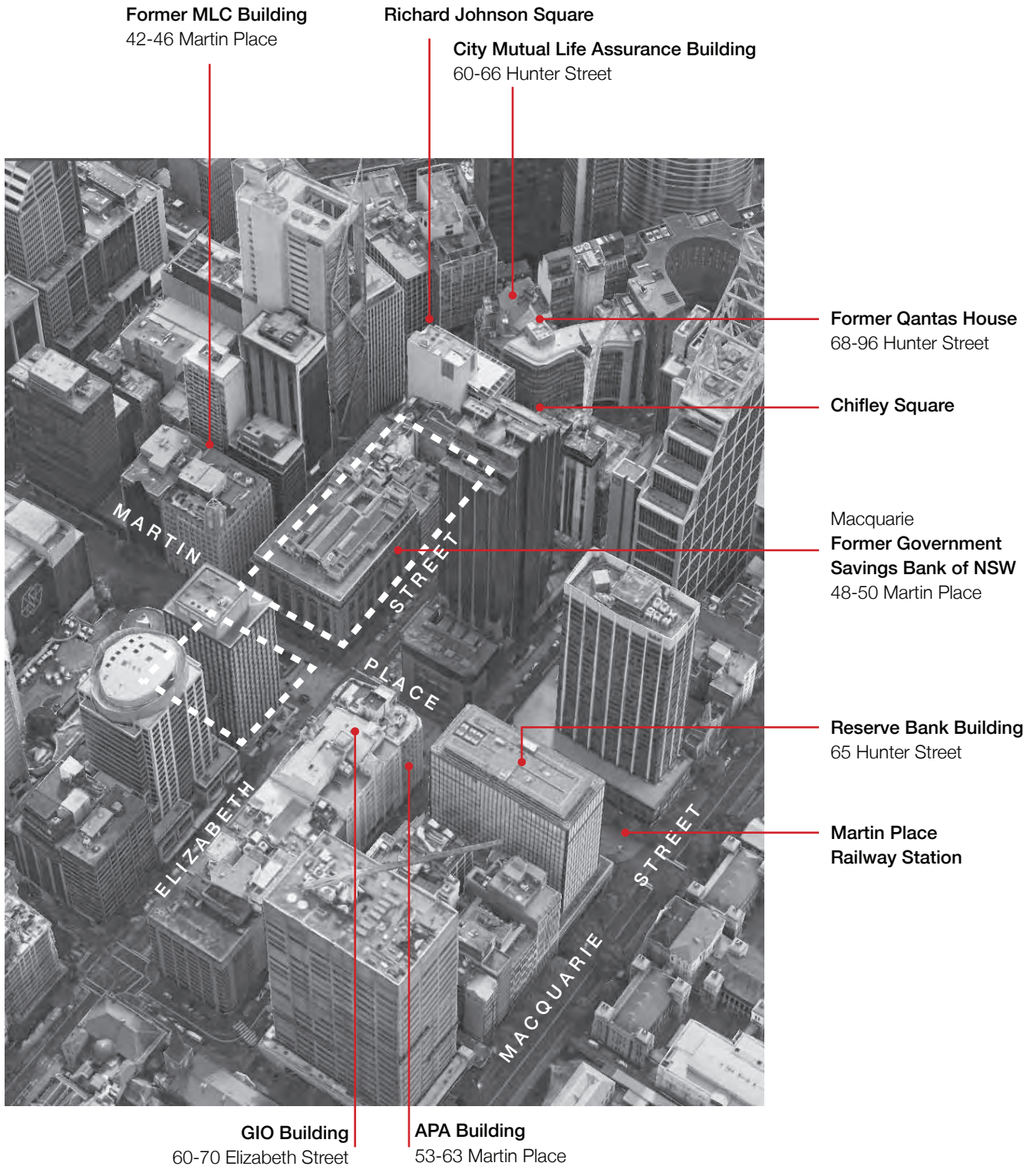
Potential positive heritage impact. A new building on the North Site has the potential to reinforce the spatial enclosure of the square by defining its southern edge.

**Martin Place** | (LEP item I1869)

Potential positive heritage impact. Replacement of the present building on the South Site at 39 Martin Place provides an opportunity for a new building which better reinforces the strong lineal character and spatial enclosure of the street in its height, scale, materiality and architectural expression.



## ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE IMPACT



511 Aerial photograph showing the location of heritage items in the vicinity of the Sydney Metro and Martin Place Station Precinct. Source: Apple maps with TKD Architects overlay, 2017.



## 6 HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

### 6.1 Introduction

The Sydney Metro and Martin Place Station Precinct project has the potential to have direct and indirect heritage impacts, both on individual heritage items within the subject sites and on items in the vicinity. Direct impacts include physical changes to significant heritage fabric and spaces. Indirect impacts relate to changes to the environs of the precinct, including streetscape presentation, important views to and from significant items, and the setting of heritage items and areas.

The guidelines provided in this section have been formulated to assist in the future detailed design of the buildings for the North and South sites, in order to maintain the heritage significance of the identified heritage items and, where relevant, to minimise or mitigate potential adverse heritage impacts. Overarching heritage objectives are provided for each heritage item, supported by principles and explanatory text. The principles are provided for guidance and are not intended to be mandatory or prescriptive. Although the proposal is not considered 'infill' development, the principles are consistent with the guidelines of the 2005 'Design in Context' publication by the NSW Heritage Office and Australian Institute of Architects, which aim to ensure that new development responds positively to historic environments.

Heritage objectives and principles are provided for the following:

- neighbouring heritage buildings;
- Former Government Savings Bank of New South Wales, 48-50 Martin Place, located within the North Site;
- Martin Place, and;
- Chifley Square.

Objectives are also provided for heritage interpretation and public art, specifically relating to buildings and artworks proposed to be demolished or removed by Transport for New South Wales as part of the approved Martin Place Metro Station.

## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

### 6.2 Potential impact on neighbouring heritage building: setting and views

#### 6.2.1 Background

As identified in the preceding section, development on the North and South Sites has the potential to impact on the setting and views of heritage items in the vicinity. Heritage buildings in the vicinity are:

- The former **APA Building**, 53-63 Martin Place
- The **Reserve Bank**, 65 Martin Place
- The former **MLC Building**, 38-46 Martin Place
- **GIO Building**, 60-70 Elizabeth Street
- The former **City Mutual Building**, 60-66 Hunter Street
- The former **Qantas House**, 68-96 Hunter Street

As well as being significant buildings in their own right, these buildings make strong aesthetic contributions to their respective streetscapes. The former APA Building, MLC Building and GIO Building help define the historic spatial character of the eastern end of Martin Place and share similarities in architectural expression and materiality. Although not consistent with the historic street character, the Reserve Bank is significant for its landmark qualities in framing a gateway for Martin Place at its eastern end.

The City Mutual Building has landmark qualities owing to its distinctive form and prominent corner siting on Hunter Street. Similar in scale to the City Mutual Building, Qantas House is notable principally for defining the western quadrant of Chifley Square through its curved façade.

#### 6.2.2 Objectives

- **Retain and enhance the setting and streetscape presence of neighbouring heritage buildings.**

#### 6.2.3 Principles

- A building on the North Site should relate in scale to the former Qantas House and City Mutual Building on Hunter Street.
- A building on the South Site should relate in scale and architectural expression to the historic buildings on Martin Place and Elizabeth Street in its vicinity.
- A building on the South Site should respect the landmark qualities of the Reserve Bank.

## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

### 6.3 Former Government Savings Bank of NSW, 48-50 Martin Place

#### 6.3.1 Background

The former Government Savings Bank of New South Wales is amongst the most aesthetically distinguished commercial buildings to have been erected in Australia during the inter-war period. The facades are meticulously designed and incorporate materials – glazed terracotta, polished granite and bronze – that are rich in colour, while the original roofscape was carefully designed to integrate service elements with the neo-classical design of the remainder of the building. The building's exterior form and presence within the streetscape should be maintained as distinct and unique.

Internally, the spatial expression of public spaces and circulation spaces in combination with the rich and decorative use of numerous different materials is exemplary. Interiors of particular note are the Banking Chamber, Grand Hall, north-east and north-west stair and lift lobbies and the Safe Deposit Vault, variously employing marble and scagliola, ceramic tiles, moulded plaster, bronze, mosaics and lead lighting.

The proposal has the potential to impact on the significance of the building at 48-50 Martin Place arising from changes to its streetscape context and physical connections to the proposed building on the North Site.

#### 6.3.2 Objectives

- Retain the exceptional aesthetic significance of the building's exterior.
- Retain the landmark qualities and civic presence of the building within Martin Place and its environs.
- Retain the identity of the building as one of the finest purpose-designed bank buildings in Australia.
- Retain the substantially intact fabric and spatial qualities of the significant interiors of the building largely unaltered.

## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

### 6.3.3 Principles



50 Martin Place - north-east lift overrun tower

#### Architectural form and expression

- A building on the North Site should relate in scale to the Elizabeth Street and Castlereagh Street elevations of 48-50 Martin Place.
- The architectural form and expression of a building on the North Site should allow 48-50 Martin Place to be understood as a distinct and independent architectural element in the Elizabeth and Castlereagh Street streetscapes. Materials, details and forms which too closely resemble those of the historic building could have the potential of diminishing its unique identity and presence within the streetscape.
- A building on the North Site should retain visibility of the historic north-east and north-west lift overrun towers as detached elements from streetscape vantage points from Elizabeth Street and Castlereagh Street.
- The blank north elevation of 48-50 Martin Place – which is not a facade intended to be appreciated from the public domain – should be concealed by the new development.



Safe Deposit Vault

#### Basement connections

The Safe Deposit Vault located at lower basement level is assessed as having exceptional heritage significance. Largely intact, it is one of the most architecturally distinctive spaces in the building. Significant alterations to the vault will result in an considerable adverse heritage impacts.

Connections to a future building on the North Site:

- should retain the Safe Deposit Vault unchanged;
- clearly delineate the separation between the historic and proposed buildings.



## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES



Grand Hall  
Image courtesy Peter Bennet

### Ground floor connections

The Grand Hall at the north end of 48-50 Martin Place is assessed as having exceptional heritage significance. It is substantially intact in plan form and fabric, comprising a double-height hall with barrel-vaulted stained glass ceiling, marble wall cladding and bronze stair balustrading. Some alterations were undertaken during the 1980s, when levels at the eastern end were modified to accommodate changes to the north-east lift lobby, and two openings were formed in the southern wall through to the Banking Chamber.

A connection through the Grand Hall to a building on the North Site will necessarily involve the removal of original fabric and alteration to its spatial qualities, and should preferably be avoided.

If the functional necessity of a ground floor connection can be demonstrated, an opening within the north wall of the Grand Hall may be achieved provided it:

- avoids alteration of significant original elements including the mosaic and stained glass memorial window, marble and bronze stairs and lift lobbies;
- is modest in scale and extent, in order to retain the predominant east-west axial spatial quality of the space;
- is designed to complement the historic materials and details of the space;
- clearly delineates the separation between the historic and proposed buildings.



Northern lightwell

### Upper storey connections

Connections of the office floors of 48-50 Martin Place with those of a proposed building on the North Site should:

- avoid alteration of the significant north-west and north-east lift lobbies (assessed as being of exceptional heritage significance);
- retain the northern light well (assessed as being of high significance); new links through the light well may be possible provided that penetration of natural daylight to the glass vaulted ceiling of the Grand Hall below is maintained;
- clearly delineate the separation between the historic and proposed buildings.

## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES



Colonnade  
Image courtesy Peter Bennet

### Rooftop connections (level 10)

A remnant of the original 1928 design, the rooftop colonnade is assessed as having exceptional heritage significance. Connections to a building on the North Site should:

- minimise the loss of heritage fabric in northern enclosing wall of the colonnade;
- relate to the architecture and symmetry of the colonnade;
- clearly delineate the separation between the historic and proposed buildings.



50 Martin Place  
Image courtesy Peter Bennet

### Identity and function

48-50 Martin Place derives significance as a purpose-designed building for a prestigious financial institution from the inter-war period, located at a prominent city address. The building's planning and internal spaces demonstrate banking practices of the 1920s, and provide physical evidence of more than 70 years of continuous use and ownership by financial institutions.

To ensure the building's independent identity, function and significance are retained, the development should be planned to:

- maintain the Martin Place, Castlereagh Street and Elizabeth Street entrances to the building as its principal entrances;
- allow 48-50 Martin Place to function independently of a building on the North Site. Internal connections between the existing and proposed buildings should be theoretically reversible;
- maintain the building's internal vertical circulation.

### Protection of historic building fabric

To ensure that significant historic fabric of 48-50 Martin Place is retained without damage, the following mitigation measures are recommended to be undertaken prior to the commencement of construction works:

- undertake a photographic dilapidation record of affected parts of the interior and exterior of the building.

## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

### 6.4 Martin Place

#### 6.4.1 Background

Established in 1887 as a piazza to the General Post Office and subsequently extended in stages, Martin Place is recognised as one of Sydney's most important public and civic urban spaces. From the early twentieth century and through to the inter-war period, Martin Place evolved as a premier address for public institutions and commercial enterprises. The 150 foot height limit ensured a consistency of scale of the buildings fronting Martin Place which largely remains at its west end. It also ensured a consistency in materiality, with solid massing and stone facades more prevalent in the lower sections of the buildings. Pedestrianisation of the street undertaken in the 1970s formalised Martin Place as the city's principal urban space.

The present building at 39 Martin Place is inconsistent with the historic character and urban form of the street. Demolition of the building provides an opportunity for a new structure which better responds to the significant urban form and spatial qualities of Martin Place and to the historic buildings in its vicinity.

The objective and principles below aim to ensure that the provisions of the City of Sydney's Martin Place Special Character Area are achieved.

#### 6.4.2 Objectives

- **Retain and enhance the urban character, scale and strong linear enclosure of Martin Place.**

## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

### 6.4.3 Principles



Martin Place c1940s

The proposed building on the South Site at 39 Martin Place should:

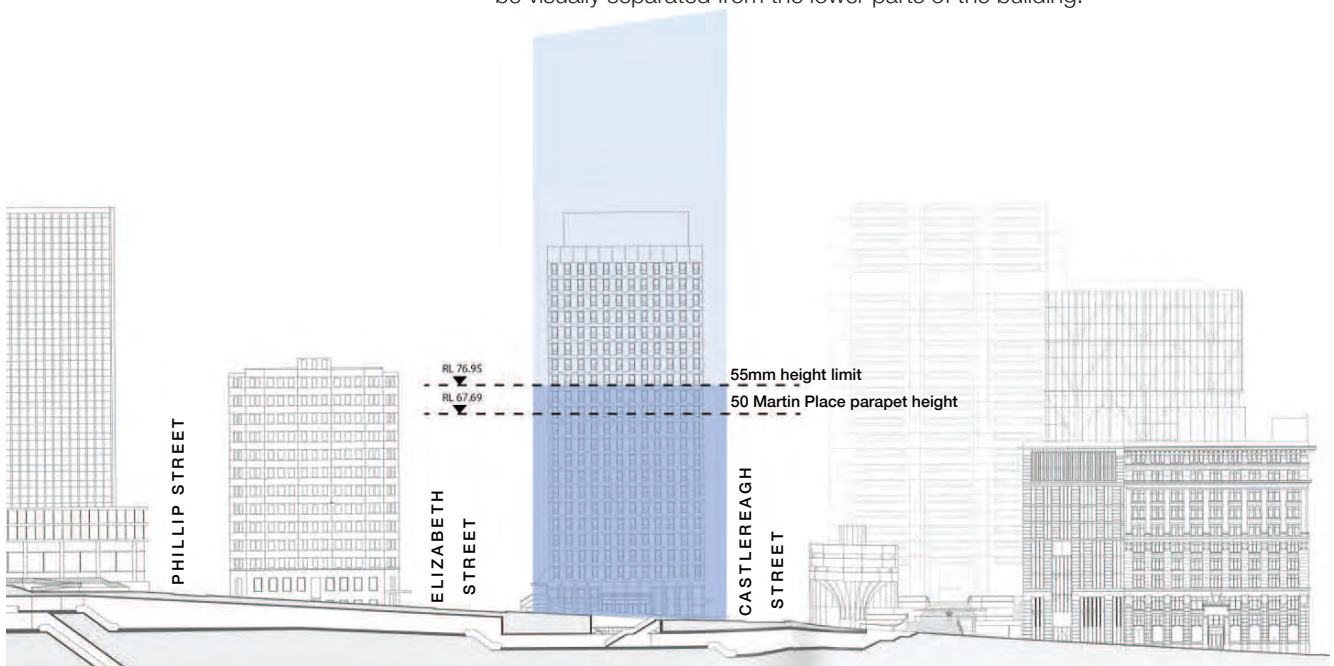
- be built to the street alignments at Martin Place, Elizabeth and Castlereagh Street;
- present a formal character to Martin Place;
- have its principal commercial address to Martin Place.

The low-rise (podium) part of the building should:

- relate in height to either the former Government Savings Bank of NSW at 48-50 Martin Place (opposite the site), or the LEP 55-metre height limit;
- relate in its expression to the historic buildings of Martin Place by emphasising mass and solidity;
- relate in its expression to the historic buildings of Martin Place through the use of complementary façade materials;
- relate in its expression to the historic buildings of Martin Place through the composition of its façade, including a strongly emphasised base and possibly the strong expression of its termination;
- minimise or (preferably) avoid completely the visual impact of a large entrance to the Metro Station entry on the Martin Place frontage;
- have no cantilevered awnings on the Martin Place frontage.

The high-rise part of the building should:

- be set back from the street frontage at Martin Place;
- emphasise volume (rather than mass) in its expression through the use of a contrasting light-weight façade material;
- be visually separated from the lower parts of the building.



521 Martin Place south elevation illustrating alternatives for the height of the low-rise building at 39 Martin Place.  
Source: 'Public Sydney-Drawing the City', pp. 116-117, with TKD Architects overlay.



## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

### 6.5 Chifley Square



Chifley Square

#### 6.5.1 Background

The present built form of Chifley Square is considerably varied, comprising buildings of different heights, forms and architectural character. Its principal characteristic is its semi-circular form defined by the former Qantas House (1957) and Chifley Tower (1993). The sense of spatial enclosure of Chifley Square is somewhat compromised by the café at its south-east corner and the cavernous opening at street level of the recently completed building at No. 8.

#### 6.5.2 Objectives

- Reinforce the semi-circular form of Chifley Square.

#### 6.5.3 Principles

The design of the proposed building on the North Site should:

- reinforce the street edges at its north-east corner, at the intersection with Elizabeth and Hunter Streets, to enhance the sense of spatial enclosure of the square.
- relate in height to the nearby former Qantas House and the alignment of existing buildings on the south side of Hunter Street, to enhance the sense of spatial enclosure of the square.

## HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT GUIDELINES

### 6.6 Public Art and Heritage Interpretation

#### 6.6.1 Background



Tom Bass artwork

Although not identified as a heritage item, the former P&O Building at 55 Hunter Street contains significant artworks whose retention and relocation within the proposed development is recommended. These include the Tom Bass bronze wall fountain on Hunter Street, the bronze sculpture group by Douglas Annand and the Douglas Annand glass mural.

Approved to be demolished as part of Sydney Metro, the heritage significance of the building at 7 Elizabeth Street will be lost. Designed by Emil Soderston and completed in 1940, the building contains intact interiors by designer Marion Hall Best.



Douglas Annand exterior stone relief

Also within the precinct is a bronze plaque within the pavement outside the building at No. 5 Elizabeth Street, recording the inaugural meeting of the Institution of Engineers in 1919.

#### 6.6.2 Objectives

- Interpret the heritage significance of the demolished building at 7 Elizabeth Street.
- Incorporate the artworks at 55 Hunter Street into the proposed development of the North Site.
- Retain existing heritage interpretation.

#### 6.6.3 Principles

##### Artwork

Display the significant Douglas Annand and Tom Bass artworks within the Precinct at publicly accessible locations.



Douglas Annand lobby mural

##### 7 Elizabeth Street

Heritage interpretation of the demolished building at 7 Elizabeth Street could be achieved through:

- the display of historic and present photographs of the exterior and interiors of the building within the Precinct, at a publicly accessible location;
- the salvage of significant elements of the intact Marion Hall Best interiors. These could be displayed within the Precinct or provided to Sydney Living Museums (or other repository) for secure storage and display.



Institution of Engineers plaque

##### Retention of existing interpretation

Retain (or carefully salvage and reinstate in the same location) the Institution of Engineers commemorative plaque in the pavement at No. 5 Elizabeth Street.

## 7 CONCLUSIONS

This State Significant Development Application seeks to establish two building envelopes within the Sydney Metro and Martin Place Station Precinct, a proposal for a fully integrated station / over-station development for the new Sydney Metro. The establishment of building envelopes will allow for the future development of predominantly commercial buildings above the north and south Martin Place Metro Station entrances. The two sites are integral to the broader vision by Macquarie to provide a world-class commercial, retail and transport development which is integrated with Sydney Metro's Martin Place Station.

The heights of both envelopes comply with the 2012 *Sydney Local Environmental Plan*.

### North Site

Located to the immediate north of the former Government Savings Bank of NSW Building - a building of exceptional heritage significance - a future building on the North Site will alter the present scale and character of the Elizabeth Street and Castlereagh Street streetscapes. In this report, guidelines are provided to ensure that the separate identity of the former bank and its visual prominence within these streetscapes are maintained.

The proposal seeks approval for future connections between the historic building and a building on the North Site. Connections to the historic building will necessarily require the removal of original fabric and the alteration to spaces identified of exceptional heritage significance. These impacts may be mitigated through the careful design and location of the proposed connections.

### South Site

Demolition of the present building at 39 Martin Place – approved as part of the Sydney Metro proposal – provides an opportunity for a new building which better responds to the heritage significance and important civic qualities of Martin Place. Defining characteristics of Martin Place include the strong architectural character of buildings of similar height which create a linear east-west space along its length.

A new building on the South Site has the potential to enhance the significant characteristics of the street through a purposeful relationship of its architectural expression, scale, form and materials with the historic buildings of Martin Place.

### Neighbouring heritage items

Heritage items within the vicinity of the proposed precinct are the Reserve Bank Building, the former Qantas House, the APA Building, Martin Place Railway Station, the former MLC Building, the former APA building, the GIO Building, Chifley Square, Richard Johnson Square and the City Mutual Life Assurance Building. Potential impacts of future buildings on the North and South Sites on the significance of these items – relating to their streetscape presentation and setting – and are generally considered minor or neutral.

A new building on the North Site has the potential to enhance the sense of spatial enclosure of the semi-circular form of Chifley Square through reinforcement of its street edges and the relationship in scale with the former Qantas House and the alignment and scale of existing buildings on the south side of Hunter street.

The construction of a new building on the South Site directly on the Martin Place street alignment has the potential to result in positive impacts, enhancing the 'street wall' of Martin Place and relating positively to the heritage items at 42-46 Martin Place (the former MLC Building), 48-50 Martin Place (the former Government Savings Bank of NSW) and 53-63 Martin Place (the APA Building), all mutually reinforcing each other and the spatial quality of the street.

#### **Heritage interpretation and public art**

The proposed Macquarie Martin Place Metro Precinct provides positive opportunities for heritage interpretation and public art, including:

- the interpretation of the building at 7 Elizabeth Street – proposed to be demolished as part of TfNSW's Sydney Metro project;
- the relocation and public display of significant artworks from the former P & O Building at 55 Hunter Street.





## APPENDIX A MARTIN PLACE THEMATIC HISTORY



## 1 INTRODUCTION

The contextual history of the setting of the Commonwealth Bank building in Martin Place is presented in this appendix. The history has been approached thematically to provide contextual patterns and associations.

The NSW Heritage Office thematic framework identifies thirty-eight principal themes. The State historical themes of Commerce, Government Administration, Housing, Creative Endeavour and Towns have been addressed.

## 2 TOWN PLAN

### 2.1 Background

The creation of Martin Place represents one of the major civic improvement schemes undertaken in Sydney in the nineteenth century. While the impetus for the new street came with the proposals to rebuild the city's main post office in the 1860s, the staged completion required state and local government action to effect the transformation of the nineteenth century townscape into a new east/west thoroughfare for the city and a new desirable address for the city's professional and financial elites.

Sydney's town plan was essentially formed within the first generation of Europeans settling at Sydney Cove beside the Tank Stream in the summer of 1788. The need to provide places of residence and administration for the convicts and their military overseers was initially determined by the natural topography and the growth of the penal colony experienced over the 1790s and 1810s was largely accommodated by movement along the banks of the valley of the Tank Stream. George Street (or High Street as originally named) soon evolved into the principal thoroughfare leading to the southern fringe of the town and later to the considerable settlements further west. Under Governor Macquarie the town plan was consolidated, improved and expanded, but not radically changed.<sup>1</sup>

Some reshaping of the town plan came after Macquarie as successive government administrations gradually relinquished control of the remnants of the old penal regime in subdividing and releasing for sale in freehold title land around Bridge and Hunters Streets; the Orphan School and Lumber Yard in 1828 and 1830 respectively, and the site of the military barracks, some 15 acres, in the early 1850s sited between George Street and present day Wynyard. The northern edge of the town was also radically transformed by the government's extension of Pitt Street, Castlereagh Street, Macquarie Street, Phillip Street and formation of Loftus Street and Young Street as part of the Circular Quay development completed in stages in the late 1840s and early 1850s. Another civic improvement was the closing-in of the Tank Stream in the 1850s and 1860s; the Stream having long been abandoned as the source of the town's water and had deteriorated into a foul smelling open sewer. In 1882, the Gibbs Shallard *Guide to Sydney* noted the transformation of Sydney experienced from the 1850s with *"time (working) wonders and the barrack walls, the barren parade ground and uncomfortable quarters of officers and men have given way to princely edifices, whose total money value must be reckoned in hundreds of thousands ... here stands*

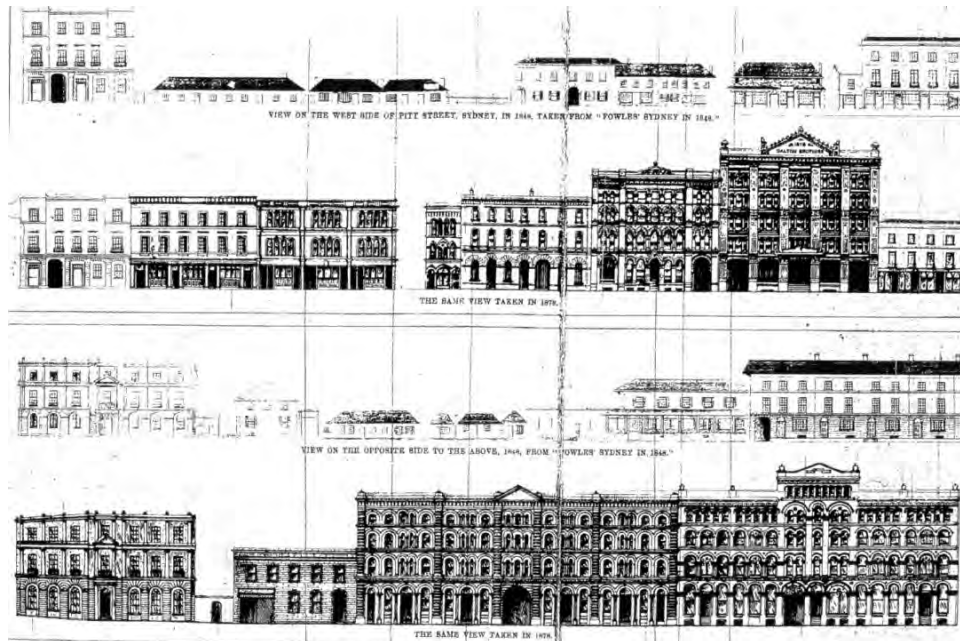
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<sup>1</sup> Edwards, N., 'The Genesis of the Sydney Central Business District 1788-1856' in M. Kelly, *Nineteenth Century Sydney*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1978, p.39



*the Bank of New South Wales, affording the thrifty a safe means of investing their hoards ... while the Commercial Bank, a flourishing institution, occupies the front corner'.<sup>2</sup>*

The appearance of the street frontages also changed as demand for land and the corresponding rise in land values, and evolving building regulations induced new building development that maximized use of the available site area and enhanced the presentation of the business to the general public. Joseph Fowles' artful rendering of the commercial streetscapes of Sydney in 1848 records rows of neat Georgian style buildings. Renderings of the same streets 30 years later show an entirely different, more intensely developed streetscape with richly decorated Victorian era commercial premises.



- 1 The material progress of Pitt Street over the 1870s did not escape the attention of the city's residents as this drawing of 1878 prepared by The Illustrated Sydney News demonstrates. Within a decade the street had been rebuilt with warehouses and offices of upward of four storeys many designed by architect Thomas Rowe.

Source: The Illustrated Sydney News, 13 July 1878

## 2.2 Laneways and Slums

While visitors to Sydney in the early 1850s often commented on the respectability of George Street in comparing it to the prestigious commercial streets of London, what lay behind the elegant offices and shops in many instances were overcrowded tenements with non-existent sanitation, light industrial workshops, and storage yards. Such was the case with the area of Martin Place prior to the 1890s.

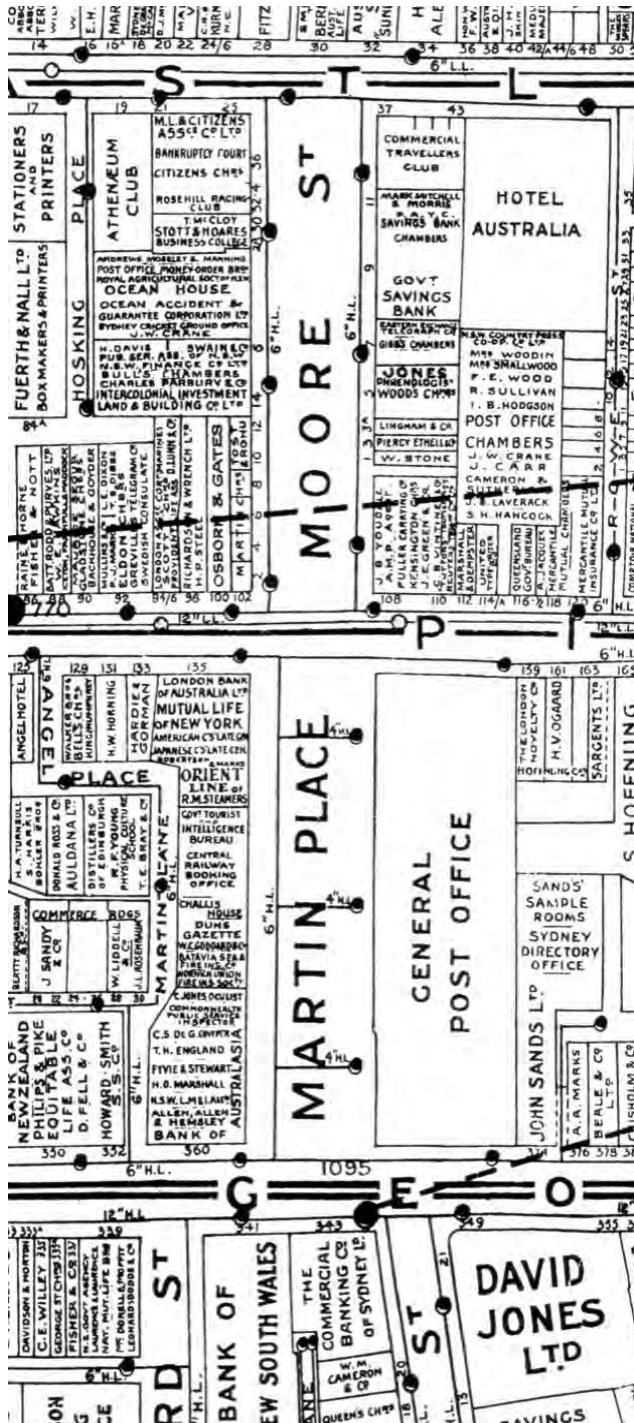
The mid-nineteenth century form of the area of Martin Place can be traced today only through documentary records such as maps, photographs and the occasional written account for nothing remains of its built form aside from the neighbouring laneway alignments of the truncated Rowe Street, Lees Court, parts of Chisholm Lane and Hosking Place.

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2 Quoted in de Vries-Evans, S., *Historic Sydney as Seen by its Early Artists*, Angus and Robertson, 1987, p.49



- 2 The built character of Sydney in the early 1850s is recorded in this survey prepared by Thomas L. Mitchell. The route of the Tank Stream below the present day GPO is shown and the importance of King Street in providing a direct east/west connection across the City is suggested.  
Source: Sydney City Archives



- 3 The intensive and varied use of the city buildings in the Edwardian era is depicted in this tourist guide to Sydney of 1910.

Source: City of Sydney, 1910 by Roberts and Moffat Ltd. in Sydney City Archives

Much of the western end of Martin Place lies over the filled-in slopes of the Tank Stream. Legislation barred development in the immediate vicinity of the Tank Stream over the first decades of the nineteenth century and in later years light industrial premises and warehouses were erected here as opportunities became available.

Further up the eastern slope of the valley is sited Rowe Street, formerly Brougham Place, which was a place of residence into the 1880s. Some insight into the mid-nineteenth character of this street can be gleaned in a series of articles published in *Sydney Morning Herald* over 1851, which stated it comprised 'twenty-six houses, thirteen on either side; they contain four rooms each ... the mean number of persons in each house is sixteen'.<sup>3</sup> With the material progress of the colony these terraces were gradually demolished to make way for commercial developments transforming Rowe Street into a quaint laneway rich in local history and character. In 1947 an unusual, for the time, and albeit romanticised and sanitised history of the street was published by Angus and Robertson.<sup>4</sup>



4 Rowe Street in the 1910s.

Source: Geeves, P., *Cazneaux's Sydney 1904-1934*, David Ell Press, Sydney, 1980

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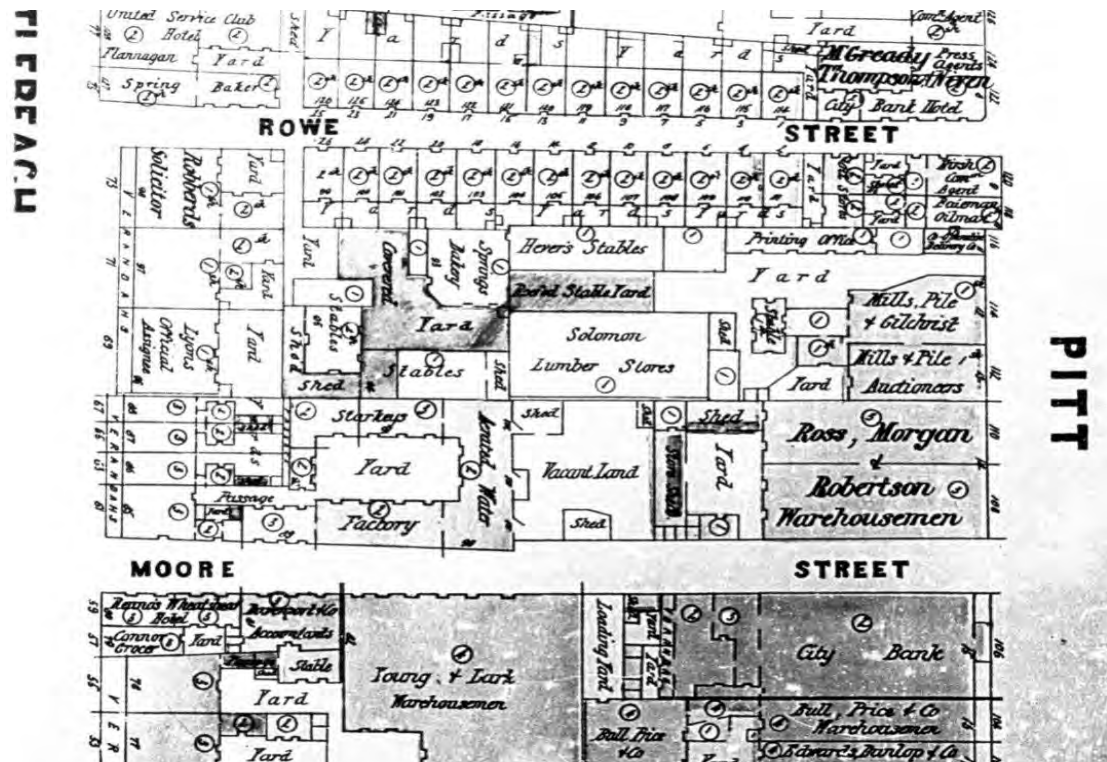
3 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1/3/1851 quoted in Kelly, *Nineteenth Century Sydney*, Sydney University Press, Sydney, 1978, p. 73

4 Pearson, Margaret Mary, *Tales of Rowe Street, Sydney*, Angus and Robertson, 1947





5 Rowe Street in the 1950s.  
Source: A Kerry Dundas photograph held by the SLNSW (ref SV/128)



6 The built character of the section of Martin Place and Rowe Street between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets in 1880. All of the buildings recorded here have been demolished.  
Source: Percy Dove, *City of Sydney*, 1880

### 2.3 Martin Place– The Impetus

With the coming of self-government in NSW in 1856 came the legislative powers and taxation to implement much needed reforms in social services and public infrastructure. The impetus for the formation of Martin Place came with the rebuilding of the GPO in the 1860s to improve the colony's postal service. Over the 1850s the government had questioned the advisability of rebuilding the GPO on its longstanding George Street site given the apparent limited opportunity to provide a new thoroughfare linking George and Pitt Streets crucial to the needs of a new and enlarged postal centre. In 1859, an informal offer to the government was made by Mrs Esther Hughes of her land in Pitt Street at the rear of the Post Office, and in 1864 the land duly was acquired by the government.<sup>5</sup> Colonial Architect James Barnet's design for the new Post Office was completed in 1865, contracts were let in 1866, and the first stage of the building (George Street) was completed in 1874.

It is clear from Barnet's sketch drawings of the 1870s that he idealised the new building having a generous north facing setting,<sup>6</sup> but only a narrow footpath (some accounts give 20 feet, others 32 feet wide<sup>7</sup>) named Post Office Street or Post Office Place eventuated. The absurdity of the government in erecting such grand new postal chambers with such "inadequate" public access was noted with derision by the *Sydney Morning Herald*.<sup>8</sup> The formation of the lane however provided a much needed east-west right of way mid centre between King and Hunter Streets, the only means hitherto had been a circuitous route along Mort's Passage, a route that can be still traced today in Angel Place. The longstanding impediment to establishing east-west crossings was the course of the Tank Stream, which was not bricked-in until the 1860s.

Soon after the completion of the Pitt Street frontage of the GPO in 1887 the enacting legislation, *General Post Office (Approaches Improvement) Act*, to widen Post Office Lane was passed in 1889; an earlier attempt in 1884 had failed in the defeated *Post Office Approaches Bill* which proposed a 180 feet wide square. The passed legislation allowed for resumption of property to the north of St Martins Lane to open a space of between 172 to 181 feet wide. The land resumed, then in three different ownerships, was largely defined on the northern boundary by the alignments of Chisholm Lane and Angel Place, then known as Mort's Passage.<sup>9</sup> From this area a public space under the control of the City Council was to be created and the balance of land sold-off to defray the cost of the resumption and street improvements, reducing the public area to a width of 100 feet.

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5 Bridges, P., *The City's centrepiece: the history of the Sydney G.P.O.*, Sydney. Hale & Iremonger, 1988, p.62

6 *ibid.*

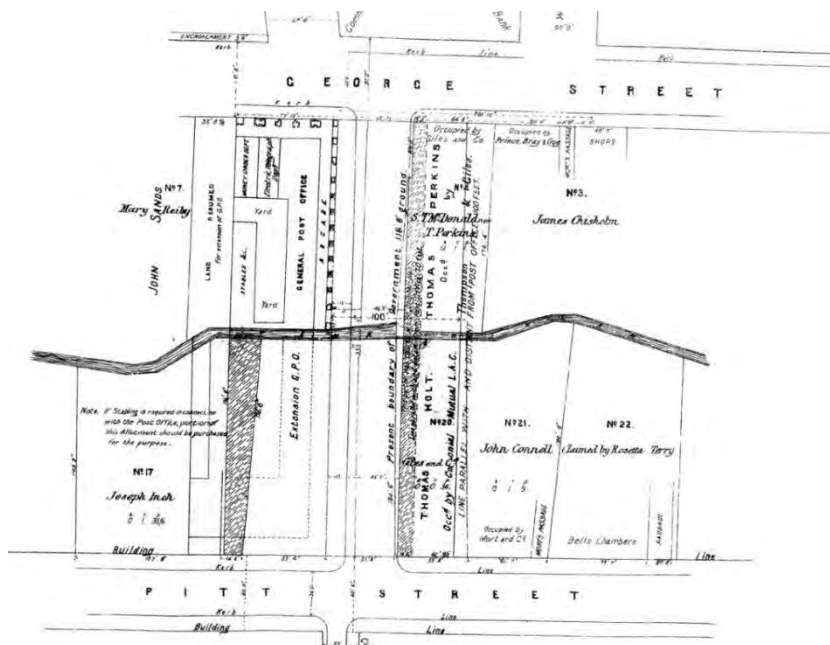
7 Lee, W., 'Martin Place, Sydney', in *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 13, 1927, p.5

8 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8 September 1869 quoted in Bridges, *op cit*, p.62

9 Mitchell Library Subdivision Plan 811.1723/1



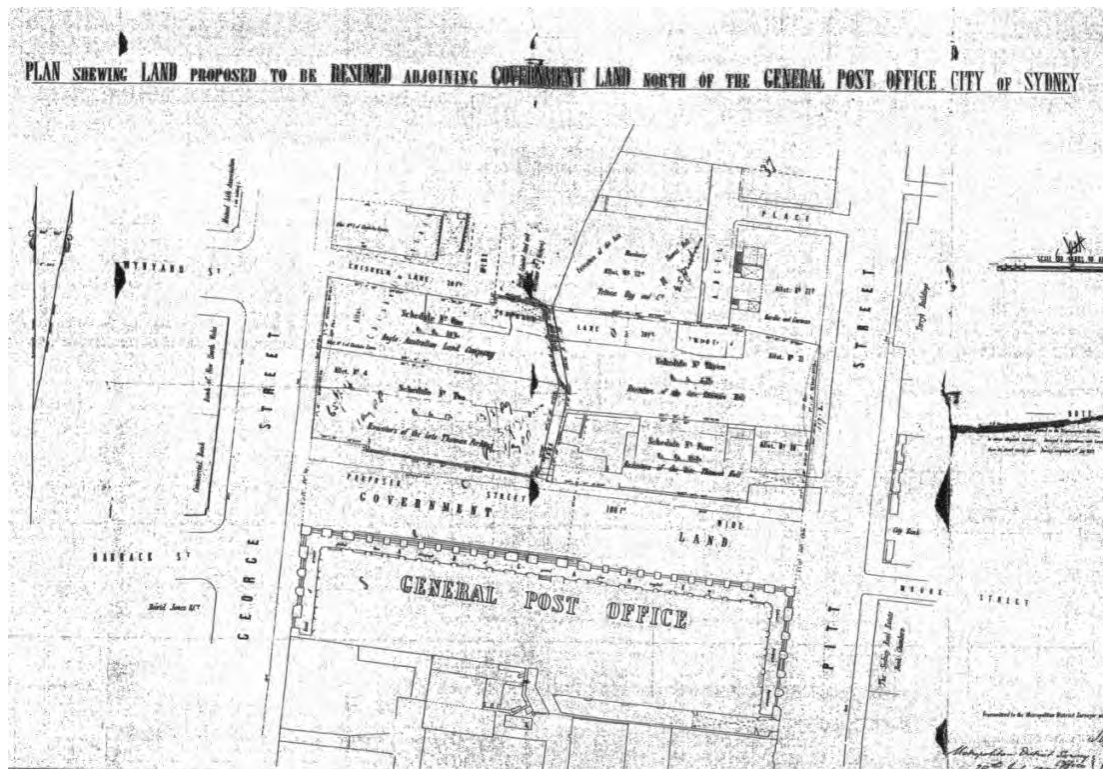
- 7 Barnet's vision for the grand post office square of 1877.  
Source: Bridges, P. & D. McDonald, *James Barnet Colonial Architect*, Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1988



- 8 A government survey possibly prepared as early as the late 1870s showing the then GPO on George Street and the laneway in front of the GPO. The proposed widening of this lane is to 100 feet is shown (as is the course of the Tank Stream).  
Source: State Library – Subdivision Plans – Sydney – 811.1723/7

While the initial proposal was for a public space 48 feet wide in front of the GPO and a narrow road of 38 feet width, circumstances changed with the fire of the printing house of Gibbs, Shallard & Co. on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1890 that reduced to ashes almost an entire city block between the now removed Moore Street and Hosking Place east of Pitt Street with some twenty large buildings being either completely destroyed or severely damaged.<sup>10</sup> From this disaster came the City Council's resumption of the affected properties to extend Martin Place east to Castlereagh Street for vehicular traffic at an estimated cost of 217,284 pounds.

Demands were soon being raised in the press that the proposal should be amended to continue the new road to George Street (and indeed to Macquarie Street in the other direction) with a roadway 64 feet wide with 18 feet wide footpaths on either side. The *Sydney Morning Herald* for example wrote *if the demand for a roadway is a real one, it is pretty certain that no considerations of a merely scenic nature will be long allowed to stand in the way of a public convenience*<sup>11</sup>. While legal difficulties encountered required the passing of the *Post Office (Approaches Improvement) Amendment Act* in 1892, the new thoroughfare in front of the GPO was put through and named to honour the colony's late Chief Justice, Sir James Martin.

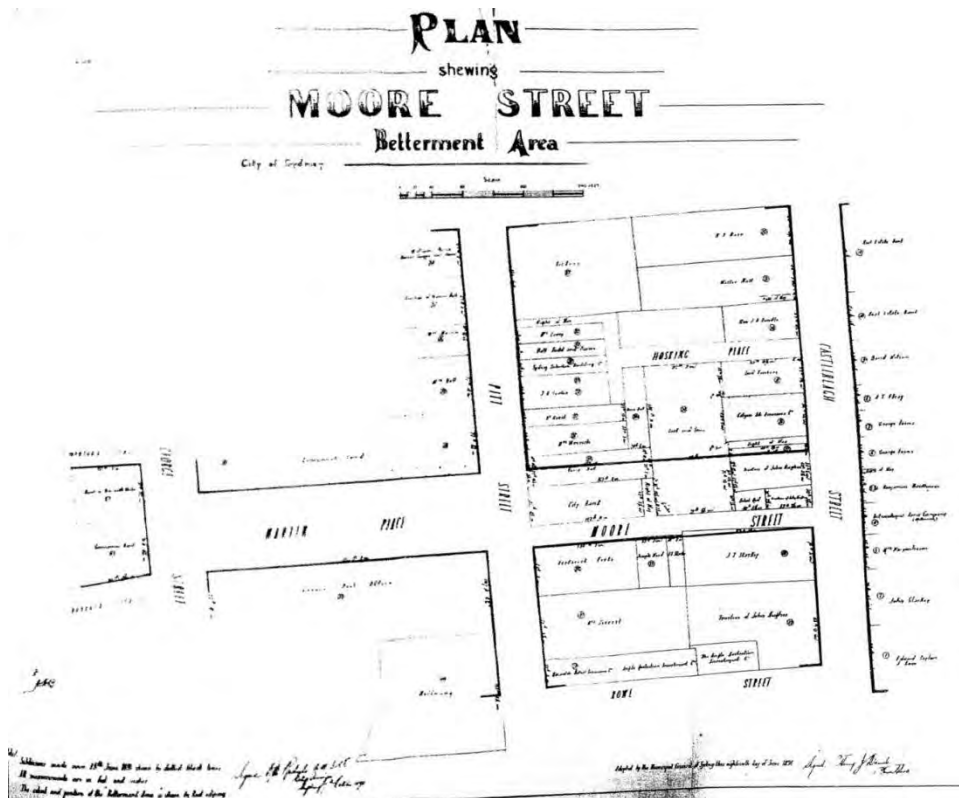


- 9 The government survey of 1889 showing the land affected by the Act to improve access to the GPO which when implemented in 1892 formed Martin Place.

Source: State Library – Subdivision Plans – Sydney – 811.1723/1

<sup>10</sup> Adrian, C., *Fight Fire*, Allen and Unwin, 1984, p.194

<sup>11</sup> *Sydney Morning Herald*, 7 August 1891



- 10 The plan of the resumed area of the “Moore Street Betterment Area” was adopted by the City Council on June 1891. The property resumption, building clearance and making of a new wide roadway led to the extension of Martin Place east to Castlereagh Street in 1892 (named Martin Place from 1921).

Source: NSW Legislative Council Journal, Vol. 63, 1901

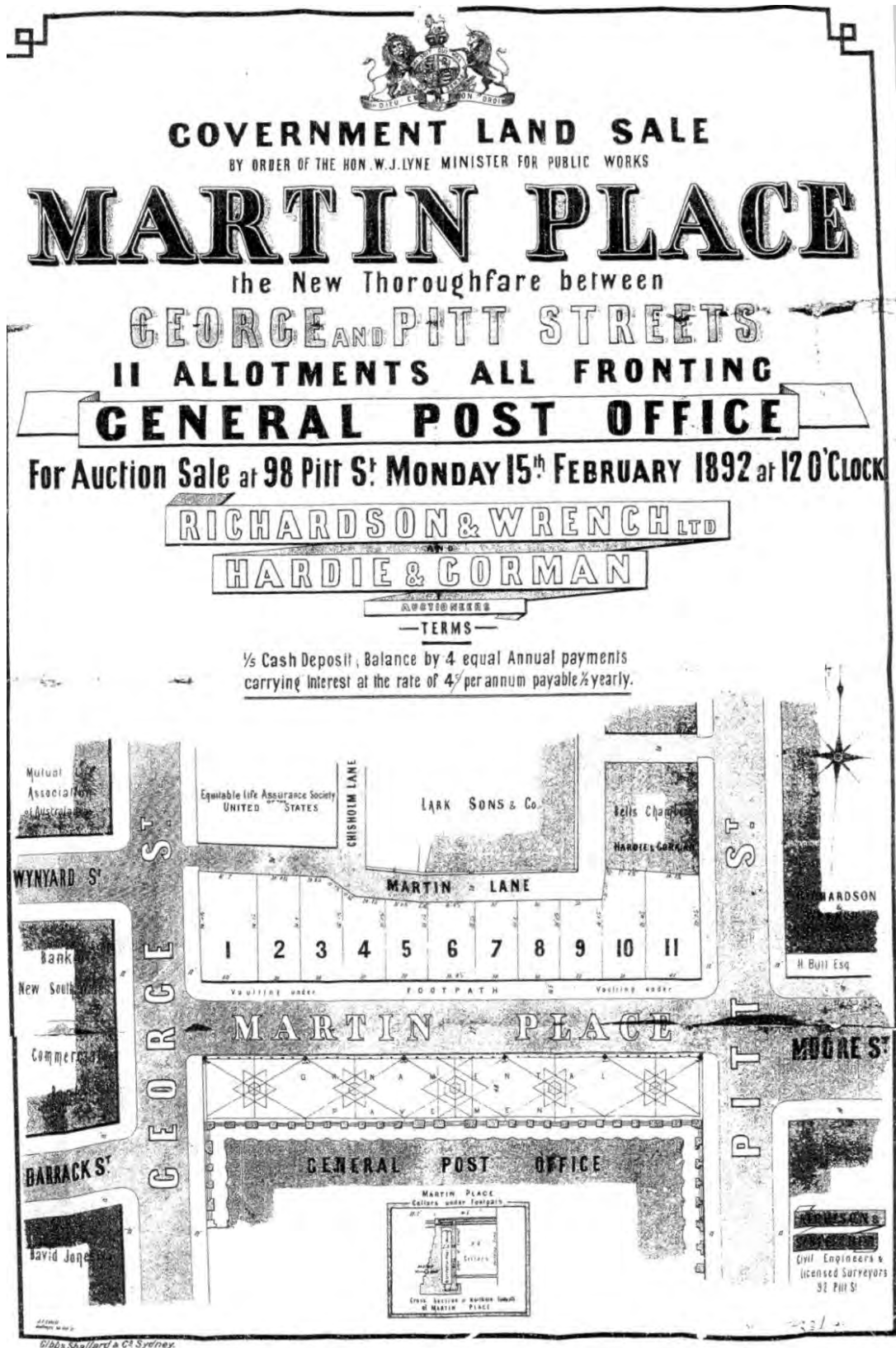
The City Council in this era had no statutory right to resume private land for the making of a public street and the State legislature had to be lobbied to pass the *Moore Street Improvement Act* in 1891. This was an early and rare example of town planning for the betterment of the city for the Council only acquired universal powers for street making in 1905 with the *Sydney Corporation Amendment Act*.<sup>12</sup> Indeed the uniqueness of the Act and the appropriation of private property necessitated a Royal Commission in 1901 to address lingering concerns amongst Sydney’s property owners.<sup>13</sup>

The resumptions established a new subdivision pattern. In the GPO area eleven new allotments were established. While the allotments were not necessarily larger than existing elsewhere they were uniformly aligned and of consistent width which contrasted with the prevailing allotments in the city that had been subdivided in an *ad hoc* manner over the nineteenth century. The formation of Martin Place in front of the GPO was completed by February 1891 and the allotments were offered for sale in February 1892. The allotments were aligned to front the GPO. With the Moore Street clearance, subsequent new developments addressed the new street. In 1921, Moore Street sited between Pitt and Castlereagh Street was also named Martin Place.

<sup>12</sup> Ashton, P., *The accidental city: planning Sydney since 1788*, Sydney, Hale & Iremonger, 1993, p.31

<sup>13</sup> Commissioner C.E.R. Murray, *Report of the Royal Commission in to the working of the provisions of the Moore Street Improvement Act ...* NSW Legislative Council Journal, Vol. 63, 1901, p.873





- 11 The sale notice for the commercial lots created in 1891 in the forming of Martin Place in front of the GPO. The resumption, construction works, and sale were overseen by the NSW Department of Public Works.

Source: State Library – Subdivision Plans – Sydney – 811.1723/90

## 2.4 The Road Network

For over eighty years Martin Place served as one of the city's major east/west arterial roads and its role and effectiveness as a road was examined on numerous occasions in the early part of the twentieth century. The influential town planner John Sulman advocated as early 1907 that the precinct should be opened up to provide a true cross city link between the then major shipping centres of Darling Harbour and Woolloomooloo. The Royal Commission into improving Sydney duly examined this proposal and recommended in its report of 1909 the extension of Martin Place west only to Macquarie Street, but no action was immediately taken owing to the estimated cost of resumption and the impact of World War One.<sup>14</sup> In the inter-war era the proposed extension was revived only to meet with opposition mounted by the Institute of Architects who considered elongation of Martin Place would detrimentally impact on the character of a precinct (then between George and Castlereagh Street) that could in time become a civic square for Sydney.<sup>15</sup>

By 1923 the Council with a Civic Reform majority determined the extension should proceed but in this instance the powerful property owners objected. Over the following two years various legal stratagems were mounted, but the Council prevailed in obtaining the necessary legislative powers and in January 1926 the resumptions were gazetted. The underlying reason for this necessity was the rapidly evolving transport system in the CBD with completion of the first stage of the underground railway in 1926, recommended in the Royal Commission in 1909, and the soon to be started harbour bridge project. In the latter, the extended Martin Place (now inclusive of a proposed extension west to York Street) was considered a suitable artery to funnel the expected traffic flows across the city from the bridge to the eastern suburbs. In the event, the Park/William Street nexus filled this role.<sup>16</sup>

The bridge and railway link on final completion in 1932 also affected the retailing sector in the CBD with a gradual concentration of large department stores between Market and Bathurst Streets (and also at the southern edge of the city from the 1910s.) The opening of the Harbour Bridge renewed the Council's interest in extending Martin Place but not as a place for traffic rather as a new desirable address for office buildings.<sup>17</sup> In November 1932, the Council allocated 33,000 pounds for construction works with the extension being completed over 1934-1935. The extension necessitated demolition of many buildings including the first St Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Phillip Street. Martin Place with its uniform 100 feet wide street from George Street to Macquarie Street was finally opened on 8<sup>th</sup> April 1935. The long awaited railway link to the eastern suburbs was completed in 1979.

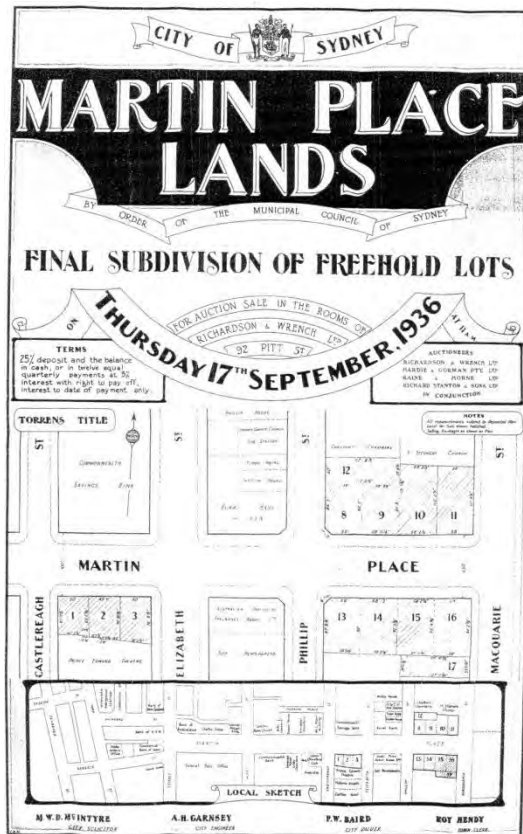
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14 Webber, G. P. (ed.), *The design of Sydney: three decades of change in the city centre*, Sydney, Law Book, 1988, p. 76

15 Webber, op cit., p.77

16 ibid

17 Webber, op cit., p79



- 12 The sale notice for the commercial lots created in 1936 in the forming of the eastern section of Martin Place. The resumption, construction works, and sale were overseen by the City Council.  
Source: State Library – Subdivision Plans – Sydney – 811.1723/19



- 13 An oblique aerial photographic view of Martin Place looking east in the early 1930s. The eastern section of Martin Place is still to be formed.  
Source: City of Sydney Archives

### 3 BUILT CHARACTER

#### 3.1 Background

From its inception the area of Martin Place between George Street and the original terminus at Castlereagh Street was from the evidence presented in photographs of the first quarter of the twentieth century a special precinct in the city's townscape. This was owing to the great width of the street, general uniformity of building scale, materials and setting up to the street boundary, and, most importantly, the termination of vistas to the east and west provided by the buildings fronting Castlereagh and George Streets. These factors contributed to an overwhelming sense of an enclosed space or walled canyon. As the precinct was progressively redeveloped over the 1920s and 1930s this streetscape character was largely retained.



14 Martin Place, 1920s, looking west.

Source: Bremer, S., *A pictorial record of city life in Australia*, Bullion Books, Silverwater, 1983

As properties in Martin Place and then Moore Street (Martin Place between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets) became available through the resumptions and subsequent land sales, the new allotments were filled with buildings designed to address this new city address. Over the passing decades the presentation or style of architecture of these buildings evolved from a late Victorian neo-classicism to inter-war notions of modernity expressed in the Art Deco style.

### 3.2 Late Victorian Progress

At the beginning of this evolution of building styles is James Barnet's bold statement in the façade treatment of the GPO (staged completion 1874-1887) with its flamboyant Free Classicalism style of architectural decoration.<sup>18</sup> While Barnet was seemingly influenced by Venetian palazzos, the next generation of buildings drew on the then most up to date architectural developments in North America and England. The first wave of this influence is demonstrated in the Romanesque style of the buildings anchoring the corners of the north side of Martin Place - Mutual Life Insurance office (14 Martin Place) (1892) and Bank of Australasia (2 Martin Place) (1904), and also the nearby Equitable Life Assurance office (350 George Street) (1892). The latter two buildings were designed by the same architect, the American Edward E. Raht, and John Kirkpatrick designed the Mutual Life.<sup>19</sup> Other local architects also designed new office buildings drawing on the same influences but these have since been demolished (Sulman and Power's Mutual Life office (1890) at 339 George Street) or completely altered (W. L. Vernon and Robertson and Marks' collaborative design of Challis House (1907) (4 Martin Place)).



- 15 The Bank of Australasia's building at 2 Martin Place in the mid 1930s. Completed in 1904 to the design of the American architect Edward E. Raht.

Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936

18 As described in Apperly, R. et al, *A pictorial guide to identifying Australian Architecture*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1994, p.59

19 NSW State Heritage Register.





- 16 The Colonial Mutual Life Assurance Society's office at 14 Martin Place in the mid 1930s with later roof level addition. Completed in 1892 to the design of John Kirkpatrick with the addition by Hennessy and Hennessy. The interiors of the building and the upper level additions were removed in the early 1970s.

Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936

### 3.3 Federation and Inter-War Optimism

The next wave of development occurred over the 1910s and 1930s within the Martin Place precinct bounded by Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street. Regardless of the respective date of construction the developments in this era share/d a formality in their presentation to Martin Place. Of the 1910s development this is demonstrated today by the Commonwealth Bank (108 Pitt Street) opened in 1916. Near contemporary with this and located at the opposite end of the street on Castlereagh Street, but now demolished, were the Commercial Traveller's Club (35 Martin Place) erected in 1908 to the design of architects Robertson and Marks, and the original Government Savings Bank at 19-23 Martin Place designed in 1909 by H E Ross.<sup>20</sup> The infill development between the two comprised in part the now demolished Gibbs Chambers (17 Martin Place) erected in 1902, again by architects Robertson and Marks.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Ian G. Little, 'Robertson and Marks Architects,' Student Thesis, UNSW and Sydney City Council BA 504/09

<sup>21</sup> *ibid.*



- 17 The Commonwealth Bank of Australia's bank and head office at 120 Pitt Street in the mid 1930s showing the additions along Rowe Street completed in 1933. The architects of the original building of 1916 were John and Hewald Kirkpatrick.

Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936

Architect Emil Sodersten's very contemporary design for the Australia Hotel addition (19 Martin Place) of 1932 demolished the Savings Bank.<sup>22</sup> Sodersten's building was the first to break the pattern of the walled treatment to Martin Place with its deep recessed centre in the upper floors.

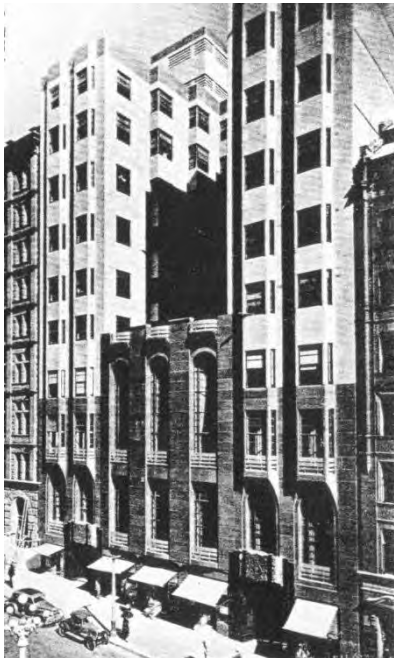
The Prudential Assurance Company Ltd. building sited opposite (37-51 Martin Place) was erected sometime later, in 1939, and was redeveloped in 1972.

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<sup>22</sup> Sully, M., 'A Guide to the Archival Records of Stuart Bros.,' 1988, Student Thesis, Sydney University



- 18 The former Commercial Travellers' Club at 35 Martin Place. Erected in 1908 to the design of architects Robertson and Marks, demolished in the early 1970s for the MLC Centre.  
Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936



- 19 The former Australia Hotel at 19 Martin Place. Erected in 1932 to the design of architect Emil Sodersteen, demolished in the early 1970s for the MLC Centre. The guestrooms on the upper floors were naturally lit by the recessed north facing light well. The street level continued the pattern set by its predecessors. This development necessitated demolition of H E Ross's Government Savings Bank that had been erected as recently as 1909.  
Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936

Comparatively little has been written of the development along the northern side of this section of Martin Place in this era, and contemporary photographs emphasized views of the southern side inclusive of the GPO. The principal buildings appear to have comprised the corner sites of which only one survives, the former Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Society building (38 Martin Place) at the corner of Castlereagh Street, erected in 1938 (Bates Smart & McCutcheon, architects). The now demolished building on the Pitt Street corner was the English, Scottish and Australian Bank (previously London Bank of Australasia) (18 Martin Place) erected in 1917 to the design of architects Robertson and Marks.<sup>23</sup> However, the principal building of the 1920s development that survived the 1970s development boom is the massive former State Savings Bank (48 Martin Place, Ross and Rowe, architects) completed in 1928, sited between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Streets. The neo-classicism of the building draws directly from contemporary architectural developments in America.



- 20 The former English, Scottish and Australian Bank (originally London Bank of Australia) at 18 Martin Place. Erected in 1917 to the design of architects Robertson and Marks, demolished in the early 1970s for the new ANZ Bank head office. An early example of the Commercial Palazzo style of architecture.

Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936

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23 Sydney City Council BA 366/17



- 21 A mid 1930s photograph of the Government Savings Bank at 48 Martin Place was completed in 1928. The architects were H E Ross & Rowe. H E Ross had designed the first Government Savings Bank building at 19-23 Martin Place in 1909; it was demolished in the 1930s to make way for Sodersteen's addition to the Australia Hotel, which in turn was demolished in the 1970s for Harry Seidler's magnum opus.

Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936

These sites are located within the eastern extension of Martin Place (east of Castlereagh Street) created by the City Council with the area resumed at the beginning of 1926. One of the reasons behind this extension was the plan to create a new high status office precinct.<sup>24</sup> The desired built environment of the new section was of paramount concern to the Town Planning Association which advised the Council of its view on the need for strict building controls to ensure uniformity of building height and set back and, interestingly, ensure new buildings should have splayed or rounded corners and in other respects conform to established design principles.<sup>25</sup>

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24 Webber, G. P. (ed.), *The design of Sydney: three decades of change in the city centre*, Sydney, Law Book, 1988, p79

25 *ibid.*, p. 80



The residual land left over from the forming of the street was auctioned over 1935 and again in September 1936. The land release potentially provided the opportunity for a spate of like development but the auction was received poorly owing to the economy. Two buildings were subsequently erected over 1936/7 addressing each other across Martin Place between Phillip and Elizabeth Streets, the Australian Provincial Assurance Association (53 Martin Place, David W. King, architect) and the demolished Rural Bank of New South Wales Ltd. (52 Martin Place). The predominant architectural expression of these 1930s developments was Art Deco, a style that was also taken up for the remodelling of Challis House in 1936 (Hennessy and Hennessy, architects). The blocks east of Phillip Street did not sell and were not developed until the 1960s.



- 22 The architect's model of the Australian Provincial Assurance Association building at 53 Martin Place. Completed in 1937 to the design of architect David W. King.

Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936



- 23 The architect's model of the Rural Bank building at 52 Martin Place. Erected in 1937 and demolished in the early 1980s for the State Bank.

Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936

### 3.4 Post War Modernity

In the next generation of mass redevelopment the character of the Martin Place streetscape was broken east of Pitt Street as the optimism of the era combined with advances in building technology and relaxation from 1957 in the statutory 150 feet building height limit. In the 1960s came taller buildings and grandiose civic statements. The MLC development broke the closed walled canyon of the precinct and the new banking headquarters of the ANZ Bank (18-30 Martin Place) of 1972 changed both the street level interface and broke through the height limitation at this end of the precinct. However the paired development of the eastern terminus of Martin Place shared a common use (banking), scale (office towers taking up the whole block on each side of Martin Place), and age (the Reserve Bank (65 Martin Place) was opened in 1964 and the Bank of New South Wales (60 Martin Place) is a near contemporary in opening in 1971).

These developments were undertaken at the time of the debate about creating Martin Place as a pedestrian area for the 'people' of Sydney and the debate on the role of the 'developers' of Sydney in bringing down the old buildings of Martin Place. While the National Trust supported the first stage of the pedestrian plaza,<sup>26</sup> by the early 1970s alarm bells were ringing about the pace of the proposed new development. In mid 1972 the Trust notified its members over the proposed demolition of the Theatre Royal for the MLC development and the Council approved development application to demolish the length of the north side of Martin Place between Pitt and George Street for four office towers.<sup>27</sup> The Theatre Royal was lost as was the Australia Hotel and Commercial Traveller's Club, while a compromise was reached over the Pitt and George Streets development in retention of all buildings except the façade of the CML building at the Pitt Street corner. The integrity of GPO precinct no doubt survived this wave of development owing to the prior acknowledgement by the City Council that the section of Martin Place inclusive of the GPO, 350 George Street, 2 Martin Place and 14 Martin Place was one of eight major historic areas in the City listed in its *Strategic Plan* of 1971.<sup>28</sup>

Debate about the built heritage of Martin Place was revived in the early 1980s by the proposal to demolish the Rural Bank building. While the building was demolished to make way for the State Bank headquarters, the action prompted the commissioning of an urban design study, at the instigation of the then Department of Planning, the Heritage Council and the City Council, to attempt, perhaps belated, to control development of Martin Place. The study again emphasized the importance of the western end of the precinct over others *'with the view down Martin Place with the GPO clock tower (being) a cherished Sydney view that would not be the same either visually or emotionally if any of the elements were changed'*.<sup>29</sup> The study could be considered a success for in the GPO re-development in the 1990s the new tower behind Barnet's edifice was so designed to ensure the clock tower continued to be seen in silhouette. With the Rural Bank site the new tower was set back from Martin Place behind a lower building of arguably comparable massing and scale to the one it replaced.

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26 National Trust Bulletin, December 1968

27 National Trust Bulletin, July 1972

28 *ibid*

29 Webber, *op cit*, p.91



24 Martin Place, 1960s, looking west with the silhouetted of the clock tower of the GPO.  
Source: Bremer, S., A pictorial record of city life in Australia, Bullion Books, Silverwater, 1983

### 3.5 The Plaza

From the outset the Martin Place precinct was unusual in CBD in its special provisions for pedestrians and uniformity at street level. In the original planning of Martin Place at the front of the GPO generous paved pedestrian areas, 18 feet wide, were dedicated separated by a roadway 64 feet wide. A network of ornate lamp standards was also installed. The width of the roadway allowed in later years the comfortable insertion of Sir Bertram Mackennal's Cenotaph in 1926. Over the following decades few changes appear to have been made aside from alterations for modern traffic control, and planting of shade streets sometime in the 1950s.

The full pedestrianisation of Martin Place was undertaken in the following stages:

- George Street and Pitt Street - 1970/71
- Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street - 1976
- Castlereagh Street and Phillip Street - 1977
- Phillip Street and Macquarie Street -1977

A detailed description of the process inclusive of the political machinations at both state and local levels of government has been provided by Don Gazzard.<sup>30</sup> Gazzard also noted the want of pedestrian spaces in the CBD in the 1960s and the relationship between the success of the first stage of the transformation of Martin Place and Council's *Strategic Plan* of 1971.

While the nineteenth century planning of the City ensured public parks were dedicated for the use of the people, the concept of a 'hard surfaced' urban space was introduced into the CBD with the Australia Square development in the late 1960s. This was a private development that opened up a precinct to the public inclusive of seating, restaurants and civic art in the form of a fountain. Aside from Australia Square, however, there was little in the way of precedent to inform the redesign of Martin Place. The original layout emphasized curvilinear forms in the seating, amphitheatre, fountains, and stepped approaches. The original colour of the paving materials was a pinkish shade to complement the sandstone facade of the GPO.

Aside from the GPO and Cenotaph nexus, each section of Martin Place was filled with eye catching built elements including two substantial fountains and the Bert Flugelman stainless steel column. A street market was trailed and a large restaurant was proposed.<sup>31</sup> Subsequent events have shown the first attempt at the urban design of Martin Place was not entirely successful for very little of what was implemented by the mid 1970s remains today following the City Council's comprehensive redesign of its public spaces in preparation for the Olympic Games in 2000.

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30 Webber, op cit, p.83

31 Webber, op cit, p. 88



- 25 The transformation of Martin Place from a public road to a pedestrian plaza is illustrated in these photographs of 1965 and 1979.

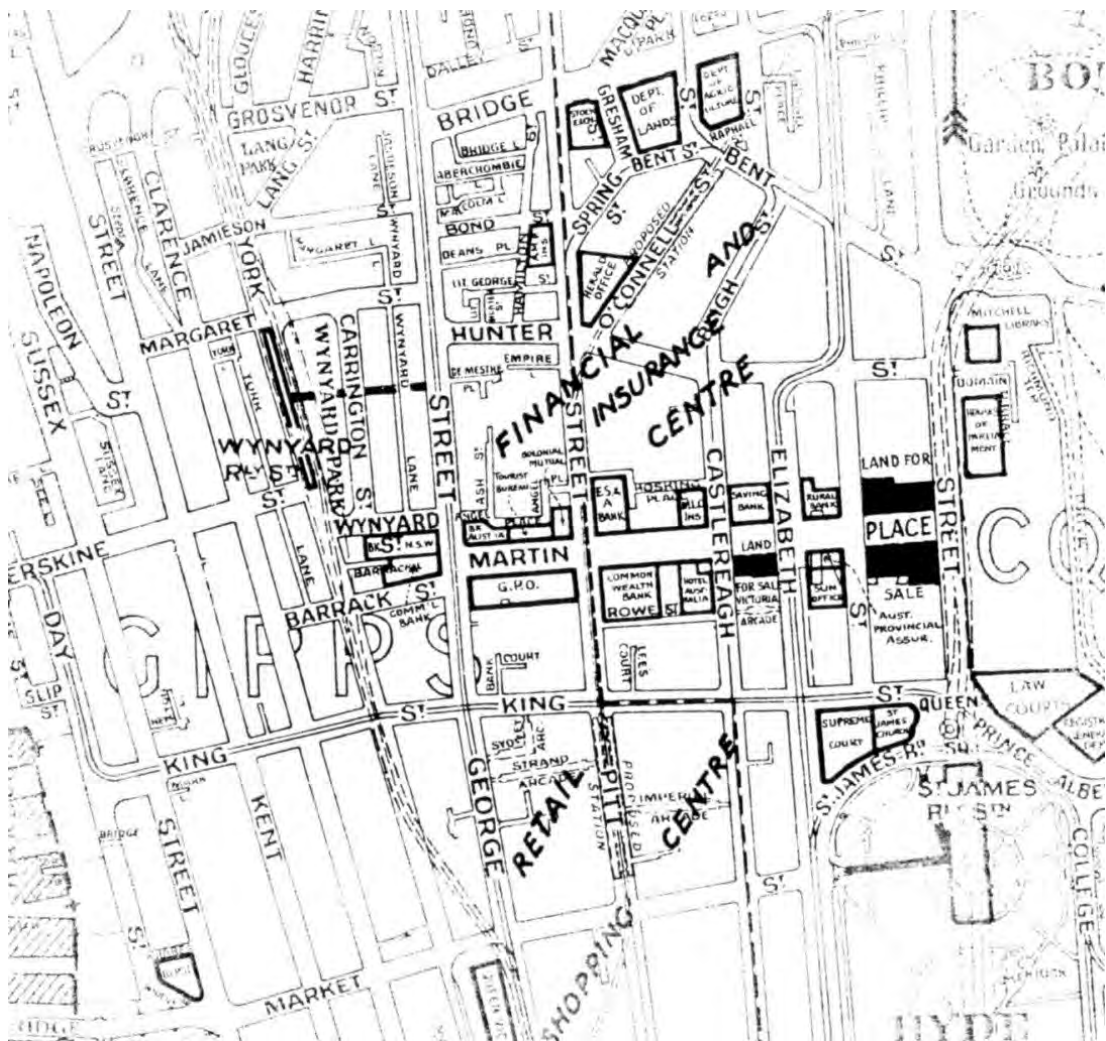
Source: Webber, G. P. (ed.), *The design of Sydney: three decades of change in the city centre*, Sydney, Law Book, 1988



## 4 COMMERCIAL WORLDS

### 4.1 Background

With the development of commercial activities in the penal colony under Lachlan Macquarie's tenure as governor, the southern and northern fringes of the town developed as the principal locales for private business concerns. The northern end was the traditional portside area and developments here were initially confined to the Rocks area. The impetus for commercial development in the southern fringe was the new town market and market wharf on Darling Harbour with the intersection of George and Market Streets being the focus of this development. Pitt and George Streets were the principal thoroughfares connecting these two centres of business.



- 26 The concentration of financial and insurance offices in the City around Martin Place is highlighted in this locality plan accompanying a promotional booklet prepared for the sale of the eastern precinct of Martin Place in the mid 1930s.

Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936

## 4.2 The Royal Exchange

As the economic fortunes of the colony progressed in the pastoral boom of the 1830s and the gold rush of the 1850s and 1860s the centre of the central business district contracted to the area bounded by King and Bridge Streets, with the northern fringe around the Quay being developed for large wool stores.

Within this area, along Pitt Street there was a concentration of financial institutions and mercantile houses that offered a mixture of warehousing and office space. While the Quay dealt with the ships and transportation of goods, in the offices of Pitt Street the companies dealt in life and general, especially shipping, insurance, or were general goods importers, shipping agents, and wool brokers. The major mercantile premises along Pitt Street were mainly developed from around 1870 and included Vickery's Chambers (72-84 Pitt Street, c.1871, demolished), Hoffnung & Co. (117 Pitt Street, 1870, demolished), and Dalton Brothers (115 Pitt Street, 1877, demolished). Vickery's Chambers were so impressive that the City Council assessor was moved to record on viewing them *this is the finest range of buildings in the City and includes in Vickery's assessment the suite of offices & extensive stores at the rear*.<sup>32</sup>

At the centre of the financial district of Pitt Street was the Exchange (later Royal Exchange) at the corner of Bridge and Pitt Streets. Formed in 1851 to provide facilities for the city's mercantile community, the Exchange building was completed in 1857. Mainly used for wool auctions from 1864 by a consortium led by Mort & Co., the Exchange had the colony's first electric telegraph service and telephone service.<sup>33</sup> It was in the Royal Exchange that the first Sydney Stock Exchange was located between 1872 and 1896 before relocating for a brief span of five years to the Mutual Life Insurance Co.'s building at the corner of Pitt Street and Martin Place. A more permanent home was settled on in 1901 at 113 Pitt Street, between Martin Place and Hunter Street.<sup>34</sup>

## 4.3 Insurance Companies

Of the insurance companies the Australian Mutual Provident Society, Australia's oldest founded in 1848, moved to Pitt Street in 1851 and remained there until the early 1960s. The extensive number of insurance offices located here included North British & Mercantile, Liverpool & London & Globe among the many.

With the opening of Martin Place between Pitt Street and George Street from 1891 the area around the new precinct was rapidly colonized by American insurance companies specializing in life insurance. The first of these, near the George Street end of Martin Place, was the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the USA (348-352 George) completed in 1892. The Mutual Life Insurance Co. of New York's premises on the corner of Pitt Street and Martin Place (14-16) followed from 1892. These were large scale, high quality developments that introduced a 'modern' architectural styling popular in America that had not been seen before in a city commercial development. They set a trend that continued into the twentieth century for prestigious insurance office developments such the Mutual Life Colonial Assurance building at the corner of Castlereagh Street and Martin Place (38-46) and the Australian Provincial Assurance Association's building at 53 Martin Place as discussed above.

In the post Second World War boom the insurance companies generally developed new offices along and around Bridge Street and the area north up to the Quay – the new AMP building in Alfred Street being the

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<sup>32</sup> City Council Bourke Ward Rate Valuation Book 1871 entry 329

<sup>33</sup> Geeves, P., *Cazneaux's Sydney 1904-1934*, David Ell Press, Sydney, 1980, p.120

<sup>34</sup> Salsbury, S. and K. Sweeney, *The Bull, the Bear & the Kangaroo*, Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1988, passim

best and now oldest standing example. In Martin Place in the early 1970s the insurance companies completed the Prudential building (37-51) in 1972 and the MLC Centre (19-35) in 1978.

#### 4.4 Banks

The resumption to make Martin Place resulted in the completion in 1904 of the Bank of Australasia's premises at the corner of George Street and Martin Place (2). The Bank of Australasia was (it merged in 1951 to form the ANZ) one of Australia's oldest commercial banks being founded in 1835 in premises at the corner of George and Jamison Streets. The first bank to relocate to George Street was the colony's oldest, the Bank of New South Wales, which moved in 1822 from its original premises of 1817 located at Macquarie Place, then near the original shoreline of Sydney Cove. In 1853 the bank moved again further along the street to its longstanding headquarters at 341 George Street.

With the maturing of the financial sector over the 1830s the newly formed commercial banks established their offices along George Street and Pitt Street around the Hunter/King Streets nexus. The London based banks were equally distributed across this area with the Union Bank (1837) on Pitt Street, the English, Scottish and Australian Bank (1857) near the GPO on King Street and the other two (Bank of Australia (1833) and the aforementioned Bank of Australasia (1835)) further north along George Street at the northern fringe of the military barracks. The colonial banks clustered around the Bank of New South Wales on George Street; the Australia Savings Bank in 1833 in Barrack Street, the Commercial Bank in 1835, and later the Australian Joint Stock Bank in 1855. The impetus for the coming of these commercial banks to George Street was probably the relocation in 1829 of the colony's principal post office (the GPO site) and its central location between the mercantile district to the north and the emerging retailing area to the south, although other factors may have been involved initially such as the security offered by the military barracks on George Street north of Barrack Street and the police office established in 1812 on George Street opposite Barrack Street (the GPO site).<sup>35</sup>

The Bank of Australasia's new premises at 2 Martin Place in 1904 was the first of a spate of new head office bank developments along and around Martin Place undertaken in the new century. Most of these developments were completed during the 1920s boom when the financial institutions were flush with funds by raising the capital to fund new industrial and manufacturing enterprises as well as supplying both state and federal governments with money to fund massive public works programs. The city's underground railway, electricity supply, water reservoirs, and public schools for example were either initially developed or expanded in this era.<sup>36</sup> Most of these bank buildings survive today, although the bank corporation in most instances has moved on.

Within the GPO the Savings Bank, established in 1871) maintained its large banking chamber in the Pitt Street extension completed in 1887. To the east of the GPO in later years came other government owned banks. The first was the New South Wales Government Savings Bank at 9-11 Martin Place opened around 1909. This bank had been formed in 1907 to absorb the banks established through the aforementioned (N.S.W.) Post Office in 1871. Commonwealth Bank of Australia was the second in establishing its Sydney office at the corner of Pitt Street (108) and Martin Place across the road from the

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35 The role of the police office in the early colonial as defined by the *Police Regulations of 1811* was associated with the district watch house and constables charged with the detection of idle, disorderly or suspicious persons, and provision of night patrols with constables empowered to apprehend any suspicious person on the streets after 9pm

36 Salsbury, op cit., p. 245

GPO and a few buildings down from the Government Savings Bank. Its building was completed in 1916 and extended towards Rowe Street in 1933 as the role of the Bank expanded to take on the functions of a central bank. The Bank had been established in 1911 by the *Commonwealth Bank Act* and the first branch opened in Collins Street, Melbourne the following year. The Sydney office was the Bank's first purpose built headquarters and the building is familiar to generations of Australians through the Bank's iconic tin moneybox.

In 1990 the Bank's headquarters were relocated to nearby 48 Martin Place, which had been built in 1928 for the Government Savings Bank. At the outset of the Depression, in 1931, the savings bank business of the Savings Bank and the current account and fixed deposit business of the bank's Rural Bank department were amalgamated into the operations of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia to make the CBA the largest savings institution then in Australia; 48 Martin Place being the savings branch. The remainder of the Rural bank department's business was transferred to the Rural Bank of New South Wales in 1932, which opened its new headquarters in 1937 in the neighbouring block on Martin Place. The Rural Bank had been established in 1921 to provide greater financial assistance to primary producers and promote rural development and settlement in general. The Bank was reconstituted as the State Bank of New South Wales in 1981.

At the western fringe of Martin Place on George Street the long established commercial banks of the Bank of New South Wales (341 George Street) and its rival the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney (343 George Street) rebuilt their premises over the 1920s. The first was the CBC which took five years to complete between 1920 and 1925, while the Bank of New South Wales was redeveloped over 1928-1931.

While the economic downturn of the 1930s and war and austerity of the 1940s effectively stopped further physical development of the financial institutions in the CBD, the mid 1950s heralded the beginning of a boom that was not to end until the early 1970s and it is in this period that a further three new bank buildings were completed in Martin Place, and a fourth extended, the Martin Place addition to the Commonwealth Bank in 1968. With the removal in 1957 of the 150 feet building height restriction, this generation of bank premises are multi-storey extending upward of 20 plus floors. The first of the new bank buildings was the Reserve Bank of Australia building (65 Martin Place) completed in 1964 but under design since the late 1950s. The Bank of New South Wales building sited opposite (60 Martin Place) followed in 1971. Both the Bank of New South Wales and Reserve Bank buildings are located at the eastern fringe of Martin Place, which had awaited redevelopment since the City Council's extension of the 1930s. The third new bank building, the ANZ building, was completed in 1972 in the heart of the old commercial precinct of Martin Place at the corner of Pitt Street (96-100). After a hiatus of over a decade, the last new bank in Martin Place building was erected in 1985 for the State Bank. This was a re-development of a site that had housed the Rural Bank headquarters since the 1930s.

#### 4.5 Hotels

While the northern edge of the CBD in the nineteenth century had long offered the leisured, professional and business classes accommodation in private clubs such as the Union Club in Bligh Street or in commercial concerns the economic boom of the 1880s encouraged private investment in large scale hotel premises. The largest and best known of these was the Australia Hotel (also known as Australia Hotel depending on the source) in Castlereagh Street (45) which was completed in 1889 and extended along neighbouring Rowe Street in 1923 and again in 1932 with a frontage to Martin Place (19). This hotel offered generations of Sydneysiders and visitors the full services of a world class luxury hotel. A massive development for its day, it features as a landmark in many historic views of the city.

The prominence of the Australia Hotel in Sydney's commercial life and other attractions such as the original Theatre Royal on King Street encouraged further new hotel developments in the vicinity extending into Martin Place in the Commercial Travellers' Club at the corner of Castlereagh Street and Martin Place and neighbouring the Australia Hotel. It was completed in 1908. The Carlton Hotel opposite to the Australia Hotel in Castlereagh Street (44) was another early hotel of the same era.

## 5 THE PEOPLES' PROMENADE

### 5.1 Introduction

Initially proposed in the 1870s, realized in the 1890s and extended by the 1930s Martin Place holds a special place in the hearts of Sydneysiders past and present. It has been described as the 'People's Promenade',<sup>37</sup> Sydney's 'Trafalgar Square,' a 'Place for pomp and a Place for people',<sup>38</sup> and the 'principal street' in Sydney.<sup>39</sup> Its commemorative heart is the Cenotaph but the historic heart must surely be Barnet's GPO edifice.

### 5.2 A Place to Meet

Prior to the coming of telecommunications, the mail service was the principal source of news and communication. The historic importance of mail in Australia results from the distance from relatives, business associates and government in England and indeed everywhere else in the world. At the hub of the postal network was the GPO on George Street and since the 1830s it was here people met in the course of the business day.

The railway booking office sited for some years during the late nineteenth century on George Street across the lane in front of the GPO also provided further impetus for the public to frequent the area. With the building of Challis House in 1907, the booking office was relocated to its ground floor where the government's tourist bureau was also sited. Over the following decades, Martin Place became the centre in the City for tourist bureaus inclusive of the Tasmanian and Queensland government offices and Thomas Cook's local branch.<sup>40</sup>

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37 Webber, op cit, p. 71

38 Brodsky, I., *The Streets of Sydney*, Old Sydney Free Press, 1962, p.73

39 Lee, W., 'Martin Place, Sydney', in *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Australian Historical Society*, Vol. 13, 1927, p.1

40 Sydney City Council, *Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney*, 1936





- 27 The daily hustle and bustle of life around the GPO precinct is captured in this sketch of 1878 in *The Illustrated Sydney News* captioned 'European Mail Day'. The drawing shows the original George Street section of James Barnet's GPO with the banks on George Street in the background. At this time Martin Place did not exist, the public right of way being a narrow laneway. These conditions continued for another fourteen years.

Source: *The Illustrated Sydney News*, 23 February 1878



- 28 Challis House in Martin Place housed for many years the government's tourist bureau. In this photograph of the 1920s expectant travellers await the arrival of their bus to take them to the Jenolan Caves.

Source: State Library PICMAN Image GPO Disk 1 – 17810



29 The daily hustle and bustle of life around the GPO in the 1910s.

Source: Bremer, S., *A pictorial record of city life in Australia*, Bullion Books, Silverwater, 1983

### 5.3 A Place of Government

While the state's parliamentarians and bureaucracies clustered along Macquarie Street and Bridge Street, Martin Place from Federation has been closely associated with the government of the Commonwealth of Australia. At the heart of this was the GPO, the control of postal, telegraphic and telephonic services being transferred to the new federal government in 1901. In 1966, at the dawn of the new telecommunications age, the Commonwealth's new statutory communications authority, the Overseas Telecommunications Commission, erected their headquarters at 32-36 Martin Place. In finance, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's head office was set up on the Pitt Street end of Martin Place in 1916 while the Reserve Bank's new premises were completed in 1964 at the opposite end of Martin Place following the enabling legislation of 1959 to separate the Reserve Bank from the Commonwealth Bank. The cabinet and the prime minister until the early 1970s used the Commonwealth Government Offices of the Commonwealth Bank at 120 Pitt Street when visiting Sydney. The practice ceased owing to the inherent difficulties of parking official cars once Martin Place had been pedestrianised.<sup>41</sup> In the Second World War, the APA building (53 Martin Place) was reserved entirely for the Department of Manpower and Industry.

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<sup>41</sup> op cit, Webber 1988, p.86

#### 5.4 A Place of Ceremony

The forming of Martin Place between Pitt and George Streets took place around the time of the centenary of European settlement, but in being completed in 1891, came too late for celebration of that event. In the new century Martin Place (in the region of the GPO) played a central role in commemorating national events that was second to none in the City. It started with Federation in 1901 and the passing of a grand parade through a specially festooned avenue. Later in this year a colonnaded court, the Court of Empire, was erected to greet royal visitors. In these celebrations the association between the British Empire and Australia was emphasized and Martin Place was set firmly at the symbolic centre of the State's allegiance to the Empire. On the outbreak of the first major conflict to confront the nation with the war in Europe in 1914, it was Martin Place where the recruiting station was opened and with the passing of war and coming of commemoration of this national tragedy it was here that the Cenotaph was placed. The Cenotaph provides the focus for ongoing commemoration of Armistice Day, Anzac Day and like events held in memory of specific battles. It is a precinct held dear by the RSL and others. As the *Sydney Morning Herald* wrote in 1927: *As long as history lasts, Martin Place will be associated in the minds of the people of New South Wales with (World War I) and the part played in it by New South Welshmen ....*<sup>42</sup>

Martin Place has also played a role in celebrating royal and gala events and a place to congregate at times of national crises and celebrations. It has witnessed the celebration of the visit of the American Fleet in 1908, the Coronation of George V, the end of the Second World War and countless other events. Ironically, the pedestrianisation of the precinct has largely seen an end to such large scale festivities.



- 30 The formality of the decorations installed in Martin Place in front of the GPO in 1901 to receive the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall set the tone for similar celebrations over the following decades.  
Source: Collis, I., *Sydney from settlement to the bridge*, New Holland Publishers, Frenchs Forest, 2007

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42 Lee, op cit, p.1



31 Anzac Day March in the 1920s.

Source: Collis, I., *Sydney from settlement to the bridge*, New Holland Publishers, Frenchs Forest, 2007



32 A recruitment drive in 1916 in Martin Place for the Great War. The recruiting hut in front of the GPO (now Cenotaph site) is shown in the foreground.

Source: Collis, I., *Sydney from settlement to the bridge*, New Holland Publishers, Frenchs Forest, 2007



- 33 Crowds disperse in Martin Place after the VE Day (Victory in Europe) celebrations of 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945 which officially marked the end of hostilities in Europe.

Source: Bridges, P., *The City's centrepiece: the history of the Sydney G.P.O.*, Sydney. Hale & Iremonger, 1988

## 5.5 A Place of Character

As the GPO and neighbouring financial institutions drew city crowds, Martin Place quickly drew the attention of the city's flower sellers and newsboys setting in place a Sydney tradition that lasted over generations. However, other traditions and associations have passed into distant memory and now are only recalled through an old photograph or written commentary such as Isadore Brodsky's 1962 account of Martin Place which grouped within the one paragraph Billy Hughes, A.D. Kay, Chidley, and Jim Tyrell, names familiar and others now largely forgotten, in trying to explain to his readers the character of the place.<sup>43</sup> Others continue such as the annual Christmas festivities and tree.

Capturing the 'character' of Martin Place has also taxed the abilities of professional and amateur photographers for generations. Any published photographic study of Sydney will invariably include one of Martin Place. While the professional Victorian photographers were concerned about providing accurate representations of public edifices such as the GPO, the early and mid twentieth century photographers such as Harold Cazneaux and Frank Hurley caught the hustle and bustle and intimacies of the precinct in passing office workers, flower sellers, newsboys, cab operators, etc. The area remains the haunt of amateur photographers.

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<sup>43</sup> Brodsky, op cit, p.76





34 Martin Place in the early 1950s as photographed by Frank Hurley.  
Source: Hurley, F., *Sydney: A Camera Study*, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1954



35 The flower sellers of Martin Place in front of the GPO. A photograph evocative of the Edwardian era by Harold Cazneaux.  
Source: Geeves, P., *Cazneaux's Sydney 1904-1934*, David Ell Press, Sydney, 1980

## 5.6 A Place for Pedestrians

The original intention behind Martin Place was to create a pedestrian plaza for the GPO with a combined footway width of 62 feet and a narrow roadway of 38 feet.<sup>44</sup> The pedestrian precinct that is Martin Place today was created between 1968 and 1977 largely at the instigation of architect Don Gazzard with the political backing of the Civic Reform party.<sup>45</sup> Artist Lloyd Rees also played an important role in seeing the project through to implementation. In the interim other proposals for this public precinct have been raised and ultimately rejected. The proposals invariably centred on the eastern terminus of Martin Place.

The first proposal, in 1920, was a collaborative effort between the local council and state government to resume the then developed area west of Castlereagh Street to provide a 250 feet sided civic square between Phillip and Macquarie Streets with an Anzac Memorial at its centre of sufficient stature and bulk to terminate the vista east from the GPO.<sup>46</sup> While the question of the 'Anzac' Memorial was resolved in C. Bruce Dellit's monument in Hyde Park, the proposal for the civic square continued to be pursued well into the mid-1930s by influential planners and architects such as Sir John Sulman, Leslie Wilkinson and Florence Taylor.<sup>47</sup> It is also evident the association between the eastern end of Martin Place and the RSL with its interest in the war memorial continued into the immediate post Second World War era as the site of the Westpac office tower was originally intended to be the post WWII headquarters of the RSL in New South Wales.<sup>48</sup>



- 36 An early proposal for the eastern end of Martin Place was for a civic square opening onto Macquarie Street. In the original scheme an Anzac Memorial was proposed. This sketch perspective was prepared by proponent of this scheme, architect John Kirkpatrick in 1920. Kirkpatrick had designed the Commonwealth Bank building at 108 Pitt Street some eight years earlier.

Source: Irwin, E., *Sydney as it might have been. Dreams that died on the drawing board*, Alpha Books, Sydney

44 Webber, op cit, p 74

45 Webber, op cit, p.82

46 Irwin, E., *Sydney as it might have been. Dreams that died on the drawing board*, Alpha Books, Sydney, p. 118

47 Webber, op cit, p. 80 and Peter Romey, 'APA Building, '53 Martin Place, Sydney: conservation plan,' March 1990, p.23

48 Taylor, J., *Tall Buildings Australian Business Going Up: 1945-1970*, Craftsman House, 2001, p.153

## 6 ROWE STREET

The precinct around the Rowe Street and Pitt Street intersection has substantially evolved over time, with large scale buildings for the Commonwealth Bank (1933) and the Australia Hotel (1898) progressively constructed on the northern side of Rowe Street in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Although the primary views of 108-120 Pitt Street are from Martin Place where its Palazzo form can be fully appreciated, the building was designed to command three street frontages, as was typical of many of the Martin Place palazzos. The early photos of this precinct also indicate the canyon like quality of Rowe Street.



- 37 Looking south east along Pitt Street from near the corner of Martin Place (late 1920s?). View showing buildings about to be demolished for proposed Commonwealth Bank building. Millions House (122 Pitt St) is at right on corner of Rowe Street.

Source: Sydney Reference Collection, City of Sydney Archives, 025\025990, SRC487. Originally part of CRS 44/256.



- 38 Looking East along Rowe Street from Pitt Street towards Castlereagh Street (May 1929). View taken before road reconstruction resurfacing, showing the Mercantile Mutual building on the left that was later demolished in 1930 to make way for the construction of 108-120 Pitt St. On the right is Millions House (122 Pitt St). Note the pedestrians and shoppers.  
Source: Sydney Reference Collection, City of Sydney Archives, 037\037866, SRC11467.



- 39 A wider view of the buildings flanking the Rowe and Pitt Street intersection, looking East along Rowe Street from Pitt Street towards Castlereagh Street (May 1929). Mercantile Mutual building on the left, Millions House (122 Pitt St) on the right. Rowe Street is in full shadow, in contrast to the sunlit Pitt Street in the foreground and the building on Castlereagh Street at the East end.  
Source: Sydney Reference Collection, City of Sydney Archives, 037\037869, SRC11467.



- 40 Australia Hotel from Castlereagh Street (1908). The head of Rowe Street is visible south of the Australia Hotel. The Victorian terraces on the corner with Moore Street have been demolished for the construction of the Commercial Travellers Club.  
Source: Picman Frame order no. : GPO 1 – 11265

## 7 TIMELINE OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARTIN PLACE

1788	Founding of European settlement of Australia at Sydney Cove at the mouth of the Tank Stream.
1812	Opening of the town's Police Office on George Street (the GPO site)
1829	Opening of the town's Post Office within the former Police Office building.
1851	Discovery of gold in New South Wales and the beginning of the Gold Rush
1853	Bank of New South Wales moves to 341 George Street.
1856	Beginning of self-government in New South Wales.
1874	Opening of the George Street end of the James Barnet designed GPO. A narrow laneway established along the northern face of the new building between George and Pitt Streets.





- 41 View of George Street looking north from the corner of King Street in the late 1850s. The porticoed building is the Post Office.  
Source: Groom, B and W Wickman, *Sydney – the 1850s, the lost collection*, Southwood Press, 1982



- 42 The first stage of the Post Office was opened in August 1874.  
Source: Bridges, P and D McDonald, James Barnett, colonial architect, Hale & Iremonger, Sydney, 1988, p.66



- 43 An artist's impression of the Great Fire of Sydney of 1890.  
Source: Adrian, C. Fighting Fire: a century of service, George Allen & Unwin, Sydney, 1984



- 44 The GPO and the site of the Commonwealth Bank in 1891.  
Source: State Library NSW – Small Picture File – Sydney Streets – Martin Place

1887	Opening of the Pitt Street end of the James Barnet designed GPO
1889	Passing of the General Post Office (Approaches Improvement) Act to form Martin Place between George and Pitt Streets.
1890	The 'Great Fire' of Sydney and the destruction of premises along the north side of Moore Street between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets
1891	Formation of Martin Place between George and Pitt Street.
	Formation of Martin Place (then known as Moore Street between Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street).
	Formation of Martin Place (then known as Moore Street between Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street).



- 45 The official photographers of the late- Victorian era went to extraordinary lengths to faithfully record the 'progress' embodied in completing the magnificent GPO building and its new street (Martin Place) setting. A photograph of around 1891 taken evidently from the roof of a building in George Street.

Source: State Library NSW PICMAN Image GPO Disk 1 – 08051



- 46 The widening of Moore Street in 1892. The buildings in a state of dereliction were destroyed by fire in 1890.

Source: Collis I, Sydney from Settlement to the Bridge, New Holland Publishers, Sydney, 2007

- 
- 1892 Passing of the Moore Street Improvement Act in 1891 to reform Moore Street between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets. In 1921, Moore Street was also named Martin Place.

Opening of the Mutual Life Assurance Office at 14 Martin Place in 1892

- 
- 1901 Ongoing Federation celebrations in Martin Place

- 
- 1904 Opening of the Bank of Australasia's new premises at 2 Martin Place

- 
- 1907 Opening of Challis House at 4 Martin Place

- 
- 1914 Outbreak of war in Europe and setting up of a recruitment station in Martin Place.

- 
- 1916 Opening of the Commonwealth Bank on Pitt Street
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- 47 The formality of the decorations installed in Martin Place in front of the GPO in 1901 to receive the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall set the tone for similar celebration over the following decades.  
Source Collis I, Sydney from Settlement to the Bridge, New Holland Publishers, Sydney, 2007



- 48 A recruitment drive in 1916 in Martin Place for the Great War. The recruiting hut in front of the GPO (now Cenotaph) is depicted in the background.  
Source: Bridges, P, The City's centrepiece: the history of the Sydney G.P.O., Sydney, Hale & Iremonger, 1988





- 49 The Commonwealth Bank of Australia's bank and head office at 120 Pitt Street in the 1920s. The architects for the building were John and Hewald Kirkpatrick.  
Source: State Library NSW PICMAN Image a116242h

1925	The Commercial Banking Company of Sydney complete additions to 343 George Street
1926	Opening of the Cenotaph  Resumption of properties east of Castlereagh Street for proposed extension of Martin Place to Macquarie Street
1928	Opening of the State Savings Bank at 48 Martin Place in 1928
1931	The Bank of New South Wales redevelopment of 341 George Street completed.
1935	Opening of the Castlereagh / Macquarie Street extension of Martin Place



- 50 The Commonwealth Bank of Australia's bank and head office at 120 Pitt Street in the mid 1930s showing the additions along Rowe Street completed in 1933.  
Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936



51 View of the eastern extension of Martin Place in 1936.  
Source: Sydney City Council, Martin Place, the financial centre of the City of Sydney, 1936



52 The former Australia Hotel at 19 Martin Place. Erected in 1932 to the design of architect Emil Sodersteen, demolished in the early 1970s for the MLC Centre. The guest rooms of the upper floors were naturally lit by the recessed light well. The street level continued the pattern set by its predecessors.  
Source: State Library NSW – Small Picture File – Sydney Streets – Martin Place

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1930-1940	Opening of the Australia Hotel's addition at 19 Martin Place in 1932
	Opening of the Rural Bank building in 1937 (52 Martin Place)
	Opening of the Australian Provincial Assurance Association (53 Martin Place) in 1936
	Opening of the Mutual Life Colonial building at 38 Martin Place in 1938
	Opening of the Prudential Assurance Company Ltd. building at 37-51 Martin Place in 1939

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1971	George Street and Pitt Street section of Martin Place permanently opened as pedestrian precinct.
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1972	Redevelopment of the Pitt Street / Martin Place north –east corner for the ANZ Bank (18 Martin Place) demolishing the former English, Scottish and Australia Bank (1920)
	Redevelopment of the Castlereagh Street / Martin Place south –east corner for the Prudential Assurance Company Ltd. building (37-51 Martin Place)

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53 The remodelling of Martin Place in the early 1970s.  
Source: Sydney City Archives ArchivePix Image 026760



54 The Martin Place Plaza and the MLC building in the 1980s.  
Source: Sydney City Archives ArchivePix Image 026766

1975	<p>Redevelopment of the Castlereagh Street / Martin Place south-east corner for the MLC Centre inclusive of: Demolition of Australia Hotel on Castlereagh Street (1889)</p> <p>Demolition of the Australia Hotel's addition on Martin Place (1932)</p> <p>Demolition of the Commercial Traveller's Club (1908)</p>
1976	<p>Pitt Street and Castlereagh Street section of Martin Place opened as pedestrian precinct.</p> <p>Redevelopment of the Pitt Street / Martin Place north -west corner retaining only the façade of the Colonial Mutual Insurance building</p>
1977	<p>Castlereagh Street and Macquarie Street sections of Martin Place opened as pedestrian precinct.</p>
1979	<p>Opening of the Martin Place railway station</p>
1985	<p>Demolition of the Rural Bank building</p>
2000	<p>Sydney stages the 2000 Olympics and Martin Place is refurbished.</p>



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## **APPENDIX B HERITAGE INVENTORIES**

### **Commonwealth Heritage List**

- The Reserve Bank of Australia

### **State Heritage Register**

- APA Building
- Former MLC Building
- Martin Place Railway Station
- GIO Building
- Commonwealth Bank (Former Government Savings Bank of NSW)
- City Mutual Life Assurance Building
- Former Qantas House

### **City of Sydney LEP Inventories**

- APA Building
- Martin Place
- Martin Place Railway Station
- Richard Johnson Square
- Chifley Square
- 7 Elizabeth Street
- The Reserve Bank of Australia



## Place Details

[Send Feedback](#)

### Reserve Bank, 65 Martin Pl, Sydney, NSW, Australia

#### Photographs



<b>List</b>	Commonwealth Heritage List
<b>Class</b>	Historic
<b>Legal Status</b>	<a href="#">Listed place</a> (22/06/2004)
<b>Place ID</b>	105456
<b>Place File No</b>	1/12/036/0432

#### Summary Statement of Significance

The Reserve Bank building (1964) designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works, Bank and Special Project Section, is highly significant in the development of post World War II multi storey office buildings in Australia. It is a significant example of a 1960s office building notable as being a well designed example of the International style; its construction using high quality Australian materials; steel and concrete construction; and interior design details and artworks. The building's significance has been retained through a major extension (1974-1980), recladding (1993) and internal refitting (Criteria A.4, D.2 & F.1).

The Reserve Bank building is of historical significance in its ability to demonstrate the changing functions and role of the Reserve Bank of Australia, particularly that of the head office, since 1964.

The International style of the building represents the post war cultural shift within the banking industry, away from the traditional architectural emphasis on strength and stability towards a more contemporary and international style (Criterion A.4).

Through its prestigious design and function as Australia's central bank, the building makes an important contribution to the streetscape and character of Martin Place, Macquarie Street and Phillip Street (Criterion E.1).

The two foyer art works are of historical and aesthetic significance. The artworks by Bim Hilder and Margel Hinder are significant examples of Australian modernist sculpture of this period by two significant artists, who were selected as the winners of design competitions by the Reserve Bank. The furnishings by Fred Ward are of historical and aesthetic significance. Designed for the building by Ward, who was one of the leaders in modern Australian industrial design at this time, the furnishings are of a simple and functional design which are now considered to be pieces of art in themselves (Criteria A.4, F. 1 & H.1).

The variety of moveable heritage items located throughout the building including furniture, china, flat wear, silverware, napery and accessories, pottery, tapestry and artworks are significant having been specifically designed or purchased for the building as well as being of artistic merit in their own right (Criterion F.1).

When constructed elements of the mechanical and electrical services within the building were considered advanced and innovative, and although many elements have been removed or substantially altered, their incorporation in the building is still of interest today, this included the fire sprinkler system, smoke detectors and fire alarms; interior and signage lighting; and airconditioning.

The provision of two residential flats, for use by visitors to the bank; squash courts; and firing range were relatively uncommon for the time (all removed 2001). The two doors to the main strongroom were at the time of construction the largest and most technically advanced in the southern hemisphere (Criteria A.4, B.2 & F.1).

The Reserve Bank head office building is associated with successive governors of the Reserve Bank: Dr. H. C. Coombs; J.G. Phillips (KBE); H.M.Knight (KBE DSC); R.A. Johnston (AC); B.W. Fraser and I.J. Macfarlane. The building is also associated with personnel of the Commonwealth Department of Works, Banks and Special Projects branch, responsible for the building's design in particular: C.McGrowther; Profesor H. I Ashworth; C.D. Osborne; R.M. Ure; F.C. Crocker; G. A. Rowe; as well as E.A. Watts (builders for both stages of construction) and Frederick Ward (furniture designer) (Criterion H.1).

The building has social significance being regarded by the Australian community as the home of the Reserve Bank function and the place where significant economic policy is carried out on behalf of the Nation (Criterion G.1).

(Australian Historic Themes: 3.14.2 Using Australian materials in construction; 3.18 Financing Australia; 7 Governing; 8.10.2 Creating visual arts; 8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings)

#### Official Values

**Criterion A Processes**

The Reserve Bank building (1964) designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works, Bank and Special Project Section, is highly significant in the development of post World War II multi storey office buildings in Australia. The building's significance has been retained through a major extension (1974-1980), recladding (1993) and internal refitting. The Reserve Bank building is of historical significance in its ability to demonstrate the changing functions and role of the Reserve Bank of Australia, particularly that of the head office, since 1964. The International style of the building represents the post war cultural shift within the banking industry, away from the traditional architectural emphasis on strength and stability towards a more contemporary and international style.

The two foyer art works are of historical and aesthetic significance. The artworks by Bim Hilder and Margel Hinder are significant examples of Australian modernist sculpture of this period by two significant artists, who were selected as the winners of design competitions by the Reserve Bank. The furnishings by Fred Ward are of historical and aesthetic significance. Designed for the building by Ward, who was one of the leaders in modern Australian industrial design at this time, the furnishings are of a simple and functional design which are now considered to be pieces of art in themselves.

When constructed elements of the mechanical and electrical services within the building were considered advanced and innovative, and although many elements have been removed or substantially altered, their incorporation in the building is still of interest today, this included the fire sprinkler system, smoke detectors and fire alarms; interior and signage lighting; and airconditioning.

The provision of two residential flats, for use by visitors to the bank; squash courts; and firing range were relatively uncommon for the time (all removed 2001). The two doors to the main strongroom were at the time of construction the largest and most technically advanced in the southern hemisphere.

**Attributes**

Original and subsequent fabric that demonstrates continuity of use by the Reserve Bank.

**Criterion B Rarity**

When constructed elements of the mechanical and electrical services within the building were considered advanced and innovative, and although many elements have been removed or substantially altered, their incorporation in the building is still of interest today, this included the fire sprinkler system, smoke detectors and fire alarms; interior and signage lighting; and airconditioning.

The provision of two residential flats, for use by visitors to the bank; squash courts; and firing range were relatively uncommon for the time (all removed 2001).

**Attributes**

Remnant evidence of original services, and remnant evidence of the former residential flats.

**Criterion D Characteristic values**

The Reserve Bank building (1964) designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works, Bank and Special Project Section, is highly significant in the development of post World War II multi storey office buildings in Australia. It is a significant example of a 1960s office building notable as being a well designed example of the International style; its construction using high quality Australian materials; steel and concrete construction; and interior design details and artworks. The building's significance has been retained through a major extension (1974-1980), recladding (1993) and internal refitting

**Attributes**

The architectural attributes that demonstrate the International Style.

**Criterion E Aesthetic characteristics**

Through its prestigious design and function as Australia's central bank, the building makes an important contribution to the streetscape and character of Martin Place, Macquarie Street and Phillip Street.

**Attributes**

The multi-storey form and the quality of external finishes to the building.

**Criterion F Technical achievement**



The Reserve Bank building is highly significant in the development of post World War II multi storey office buildings in Australia for its use of high quality Australian materials; steel and concrete construction; and interior design details and artworks.

The furnishings by Fred Ward are of historical and aesthetic significance. Designed for the building by Ward, who was one of the leaders in modern Australian industrial design at this time, the furnishings are of a simple and functional design which are now considered to be pieces of art in themselves

The variety of moveable heritage items located throughout the building including furniture, china, flat wear, silverware, napery and accessories, pottery, tapestry and artworks are significant having been specifically designed or purchased for the building as well as being of artistic merit in their own right.

When constructed elements of the mechanical and electrical services within the building were considered advanced and innovative, and although many elements have been removed or substantially altered, their incorporation in the building is still of interest today, this included the fire sprinkler system, smoke detectors and fire alarms; interior and signage lighting; and airconditioning.

The two doors to the main strongroom were at the time of construction the largest and most technically advanced in the southern hemisphere

Attributes

Technical aspects of its construction, mechanical and electrical services and strongroom doors, all furnishings and the moveable objects of design listed above.

**Criterion G Social value**

The building has social significance being regarded by the Australian community as the home of the Reserve Bank function and the place where significant economic policy is carried out on behalf of the Nation.

Attributes

Continued use of the building by the Reserve Bank for the above purpose.

**Criterion H Significant people**

The artworks by Bim Hilder and Margel Hinder are significant examples of Australian modernist sculpture of this period by two significant artists, who were selected as the winners of design competitions by the Reserve Bank. The furnishings by Fred Ward are of historical and aesthetic significance. Designed for the building by Ward, who was one of the leaders in modern Australian industrial design at this time, the furnishings are of a simple and functional design which are now considered to be pieces of art in themselves

The Reserve Bank head office building is associated with successive governors of the Reserve Bank: Dr. H. C. Coombs; J.G. Phillips (KBE); H.M.Knight (KBE DSC); R.A. Johnston (AC); B.W. Fraser and I.J. Macfarlane. The building is also associated with personnel of the Commonwealth Department of Works, Banks and Special Projects branch, responsible for the building's design in particular: C.McGrowther; Profesor H. I Ashworth; C.D. Osborne; R.M. Ure; F.C. Crocker; G. A. Rowe; as well as E.A. Watts (builders for both stages of construction) and Frederick Ward (furniture designer).

Attributes

The artworks of Bim and Marget Hinder, evidence of use by successive Governors of the Reserve Bank, and remaining Fred Ward furniture.

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**Description**

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## HISTORY OF THE SITE

Martin Place was originally a small lane called Moore Street which ran between George Street and Pitt Street and was widened into a substantial thoroughfare as part of the setting for the General Post Office in 1891. In 1921, Moore Street was renamed Martin Place. In 1926, the Municipal Council of Sydney purchased a number of properties in Macquarie and Phillip Streets in anticipation of the extension of Martin Place to Macquarie Street, including those properties which would later be demolished for the Reserve Bank head office building. After Martin Place was formed the residential land on either side of the street was auctioned in 1936 however, the properties between Phillip and Macquarie Streets were passed in and did not sell until after WWII. The closure of Martin Place to traffic occurred between 1968 and 1978 and it became a pedestrianised civic plaza.

## HISTORY OF THE RESERVE BANK

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia was established by legislation in 1911. The main functions of the bank were to undertake general banking and savings bank activities. In 1945 the bank's powers were formally widened to include exchange control and the administration of monetary and banking policy with the Commonwealth Bank Act and the Banking Act. The Reserve Bank Act 1959 preserved the original corporate body under the name of the Reserve Bank of Australia to carry on the central banking functions of the Commonwealth Bank, but separated commercial banking and savings banking activities into the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. The Reserve Bank has since then been Australia's central bank with its own Board, Governor and Staff.

The Reserve Bank has two broad responsibilities - monetary policy and the maintenance of financial stability, including the stability of the payments system. The Bank's powers are vested in the Reserve Bank Board and the Payments System Board. In carrying out its responsibilities, the Bank is an active participant in financial markets and the payments system. It is also responsible for the printing and issuing of Australian currency notes. As well as being a policy-making body, the Reserve Bank is a large financial institution which provides selected banking and registry services to Federal and State Government customers and some overseas official institutions. Its assets include Australia's holdings of gold and foreign exchange. The Bank is wholly owned by the Australian Commonwealth Government.

A requirement of the Reserve Bank Act 1959 was that the head office of the bank must not be in the same building as the head office of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (CBA) or any other bank. In line with this requirement, separate buildings were constructed for the state capitals Darwin and Canberra. The Bank is currently comprised of a Head Office, located in Sydney, branches in Adelaide and Canberra, regional offices in Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth and representative offices in London and New York.

## RESERVE BANK SITE

The land on which the Reserve Bank is built, was in the 19th century occupied on by the first Wesleyan Chapel built in 1821 and subsequently used as a Unitarian Chapel in 1850, a Wesleyan School House also built in 1821 and purchased in 1843 by the Roman Catholic Church to be used as a school (demolished c1876). There was also a free standing Georgian house occupied by a solicitor and a Georgian cottage.

By the mid 1870s following the demolition of the church and school a row of three, 3 storey Italianate terrace houses known as "Lucretia Terrace" was erected (c1876). The Georgian house was demolished and two, four storey late Victorian terrace houses were erected (1891). In c1875 the Georgian cottage was demolished and the cottage next door and two, three storey terraces were built, one of these was demolished in 1921 and a three storey brick building known as "Whitehall" was erected on the site.

In 1957, the Director-General of Works (Dr Lodge) suggested to the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank that the site at the top of Martin Place, owned by the City Council would be suitable for the construction of the head office of the Reserve Bank, and it was subsequently purchased for this purpose. The Bank's administrators called for a design for the building which was contemporary and international, to exemplify a post war cultural shift away from an architectural emphasis on strength and stability towards a design that would signify the bank's ability to adapt its policies and techniques to the changing needs of its clientele. Before plans were drawn up representatives of the Reserve Bank and the Commonwealth Department of Works made detailed studies overseas into Reserve Bank planning and organisation.

The Sydney Reserve Bank building was designed by the Commonwealth Department of Works, Bank and Special Project Division (Sydney) in 1959 under the direction of a Design Committee consisting of: C. Mc Growther, Superintendent of Reserve Bank Premises; H.I. Ashworth, Consulting Architect (Sydney University); C.D. Osborne, Director of Architecture Department of Works; R.M. Ure, Chief of Preliminary Planning, Department of Works; F.C. Crocker Architect in charge, Bank Section, Dept. of Works; and G.A. Rowe, Supervising Architect, Bank Section, Dept. of Works. The consulting engineer was D. Rudd and Partners and the builder was E.A. Watts Pty Limited. The site was cleared in 1961 and the building was completed by 1964 ready for occupation in January 1965. It was built to accommodate more than 1850 people at a cost of ten million dollars.

In a press release on the completion of the Reserve Bank headquarters building in Sydney, the then governor, Dr H.C. Coombs highlighted the contemporary design of the building: "The massive walls and pillars used in the past to emphasise the strength and permanence in bank buildings are not seen in the new head office... Here, contemporary design and conceptions express our conviction that a central bank should develop with growing knowledge and a changing institutional structure and adapt its policies and techniques to the changing community within which it works".

The Reserve Bank design is characteristic of buildings of this era on less constrained sites, where the architect utilised the opportunity to define the base from the shaft using a podium. The building was constructed using a steel frame supporting reinforced concrete floor slabs (using lightweight concrete). This was a solution to the need to produce an economical structural system using a combination of steel and concrete.

The materials used in construction of the Reserve Bank were to be of Australian origin and manufacture. Externally, maintenance and durability determined the choice of marble, granite, aluminium and glass. The facade of the tower had the structural and functional columns expressed as vertical Imperial black granite shafts with Wombeyan marble spandrel panels. The white marble faced pre-cast concrete spandrel panels alternated with recessed windows between the granite columns. The 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor perimeter beams were faced with Wombeyan marble with a recessed glazed screen wall to the office areas behind a balcony.

Internally decorative ceilings which emphasised the structural bays appeared in buildings of the 1960s and were used in the Reserve Bank. Impressive aluminium decorative ceiling panels emphasised the structural bays of the ground floor public space and lift lobby. The entry and forecourt were paved in Narranderra Grey marble, marble being the most popular stone throughout this period. The ground floor lift lobby walls and internal walls facing the forecourt were clad in Wombeyan marble. The east and west walls of the entry vestibule were clad in Imperial black granite.

Prestige areas for the conduct of important company business in buildings of this period generally had ceilings treated in the same manner as general office ceilings, the exception being the board rooms and executive areas, as is the case in the Reserve Bank where shallow curved plaster vaults enriched the space. The floor of the board room was paved in Wombeyan white marble. Specially woven heavy duty wool carpet manufactured in Australia was used in the general office and executive areas.

Walls of the period were often timber panelled, in the Reserve Bank special areas had demountable timber panelling in Queensland black bean and Tasmanian blackwood.

The ground floor, and sometimes mezzanine or first floor levels, of many buildings of this period accommodated service based commerce. Often this activity represented a public interface for the owner/occupants of the building. The Reserve Bank was constructed with a four storey podium divided into two upper floors with projecting horizontal fins and two floors of full height recessed glazing to the mezzanine below. This contained the two storey public area and the banking chamber in the mezzanine over. Also included in public areas of a number of office buildings of this period was an auditorium or theatrette, and one was included in the Sydney Reserve Bank.

Also included were two residential flats to accommodate senior executives travelling from interstate, a relatively uncommon feature for office buildings of this period.

The building was the central distribution point for notes and coin for NSW and Papua New Guinea and the basement included the vaults or strongrooms. They were innovative in their use of concrete and metal sheet to create an impenetrable surround for the strong rooms. Also of interest are the metal strong room doors significant for their size and sophistication.

The Reserve Bank was a prestigious and desirable place to work. There was a strong staff hierarchy and senior positions had considerable community status. This status is demonstrated in physical terms by the design of executive and staff areas in the building. In the 1960s the building was known to provide more extensive staff facilities compared with other contemporary buildings. In this building they consisted of the cafeteria, executive and Board dining rooms, the staff lounge, the staff library, a medical suite, squash courts and associated amenities, an auditorium and an observation deck on the 20th level for the use of staff and ex staff. A Firing Range was provided for the training of security guards. The provision of the Squash Courts and the Medical Centre would appear to be uncommon facilities provided in multi storey building of this period.

Care was often taken in selecting finishes to areas of staff relaxation, special ceiling finishes were occasionally applied, such as in the case of the Reserve Bank third floor cafeteria where the ceiling was plaster domes in a square grid. Occasionally stone veneers were applied to the walls of these areas, such as in the staff lounge of the Reserve Bank, where slate was used as the wall finish.

The service areas were designed for ease of cleaning and minimal maintenance with vinyl and ceramic tile finishes popular for both floors and walls. The Reserve Bank used ceramic tiles and vinyl to line the walls of service areas and vaults. The floors of the computer and service areas were of vinyl. The Reserve Bank used Terrazzo as a floor finish in the toilets. Terrazzo was often used in this way in more prestigious 1960s developments.

The Reserve Bank is also notable for the incorporation of a fire sprinkler system, smoke detectors and fire alarms throughout. All working areas of the building were airconditioned, and notably, the ceiling in the cafeteria was perforated to form a ventilated ceiling which acts as a low velocity supply air plenum.

The lighting of the Reserve Bank was also notable. Wall washers were used in the Reserve Bank, where a perimeter strip of recessed fluorescents served to visually detach the ceiling from the wall in the passages and reception area. The opposite effect, that gained by concealing strip fluorescents where they would throw light upwards onto the ceiling, was more uncommon, but was used in the office of the Governor of the Reserve Bank. Recessed down lights, both fluorescent and incandescent, were a popular means of lighting areas such as lift lobbies, passages and other public spaces where a softer light than that provided in the general office areas was appropriate, as was the case in the Reserve Bank. Of note was the use of recessed downlights in the cafeteria, set into the interstices of the square grid formed by the shallow cast plaster domes. The lighting of a decorative ceiling was a further area of exploration by architects and lighting engineers of the period. Usually in the major public area of an office building, elaborate decorative ceilings could be either integrated into the lighting design or the subject of it. The latter was used in the Reserve Bank banking chamber public areas where the lighting is the focus of the decorative ceiling bays. The exterior Reserve Bank emblem was lit by shaped cold cathode tubes which follow the outline of the emblem.

The detailed aesthetic design input into the building extended beyond the building structure and facade treatments and interior design and included ancillary fixtures, fittings and objects for use specifically within the building. These included art works specially commissioned for the public spaces, furniture, china, flat wear, silverware, napery and accessories specifically selected or designed for use within the building. The interior decor and furniture were designed by the Department of Works R. M. Ure and I. Managan, with Frederick Ward, Industrial designer.

Interior furnishings including tables, chairs, couches, credenzas and desks were designed by Fred Ward. Fred Ward (1900-1990) was one of the leaders in modern Australian industrial design of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s. During the 1950s Ward was head of the Australian National University's design department. Around 1961 he resigned from ANU to set up private practice, after being invited by the Reserve Bank Governor Dr H.C. Coombs to undertake the furnishings of several Reserve Bank buildings including Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide and Port Moresby. His furnishings are of a simple and functional design which are now considered to be pieces of art in themselves. Ward also designed the furniture for numerous other important buildings including University House, Canberra, the Academy of Science Building, Canberra and the National Library, Canberra (with Arthur Robinson).

To further enhance the prestige of the building works of art by Australian artists and sculptors were used. Following an Australia wide competition the first prize winners were commissioned to execute their works for the Reserve Bank. The lift foyer features a wall relief by Bim Hilder and the free standing podium sculpture in Martin Place is by Margel Hinder. Both sculptors were actively engaged in the post war period designing works for multi-storied office buildings and there was a high degree of co-operation between the artists and architects at this period. Prestige buildings of this period generally commissioned public art highlighting the high profile of the buildings in company marketing strategies and also possibly arising from benevolent policies of these companies.

Bim (Vernon Arthur) Hilder (1909-1990) trained at the East Sydney Technical college and first exhibited his sculptures in 1945. Hilder had worked as a carpenter for Walter Burley Griffin. His murals were styled "wall enrichments in metal". Aside from the Reserve Bank mural (1962-1964) he also designed the large mural on the facade of the Wagga Wagga Civic Theatre (1963) and a memorial fountain to Walter Burley Griffin in Willoughby City area (1965). His work is represented in the Art Gallery of NSW and the University of New England.

Margel Hinder (1906-1995) was American born moving later to NSW. Along with her husband Frank, they contributed to the development of Modernist Australian art focusing on abstraction. They were contemporaries of the Lewers, Ralph Balson, Yvonne Audette, Carl Plate, and Tony Tuckson. Margel Hinder's work is represented in every major Australian Gallery. Her major commissions include the James Cook Memorial Fountain, Newcastle (1966), Northpoint Tower (1970) (now at Macquarie University, Sydney); Woden City Plaza, Canberra; the Western Assurance Co. Building, Sydney (1960); and the State Office Block, Sydney (demolished). Hinder received an Order of Australia in 1979.

Clay from the excavations for the Bank from its initial construction and c1974 extension was set aside for the production of a series of commemorative hand crafted pots. These were commissioned from Henry A. Le Grand of Canberra, some were purchased by officers of the Bank and the others were used as decorative elements in the executive suites and remain in the building.

A specially woven tapestry, 10ft by 5ft for the Board Room was designed by Margo Lewers and woven in France at the Aubusson workshop in 1968. Entitled "Wide Penetration" the abstract design in blue and yellow was woven in a limited edition of three copies. The tapestry is no longer hung in the Board Room but remains in the Bank's extensive art collection.

A second specially commissioned tapestry was made in 1988 by Sue Batten for display in the Board Room. The tapestry was woven at the Victorian tapestry workshop and the design was inspired by the Bank's Charter and includes elements from the paper 5 dollar note. The tapestry is now hung in the currency display area on the ground floor.

A series of paintings by Australian artists were purchased by the Bank over a period of time and found their permanent home in the executive offices, foyers and hallways of the bank.

On Macquarie Street was a setback created to enable the establishment of a formal Australian Native garden which was designed as the result of a public competition won by Melbourne architect, Malcolm Munro. The garden was flanked on either side by shallow pools and had ornamental gravel surrounds. It was planted with Australian shrubs. This garden feature has now been replaced with landscaping including formal box hedges and flowering shrubs.

#### ALTERATIONS TO THE BUILDING

Between 1974 and 1980 the Reserve Bank was extended to the south, this extension to the original building involved substantial additions on each floor to incorporate the adjacent site to the south. The site consisted of two properties Washington House and Federation House, both properties were demolished for the extension.

In November 1993 the original facades were overclad. The original Wombeyan marble cladding was deteriorating due to a combination of weathering and pollution. The new facade was a combination of Australian and Italian stone, with the original Imperial Black granite from South Australia being used for the Columns and Italian Bianco Sardo grey granite for the spandrels. The work was designed by Arup Facade Engineering and was designed to have a minimum visual impact on the building. At the same time the eastern end of the ground floor was modified from a banking chamber to form the public exhibition area.

#### COMPARISON

In addition to the Head Office, branch offices were constructed in the central business districts of each of the state capital cities, as well as in Canberra and Darwin during the 1960s and 1970s. A number of purpose designed office buildings were erected to designs by the Commonwealth Department of Works Banks and Special Projects Branch as part of the initial establishment of the Reserve Bank of Australia.

The buildings in Darwin and Brisbane have been previously sold. The Reserve Bank still owns the buildings in Perth and Hobart (to be sold 2001), Adelaide, Canberra, and Melbourne. The buildings constructed throughout Australia by the Bank during the 1960s reflected a confidence in things Australian and in the future.

The Canberra Branch building of the Reserve Bank (RNE 19704) was the result of an architectural competition, managed by the NCDC. Howlett and Bailey from Perth won the competition from 131 submissions. It was constructed by Civic and Civic and completed in 1965. Also of a contemporary design, the Canberra building is in the Stripped classical style. The architectural qualities of the Canberra Reserve Bank building rely on the lightness of the structure, the regular structural pattern, the contrast between the marble faced columns and beams and the receding pattern of the glazing. The vertical effect imparted by the columns extending over two levels gives the low rise building a sense of height and is most effective. The columns are cruciform in plan and support a beam carefully separated from the column. The glazed curtain wall is supported on the beam and uses aluminium mullions. The very strong, blank wall of the secure ground floor cash handling area on the external south eastern side of the building is another powerful reminder of its modernist qualities where the internal function gains external expression. Internally the most important space is the banking chamber. It is a symmetrical design with a central entrance under a canopy with black slate entrance floor, converting into carpet once inside the room.

The Reserve Bank, Adelaide, (RNE 101627) was built in 1963-65 to a design by the Commonwealth Department of Works architects C. D. Osborne, R. M. Ure, G. A. Row and F. J. Crocker. It is constructed from largely Australian building materials of high quality including Wombeyan marble, South Australian black granite and Victorian Harcourt grey granite. Of particular interest is the building's inward curving wall to both the east and west elevations.

#### DESCRIPTION

The Reserve Bank, Sydney is located in a prominent corner position fronting Martin Place between Macquarie Street and Phillip Street.

The Reserve Bank 1964, is a refined example of the Post War International style. The building is a 22 storey high rise tower with three level basement. It is constructed of a steel frame concrete encased with reinforced concrete slabs. The building contains some unusually long cantilever beams on the 1st to 3rd floors. The Reserve Bank provides a notable example of a characteristic of buildings of this era on less constrained sites, where the architect utilised the opportunity to define the base from the shaft using a podium. The Reserve Bank has a four storey podium divided into two upper floors with projecting horizontal fins and two floors of full height recessed glazing to the mezzanine below. The building is entered via a bronzed railed grey and black granite terrace with steps to accommodate the site slope and adjacent footpath.

The tower section above the second floor is set back from the site boundaries on the three street frontages. The rectangular building floor plate surrounds a central bank of

lifts. The tower is capped with recessed balconies to level 20. Above this is a roof terrace with full height glazing and extensive cantilever roof.

The facade treatment of the building is distinctive and derives from both the modular design created to allow office subdivision which is expressed in the window mullions and the use of materials including the extensive use of natural stone. The vertical columns faced in black granite and aluminium define the eight bays of the tower and extend up to form the supports for the balconies. The use of black polished granite cladding was a popular choice of the time, the Reserve Bank used Imperial Black granite for the columns. The subdivision of the facade into smaller vertical bays was characteristic of buildings where sun control was a central concern. Between the columns spandrel panels in grey granite alternated with recessed glazing. The glazing panels stop short of the corner.

The basements contain vehicular access areas, the main switchboard as well as the three main strongrooms and a series of voucher stores and cash handling areas. Originally they also contained extensive plant areas. The Strong Rooms are located in the basement originally used for the storage of bullion and cash. They have a degree of technical significance for their innovative use of concrete and metal sheet to create an impenetrable surround for the strong rooms. The metal strong room doors are significant for their size and sophistication.

The ground floor is symmetrical around the central main vestibule which is a two storey volume with a general banking chamber on the western side and a public display area on the eastern side. The display area replaces the former Bonds and Stock Banking Chamber of the original design. The ground level entrance foyer/vestibule remains substantially intact including internal finishes of Wombeyan marble to the south wall, granite floor, east and west Imperial granite walls including high level glazing, anodised aluminium ceiling and the south wall relief by Bim Hilder. Alterations include the introduction of a security desk, new entrance doors, and reconfigured glazing.

The mezzanine is set back from Martin Place frontage creating an atrium over the ground floor. With the first and second floors it forms a podium from which the office tower springs. The third floor housed the staff amenities area with a staff cafeteria and kitchen, an auditorium and staff library and a staff lounge outside the lift foyer. These areas were originally designed with distinctive character which has now been altered by later refurbishments. The eleventh floor contains the Board Room (featuring a marble floor), Board Dining Room, Board Members Common Room and Reception and meeting areas. The twelfth floor contains the Governor's Suite, reception areas and executive suites.

The sixteenth floor housed two residential flats, the flats have been removed in recent works. The floor also included the medical centre. The seventeenth to nineteenth floors held two squash courts and an observation gallery was located along the northern facade. These were all removed in recent works. The twentieth floor houses staff amenities. Most lift foyers are marble lined, Level 3 is timber.

Some of the original furniture designed for the building including tables, chairs, couches, credenzas and desks remain within the public spaces, offices and special areas of the building.

**Public Art:** The main entrance foyer features an expansive wall relief by Bim Hilder. It is made up of many separate small parts of beaten copper and bronze. One section of it incorporates a six inch piece of quartz crystal uncovered by geologist Ben Flounders in South Australia's Corunna Hills. Another displays semi precious stones. The Martin Place forecourt features a free standing podium sculpture by Margel Hinder. The Podium sculpture is a 26ft high free standing sculpture. It is unnamed and has no banking reference, but was designed to complement the architecture of the building. It is welded sheet copper on a stainless steel structural frame with molten copper decoration. The original design Maquette is also located in the Bank. Other important elements include the brass lettering text of the Bank's 1959 charter set on a black granite wall in the main foyer; the opening commemorative plaque; the Bank emblem originally located on the western parapet wall of the building constructed in cast aluminium with green enamelled finish designed by Gordon Andrews (now removed); the portrait of Dr H. C Coombs, the first Governor by Louis Kahan purchased in 1964.

The Westpac (former Bank of NSW) building erected on the opposite corner to the Reserve Bank occupies a similar footprint and has a similar mass, providing a gateway effect at the top of Martin Place.

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#### History Not Available

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#### Condition and Integrity

In general the building retains its early appearance and character despite having undergone considerable alterations and modification. Internal finishes have been considerably altered in many locations, and have been replaced with new finishes. Internally the building has been remodelled at the upper office levels. The boardroom and the lift foyers have remained largely intact. The ground level double volume spaces are intact, however there has been substantial alteration to furniture and fittings. The original marble ceiling panel has been replaced in metal.

In 1980 a major extension to the south was undertaken, the addition replicated the original building in height, form, and finishes.

From 1991-1995 upgrading of offices and basement areas, removal of asbestos requiring the stripping of all internal finishes, upgrading of building services and fire protection facilities, new ceilings, lighting and carpets and the extensive restoration and recladding of the external facade of the building.

The Parliamentary Committee on Public Works has approved changes to the building (2000) included conversion of the staff cafeteria, auditorium and staff facilities (level 3) to office accommodation; demolition of the two residential flats and creation of new cafeteria space; removal of the two squash courts and plant equipment (level 17) and conversion to office use including lowering of the high level windowsills to the north elevation and enlarging of existing recessed marble panels to windows on the south facade; conversion of level 19 ancillary space to office use; and removal of the Firing Range.

The building is well maintained and is in excellent condition (2001)

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#### Location

65 Martin Place, corners with Macquarie and Phillip Streets, Sydney.

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#### Bibliography

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Architecture in Australia "Reserve Bank of Australia" September 1966.

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City of Sydney, Heritage Database Inventory Report "Reserve Bank".

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Proposed headquarters, Sydney, for the Reserve Bank of Australia. 1959. Folios F 725.24099441

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Staples, M "From Pillar to Post: Regional heritage and the erasure of Modernist architecture" in Rural Society Journal Volume 9 No 1, 1999.

Taylor, J. "Post World War II Multistoried Office Buildings in Australia (1945-1967)" Report. For the Australian Heritage Commission 1994.

Woodhead International & Noel Bell Ridley Smith & Partners Architects Pty Limited. "Revised Statement of Heritage Impact: Reserve Bank of Australia- Head Office Consolidation, 65 Martin Place, Sydney, New South Wales". Revised May 2001.

#### Other sources of information

Bloomfield Galleries: Information on Margel Hinder

Information on Fred Ward from the Drill Hall Gallery.

Reserve Bank of Australia Web site [www.rba.gov.au](http://www.rba.gov.au)

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# APA Building

## Item details

**Name of item:** APA Building  
**Other name/s:** Lindt Café  
**Type of item:** Built  
**Group/Collection:** Commercial  
**Category:** Commercial Office/Building  
**Location:** Lat: -33.8680115738 Long: 151.2109010560  
**Primary address:** 53-63 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000  
**Parish:** St James  
**County:** Cumberland  
**Local govt. area:** Sydney  
**Local Aboriginal Land Council:** Metropolitan

## Property description

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
LOTS	1-11		CP/SP	73146

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
53-63 Martin Place	Sydney	Sydney	St James	Cumberland	Primary Address

## Owner/s

Organisation Name	Owner Category	Date Ownership Updated
Marshall Investments Pty Ltd & 53 Martin Place Pty Ltd1	Private	

## Statement of significance:

The construction of the APA building marked the beginning of the development of the eastern end of Martin Place and Phillip Street as a major commercial and professional precinct. It was designed and constructed for the former Australian Provincial Assurance Association Ltd on a block purchased to construct a new headquarters for the association.

The APA Building exhibits a high level of architectural quality in terms of its proportions, facade treatment and vocabulary of detail. The building was designed to formalise and define the new major civic thoroughfare of Martin Place. The structural system utilised in the building facilitated a very short construction time and reduced noise problems.

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** David W. King  
**Builder/Maker:** Kell and Rigby  
**Construction years:** 1936-1936

**Physical description:** The APA Building occupies a site with a frontage of 123 feet to the south side of Martin Place. The block extends through from Elizabeth to Phillip Streets, has a frontage on these two streets of 57 feet and the main entry is located on the central axis of the Martin Place elevation.

The building is limited by the 150 feet height limit in force at the time. It consists of 12 main floors, a lower ground floor and basement and a set back roof (12th) floor with an intermediate tower floor and lift motor room over.

The facade is polished red granite to the lower ground and ground levels with a combination of moulded and extruded glazed terra-cotta blocks to the exterior of the upper levels, including the roof (12th) floor and tower. The terra-cotta blocks are glazed in a light cream tone splattered with white and are supplemented at the roof parapet level with a triple row of deep green glazed terracotta bands. The terra cotta blocks were supplied by Wunderlich Limited and were chosen for their durability, permanence of colour and self cleaning character of material.

The external form of the building is dictated by the grid of 9ft 6in. This is expressed externally as a truncated triangular pilaster, which runs in an unbroken line from an expressed balcony form at the level of the 2nd floor to the facade setback at the level of the 12th (or roof) floor. These pilasters continue in an abbreviated form against the face of the 12th floor setback, the overall effect being one of a major vertical emphasis and one of symmetry.

The windows to the main office floors are of particular interest, being A.S. Spiers patent box frame types of Queensland Maple, which allow the sashes to be reversed for cleaning. Steel windows are used to the light well of the building, providing some measure of daylight to the toilets, main stair and rear office areas.

The main entry is from Martin Place and is via a set of trachyte steps to a glass automatic entry doorset. The original timber entry doors of inlaid Queensland maple are in their original positions. The entry opening is surmounted by a cast bronze lintel bearing the inscription 'No. 53' and has surface mounted letter to the granite over stating 'APA Building'.

The main entry foyer walls are of cream Botticino marble with a skirting and architraves of dark green Verte Des Alpes marble. An imposing pair of green scagliola columns with original bronze-framed glass doors and top glazing flank each side of the foyer. The ceiling is of plaster with a heavily corbelled cornice and a domed recess for the central light. The original bronze lift doors, set into the south wall of the foyer, have been painted over.

The main stair features treads, risers and landings of white marble, a handrail of Verte Des Alpes marble with solid balustrades of cream scagliola and walls of cream scagliola. (Romey 1990:4-9)

The most significant aspect of the structural system utilised for the APA Building was the speed at which the steel and concrete composite system allowed the work to proceed. The use of bolted structural steel not only reduced the noise level of the process, considered a major problem at the time when riveting was still common, but allowed for the steel frame to be erected in a period of fifteen weeks. Equally impressive was the curing of the concrete which was poured at the rate of two floors in five working days.

**Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:**

Physical condition is good. Archaeological potential is low.

**Date condition updated:**01 Oct 97

**Modifications and dates:**

1936 - constructed

early 1940s - western half of the roof (12th floor) completed and caretakers flat removed

mid 1940s - removal of detailed lift lobby

1961 - façade thoroughly cleaned and minor alterations

mid 1960s - new doorway built into the existing window opening on the corner of Phillip Street and Martin Place. Lower ground floor windows to Elizabeth Street and Martin Place enlarged and reveals trimmed with black granite. New aluminium doors and glazing installed into the openings and original awning on the Elizabeth Street facade removed.

late 1970s - major part of the building air-conditioned and lift lobbies refurbished

1989 - remaining APA signage removed with the exception of that over the main entry.

**Current use:**

Office Space

**Former use:**

Office space and restaurant

## History

**Historical notes:** The development of a new headquarters building for the Australian Provincial Assurance Association Ltd in Martin Place was intrinsically connected to the development of Martin Place itself. When on April 8, 1936, the extension of Martin Place to Macquarie Street was opened, a series of development sites along each side of the new thoroughfare were made available by the Sydney Municipal Council. The first two sites sold were those between Elizabeth Street and Phillip Street. The northern block was sold to the Rural Bank of NSW and the southern block was purchased by the Australian Provincial Assurance Company Ltd on May 23, 1935, for the sum of 83,000 pounds.

David W. King, a young architect, was appointed to prepare a design for the project and to oversee the construction. The brief was to erect premises to the full building height, and to design in conformity with that of the surrounding buildings.

The contract was let to builders Kell and Rigby following the calling of tenders in February 1936 and construction began in early June 1936, subsequent to five months of preliminary work and excavation.

The structural systems selected for the project was that in common use at that time, a structural steel frame with reinforced concrete floor slabs and concrete encasement to the steel work. This composite systems allowed for extremely rapid construction of the superstructure and work on the steel frame commenced on June 3rd 1936 and was completed on September 17th, a period of fifteen weeks.

The building was opened in May 1937 and was considered successful by the press of the period. The first tenant was of course, the Australian Provincial Assurance Association who occupied the ground floor, three quarters of the first floor and all of the basement, but other floors were taken by the legal firm of Allen, Allen and Hemsley, by a government department and several smaller organisations, including the architectural practice of David King himself. The lower ground floor was occupied for many years by a quality restaurant (Cahill's) with direct access from Elizabeth Street via steps.

With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, many of the tenants, including the APA, relocated to other premises and the Department of Manpower and Industry effectively took over the building. Exceptions to this move were the practices of both Allen, Allen and Hemsly, and David W. King. It was during this period that the western half of the twelfth floor was completed. This level had previously been completed at the eastern end only, due to the 150 foot high limit affecting the building differentially in regard to the change of level between Elizabeth and Phillip Streets. The eastern end had been used as a caretaker's flat, with the western half utilised as a roof garden.

After 1945 the APA resumed occupation of the building and were to remain in residence until 1989.

In 1987 the APA which was undergoing restructuring finally sold the building to Noden Pty Ltd.

In August 1989 the building was sold to the Charter Property Group. (Romey 1990:2-4)


In December 2014 the Lindt Chocolate Cafe on the ground floor of the Phillip Street frontage was the scene of a siege on 15-16 December 2014, when a lone gunman held staff and customers as hostages. The siege resulted in the death of two hostages, Mr Tori Johnson and Ms Katrina Dawson, and also the death of the gunman Man Haron Monis. After the siege, memorial flower bouquets filled nearby areas of Martin Place and many Sydneysiders came to Martin Place to mourn and reflect. Subsequent memorial services were held in the city at the nearby St Mary's Cathedral and St James' Church, and condolence books were set up in other Lindt cafes.

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce-Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	(none)-

7. Governing-Governing	Defence-Activities associated with defending places from hostile takeover and occupation	Involvement with the Second World War-
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## Assessment of significance

<b>SHR Criteria a)</b> [Historical significance]	The construction of the APA building marked the beginning of the development of the eastern end of Martin Place and Phillip Street as a major commercial and professional precinct. It was designed and constructed for the former Australian Provincial Assurance Association Ltd on a block purchased to construct a new headquarters for the association. The Association subsequently remained in the building for over fifty years. The building represents a brief period of economic expansion between the end of the depression and the Second World War. The architect David W. King occupied a suite in the building for over thirty years and was largely responsible for ongoing maintenance and alterations to the building during this time. (Romey 1990:36)
<b>SHR Criteria c)</b> [Aesthetic significance]	The APA Building exhibits a high level of architectural quality in terms of its proportions, facade treatment and vocabulary of detail. The building was designed to formalise and define the new major civic thoroughfare of Martin Place. The building presents a uniform and harmonious composition around the three sides of its block. (Romey 1990:35)
<b>SHR Criteria e)</b> [Research potential]	The structural system utilised in the building facilitated a very short construction time and reduced noise problems. The plan of the building and use of windows and light well enabled a high level of efficiency in terms of natural lighting and ventilation. (Romey 1990:35)
<b>SHR Criteria f)</b> [Rarity]	The APA Building is the last remaining example in Martin Place of what was a consistent group of structures exhibiting a conformity of scale, facade treatment and vocabulary of detail. (Romey 1990:35)
<b>Integrity/Intactness:</b>	The main fabric of the building has survived largely unaltered since its construction in 1937. (Romey 1990:35)
<b>Assessment criteria:</b>	Items are assessed against the  <b>State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria</b> to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Procedures /Exemptions

Section of act	Description	Title	Comments	Action date
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Heritage Act - Site Specific Exemptions	<p>Record converted from HIS events</p> <p>Order Under Section 57(2) to exempt the following activities from Section 57(1):</p> <p>(a) The maintenance of any building or item on the site where maintenance means the continuous protective care of existing materials.</p> <p>(b) alterations to the interior of the building, except insofar as such works would affect-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the Martin Place entrance foyer;</li> <li>- the external appearance of the building;</li> </ul> <p>(c) The minor repair of the building where minor repair means the repair of materials and includes replacement of minor components such as individual bricks where these have been damaged beyond reasonable repair or are missing. The replacement should be of the same material, colour, texture, form and design as the original it replaces.</p> <p>(d) Change of use;</p> <p>(e) Subdivision</p>	Jan 19 1990
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	<p>SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>HERITAGE ACT 1977</p> <p>Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, do by this Order:</p>	Sep 5 2008



			<p>1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and</p> <p>2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached.</p> <p>FRANK SARTOR</p> <p>Minister for Planning</p> <p>Sydney, 11 July 2008</p> <p>To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.</p>	
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 **Standard exemptions** for works requiring Heritage Council approval

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		00682	02 Apr 99	27	1546
Heritage Act - Permanent Conservation Order - former		00682	19 Jan 90	11	
Local Environmental Plan	CSH LEP 4		07 Apr 00		

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written	Peter Romey	1990	Conservation Plan for APA Building	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



(Click on thumbnail for full size image and image details)

## Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

**Name:** Heritage Office  
**Database number:** 5045409  
**File number:** S90/03181, HC 33520, 10/20759

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# MLC Building

## Item details

**Name of item:** MLC Building  
**Other name/s:** Mutual Life & Assurance Building  
**Type of item:** Built  
**Group/Collection:** Commercial  
**Category:** Commercial Office/Building  
**Location:** Lat: -33.8673657728 Long: 151.2096236000  
**Primary address:** 42-46 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000  
**Local govt. area:** Sydney  
**Local Aboriginal Land Council:** Metropolitan

## Property description

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
LOT	1		DP	83642

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
42-46 Martin Place	Sydney	Sydney			Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

The former MLC Building is aesthetically significant as one of the best inter-war commercial office buildings in Sydney, and the best example in Australia of the exterior use of Egyptian derived motifs in such buildings.

Its quality of design and use of materials make it one of the principal contributors to the architectural character of Martin Place which is recognised as one of Sydney's finest urban spaces.

The building contains a substantially intact insurance chamber and relocated boardroom, ante-room and lift lobby and relocated remnants of other architectural features. The former MLC Building is historically significant as one of a small group (about a dozen) of major commercial office buildings constructed in Sydney during the second half of the 1930s. It is associated with the well known Melbourne architects Bates, Smart & McCutcheon, and as the winner of a design competition, reflects the architectural taste of the period. (RAIA 2008)

**Date significance updated:** 16 Oct 08

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** Bates Smart & McCutcheon (Sir W P Osborn McCutcheon)  
**Builder/Maker:** Concrete Constructions Ltd.  
**Construction years:** 1936-1938

**Physical description:** The former MLC Building occupies a prominent position on the corner of Martin Place and Castlereagh Streets, Sydney. The steel-framed building was erected to a height of 150 ft. (49.3 m), the maximum allowable in Sydney at the time, although the tower rose another 50 ft. (16.5m) higher. Externally the upper floors are clad in buff Wondabyne Sandstone (Wallace 1971) supplied by Hawkesbury Sandstone Limited.

The base of the building is of "Rob Roy Red" from Sodwalls Quarry (Wallace 1971). The stone has a tooled finish with a vertical polished scalloped polished border next to the window mullions. Polished Rose Red granite is used for the plinth course, running beneath the windows and around the doorways. The emblem of the Society has been incorporated into the detail over the main entrance from Martin Place and Castlereagh Streets. The granite was

supplied by the firm Loveridge and Hudson Ltd.

The windows are arranged in pairs between wide piers with slender mullions between the windows. The innovative spandrel panels between the windows were enamelled fluted steel panels, the flutes running horizontally.

It contains other architectural features of note, including the polished granite surrounds to the lift doors at ground floor level, and two pairs of large bronze doors to both entrances of the building (granite surrounds were re-erected around new lifts).

A relief sculpture on the prominent tower above the corner of Martin Place and Castlereagh Street depicting the company's logo 'Strength in Unity' a man attempting unsuccessfully to break up a bundle of rods. This emblem is prominent on all facades and on the lobby floor.

Internally the building originally included eleven floors above ground level, part of the ground floor and the whole of the upper five floors being devoted to the activities of the Company, the others being available for letting. 'Princes' Restaurant (now demolished) occupied the basement level while the sub-basement accommodated air conditioning plant and other services. A caretakers flat was included on the tenth floor.

Most of the floors were left open so that partitions could be erected as required. On floors 1 to 5 a central corridor divided lettable spaces. The ground floor incorporated an insurance chamber on the Martin Place/Castlereagh Street corner and three lettable spaces. The executive offices of the company were located on the 9th floor, and were entered through a lift lobby and anteroom finished in travertine. The offices, boardroom and anteroom were finished in walnut and maple panelling and blue carpet. The 10th floor accommodated a caretaker's flat, and dining facilities for the staff.

A survey of the building made by Clive Lucas Stapleton and Partners in January 1987 to determine how the building had changed since construction is attached. Figures 1-5 show the major alterations carried out since 1939. According to their report:

Generally, all the original partitioning on floors 1 to 10 was removed, ceiling and lighting replaced as well as flooring. All walls to the flat and dining facilities on the 10th floor were removed. All the executive offices on the 9th floor were replaced, except the lift lobby, staircase, boardroom and anteroom. On the ground floor, the insurance chamber remained relatively intact, as did the Castlereagh Street Entrance, but the main entrance vestibule and lift lobby was extensively altered. Princes Restaurant was removed from the basement.

The building has been extended to the west in a style matching the original. Windows and spandrel panels are now aluminium.

**Physical condition  
and/or  
Archaeological  
potential:**

The building has maintained in good condition since the substantial renovations of the late 1980s. The main insurance chamber on the ground floor of rare scale and high quality finishes survives in substantially intact condition.

The archaeological potential of the site is unknown.

**Date condition updated:** 19 Feb 09

**Further  
information:**

Comparisons:

It is one of a small group of extant major commercial office buildings built in Sydney during the second half of the 1930s. These are:

Asbestos House, York Street 1930-5

Manufactures House, O'Connell Street 1935

Railways House, York Street 1934-6

City Mutual Life Building, Hunter & Bligh Streets 1935-6

ACA Building, King & York Streets 1936

APA Building, Martin Place & Elizabeth Streets 1935-7

Chatsworth House, Bent Street1936-7

Co-Operative Insurance House, Pitt Street1936-7

MLC Building Martin Place & Castlereagh Street1936-8

Transport House, Carrington & Margaret Streets1938

Booth House, Young & Bridge Streets1938

David Jones Store, Market & Castlereagh Sts1938

AWA Building, York Streets1937-9

Red Cross House, Clarence & Kent Streets1937-9

Inter-Ocean House, George & Jamison Streets1939

Water Board Building, Pitt Street1939

Delfin House, O'Connell Street1938-40

Queensland Insurance Building, Pitt Street1940

McNade House, Spring Street1940

ACI Building, William & Boomerang Streets1940-41

Of these buildings, and those built in other major Australian cities during the same period, the MLC Building is the best example of a building built in the Art Deco Skyscraper/Moderne style with a strong Egyptian design influence.

MLC also built a new headquarters in Melbourne as the Sydney Building was nearing completion. The overall form and structural similarities, though not the detailing, of the two buildings are very striking.

#### Comparative Boardrooms

Boardrooms were included in the original design of the following Sydney buildings, of these only four still exist. The boardrooms in the City Mutual Life Building and the ACI are considered excellent examples of their type. They are not as large in scale as the MLC boardroom and are less formally conceived. The MLC boardroom is the only one with an anteroom and finely finished lift lobby.

Railways House1934-6Demolished

City Mutual Life Building1935-6Intact

ACA Building1936Demolished

APA Building1935-7Demolished

MLC Building 1936-8Intact

AWA Building1937-9Intact

Inter-Ocean House1939Demolished

Water Board Building1939Demolished

Delfin House1940Extensively Altered

ACI Building1941Intact

#### Comparative Insurance Chambers

The following buildings include insurance or banking chambers:

City Mutual Life Building1935-6Substantially Intact but mezzanine introduced

ACA Building1936Altered

APA Building1935-7Substantially altered

MLC Building 1936-8Substantially intact

AWA Building1937-9Substantially intact

Transport House1938Substantially intact

Water Board Building1939Substantially altered

Delfin House1940Intact

Of the substantially intact chambers those in AWA, ACA and Transport House are of inferior finish to the MLC Chamber. The significant chambers in Delfin House and the City Mutual Life Building are much larger than that of the MLC Building. However, the detailing of the MLC insurance chamber is unusual because of its plaster relief panels depicting scenes of everyday life in Sydney (in a similar way to the AWA Building and the Manchester Unity Building, Melbourne, c.1930. The chamber, although small, has very high quality finishes; such as moulded travertine and cast plaster bas-reliefs.

It is a major pre-war example of the work of Bates, Smart & McCutcheon, a noted 20th century Australian firm of architects.

As the winner of a two stage design competition for a major building, it more than other buildings of similar age reflects attitudes about architectural taste in the late 1930s.

**Current use:** Offices  
**Former use:** Offices

## History

**Historical notes:** The "Eora people" was the name given to the coastal Aborigines around Sydney. Central Sydney is therefore often referred to as "Eora Country". Within the City of Sydney local government area, the traditional owners are the Cadigal and Wangal bands of the Eora. There is no written record of the name of the language spoken and currently there are debates as to whether the coastal peoples spoke a separate language "Eora" or whether this was actually a dialect of the Dharug language. Remnant bushland in places like Blackwattle Bay retain elements of traditional plant, bird and animal life including fish and rock oysters.

With the invasion of the Sydney region, the Cadigal and Wangal people were decimated but there are descendants still living in Sydney today. All cities include many immigrants in their population. Aboriginal people from across the state have been attracted to suburbs such as Pyrmont, Balmain, Rozelle, Glebe and Redfern since the 1930s. Changes in government legislation in the 1960s provided freedom of movement enabling more Aboriginal people to choose to live in Sydney.

( Information sourced from Anita Heiss, "Aboriginal People and Place", Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani> )

Major insurance companies were formed in Victorian Australia, often with British assets, to cover the problems of world trade, internal communication, retirement and the constant hazard of fire. The Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Company, which commissioned Bates, Smart and McCutcheon to build its new Sydney Headquarters at the corner of Martin Place and Castlereagh Street in 1936-1938, already had on the same site a substantial Victorian building, which was demolished in 1937.

During 1936 the Mutual Life and Citizen's Assurance Society held a two stage competition for the design of its new building to be erected on the site. It attracted more than 70 entries. The winning design by Bates, Smart and McCutcheon selected from a short list of six was built during 1937-1938.

The architects, Bates Smart & McCutcheon had been a distinguished Melbourne-based firm since 1926, although the experience of the principals went back to the nineteenth century. The majority of the firm's work prior to World War II was domestic and the MLC building is its



only large commercial undertaking in Sydney between the wars. Other commercial buildings designed by the Bates Smart & McCutcheon during the period 1930-1942 include the AMP Building (1931) and Buckley & Nunn Ltd, Men's Store (1934), both in Melbourne.

The building's architect Osborn McCutcheon was a man who garnered national respect from his peers, his work was recognised by the award of the RAIA Gold Medal in 1965 and he was knighted in 1966.

The building belongs to the period of recovery from the Depression and is the near contemporary of the City Mutual Life building in Hunter Street, of Transport House and of David Jones' Market Street store. MLC also built a new headquarters in Melbourne as the Sydney Building was nearing completion: the structural similarities, though not the detailing, of the two buildings are very striking.

Alterations were made to the Sydney building in 1987-1988 under the supervision of Clive Lucas Stapleton. These included the infill of the light well and relocation of the lift core and stairs, the widening of the Martin Place entry and the relocation of the executive suite to level 10. The existing granite lift core surrounds were relocated and reused and a matching surround made for a new fourth lift.

The MLC Building is one of a group of buildings which form the boundaries of Martin Place. Apart from the most recent buildings, and although individual buildings within the group have been constructed over a period of more than 100 years, there is a high degree of unity in building form, height and the use of high quality masonry materials.

The MLC Building is one of only three remaining buildings, (the others being the Commonwealth Bank and APA Building) which define the eastern end of Martin Place, forming a hard wall to a maximum height of 12 storeys.

The building is very prominent when viewed from the eastern end of Martin Place, its verticality in design and the tower standing out and making a large contribution to the particular urban quality of Martin Place.

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce-Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	(none)-

## Assessment of significance

**SHR Criteria a)**  
[Historical significance] The MLC Building has historic significance as the headquarters of the MLC Insurance company in Sydney since the Victorian period. It is a major pre-war example of the work of Osborn McCutcheon, Bates Smart McCutcheon, a noted twentieth century Australian firm of architects.

As the winner of a two stage design competition for a major building, it more than other buildings of similar age reflects attitudes about architectural taste in the late 1930s.

**SHR Criteria b)**  
[Associative significance] The MLC Building is a major pre-war example of the work of Bates, Smart & McCutcheon, a noted 20th century Australian firm of architects. The buildings designer, Osborn McCutcheon's contribution to Australian architecture was recognised in 1965 by the award of the RAIA Gold Medal and he was knighted in 1966.

**SHR Criteria c)**  
[Aesthetic significance] The MLC Building has technical significance due to intact fabric that demonstrates past building techniques and technology. The building contains rare examples of early porcelain enamel finished fluted steel spandrels beneath the windows.

It is the best demonstrative example of the use of Egyptian derived motifs in the design of inter-war commercial office buildings in Australia.

Its quality of design and use of materials make it one of the principal contributors to the

**SHR Criteria d)**  
[Social significance]

architectural character of Martin Place which is recognised as one of Sydney's finest urban spaces.

The building does not demonstrate a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW of social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

**SHR Criteria e)**  
[Research potential]

It is a rare and relatively intact example of an Art Deco Skyscraper/Moderne style insurance building in Sydney. It features exceptionally fine stone detailing with Egyptian motif.

**SHR Criteria f)**  
[Rarity]

It is one of a small group of extant major commercial office buildings built in Sydney during the second half of the 1930s. (There are approximately 13 others) It is rare at State level.

It contains a substantially intact late 1930s commercial insurance chamber of rare scale and high quality finishes.

The MLC Building has technical significance due to intact fabric that demonstrates past building techniques and technology. The building contains rare examples of early porcelain enamel finished fluted steel spandrels beneath the windows.

It is the best demonstrative example of the use of Egyptian derived motifs in the design of inter-war commercial office buildings in Australia.

Its quality of design and use of materials make it one of the principal contributors to the architectural character of Martin Place which is recognised as one of Sydney's finest urban spaces.


**SHR Criteria g)**  
[Representativeness]

It contains a substantially intact suite of late 1930s commercial executive rooms, including the lift lobby, ante-room and boardroom, which is the largest and most formal of its type surviving in Sydney (the finishes of some of these spaces have been dismantled and stored.)

The building is an important contribution to the urban quality of Martin Place and Castlereagh Street, having strong visual relationship with the Commonwealth Bank and APA Building and other major nineteenth and twentieth century office buildings in this locality.

**Assessment criteria:**


As the winner of a two stage design competition for a major building, it more than other buildings of similar age reflects attitudes about architectural taste in the late 1930s.

Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

**Procedures /Exemptions**

Section of act	Description	Title	Comments	Action date
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Heritage Act - Site Specific Exemptions	<p>Alts any part on interior except ground</p> <p>Order Under Section 57(2) to exempt the following activities from Section 57(1):</p> <p>(1) The maintenance of the building where maintenance means the continuous protective care of existing material; without the introduction of new materials;</p> <p>(2) Alterations to any part of the interior other than the ground floor commercial chamber on the corner of Martin Place and Castlereagh Street, Sydney, except where these would change the external appearance of the building; and</p> <p>(3) Change of use.</p>	Jun 24 1988
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	<p>SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>HERITAGE ACT 1977</p> <p>Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage</p>	Sep 5 2008

			<p>Council of New South Wales, do by this Order:</p> <p>1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and</p> <p>2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached.</p> <p>FRANK SARTOR</p> <p>Minister for Planning</p> <p>Sydney, 11 July 2008</p> <p>To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.</p>	
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 **Standard exemptions** for works requiring Heritage Council approval

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		00597	02 Apr 99	27	1546
Heritage Act - Permanent Conservation Order - former		00597	24 Jun 88	105	3360
Local Environmental Plan	CSH LEP 4		07 Apr 00		

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Tourism		2007	Commerce Walking Tour	<a href="#">View details!</a>
Tourism	Attraction Homepage	2007	Commerce Walking Tour	<a href="#">View details!</a>
Written	Royal Australian Institute of Architect (NSW) Heritage Committee	2008	State Heritage Register Nomination Form	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.





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# Martin Place Railway Station

## Item details

**Name of item:** Martin Place Railway Station  
**Type of item:** Built  
**Group/Collection:** Transport - Rail  
**Category:** Railway Platform/ Station  
**Location:** Lat: -33.8678017091 Long: 151.2112065130  
**Primary address:** Eastern Suburbs Railway, Sydney, NSW 2000  
**Local govt. area:** Sydney  
**Local Aboriginal Land Council:** Metropolitan

The listing boundary is the whole of the underground system including platforms, concourses and entrances.

## Boundary:

### All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Eastern Suburbs Railway	Sydney	Sydney			Primary Address
Martin Place	Sydney	Sydney			Alternate Address

## Owner/s

Organisation Name	Owner Category	Date Ownership Updated
RailCorp	State Government	05 Nov 98

## Statement of significance:

Martin Place underground railway station is significant as a representative of the latest major railway construction undertaken in the State in the eastern suburbs railway line. The whole of the structure being underground is a development of the structures built in the city in the 1930's and represents the latest in technology at the time.

**Date significance updated:** 06 Oct 15

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Physical description:**

BUILDINGS

station complex and entrances, 1979

STRUCTURES

platforms - concrete

escalators (9)

concourses

subways


**Current use:** Railway Station  
**Former use:** Railway Station

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Transport-Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements	(none)-


## Assessment of significance

**SHR Criteria f)** [Rarity] This item is assessed as historically rare. This item is assessed as scientifically rare. This item is assessed as arch. rare. This item is assessed as socially rare.

**Assessment criteria:** Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Procedures /Exemptions

Section of act	Description	Title	Comments	Action date
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	<p>SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>HERITAGE ACT 1977</p> <p>Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, do by this Order:</p> <p>1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and</p> <p>2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached.</p> <p>FRANK SARTOR</p> <p>Minister for Planning</p> <p>Sydney, 11 July 2008</p> <p>To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.</p>	Sep 5 2008

 **Standard exemptions** for works requiring Heritage Council approval

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		01187	02 Apr 99	27	1546
Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register					

## References, internet links & images



Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Tourism		2007	Martin Place Railway Station	<a href="#">View details</a>
Tourism	Attraction Homepage	2007	Martin Place Railway Station	<a href="#">View details</a>

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



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**File number:** 10/02353

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# GIO Building

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	GIO Building
<b>Other name/s:</b>	Sun Building
<b>Type of item:</b>	Built
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Commercial
<b>Category:</b>	Commercial Office/Building
<b>Location:</b>	Lat: -33.8682479719 Long: 151.2108732860
<b>Primary address:</b>	60-70 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
<b>Parish:</b>	St James
<b>County:</b>	Cumberland
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Sydney
<b>Local Aboriginal Land Council:</b>	Metropolitan

## Property description

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
LOT	1		DP	87319

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
60-70 Elizabeth Street	Sydney	Sydney	St James	Cumberland	Primary Address
153-163 Phillip Street	Sydney	Sydney	St James	Cumberland	Alternate Address

## Owner/s

Organisation Name	Owner Category	Date Ownership Updated
NGI Investments Pty Ltd	General	

## Statement of significance:

The GIO Building is historically significant because of its associations with Sun Newspapers Ltd newspaper publishing activities in Sydney during the first half of the twentieth century. Its site has associations with the historically prominent figure, Joshua Josephson.

The building is aesthetically significant because it is possibly the first major Interwar Skyscraper Gothic style building in Sydney, of which it is also a rare example, and because it is a major building designed by architect Joseph Kethel.

The building has technical significance, due to its early and extensive use of the proprietary building material, Benedict stone. It is possibly the first major application of this material in a large city building in NSW.

Conservation Management Plan

60-70 Elizabeth Street (GIO Building)

Author: Rod Howard Heritage Conservation Pty Ltd

Year: 2001

Page: 71

**Date significance updated:** 27 Aug 08

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Construction years:** 1929-1929

**Physical description:** The subject building is identified as occupying Lot 1 D.P. 87319 at 60-70 Elizabeth Street and 153-163 Phillip Street. It consists of a structural steel, reinforced concrete and masonry structure, and contains seven basement levels given over to car parking, a lower ground and ground floor level, and eleven upper floors. The building is accessed via entries on Elizabeth and Phillip Streets, whilst vehicular access is located on the southern end of the Elizabeth Street facade and the loading dock is situated on the Phillip Street side of the building.

The exterior of the building was designed in what has become known as the Interwar Skyscraper Gothic style. There were relatively few buildings erected in this style in Australia, which showed the influence of American skyscraper design of the 1920s, the most notable example of which was Howells and Hood's Chicago Tribune Building of 1922-25. Indeed, this precedent was acknowledged in the Australian architectural press. The adaptation of Gothic embellishments and its inherent verticality was though appropriate as an expression of the height and vertical thrust of tall buildings in America during the 1920s. The major examples of this style of architecture in Sydney were designed and built between 1926 and 1930. The style effectively formed a bridge between the dominant Commercial Palazzo idiom of the 1920s and the Art Deco style of the late 1920s and 1930s - "... relatively few buildings were built in this style, but they provided potent images which had effects on the Art Deco style." Its characteristics, a number of which appear in the facades of 60-70 Elizabeth Street, include concentrated "medieval" motifs and detailing concentrated at the base and parapet levels of the building, vertical expression achieved by the accentuation of window mullions, and "Gothic" towers above the level of the roof to form a landmark on the city skyline.

60-70 Elizabeth Street has strong visual associations with other interwar office buildings in this part of the city. They include the former APA Building to its immediate north at 53 Martin Place, the former State Savings Bank at 48-50 Martin Place and the former MLC Building at 42-46 Martin Place. As a group, the buildings provide a valuable demonstration of the ways in which architectural styles in tall office buildings evolved during the interwar period, and are evidence of the major changes that took place in this part of the city as a result of extending Martin Place to Macquarie Street.

A Structure and Facade Review of the building was undertaken by Ove Arup & Partners for Rider Hunt Terotech, and is appended to this report. The building was also inspected by Roy Lumby on 8 September 1999.

### EXTERNAL FABRIC

The exterior of 60-70 Elizabeth Street has retained much of its early configuration and a

relatively large amount of early fabric. The configuration of its facades is characteristic of many office buildings erected during the interwar period, consisting of a polished stone base (the ground floor cladding) that is extended into the upper part of the building by means of decorative detailing, a relatively plain shaft of window bays and decorative detailing at the top of the building and parapets. The facades were originally symmetrical and arranged in a tripartite configuration broken into five bays of windows of unequal width, but this configuration has since been obscured by the additions that were erected during the latter part of the 1930s on the southern side of the building. Early metal framed windows still remain in place in the large arched openings above the ground floor levels on both facades, although a leadlight window above the Elizabeth Street entrance, visible in early photographs, has been removed. All other windows were replaced as part of the late 1980s works. The flat roofs are covered with a proprietary membrane system, identified by Rider Hunt Terotech as "butynol". The original awning that sheltered the ground floor level of the Phillip Street facade has been removed, although the brackets that held suspension cable off the facade are still in place.

Other modifications to the exterior of the building include: installation of new shop fronts on both facades; erection of canopies above the Phillip Street entrance and above shop fronts on the Elizabeth Street facade; recently installed stone cladding along the ground floor level of the Phillip Street facade, insertion of grilles above the level of ground floor openings along the Phillip Street facade and the addition of large plant room spaces on the roof levels. Many of these alterations and additions were carried out during the 1980s. However, doors to the ground floor car part vestibule in Elizabeth Street may also be remnants of early building fabric.

Some parts of the building are in defective condition. These have been identified by Ove Arup & Partners as follows:

- Concrete is spalling off the stair structure and walls in a number of locations in the tower on the eastern side of the building, and corroding reinforcement has been exposed. There is also evidence of water penetration into the tower;

- There are numerous cracks in the fire stairs, reflecting the joints between steel framing and masonry infill panels;

- Cracking has occurred in the roof parapet at the southern end of level 11 and the top of the plant room wall at the southern end of the building above level 11, on its eastern and western sides;

- The metal plant room roof has been damaged by pedestrian traffic across it, and screws fixing the roof sheeting have corroded, as have gutters associated with the roof. There has been some water penetration through the roof or from the guttering;

- Some of the hold-down bolts of the handrails around the level 10 and 11 roofs have corroded;

- There are a small number of locations where cement rendered surfaces are deteriorating and coming away;

- Two steel framed windows in the tower at level 11 are corroding;

- Staining has taken place on facade paintwork and on the reconstructed stone surfaces;
- Fittings and mechanisms on the original windows at the lower levels of the building are broken or ineffective in operation. Several of the windows do not seal properly when closed;
- Areas of dampness are evident in basement levels due to water penetration through perimeter walls, particularly in the northwestern and south western corners.

#### INTERNAL FABRIC

Unlike the exterior of the building, virtually all of the building's interior were removed as part of the alterations that were carried out during the 1980s. The only early fabric remaining in the building is the former board room and an adjacent anteroom of the seventh floor. There is very little else left of the original building fabric apart from structural columns, floor slabs and concrete stairs in the roof towers.

The ground floor levels contain retail tenancies and a large central circulation space that links Elizabeth and Phillip Streets. Wide stairs and an escalator accommodate the change in level. Finishes throughout date from the late 1980s and are dominated by the extensive use of light toned marble. Columns are faced with mirrored glass whilst ceilings are divided into recessed sections from which large light fixtures are suspended. Floor finishes consist of carpet surrounded by a marble margin.

Generally the office levels reflect fitouts undertaken by the various tenants. For instance, the foyer on the fifth floor has an "Art Deco" theme, designed by the Department of Public works around 1996. Lift lobbies are also given some distinction according to tenant requirements such as the lobby on the tenth floor, which is finished with a panelled timber dado. However, the ceilings of the lift lobbies are uniform, with coved sides and a flush ceiling decorated with plaster mouldings in a "Gothic" motif similar to that found in the ceiling of the early board room on the seventh floor.

The Board Room on the seventh floor presently forms part of the Attorney General's tenancy. It and the adjacent ante room are part of the building's early fabric. Kethel's 1927 drawings do not indicate a board room at this level nor does it appear in Scott, Green & Scott's 1938 documentation. It is quite possible that it was decided to locate the two rooms here whilst the building was under construction, or they may have been relocated from another level during the works carried out during the 1980s. Original fabric in these spaces includes timber wall panelling, timber parquet floor and a fireplace with a low panelled timber ceiling above it in the board room. The ceiling above the rest of the Board Room may also be original. The ante room has only retained early timber wall panelling, although earlier ceilings may be concealed above the existing suspended ceiling, and original flooring may be concealed beneath present coverings. Wall mounted light fixtures and other luminaires are recent fabric.

The toilet areas throughout the building are fitted out with recently installed fabric, as are the lift cars. There are now five lifts, two fewer than when the building was first completed. The lift cars are lined in timber, with panelled timber ceilings.

60-70 Elizabeth Street (GIO Building)

Author: Rod Howard Heritage Conservation Pty Ltd

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**Current use:** Commerical offices  
**Former use:** Commerical offices

## History

**Historical notes:** ABORIGINAL OCCUPATION

It is possible that the site of 60-70 Elizabeth Street was once used by Aboriginals living in the area of what is now the City of Sydney. It is not known how many Aboriginals lived around Sydney at the time of the First Fleet in 1788, but several language groups are known to have occupied the area, the first of which to come into contact with Europeans being coastal members of the Dharruk group. Up to eleven small clan groups of around fifty people lived near Sydney Harbour. Although Governor Phillip harboured good intentions towards the Aborigines, widely disparate attitudes towards land ownership, the effects of disease (the Aboriginal population was decimated by an epidemic from around April 1789), and marginalisation caused a major decline in the numbers and cultural survival of Aboriginal people in Sydney.

### THE EARLY OWNERS OF THE SITE

The land on which 60-70 Elizabeth Street stands is comprised of sections of three early land grants made in Section 40 of the City of Sydney. It includes land from part of Allotment 7, granted to Jacob Josephson on 5 April 1836, part of Allotment 18 granted to Francis Wilde (or Wild) on 14 May 1836 and part of Allotment 8 granted to Joseph Roberts on 29 December 1842, although all were in occupation for a number of years beforehand.

The major part of the site consists of that portion located on the part of Allotment 7, one of several adjoining parcels of land granted to Jacob Josephson. Josephson was a jeweller by profession, a Jewish Christian who reached Sydney in May 1818 as a result of being convicted of having forged bank notes in his possession. He died in the first half of the 1840s, and his son Joshua Frey Josephson inherited his property, including Enmore House, in 1945.

Joseph Josephson was born in 1815 in Hamburg, and arrived with his mother in Sydney in 1820. He displayed great musical talent and was teaching music by 1834. On 17 February 1844 he became a solicitor, the same year in which he was elected to the Sydney City Council to represent Cook Ward. In 1848 he became Mayor of Sydney as well as a justice of the peace, and on 9 June 1855 he was admitted to the NSW Bar. The following year he travelled to England, entered Lincoln's Inn and was called to the Bar in April 1859. On his return to Sydney he practiced as a barrister and in 1862 became a land titles commissioner under the newly introduced Real Properties Act. During this decade he was a director of the Australian Joint Stock Bank and invested in pastoral and city land. In 1868 he became solicitor general, but resigned from parliament in 1869 after his appointment as a district court judge. Josephson resigned in 1884 to devote more time to his private affairs, and died in January 1892. Lot 7, however, remained in the possession of the Josephson family until the beginning of the 1920s.



Lot 8 appears to have been occupied by one Richard Roberts from July 1829 onwards, and was not associated with Joseph Roberts and also William Henry Roberts until September 1842. It remained in the possession of members of the Roberts family until 1874, when title to it was conveyed to John Starkey.

The land granted to Francis Wild in 1836 was hotly contested several years later by Bridge Jagon, who claimed to be his widow, and John and Mary Harper, who claimed to have been left the land in Wild's will. A ruling was made in favour of Mary Harper and it came into her possession at the beginning of 1851. The John Harper mortgaged the property to John Thomas Neale in December 1864, but about three years later it was sold to Jacob Christian Fischer, probably as a means of settling the payment of the mortgage. After Jacob Fischer died in August 1894 titled passed to his widow Jane, and on her death in December 1905 to her son George. On 1 July 1908 it was then conveyed from George Fischer to Sir Matthew Harris. Harris (1841-1917) was the great nephew of John Harris of Ultimo. He acquired a large amount of real estate, partly through inheritance, and between 1881 and 1900 he represented the Ward of Denison on the Sydney Municipal Council, and Sydney-Denison in the Legislative Assembly between 1894 and 1901. Harris served as Mayor of Sydney between 1898 and 1900. He later became president of Sydney Hospital was a vice president of the Royal Agricultural Society and president of the Wentworth Park Trust. In all probability Harris purchased the property as an investment.

The property remained in the possession of the Harris family until 1927, when it was then sold to Sun Newspapers Limited.

#### EARLY DEVELOPMENT ON THE SITE

By 1835 the land granted to Francis Wild and William Roberts was substantially developed but Josephson's more substantial adjoining lot was relatively empty, containing only four detached, domestically scaled buildings along Phillip Street. However, by the second half of the 1830s the section of Elizabeth Street between Hunter and King Streets was "bounded on both sides ... by a series of irregular-built private dwellings - some of them having, however, a respectable appearance; but the principal buildings are towards the south end of the section, near which, a very handsome enclosed series of Chambers, for the use of the legal profession, have been erected; communicating with Elizabeth and Phillip Street, and being in the immediate vicinity of the Supreme Court House, they are found to be very convenient by the gentlemen of the law ..." Already the legal profession was congregating in this part of Sydney. Phillip Street, by contrast, was relatively undeveloped.

By 1842 Wentworth Chambers, the future site of 60-70 Elizabeth Street and possibly the "handsome enclosed series of Chambers" previously mentioned, had been erected on part of Josephson's grant. At the end of the 1840s the character of Elizabeth Street had undergone substantial change. The section between Hunter and King Streets showed that "with few exceptions the whole of the buildings are of modern construction, and being situated in the vicinity of the Supreme Court, are principally occupied as Chambers by the Barristers, and other members of the Legal Profession". Wentworth Chambers consisted of two single storeyed gabled buildings with an open passage running between them. Josephson appears to have lived or operated chambers on the opposite side of the street at the same period.

Joseph Josephson's land was brought under the provisions of the Real Property Act in February 1863 by his son. It was one of the earliest properties in NSW to have been brought under these provisions, and at the time much of it was occupied by a number of houses that fronted Elizabeth and Phillip Street. A Certificate of Title dated 30 September 1873 confirms that Joshua Josephson was the owner of the land. Wentworth Court, or Place as it was termed, was occupied by "weekly tenants" in the middle of the 1870s. By the first half of the 1880s the building was known as Wentworth Court and contained a ground floor and two upper levels. It was considered to be sufficiently important in the middle of this decade to warrant separate listing in Sands Sydney and suburban directory. Its mixed tenants included artists,

merchants, watchmakers, surveyors, and most of all, solicitors and barristers. A photograph of the building taken in May 1926, shortly before it was demolished, shows its Elizabeth Street facade to have been a restrained three storey building with a high parapet and a simple tripartite fenestration pattern. At the same time, the Phillip Street facade was more elaborate in its decorative treatment and punctuated by arched openings, in addition to being a storey taller.

The title of the land was transferred to Sydney Arthur Josephson and William Edward Wilson as joint tenants. Title to the land was transferred from Josephson and Wilson to Sun Newspapers Ltd in stages, from May 1920 to February 1921. The site was then consolidated when Sun Newspapers Ltd purchased a large amount of Lot 18 from the Harris Family during 1927. It has not been ascertain when the company purchased Lot 8 or part thereof.

#### SUN NEWSPAPERS LTD

The Australian Newspaper Company was one of several that published newspapers in Sydney during the 1890s. Its Australian Star was one of only two evening newspapers published in Sydney during that decade. However, after 1901 the company began to run at a loss. In 1907 it started attempts to raise capital, and towards the end of 1908 it needed to raise capital to fund new plant and for other purposes. The chairman of the Company, Sir Robert Anderson, approached the managing director of the Associated Tobacco Companies, Sir Hugh Denison, for a loan to assist these funding requirements. Despite obtaining the loan, in a relatively short period of time the Australian Newspaper Company found itself contemplating the very real prospect of liquidation. One of its directors, Herbert Easton, induced Sir Hugh Denison to examine the company's position, and the result was that a consortium of a number of Sydney's businessmen formed a new company that was called the Sun Newspaper Company Limited. Two of the board of the Australian Newspaper Company served on the board of the new organisation, and a complete overhaul of its publications was made. The Australian Star remained in publication for a further three months, whilst the Sunday Sun was transformed into a daily paper, and the first issue of its successor, The Sun, was issued on 1 July 1910. Its editor, Montague Grover, aimed to provide the publication with something new:

...[h]e succeeded so well that many of his differences have since become the routine of up-to-date journalism. Prior to the advent of "The Sun" Australian newspapers did not have front windows for the display of their best goods, but now most of them have followed the fashion of printing their leading news items on the front page. Sedater [sic] schools of journalism looked askance at many of Mr. Grover's "revolutionary" changes, but the public evinced a growing appetite for them. Crispness and brightness of presentation in all department of news was the aim.

Circulation on the first day was double that of The Star, helped no doubt by promotional stunts such as motor boats bearing Sun posters speeding around the harbour and a chariot drawn by seven horses driven by a golden haired "Apollo" traversing Sydney's streets. The new newspaper turned out to be no less surprising, with news on the front page instead of the expected advertising and changes tot he conventional layout of newspapers from that era. The sun was successful because, amongst other things, its publishers made great and innovative use of a cable service from overseas and gave a large amount of its space over to crime and human interest stories. Further increases in circulation meant that the premises occupied by the newspaper became inadequate, so land at the rear of the Castlereagh Street building, extending back to Elizabeth Street, was purchased and a new building was erected over the entire site. The building was completed towards the end of 1915.

In 1918 Sun Newspapers Ltd took over the failing The Northern Times in Newcastle and changed its name to The Newcastle Sun, and erected a new four storey building in Hunter Street, Newcastle. This was designed by architect Joseph Kethel. During the second half of the 1920s the company expanded its interests still further. The Daily Telegraph Newspaper Co Ltd, which had been founded in 1879 and had erected a very large building at the corner of

King and Castlereagh Streets between 1912 and 1916, found itself falling behind in this competitive era. A new company was set up to incorporate the Daily Telegraph Newspaper Co Ltd, with holding the controlling interests in it.

In January 1921 Moore Street, which extended between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets beyond Martin Place, which only stretched between George and Pitt Streets, was renamed Martin Place as well. Evidently Sun Newspapers Ltd recognised that the extension would eventually take place, reflected by the purchase of the property between Elizabeth and Phillip Streets from Josephson and Wilson that concluded in February 1921. The building occupied by Sun Newspapers Ltd was located at the head of Martin Place and so right in the path of the proposed extension of the street through from Castlereagh Street to Macquarie Street. This had been suggested as far back as 1909 by a Royal Commission into the improvement of the City of Sydney.

Architect Joseph Kethel lodged an application for a new building with the Sydney City Council on 18 January 1926, and the following May another application was lodged, this one for the demolition of Wentworth Court. However, two months later an application was lodged, this one for the demolition of Wentworth Court. However, two months later an application was lodged by the building contractors Stuart Bros for the excavation of the site and yet another application was lodged for demolition a few days after that.

In the mean time, however, Sun Newspapers Ltd organised an architectural competition that was held in 1926, with six architects selected to submit entries, indicating that the newspaper was reconsidering its new premises. The entries were adjudicated by Professor Leslie Wilkinson, Chair of the School of Architecture at Sydney University and Kingsley Henderson, a prominent architect from Melbourne whose practice designed many major office buildings throughout Australia during the 1920s and into the 1930s - "After adjudication had been carried out in the usual way, and the names of the competitors kept sealed until after the award had been made, by a remarkable coincidence the winner, Mr J Kethel, turned out to be the architect who had carried out the "Sun" Newspapers' work for many years past..." Kethel lodged a revised application for the new building on 27 July 1927. The structural engineer for the project was E Leslie James.

#### JOSEPH ALEXANDER KETHEL

Joseph Alexander Kethel was born on 31 January 1866. He was the second son of the Honourable Alexander Kethel, MLC, and was indentured into the practice of Thomas Rowe and Sydney Moore Green, architects, in 1887. A number of business premises located in Sydney were designed in Kethel's office. They included the building for Alliance Assurance Company at 97 Pitt Street (demolished), the London Assurance Building at 16-20 Bridge Street (demolished), major alterations to an office building at 16 Loftus Street, Sydney (circa 1921, demolished) and numerous private residences and pastoral homesteads. The buildings included "Cavan" in the vicinity of Yass, "Chatsworth" at Potts Point (1922, demolished) and a residence at Leura, both for William Rhodes (demolished), ecclesiastical buildings such as the former Fuller Memorial Church in Surry Hills and theatres such as the Independent Theatre at North Sydney. Kethel held the position of Honorary Architect to the Royal Australian Historical Society. He died on 29 April 1946.

Kethel was responsible for a number of earlier buildings for Sun Newspapers, so it is not surprising that he received the commission for 60-70 Elizabeth Street, for he designed the newspaper's earlier building in Castlereagh Street and its premises in Newcastle. He also designed a buildings for the publishers of Truth and Sportsman at 61-73 Kippax Street, Sydney.

#### THE SUN BUILDING

The newly completed Sun Building, erected by the firm of Concrete Constructions Ltd, was officially opened on 15 October 1929 by the Governor of NSW, Sir Dudley de Chair. Was attended by a large number of dignitaries, including the Premier, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the President of the Legislative Council, the Vice-Chancellor of the University (of Sydney) and numerous others.

The appearance of the building's exterior excited interest because it was an example of the newly popular "commercial Gothic" idiom that enjoyed a brief flowering in Sydney and other Australian cities in the second half of the 1920s and into the early 1930s. This aroused mixed feelings in some quarters. The editors of the influential architectural journal *Building* felt that

...[t]he five great openings at the bottom are dignified enough in themselves, only with their turned columns of Tuscan form and darker material, they do not appear to be in keeping with the rest of the ornament, which is applied to, rather than embodied in the composition. The symbol of the firm - the sun - held like a great balloon in the sky is the most daring and outstanding feature of the work. The seven floors in the shaft of the building, contained in five vertical bays, are essentially commercial and severely plain, probably intended to throw the ornamental proportions into high relief..

Some aspects of the building reflected peculiarities inherent in the height restrictions current at the time, and because of the fall across the site the building effectively ended up with two different roof levels. Towers on either side of the building served different functions. That on the Elizabeth Street side held aloft the gilded balloon representing the sun, whilst the tower on the Phillip Street side contained an observation platform. Below it, a cafeteria for the use of staff opened out onto the roof over the Elizabeth Street side of the building. Such staff amenities were relatively common parts of interwar office building design, but evidently not so common in other newspaper offices. A hospital located on the thirteenth floor was another facility provided for the benefit of the staff, as was a "mechanical suite where each departmental foreman has his own table, and mechanical toilets with enclosed showers, etc." Further consideration was shown for the staff by the use of "Vita glass" in a number of the building's windows. This proprietary glass was claimed to allow the passage of ultra violet radiation, and so benefit those working behind it.

Seven high speed lifts, travelling at the maximum permitted speed of 600 feet (182 metres) per minute were installed. This was amongst the largest lift installations in any Sydney office building during the interwar period. Some of the innovations to be found in the building included the largest mechanical ventilation system installed in any Australian building of the time, (no doubt due in part to there being three floors constructed below the level of Phillip Street) while the exhaust fan in the system was the largest that had yet been installed in any Australian building up to that time. The basement levels contained the printing machinery and heavy storage.

The exterior of the building was clad in a rich variety of materials. The ground floor levels were finished with Uralla granite, with emerald pearl around the windows and red granite on the Elizabeth Street facade. Above these levels it was clad in Benedict Stone of a soft grey hue. Benedict stone, apparently named after the person who invented it, appears to have been introduced in America during the 1880s. It was manufactured in a straightforward fashion - selected stone was crushed into chips and dust, then washed and mixed with a special cement. It was then poured into moulds of the required configuration. The Sun Building was the first major project in Sydney, if not Australia, to make use of this material. The decorative potential of stone was exploited to enhance parts of the interior as well. The main entrance vestibule was ornamented in "richly coloured" Cudgegong marble, whilst the main entrance stair landings and mid landings were tiled with panels depicting Apollo, the Sun God. By contract, the rest of the interiors were considered to be quite plain. The newspaper took pride in the fact that "wherever possible" Australian materials, "in keeping with the national character of the paper" were used.

One very unusual feature associated with the building was the two landscaped plots in front of the Elizabeth Street facade. A central path connected the main entry and the footpath along the street. The plots, protected by chains slung between posts, were enhanced by decorative pedestals amidst expanses of lawn and young trees. Regretfully they were to have a short life, as this section of Elizabeth Street was widened around 1934.

Apart from the Sun Building there were a number of large buildings erected for the publishers of newspapers in Sydney during the second and third decades of the twentieth century. They included the Daily Telegraph Building at the corner of King and Castlereagh Streets (now known as the Trust Building), designed by the architectural firm of Robertson & Marks and completed in 1916, the Sydney Morning Herald Building at the corner of Hunter and O'Connell Streets, designed by the architectural firm of Manson and Pickering and completed in 1929, and the Evening News Building designed by the architectural firm of Spain and Cosh and completed in 1926.

#### SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF SUN NEWSPAPERS LTD

On 1 October 1929 Sun Newspapers Ltd merged its interests with those of S Bennett Ltd to form Associated Newspapers Limited, which was an operating as well as a holding company. The following January the new company purchased the Daily and Sunday Guardian from Smith's Newspapers Ltd and the remaining shares in Daily Telegraph Pictorial Ltd were purchased in February 1930. The directors of the company were forced to undertake some drastic measures as a result of the economic depression of the early 1930s and correspondingly reduced circulating revenue. As a result the Evening News and Sunday Pictorial were discontinued, the Daily Guardian and Daily Pictorial were incorporated into a new newspaper called The Daily Telegraph, and the Sunday Guardian and Sunday Sun were incorporated into one newspaper. In this way the company published a morning, an evening and a Sunday newspaper. During 1936 the principal assets of S Bennett Limited were sold to Consolidated Press Limited (of which Associated Newspapers was a shareholder), as was the goodwill of The Daily Telegraph. At this time Associated Newspapers were possessed of only one active subsidiary company in the form of Sun Newspapers Limited. It was decided to consolidate these interests and reduce operating expenses by amalgamating the two companies, and to this end Sun Newspapers was voluntarily liquidated on 29 March 1937. S Bennett Limited was the next subsidiary to go, and was liquidated during 1938, whilst the Newcastle Sun was sold to the Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate Pty Limited. On January 26, 1938, the company launched a "pioneer journey in Pictorial News in Australia", Pix. During 1939 and 1940 the company invested in new plant and machinery to allow for expanded circulation and business, whilst at the end of 1939 a subsidiary company, Wireless Newspapers Pty Limited, was placed into voluntary liquidation. Around this time the company was also acquiring shares in Australian Newspaper Mills Pty Limited. Its stable of publications included the Daily Sun, Woman, Sunday Sun, World's News, Pix, Wireless Weekly and Radio and Hobbies. By 1943 Wireless Weekly had been replaced by Pocket Book Weekly, and despite the strictures of paper rationing circulation figures exceeded previous years.

In 1947 two new magazines were introduced - Sporting Life and Glamour - and in the second half of 1949 Sungravure Limited was formed to take over the company's rotogravure printing activities. At the Annual General Meeting of Associated Newspapers held at the end of 1953, W O Fairfax gave notice of his candidature for election to the Board. This followed on from negotiations with John Fairfax and Sons Pty Limited earlier in the year that were concluded by the issue of shares to that company, to assist Associated Newspapers in improving its financial position. John Fairfax and Sons were also given representation on its Board. In June 1955, 60-70 Elizabeth Street was sold to the Government Insurance Office of New South Wales, whilst magazine and job printing rights were sold to Sungravure Limited, mirroring continued difficulties within the company. By the end of 1956 W O Fairfax had become Chairman of Directors whilst production and distribution of The Sun was transferred to John Fairfax & Son's Broadway premises. Employees were transferred to Sungravure and John Fairfax and Sons, which carried the bulk of newsprint requirements.

In the second half of 1970 half of Sungravure Pty Limited was sold to the International Publishing Corporation, an overseas company that was the world's largest publisher of magazines. Associated Newspapers now only published The Sun and The Sun Herald. By 1974 the parent company was deriving a trading profit from the publication of The Sun and operated an interest of one-third in The Sun Herald. In a reversal of what had happened in 1970, on 21 April 1978 Associated Newspapers regained total ownership of Sungravure Pty Limited.

#### SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE SUN BUILDING

Evidently Sun Newspapers Ltd foresaw the need to expand its new premises within the next decade, for its site was enlarged in October 1931 by the acquisition of a new title from the Sydney City Council of a part of the former Allotment 7, 68-70 Elizabeth Street. The Council of the City of Sydney had resumed this land the previous year, in August 1930. An application to demolish the buildings which stood on this land was made in November 1933. The site was expanded yet again by a new title in March 1936 from the addition of part of Lot 7 and part of Lot 8 in Section 40, purchased from the Council of the City of Sydney in November 1935. The Council had resumed the land in May 1935.

During the second half of the 1930s architects Scott Green and Scott were responsible for the design and documentation of a series of alterations and additions to the building (refer to Appendix 3). In June 1936 Scott Green and Scott lodged an application to the building. In June 1936 Scott Green and Scott lodged an application for the enclosure of the northern lightwell in 1938, which was adjacent to the recently completed APA Building on Martin Place. Documentation describing major extensions to the building on the site of 68-70 Elizabeth Street was lodged in July 1938. This necessitated the demolition of a building called Dymocks Chambers on Elizabeth Street and Northfield Chambers (erected around 1888) at 163 Phillip Street. In June 1939 it was proposed to construct a floor across a lightwell on the fifth floor. The same architects were involved with the building continued after World War Two, but by this time was known as EA & TM Scott. They were responsible for the design and documentation associated with the construction of a mezzanine level between the sixth and seventh floors in 1946-47, a fan room on the western side of the roof of the extension and the construction of lavatory accommodation at the Phillip Street level.

After ownership of the building was transferred to Associated Newspaper Ltd during the liquidation of Sun Newspapers in August 1939, from the next month part of the basement was leased by the Sydney City Council. Associated Newspapers Limited finally became proprietor of the land on 17 December 1953. The title was transferred from Associated Newspapers to the Government Insurance Office on 15 June 1955. The building was then extensively remodelled internally to suit the requirements of its new owners and many original finishes and fittings were swept away. The works were designed by the Government Architect's Office and carried out by the Public Works Department. At the same time extensive repairs and refitting of the steel framed windows took place, and the whole of the works were completed by the middle of 1957. Associated Newspapers tenanted a part of the building until February 1963.

From 1959 onwards the building was subjected to numerous programs of alteration and modification, and for a number of years these were designed by the architectural firm of Morrow and Gordon. The modifications carried out under their direction affected a large part of the building. In 1959 the firm documented alterations to the main entrance off Phillip Street, partitions on the ninth floor and alterations to provide a car park, which included the construction of a series of ramps and "mezzanine" levels between the existing floor slabs. Between 1961 and 1964 their work included alterations to toilets and associated spaces, further alterations on the ninth floor, a covered way on the roof, a new tea room on the sixth floor, alterations on the seventh floor, and alterations to the "tank". In 1968 major upgrading of the mechanical ventilation system was documented and two years later plans were prepared for and alterations to the ground floor.



Apart from Morrow and Gordon, there were other architects who were responsible for work to the building in this period. For instance, the Melbourne-based architect Guildford Bell designed facilities for Ansett Transport Industries in the basement and ground floor levels during 1959.

The pace of change continued unabated during the 1970s and 1980s. Extensive alterations were carried out in 1970 and 1971, while alterations to Floors 7, 9, 10 and 11 took place in 1972. All were designed by architect RB Keers. In 1985 major alterations to the building, valued at \$12 million, were documented by the architectural firm of Keers Banks and Maitland. This resulted in the removal of all the interior fabric excepting structural items from the ground levels upwards and installation of new services, lifts, stairs and toilet areas. New plant room accommodation was constructed at roof level, many windows were replaced and the introduction of retail tenancies on the ground floors resulted in modifications to the facades at street level. Since these extensive modifications were completed, there have been various alterations related to internal partitioning and changes in tenancies.

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60-70 Elizabeth Street (GIO Building)

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## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce-Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	Publishing-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Communication-Activities relating to the creation and conveyance of information	Communicating by the printed word-

## Assessment of significance

### SHR Criteria a)

[Historical significance]

60-70 Elizabeth Street has important associations with Sun Newspapers Ltd, which did much to change the way in which newspapers were published in Sydney in the early part of the twentieth century, and with the subsequent publication of newspapers up until the mid twentieth century;

It is one of a number of large buildings erected specifically for the use of newspaper publishing in the second and third decades of the twentieth century in the City of Sydney. However, evidence of this past use has been removed from much of the building's interior;

The site has historical associations with the significant figure of Joshua Josephson, who was a prominent legal figure and for a time mayor of Sydney, as well as holding property interests in the city centre.

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**SHR Criteria c)**

[Aesthetic significance]

60-70 Elizabeth Street is an important work by the architect Joseph Kethel, who was responsible for the design of a number of buildings for newspaper publishers during the first third of the twentieth century and designed a wide range of other buildings.

The building is a rare example of a large Interwar Skyscraper Gothic style building in the City of Sydney, with a relatively intact exterior. It was the first major example of this style to be erected in Sydney, and may be the first to have been erected in Australia. The building also contains a small amount of original internal fabric in the form of the boardroom on the seventh floor and the associated ante room;

The building is an important part of the architectural fabric of the area around Martin Place, Elizabeth Street and Phillip Street and has strong visual relationship with the former APA Building and other major interwar office buildings in this locality.

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**SHR Criteria d)**

[Social significance]

The building is not considered to demonstrate any social significance. It does not appear to have any association with a contemporary community for social, spiritual or other reasons.

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**SHR Criteria e)**

[Research potential]

The exterior of the building has technical significance because it was the first time that a proprietary synthetic stone, Benedict stone, was employed as the cladding of a major building in Sydney.


Conservation Management Plan

60-70 Elizabeth Street (GIO Building)

Author: Rod Howard Heritage Conservation Pty Ltd

Year: 2001

Page: 70

**Assessment criteria:** Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Procedures /Exemptions

Section of act	Description	Title	Comments	Action date
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Heritage Act - Site Specific Exemptions	<p>Order Under Section 57(2) to exempt the following activities from Section 57(1):</p> <p>(1) The maintenance of any building or item on the site where maintenance means the continuous protective care of existing materials;</p> <p>(2) Change of use</p> <p>(3) Internal alterations</p>	Aug 4 1989
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	<p>SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>HERITAGE ACT 1977</p> <p>Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, do by this Order:</p> <p>1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and</p> <p>2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached.</p> <p>FRANK SARTOR</p> <p>Minister for Planning</p> <p>Sydney, 11 July 2008</p>	Sep 5 2008

To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.

 **Standard exemptions** for works requiring Heritage Council approval

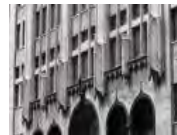
## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		00683	02 Apr 99	27	1546
Heritage Act - Permanent Conservation Order - former		00683	04 Aug 89	87	5078
Local Environmental Plan	CSH LEP 4		07 Apr 00		

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written	Rod Howard Heritage Conservation Pty Ltd	2001	Conservation Management Plan - 60-70 Elizabeth Street (GIO Building)	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



(Click on thumbnail for full size image and image details)

## Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

**Name:** Heritage Office

**Database number:** 5045197

**File number:** S90/03178 & HC 33531

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# Commonwealth Bank

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Commonwealth Bank
<b>Other name/s:</b>	The Government Savings Bank of New South Wales, CBA Building
<b>Type of item:</b>	Built
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Commercial
<b>Category:</b>	Bank
<b>Location:</b>	Lat: -33.8673092818 Long: 151.2102322270
<b>Primary address:</b>	48-50 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000
<b>County:</b>	Cumberland
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Sydney
<b>Local Aboriginal Land Council:</b>	Metropolitan

## Property description

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
LOT	1		DP	182023

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
48-50 Martin Place	Sydney	Sydney		Cumberland	Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

The Commonwealth Bank at 48 Martin Place is culturally significant at a National level as a rare example of Inter-War Beaux-Arts architecture demonstrating outstanding technical accomplishment. It is also of exceptional local and State significance. Located at a prominent address on Martin Place, the building played an important role in the development of the economy in New South Wales during the 1920s. The building was constructed between 1925 and 1928 and is one of the most important examples of its style and type within New South Wales and Australia. 48 Martin Place is one of the finest banking institutions in Australia and the finest in New South Wales. The cultural significance of 48 Martin Place and its setting will be maintained through its association with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd, 2000).

**Date significance updated:** 06 Jul 00

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

<b>Designer/Maker:</b>	48 Martin Place - Ross & Rowe Architects and Consulting Engineers; Primary Structure - A.S. McDonald
<b>Builder/Maker:</b>	Concrete Constructions Ltd.
<b>Construction years:</b>	1925-1928
<b>Physical description:</b>	The Commonwealth Bank building fronts Martin Place on the south, Elizabeth Street on the east and Castlereagh Street on the west. The building is an extensive eleven-storey structure plus mezzanine above ground, with three basement levels. Externally the building displays monumental civic scale and precise, symmetrical detailing utilising classical motifs. The Classic inspiration for the building is evident in the columns used on the exterior:

- Ionic columns on the Martin Place façade,
- Corinthian columns framing the balcony doors, and
- Doric columns on the roof.

The great Ionic columns on the Martin Place façade unite the six central floors, with the remaining floors serving as base and frieze. Above the base storey, strongly expressed with red granite facing, the cladding is pink terracotta blocks arranged in small tessellated effect.



Terracotta cladding is also used on the Martin Place columns. At the upper levels, ornate terracotta detailing is included on the cornice, entablature and pilaster capitals. At roof level, the building has a Classical attic storey and dentilated cornice.

48 Martin Place has tremendous civic presence, portraying an image of massive solidity. The rich colour of the façade materials makes the Bank a most eminent landmark amongst its neighbours. It is a magnificent example of Beaux-Arts revivalist architecture, and a visual and technical masterpiece. The style was used to express the wealth and stability of financial institutions emphasising the qualities of:

- a monumental scale expressed by giant order;
- symmetry and the sculptural treatment of the facades;
- comprehensive use of classical motifs and details (both externally and internally);
- up-to-date structural techniques allowing expansive rooms; and
- high quality materials and finishes.

Extensive conservation works have restored the principal public areas to near original condition internally. The Banking Chamber, Grand Hall and Safe Deposit area are impressive in scale and detailing and form a sequence of grand interiors.

The Banking Chamber is detailed in an extravagant neo-Classical style, displaying substantial use of marble, and scagliola on tremendous stylised columns. The banking staff occupy the central space, which features marble, bronze and glass partitions. The main entrance is from Martin Place with access available from both Castlereagh and Elizabeth Streets, and also at the northern end of the building, between the Grand Hall and the Banking Chamber. The lofty ceiling is coffered and treated in a decorative manner, achieved by use of Wunderlich pressed metal panels fixed to the concrete slab. The arrangement had been detailed to give efficient and reflected light. Large bronze lamps supply artificial light reflected off the ceiling, providing diffused general lighting.

The Grand Hall forms a pedestrian way between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Streets. A ribbed barrel dome, embellished with mosaics and stained glass panels depicting prosperous Australian industries at the time of construction, surmounts the passage. Located centrally within the Hall is the Grand Stair, a wide marble staircase with bronze grille balustrade and Queensland maple handrail. The stair converges centrally at the Government Savings Bank's Memorial Window and Tablet located on the northern-most wall. Walls of marble and the sumptuous detail create a remarkable architectural space.

The Safe Deposit area in the basement level is remarkably intact. Great barrel domes create a magnificent groined ceiling of three bays supported by marble pilasters. The ceilings are decorative, and brass pendant lights hang from the centre of each dome. Mosaic spandrels above marble walls are framed by the ceiling vaults and depict wreaths and festoons in rich green and red against a neutral setting. The whole is framed by a green and red leaf and berry motif on deep yellow mosaic tiles. The floors are white marble with decorative black border tiles.

While the lettable office space on the upper floors has been extensively altered, the stairways connecting the upper floors are largely intact. The stairs within the chambers are terrazzo, and balustrades are bronze with timber handrails. Original timber framed hydrant covers with frosted glazed panels and timber and brass mail chutes, no longer in use, have been retained within the stair chambers, along with the floor levels detailed in decorative tiles on the walls. Windows with deep reveals are located at each level of the stair chambers. (Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd, 2000)

**Physical condition  
and/or  
Archaeological  
potential:**

Physical condition is excellent. Archaeological potential is low.

**Modifications and  
dates:**

**Date condition updated:**06 Jul 00

Modifications 1928-1984

The building had no major building construction since completion in 1928. The major changes that had occurred in the building since its construction until 1984 are listed below:

- Mechanical Ventilation: Wall fans installed throughout the building. Packaged air conditioning units installed in many areas including the Banking Chamber.

- Lifts: Original lift cars and doors replaced. Marble door reveals concealed by new door frames.
- Banking Chamber: Several major changes were evident in 1984:
  - Glazed lantern covered over by ceiling tiles. Glass roof replaced with corrugated steel sheeting.
  - Ceiling bays covered over by ceiling tiles. Decoration painted out.
  - Original lights removed from all but the perimeter zone.
  - Grilles removed from all arched windows.
  - Air conditioning units installed on the floor within the work area.
  - Original inner entrance doors removed from the Martin Place vestibule.
- Grand Hall: Original decoration painted over and light fittings removed. Stair nosings replaced with terrazzo. Smoke ventilation system installed in the 1960s, glass roof removed and concrete slab installed.
- Office Floors: Tiled terracotta partitions removed from most areas. Original light fittings removed, and extensive surface wiring and fluorescent light fittings installed.
- Central and Northern Lightwells: White tiles removed from the walls. Glass lanterns at the base of both wells removed and framing covered.
- Level 2 Offices: Minor changes include partitioning of the original Boardroom. Original light fittings replaced.
- Level 4 Offices: Suspended ceiling installed over new services and ductwork. Tiles removed and walls rendered.
- Level 9: Caretaker's flat, dining room, kitchen and professional offices removed.
- Roof: Timber buildings introduced during World War 2. Cooling towers added to serve the Banking Chamber and Level 4.

#### Modifications 1984-1990

A synopsis of the extensive conservation works undertaken throughout 1984-1990 is provided below:

- Façade Restoration: Hand-cleaning of the terracotta and granite, removal of masons putty and re-pointing.
- Windows: All windows replaced with new welded brass units (subsequently bronzed). Original decorative copper and brass components removed, restored and replaced in their original positions. Internal window frames of Queensland maple restored.
- Scagliola: New wall panels of scagliola introduced and original panels removed, restored and installed in new locations due to the relocation of the lifts. Scagliola applied to columns was stabilised using epoxy injected with fine hypodermic needles into deteriorated areas. Walls were hand-cleaned in-situ.
- Marble and Lift Services: Original existing marble was cleaned and repolished, and relocated in some areas, for example in the north-west lift lobby to accommodate a new lift. Both north-west and north-east lift lobby areas modified by the introduction of new shafts and developed with new marble (from local and overseas sources) to match the existing. Fire stairs and new service ducts introduced while maintaining and protecting the adjacent original fabric.
- Metalwork: Original metalwork elements including the decorative external spandrel units, Banking Chamber entablature, the balustrades, perimeter lamps and writing slopes within the Banking Chamber, external lamps adjacent the Martin Place entrance and entrance doors were removed, stripped to base metal, repaired and straightened, coloured (bronzed) and reinstalled.
- Paintwork: Decorative paintwork to match original colour schemes was newly applied to the ceiling of the Banking Chamber, the Grand Hall vaulted ribs, ceilings of the lift lobbies, the Safe Deposit Public lobby and Vault lobby and the restored original Boardroom.
- Asbestos: Asbestos removed from the ceiling spaces, floors, voids and from behind the decorative metal curtain wall panels.
- Services: Extensive new services introduced into the building, with central facilities housed in new roof buildings integrated with the original towers and colonnades. Existing roof towers restored for reuse as service towers in accordance with the original intention.
- Levels 2 & 3: Original Executive offices (Level 2) restored. Original panelling, doors and hardware on Levels 2 and 3 restored for reuse.
- Banking Chamber and Grand Hall: Banking Chamber and Grand Hall restored and adapted

for contemporary banking facilities and creation of a new Foyer for the Head Office by modification of the rear counter line (reducing the counter by one full bay). Works included the restoration of the Martin Place rising bronze door and the renewal of the hydraulic system and controls, the introduction of new stairs leading to the Safe Deposit Vault and installation of bronze lights, reconstructed to match the original perimeter lights within the ceiling bays.

- Safe Deposit and Basement: Safe Deposit areas were largely preserved. A new 32 vehicle carpark was installed, accessed from the Castlereagh Street side of the upper and lower basements with a loading and servicing facility introduced.

- Atrium: Original central lightwell adapted to form an atrium extending from the roof to a garden at Level 2, where the floor has been infilled. The concrete frame was clad in polished granite, with white Carrara marble floors, and the space glazed at roof level.

- Office Floors: The large (1850m<sup>2</sup>) office floors were modified for modern office use by introduction of air conditioning, suspended ceilings, sprinklers, extensive electrical and communication services. New plant rooms, switch rooms, toilets, tea rooms and fire stairs installed. Original Queensland maple architraves restored.

- Disabled Access: Disabled access provided within a new entrance at Elizabeth Street via a ramp leading to the north-east lift lobby. Disabled toilet facilities provided on levels 1, 3 and 9.

**Current use:** Public Bank and Commercial Offices

**Former use:** Public Bank and Commercial Offices

## History

**Historical notes:** 1920-1928

The successful growth and development of the Government Savings Bank of NSW over several decades necessitated relocating the operation to larger premises capable of not only accommodating the current requirements but also future ones. Between November 29, 1920 and September 21, 1921 the Commissioners of the Bank purchased five adjoining strips of land (comprising seven properties) between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Streets. The properties had frontages of 280 feet to both streets and a total cost of 298,500 pounds.

The eventual dimensions of the amalgamated site were 45 metres to Martin Place on the south, 59 metres to Elizabeth Street on the east and 63 metres to Castlereagh Street on the west. In addition to its potential for development at the required scale, the site was undoubtedly favoured for its proximity to an established civic district and central location amidst the emerging retail and financial districts of the City following World War I.

It was during the Bank's administration of W. H. O'Malley Wood (President) and H. D. Hall and J. H. Davies (Commissioners) that 48 Martin Place was erected. During a ceremony on March 13, 1922, three foundation stones for the building were laid by:

The Hon. James Dooley MLA - Premier of New South Wales

The Hon. J. T. Lang MLA - Colonial Treasurer

Mr O'Malley Wood - President of the Bank

Construction eventually commenced in February 1925 and 48 Martin Place was completed late in 1928, to be officially opened by the Premier of New South Wales, the Hon. T. R. Bavin, on December 13 of that year. The roof provided panoramic views over the harbour and the city in 1928, and the whole building symbolised the optimism and forward thinking of the 1920s prior to the great Depression, in addition to the prestige, security and strength of the Bank. The location, size and grandeur of the building confirmed a belief in the stability and endurance of the Australian economy in general, and the distinguished place of New South Wales in that development in particular.

At the time of its construction, the building was the most expensive in Australia, having been constructed at a cost of 1,500,000 pounds.

1980-1990

Recognising the importance of 48 Martin Place, the Commonwealth Bank commissioned Australian Construction Services late in 1980 to develop proposals for the conservation and upgrading of the building. Various building elements, in particular the facade, were examined over several subsequent years. Research also included the removal of one window of each type from the south-east corner of the building to investigate the method of detailing and the condition of the metal and working mechanisms.

Following the relocation of the Commonwealth Taxation Department in 1983, who had occupied the floors above the Banking Chamber since the 1930s, the Commonwealth Bank took the opportunity to engage in a major restoration project for this notable City property. After a series of feasibility and design studies were undertaken by Australian Construction Services, with input from Mr Peter Freeman of the Australian Heritage Commission, the Commonwealth Bank decided, in early 1984, to make 48 Martin Place Head Office for the organisation.

The restoration programme was undertaken in three stages between 1984 and 1990:

Stage One: Internal demolitions, scaffolding and hoarding, and asbestos removal;

Stage Two: Major works of restoration, reconstruction and refurbishment, internal construction and services installation;

Stage Three: Final interior fitout and finishing. (Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd, 2000)

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce-Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	(none)-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Technology-Activities and processes associated with the knowledge or use of mechanical arts and applied sciences	(none)-
5. Working-Working	Labour-Activities associated with work practises and organised and unorganised labour	(none)-

## Assessment of significance

### SHR Criteria a)

[Historical significance]

The building at 48 Martin Place represents the importance of the savings bank movement established in New South Wales (Campbell's Bank 1819), which founded the pattern for the other Colonies, and of which both the Government Savings Bank and the Commonwealth Bank were successors.

48 Martin Place is associated with prosperous industries within New South Wales at the time of its construction. Stained glass panels within the Grand Hall depict the 'basic sources of wealth' as they were seen in the 1920s, which were ultimately connected to banking.

The Government Savings Bank promoted thrift, playing an important role as the 'People's Bank' for the average citizen who could deposit small sums and gain interest, including children via school savings accounts. The institution operated a wide network of offices and branches throughout suburban and rural New South Wales.

The Government Savings Bank is directly associated with much of the suburban development of the 1920s in New South Wales by providing home loans through the Advances for Homes Department. This assisted subsequent prosperity within the building industry and associated services.

In 1931, the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales was the largest savings bank within Australia and the second largest in the British Empire.

The distinguished location, scale and majestic style of the new Head Office signified the optimism and confidence of the 1920s following World War I, the belief in the stability and endurance of the Australian economy and the pre-eminence of the Sydney CBD financial

centre.

The project instigated by the President and Commissioners of the Government Savings Bank was remarkable in scale and cost, providing a considerable boost to employment and the building trade in NSW in the 1920s.

The building is associated with the emergence in the 1920s of large construction companies.

The project was instrumental in the expansion of Wunderlich within New South Wales, who effectively established a new Australian industry for the creation of terracotta blocks.

The Government Savings Bank was directly associated with critical political and financial events of the Depression period.

As a major financial institution representing small investors, the collapse of the Government Savings Bank in 1931 had a devastating effect upon the lives of ordinary citizens.

The Bank was a significant and conspicuous casualty of the conflict between Federal and State governments over economic policies to relieve the Depression. The closure contributed to division within the Labor party that was brought about by the contentious policies of the New South Wales Labor government under J. T. Lang's Premiership.

The collapse represented a crucial loss of confidence at a critical time in the Depression that was encouraged by media reports. Loss of confidence also arose from the dispute between Federal and State Labor governments and general fear of the policies instigated by NSW Premier Jack Lang.

Establishment of the Commonwealth Bank is associated with the philosophy of the Federal Labor government prior to World War I for state control of banking.

48 Martin Place has been consistently used as a financial centre and public banking facility, and continues to provide evidence of its associations.

The restoration of the Bank between 1984 and 1990 was a significant conservation project by an important government institution, reflecting the prosperity and confidence of the banking industry during the 1980s.

48 Martin Place represents an important conservation project, enabling the revival of several trades and skills associated with the heritage industry. The building represents the ability of older buildings to maintain original functions at a time of major institutional and technological change in banking.

The intactness of the original Bank building retains the ability to demonstrate the original customer service procedures and the hierarchy of the management structure. Many such features were preserved during the restoration.

48 Martin Place is an excellent example of the continuing American influence on the design of large commercial buildings in Sydney and contains many features of turn-of-the-century American financial institutions. The direct contact with American architecture is significant.

The building was commissioned by the first president of the Government Savings Bank of NSW at 48 Martin Place, W. H. O'Malley-Wood, and Commissioners H. D. Hall and J. H. Davies.

The building is associated with political figures James Dooley (former Premier of NSW) and J.

T. Lang (former Colonial Treasurer), who along with O'Malley-Wood laid the foundation stones in 1922.

48 Martin Place represents the finest work of the significant architectural and engineering firm of H. E. Ross and Rowe. The surviving comprehensive documentary record of the original sketch, design and construction drawings enhances the importance of this association.

48 Martin Place represents a building constructed within the final phase of use of the combined skills of architecture and engineering within the architectural profession.

**SHR Criteria c)**

[Aesthetic significance]

The building was directly associated with the firm after completion when Ross and Rowe moved their practice into the building. (Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd, 2000)

48 Martin Place is a magnificent example of Beaux-Arts revivalist architecture - a visual and technical masterpiece.

The building is aesthetically distinguished. The façade materials are detailed in rich colours that make the building distinctive amongst the significant streetscape of Martin Place. In particular, the terracotta is aesthetically distinguished not least because of its contrast to the traditional masonry materials of the surrounding buildings. The roovescape has been designed to integrate service elements with the neo-Classical design of the remainder of the building, with respect for the high visibility of the roof. Internally, the extensive use of Australian marbles and scagliola provide rich appeal. The building reflects the materials and wealth of natural resources available within NSW and Australia at the time of its construction.

48 Martin Place displays high quality craftsmanship and high quality materials throughout.

The building displays tremendous civic presence through its monumentality and consistent use of classical motifs. It is prominently located over the width of an important city block. (Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd, 2000)

**SHR Criteria d)**

[Social significance]

The Commonwealth Bank is an important financial institution and Sydney has been the National Headquarters since 1913. 48 Martin Place was originally constructed as a Head Office (for the Government Savings Bank of NSW) and is significant now as the Head Office for the Commonwealth Bank, an institution of national importance. In 1990, operations were relocated from 120 Pitt Street, the original Head Office.

48 Martin Place provides evidence of the significance of banking to the community, especially in a government and business sense. The building was designed to represent the status of banking institutions in the public esteem through the instruments of government and politics, and reflected the stability and confidence of the era which were considered as an important part of banking. While the building itself remains a symbol and the importance of banking is still acknowledged, current community values and the regard for politics and large institutions in general have changed.

The Martin Place Executive offices on Level 2 were designed for and originally occupied by the Commissioners and the Senior Executive Officers. The prestige of their design and location is directly connected with people who hold authority within the Bank. Social significance can be attributed to these rooms as they continue to be used by Senior Executives. (Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd, 2000)

**SHR Criteria e)**

[Research potential]

The building demonstrates superior technical accomplishment, utilising innovative and unique design and engineering features and technical innovations, including the use of terracotta blocks as permanent formwork over a majority of the façade.

The Martin Place entry doors display significant technical innovation, being hydraulically operated vertical action doors housed in special cavities in the basement.

The mechanical fire escape operating from Level 1 and incorporating a false sill and keystone is the only known example within Australia. The physical evidence of the mechanical fire escape, albeit retained in a non-working state, provides a major source of information.

The main Safe Deposit Vault door and small-scale emergency doors employed the most up-to-date technology of the time, and have not required replacement since their installation. The technology extended to the treatment of the retracting floor around the main door, used



to allow the door to swing freely for opening and closing, and also to keep it in place during the Bank's operating hours.

The reinforced concrete frame was a large-scale concrete structure used relatively early within Australia.

The strong rooms located within the columns display a significant degree of technical innovation.

48 Martin Place has strong associations with creative achievement within Australia and the building has lost little of its design and technical integrity. The visual/sensory appeal and landmark/scenic qualities remain as strong as they were initially.

48 Martin Place is a well documented and researched building. In addition to the original drawings, a remarkable surviving source of information, much of the research potential was investigated and recorded in the recent conservation work (1984-1990). Considering the thoroughness of the previous conservation work, the building is unlikely to yield additional information. (Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd, 2000)


**SHR Criteria f)**  
[Rarity]

The Beaux-Arts style is rare in Australia, with no identifiable distribution pattern evident, and the building exhibits uncommonly rich detailing and unique use of materials.

48 Martin Place is a rare example of an early 20th century financial institution within the country, remarkable in its setting within the Martin Place streetscape and in exceptional condition.

The technique of using façade terracotta as formwork and also special features such as the mechanical fire stair and Martin Place hydraulic door are rare within Australia. (Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd, 2000)


**Assessment criteria:**

Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Procedures /Exemptions

Section of act	Description	Title	Comments	Action date
21(1)(b)	Conservation Plan submitted for endorsement	48 Martin Place CMP	CMP conditionally endorsed by Heritage Council 15 May 2001.	May 15 2001
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	<p>SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>HERITAGE ACT 1977</p> <p>Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, do by this Order:</p> <p>1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and</p> <p>2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached.</p> <p>FRANK SARTOR</p>	Sep 5 2008

			<div>Minister for Planning</div> <div>Sydney, 11 July 2008</div> <div>To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.</div>	
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 **Standard exemptions** for works requiring Heritage Council approval

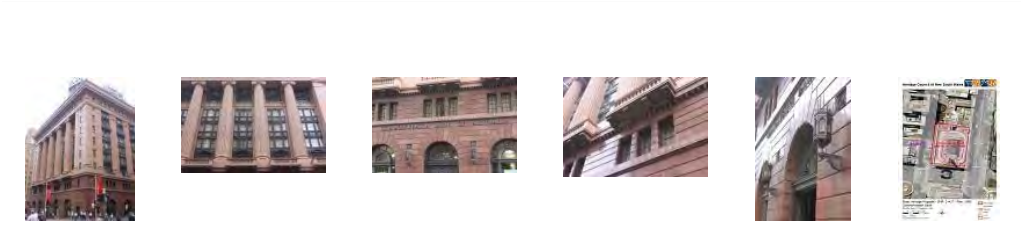
Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		01427	17 Nov 00	150	11885

References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Tourism		2007	Commerce Walking Tour	<a href="#">View details!</a>
Tourism	Attraction Homepage	2007	Commerce Walking Tour	<a href="#">View details!</a>
Management Plan (HC endorsed)	Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd	2000	Conservation Management Plan - Commonwealth Bank, 48 Martin Place, Sydney 48 Martin Place, Sydney Under review	
Written	Tanner & Associates Pty Ltd	2000	State Heritage Inventory form	

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**Database number:** 5045790  
**File number:** S90/03730

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# Former "City Mutual Life Assurance" Building Including Interiors

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Former "City Mutual Life Assurance" Building Including Interiors
<b>Other name/s:</b>	City Mutual Life Assurance Society Ltd Building; Capita Building
<b>Type of item:</b>	Built
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Commercial
<b>Category:</b>	Commercial Office/Building
<b>Location:</b>	Lat: -33.8675771917541 Long: 151.209181274367
<b>Primary address:</b>	10 Bligh Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Sydney

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
10 Bligh Street	Sydney	Sydney			Primary Address
60-66 Hunter Street	Sydney	Sydney			Alternate Address
60-66 Hunter Street	Sydney	Sydney			Alternate Address

## Statement of significance:

The City Mutual Building is one of the most impressive and innovative of Australia's Interwar Art Deco commercial office buildings and a notable exemplar of its style and period. The building is recognized as the finest achievement in this style of its notable architect, Emil Sodersten, and the high quality of its design is matched by its fabric and fine detailing, both internally and externally. Features of particular note and rarity include the elaborate scagliola work in the Assurance Chamber and the bronze relief sculptures over the entry. The sculpture's central figures are a reinterpretation of Benzon's "Flight from Pompei", with flanking bas relief panels of indigenous flora, including banksias and flannel flowers, by renowned sculptor Rayner Hoff over the main entry. The relatively high degree of intactness of the building's important facades and interior spaces, particularly the entry hall and former Assurance Chamber, are also notable and enhance the site's overall significance.

The building's dramatic exploitation of its important corner site and the importance this gives to the building in its context is also an important aspect of the building's aesthetic significance, it serving as a backdrop to Richard Johnson Square and a local landmark in local streetscape views.

Since its completion in 1936 the building has been a symbol of the Mutual Assurance Society and though no longer owned or occupied by them it remains a reminder of the Society's role in the evolution of Sydney's commercial life and building development.

**Date significance updated:** 04 Jan 06

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** Emil Sodersten

**Builder/Maker:** J Cassidy & Concrete Construction Pty Ltd

**Construction years:** 1934-1936

**Physical description:** A particularly fine and exemplary model of Interwar Art Deco office building modelled on the latest American "skyscrapers" of the 1920s and 1930s. Generally acknowledged as the finest example of the work of architect Emil Sodersten this 1936 building fully exploits its important corner site by providing two major streetscape facades and an imposing entrance on the splayed corner emphasized by polished black granite, restrained decorative detailing and surmounting tower. The steel framed building of 11 stories (plus basement + tower levels) is clad with Wondabyne sandstone above a two-storey basecourse of polished red granite. Bronze framed windows and spandrel panels feature at ground and first floor level and steel casement windows above (though many of these were replaced c. 1988). The severity of the main facades is relieved by its careful detailing and use of materials and modelling is provided by the projecting v-shapes of the windows and the skilful setbacks of the corner tower. The black granite to the main entry is enlivened by a bass-relief by the noted sculptor Raynor Hoff and bronze doors and handrails.

Internally the main features include a fine entry hall with marble to walls floor and stair and sliding bronze doors which leads to the splendid, double-height former Assurance Chamber set diagonally through the building and surrounded with offices on all sides. This chamber features fine and rare examples of scagliola on walls and columns as well as marble and bronze detailing. The layout was originally arranged in a v-shape around a central lightwell which also lit one side of the Assurance Chamber but this was infilled in 1988. Most offices have been modernized but the original Boardroom and its custom designed furniture on Level 2, the adjacent corridor and lift foyer and the entrance and stair lobby off Bligh Street are generally retained as originally. Category:Individual Building. Style:Inter-War Art Deco. Storeys:11 + basements + tower. Facade:Sandstone cladding, granite cladding; bronze & steel frame windows. Side/Rear Walls:Rendered masonry. Internal Walls:Plastered brick. Roof Cladding:Waterproof membrane, corrugated steel sheeting. Internal Structure:Conc. encased steel frame. Floor:Reinf. conc. Slab. Roof:Reinf. conc. Slab. Ceilings:Decorative plaster, susp. Plasterbd. Stairs:2 levels of original Hunter St lobby stair & 1 level of Bligh St lobby stair. Fire Stairs:Modern concrete fire stairs. Lifts:3 passenger lifts (Hunter Street); 1 lift (Bligh St lobby). AirConditioned:Yes

**Physical condition and/or** Intrusive Elements:Modern fitouts which have destroyed and/or obscured significant features of original layout and finishes (including present fitout of Assurance Chamber).

**Archaeological potential:**

**Modifications and dates:** 1936

**Further information:** Exceptional Significance:The main facades to Hunter & Bligh Streets and all original fabric and detailing on these (including cladding, decoration, bronze and steel windows, etc). Internally the major spaces including the main entry hall, double-height Assurance Chamber, remnants of the original stair, original Boardroom, its bathroom and furniture on Level 2, Bligh Street entry and lobby. Medium Significance:The building's roof areas and secondary spaces internally which still retain original layout and/or fabric including the lift lobbies, secondary stairs, remnant scagliola tile finishes in hall ways, original timber joinery and office fitouts. Also the later mezzanine level in the Assurance Chamber. Low Significance:Adapted areas with fabric, layout and fitout sympathetic to the original building. :First air-conditioned private office building in Sydney

Was a heritage item in 1989, and has remained so since.

Heritage Inventory sheets are often not comprehensive, and should be regarded as a general guide only. Inventory sheets are based on information available, and often do not include the social history of sites and buildings. Inventory sheets are constantly updated by the City as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may simply indicate that there has been no building work done to the item recently: it does not mean that items are not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items, and is necessary in preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Management Plans, so that the significance of heritage items can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.

**Current use:** Commercial Offices  
**Former use:** Commercial Offices, Club

## History

**Historical notes:** The "Eora people" was the name given to the coastal Aborigines around Sydney. Central Sydney is therefore often referred to as "Eora Country". Within the City of Sydney local government area, the traditional owners are the Cadigal and Wangal bands of the Eora. There is no written record of the name of the language spoken and currently there are debates as to whether the coastal peoples spoke a separate language "Eora" or whether this was actually a dialect of the Dharug language. Remnant bushland in places like Blackwattle Bay retain elements of traditional plant, bird and animal life, including fish and rock oysters.

With the invasion of the Sydney region, the Cadigal and Wangal people were decimated but there are descendants still living in Sydney today. All cities include many immigrants in their population. Aboriginal people from across the state have been attracted to suburbs such as Pyrmont, Balmain, Rozelle, Glebe and Redfern since the 1930s. Changes in government legislation in the 1960s provided freedom of movement enabling more Aboriginal people to choose to live in Sydney.

(Information sourced from Anita Heiss, "Aboriginal People and Place", Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani> )

The corner of Bligh Street and Hunter Street was not occupied by any very permanent buildings for most of the nineteenth century. It is shown as vacant on city plans of 1822, 1843 and 1880, but in 1891 the City Mutual Life Assurance Society bought lot 4. right on the corner, then occupied by some small commercial premises. All these were demolished and, after a competition, George Mansfield's four-storey offices were erected for the insurance company in 1893.

The late Victorian colony had been growing in economic activity and the risks implicit in world trade, intercolonial communications, retailing and home ownership from accident, death or fire had encouraged the growth of major insurance companies, often backed by British capital. The City Mutual, founded in 1878, survived the economic bleakness of the 1890s and prospered in the twentieth century. In the early 1930s, again with depression looming, the society decided to rebuild on the same site and on the adjacent Lot 3 in Bligh Street.

After another competition in 1934, the winning architect was Emil Sodersten, the creator of the War Memorial in Canberra six years earlier. The American-style Art Deco skyscraper was completed in October 1936 and 'the whole of Sydney is talking about the new City Mutual Building ... People passing in the trams lean forward to gaze upon it, while those walking up Hunter Street stop to admire its streamlined symmetry' (Building, 12 October 1936, 31). The use of red granite and white Hawkesbury sandstone from Wondabyne, together with the scagliola employed extensively in the interiors, was much praised. The bronze sculptural reliefs were by Raynes Hoff, well known from his work at the Hyde Park Anzac Memorial.

Only the first three floors were initially occupied by the company, while the upper floors were leased. The sub-basement was soon redesigned by Sodersten as a restaurant and library for the Pickwick Club, while the roof-top garden around the caretaker's flat was soon removed.

In 1946-1947 a mezzanine was inserted in the great insurance chamber by H.R. Rowe of Ross and Rowe, over Sodersten's vehement opposition. An eleventh storey was added to the two wings by C.C. Ruwals and Howard in 1956. Extensive conservation works were undertaken by Travis Partners in 1989.



City Mutual occupied the building, gradually resuming the upper floors, until the 1990s, when the building was sold on separate strata titles to a number of businesses.

Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce-Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	(none)-

Assessment of significance

**SHR Criteria a)**  
[Historical significance] Since its completion in 1936 the building has been a symbol of the Mutual Assurance Society and though no longer owned or occupied by them it remains a reminder of the Society's role in the evolution of Sydney's commercial life and building development. Has historic significance at a State level.


**SHR Criteria c)**  
[Aesthetic significance] The City Mutual Building is one of the most impressive and innovative of Australia's Interwar Art Deco commercial office buildings and a notable exemplar of its style and period. The building is recognized as the finest achievement in this style of its notable architect, Emil Sodersten, and the high quality of its design is matched by its fabric and fine detailing, both internally and externally. Features of particular note and rarity include the elaborate scagliola work in the Assurance Chamber and the bronze relief by Rayner Hoff over the main entry with its flanking bronze bas-relief panels of Australian flora. The relatively high degree of intactness of the building's important facades and interior spaces, particularly the entry hall and former Assurance Chamber, are also notable and enhance the site's overall significance.

The building's dramatic exploitation of its important corner site and the importance this gives to the building in its context is also an important aspect of the building's aesthetic significance, it serving as a backdrop to Richard Johnson Square and a local landmark in local streetscape views.

The building provides an important record of the building technologies and techniques of Sydney's earliest "skyscrapers". It was also the first office building to have air-conditioning and retains remnants of this original fitout and equipment. Has aesthetic significance at a State level.

**SHR Criteria f)**  
[Rarity] The use of scagliola finishes in the main Assurance Chamber. Is rare at a State level.

**SHR Criteria g)**  
[Representativeness] The building is one of the finest examples of the aesthetic principles and construction techniques of the Interwar Art Deco "skyscraper". It is also the most notable representative example of the Art Deco work of its designer, Emil Sodersten.

**Assessment criteria:** Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

Recommended management:

The main Assurance Chamber should be fitted out and used in a manner which appropriately exposes and conserves its significant finishes, layout and spatial qualities.

Original fabric should be preserved and appropriately conserved, particularly where it has largely been removed and remains only as token reminders (eg. the scagliola finish of rooms and lobby/hall areas outside the main Assurance Chamber). Consideration should be given to reinstating covered over elements (eg. original stairs, scagaliola finishes, joinery, etc) as part of future development/refurbishment programs.

The building should be retained and conserved. A Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement, or a Conservation Management Plan, should be prepared for the building prior to any major works being undertaken. There shall be no vertical additions to the building and no alterations to the façade of the building other than to reinstate original features. The principal room layout and planning configuration as well as significant internal original features including ceilings, cornices, joinery, flooring and fireplaces should be retained and conserved. Any additions and alterations should be confined to the rear in areas of less significance, should not be visibly prominent and shall be in accordance with the relevant planning controls.

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Sydney LEP 2012	I1675	14 Dec 12		
Heritage study					

## Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
City Mutual Building, 60-66 Hunter Street, Sydney: Conservation Management Plan	2005		Tanner Architects Scott MacArthur		N o
City Mutual Building, 60-66 Hunter Street, Sydney: Conservation Management Plan	2005		Tanner Architects Scott MacArthur		N o

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written			Extensive material (primary sources) is held by the City Mutual Assurance Society, including reports, photographs, drawings, etc.  Building, 12 October, 1934 ; 12 October 1936; 24 January 1938  Building, 24 January 1938, 139, 142  Daniel Thomas, `	
Written	Scott MacArthur, Tanner Architects	2005	City Mutual Building, 60-66 Hunter Street, Sydney: Conservation Management Plan	
Written	Anita Heiss		Aboriginal People and Place, Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City	
Written	Roy Lumby/20th Century Heritage Society of NSW	2005	A regional identity: City walk brochure	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



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# Qantas House (No. 1 Chifley Square)

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Qantas House (No. 1 Chifley Square)
<b>Type of item:</b>	Built
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Commercial
<b>Category:</b>	Commercial Office/Building
<b>Location:</b>	Lat: -33.8659733441 Long: 151.2106868260
<b>Primary address:</b>	68-96 Hunter Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
<b>Parish:</b>	St James
<b>County:</b>	Cumberland
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Sydney
<b>Local Aboriginal Land Council:</b>	Metropolitan

## Property description

Lot/Volume Code	Lot/Volume Number	Section Number	Plan/Folio Code	Plan/Folio Number
			CP/SP	74556

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
68-96 Hunter Street	Sydney	Sydney	St James	Cumberland	Primary Address
1 Chifley Square	Sydney	Sydney			Alternate Address

## Statement of significance:

Qantas House, No. 1 Chifley Square, Sydney, designed in 1950 by Felix Tavener of Rudder Littlemore & Rudder, Architects and completed in 1957 represents the highest standard of architectural response to its urban setting and client needs through its form, composition and construction.

A variant of the Post-War International style of architecture, Qantas House represents transitional aspects of 'moderate' 1930s European modernism, combined with the latest in post-war curtain wall technologies and materials and is the best design response to its setting in Australia from this period.

Although altered internally, its external facade remains largely intact. The graceful double-curved facade is coherently ordered and its shape reflects and visually reinforces the implementation of a long-planned extension to Elizabeth Street. It became the inspiration for the eventual completion of the ironically named, but no less significant, Chifley Square, modelled on a town planned scheme of of some eighty years before. Qantas House is a key defining element in this important, planned, urban space; it provides an appropriate visual termination to important vistas and it visually links to adjoining important buildings and streets.

Historically significant as the first planned world headquarters for Qantas Empire Airways, at

the time Australia's only, and Government-owned, international airline, the building, and in particular the aerofoil-shaped aluminium mullions of its curtain wall, gives form to Qantas' forward looking and expansive image at a time when air travel was taking off. Qantas Airways remained as its sole occupant for twenty-five years and remains associated with the building through its lease of the ground floor. The building is highly regarded by the people of Sydney for its inherent aesthetic qualities and its association with Qantas, an Australian corporate icon.

Qantas House is a fine example in the Australian context of intact, post-war, multi-storeyed office buildings from the first phase in the 1950s, and is from the small group in Sydney of this group designed prior to the amendments to the Heights of Buildings Act in 1957 that heralded the subsequent 'high-rise' phase. It has particular rarity within Australia for its unique shape, the outstanding quality of its curtain wall facade and its contribution to its urban setting. As such, it is considered to have heritage significance at a national level.

A well known and much loved city landmark, Qantas House is an icon of its time; a quintessential Sydney building that represents a brave future and a strong sense of history and of place.

**Date significance updated:** 26 Feb 04

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** Rudder, Littlemore and Rudder, Architects

**Builder/Maker:** Concrete Constructions Pty Ltd

**Construction years:** 1955-1957

**Physical description:** Qantas House is distinguished by its graceful, segmented, curved facade which consists of a 46m high, double glazed curtain wall of green glass with enamelled blue-green steel spandrel panels. It is located on the western side of Chifley Square which itself is located at the intersection of Elizabeth, Hunter and Phillip Streets in Sydney.

In following the curve of Chifley Square, the building's plan respects the semi-circular form which was proposed for the northern side of the square in its original design of 1908. Qantas House is still a distinctive feature of Chifley Square and its curved form provides a welcome pedestrian area at the front of the building.

The building was designed in the post war International Style. The base, middle and top of the building are differentiated by changes in the facade treatment.

The base consists of a double height foyer which incorporates a mezzanine level. On the facade, the volume of this space is differentiated from the upper levels of the building by the use of dark green and black polished granite cladding and by the large, uninterrupted panels of glazing set in bronze frames.

The eleven storeys of the middle section of the facade are characterised by the repetitive pattern of the smaller aluminium-framed curtain wall panels. The curtain wall is composed of vertical standard sections which include awning windows at their tops, central panels of fixed glazing and enamelled steel spandrel panels at their bases.

At the northern end of the building is a full height sandstone faced wall on which a vertical 'Qantas Airways' sign was originally located. The sandstone facing returns in a long band to

form the top of the fagade composition, providing an exciting demarcation of the building against the sky. Above this band, a recessed roofline contains staff facilities and a rooftop recreation area.

The reinforced concrete structure of the building is relatively conventional. However, the planning is noteworthy in that the service cores are assymetrically placed adjacent to the boundaries with the adjoining buildings. This allows for the inclusion of a light well at the rear of the building, ensuring the penetration of light deep into the interior. It also means that the curved line of the building against the sky is not interrupted by vertical projections of centrally located service cores.

The planning may also have resulted from a desire to maximise the available building envelope - the building appears to have reached the maximum floor space ratio and maximum height which were allowable under the planning codes at the time.

At its south eastern corner, the building joins Emil Sodersten's 1936 City Mutual Life Building in a carefully considered and sensitive manner. The polished granite base course below the foyer windows respects the line and material of the base of Sodersten's granite clad building. In addition, the proportions of the fenestration of Qantas House's curtain wall panels and the steel framed windows of the WL building are similar.

In successfully taking advantage of its corner site, Qantas House also forms an elegant termination to the long view northwards along Elizabeth Street.

The exterior of the building is in near original condition, the only notable changes having been the loss of the original cantilevered entrance awning and original exterior signage and the formation of a new entrance to the lift lobby at the northern end of the building.

Internally, the double height volume of the foyer is intact although the current recent fitout has resulted in some partitioning of the space. The original curtains to the office and foyer levels have been removed or replaced with vertical drapes. Originally, the building interior featured Australian grown timbers such as sycamore, mahogany and walnut.

The building is no longer completely owner occupied. The entrance to the northern service core currently leads to the offices of Australian Casualty and Life.

**Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:**

The exterior of the building generally retains its original appearance, except that the and original cantilevered entrance awning and and external signage have been lost. Archaeological potential is low.

**Date condition updated:**03 Jan 01

**Modifications and dates:**

- 1964/1965 Alterations and additions. WC and bathroom to ground floor.
- 1966/1967 Storeroom, fourth floor. Extensions to building.
- 1982/1983 Refurbishment of building by Stephenson and Turner, Architects.
- A separate entrance to the office floors was formed at the building's northern end. The facade was repaired and restored.
- 1988/1989 Alterations to ground floor and mezzanine.
- 1992 Modification of ceiling, north fire stair and basement. Installation of revolving door.
- Entrance awning. The original sweeping cantilevered entrance awning has been replaced with

the current unsympathetic awning.

Signage. The original 'Qantas Airways' signage from the sandstone wall at the northern end of the building has been removed along with the neon signage from the rooftop over the building's northern service core.

(City of Sydney Heritage Inventory, Inventory No. 2014.)

**Further information:** Some of the original interior finishes have been lost and the original foyer space has been partly partitioned, the result of a relatively recent interior fitout. A recent air conditioning system has led to the lowering of the ceiling under the foyer's mezzanine and the original stairs at either end of the public area have been blocked. The original curtains to the office and foyer levels have been removed or replaced with vertical drapes.

0 It has not been possible to gain access to the office floors of the building so the extent of the survival of the original office level interiors has not been assessed.

0 Many of the changes to the interior of the building would be reversible and it is likely that there is sufficient documentary and physical evidence to allow for the reinstatement or interpretation of many of the elements of the original design.

**Current use:** Office  
**Former use:** Office

## History

**Historical notes:** Following WWII, Australia acquired a new status and prosperity which arose from the country's vast natural wealth. The Liberal government fostered economic growth and the desire for 'progress' was widely embraced. The optimism and energy of the time were illustrated by new office buildings which provided an internationally recognised symbol of the country's aspirations and abilities and transformed both the patterns of landuse and the skylines of Sydney and Melbourne.

The years following WWII had seen a surge in the activities of Qantas and the company had achieved stature as a major world airline. Qantas House symbolised Australia's progress in aviation generally and the aeronautic future of Qantas Airways in particular. The construction of the building during this period reflected the increasing importance of international travel to the increasingly affluent middle class in Australia. The building was opened by Prime Minister Robert Menzies 'with great fanfare' on October 28th, 1957. (Jahn, Graham, Sydney Architecture, p 162.)

In its new company headquarters, Qantas wished to project a progressive image with the use of the latest imported curtain wall technology combined with Australian materials such as granite, marble and a variety of timbers. Qantas House was the first office building to use Australian black granite from Adelong and Bookharn green granite from the Yass area. Marble was sourced in the country town of Mudgee and the Wombeyan Caves area. Queensland maple was used extensively throughout the building and other timbers featured included walnut, mahogany and sycamore. As well as being chosen for aesthetic and patriotic reasons, there were economies to be achieved through the use of materials which could be found close at hand.

The desire to reflect a specifically Australian character was rare in office interiors of the 1950s. In keeping with the prevailing International Style, the Australian theme in Qantas House was reflected more in the choice of materials than in the way they were used.

In her report 'Post World War II Multistoried Office Buildings in Australia (1945-1967)', Jennifer Taylor states that the 'aesthetic ideas informing the design of multistoried office buildings in the '50s and '60s in Australia essentially belonged to architectural traditions developed in the Bauhaus, Germany in the late 1920s and early '30s and transported to America after the closure of that school by the Nazi government, where they blended with



America's own traditions associated with multistoried building design. These ideas form the mainstream of architectural modernism, and are characterised by a value placed upon clarity, rationality, honesty, efficiency, functionality and technology. The external skin of the building was often the vehicle for a potent expression of such values. The glass curtain wall was prized as representing the complete release of the external fabric from its structural role'. (Taylor, Jennifer, Report: 'Post World War 11 Multistoried Office Buildings in Australia (1945-1967): External Skin/Cladding', p 4)

Buildings demonstrating the new curtain wall technology began to appear in Australian cities, particularly Sydney and Melbourne, from 1955. Qantas House (completed 1957), with its sweeping curtain wall attached to a reinforced concrete frame, is therefore an early example of the influence of this contemporary American technology and aesthetic in Australia. The building is significant in that it embraced this construction and aesthetic within the constraints of the 150' height limit which remained in place in Sydney until 1963.

As might be expected during a period of expansion, investment in office buildings had been growing during the late 1950s. In general, however, the buildings themselves were of low budget and limited dimension. They were usually infill structures of limited height, were built right to the building line and provided minimal pedestrian amenity. Context was generally seen as inconsequential and plazas associated with these buildings tended to divorce rather than unite the building with the city.

Within this context, the curved form of Qantas House, which addresses and shapes Chifley Square, is rare. Its form broke from the standard flat facade of most contemporary office buildings with its sweeping glass wall and dramatic cantilevered entry awning (now lost). Its curved facade and more three-dimensional aesthetic distinguish it from the other buildings in the 9r up.

Jennifer Taylor also states that, at their most progressive, 'the new office blocks principally were f ree-standing or virtually so, and by 1957 Australia could boast designs as aesthetically and technologically advanced as any outside America, and not far behind developments there. An interesting hybrid of infill and freestanding solutions occurred in response to certain sites, notably corner locations, where innovative buildings appear to strive to break free of the constraints of the physical restrictions. The curving forms of the Qantas Building ... provide the most exuberant example.' (Taylor, Jennifer, Essay: 'Post World War 11 Multistoried Office Buildings in Australia (1945-1967)', p 7)

Australia's affair with these early curtain walls was short-lived, and they reached their peak of development and prestige in the early 1960s.

Qantas House was judged the best new building in the British Commonwealth by the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1959, and was awarded the Bronze medal.

### Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce-Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	(none)-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Technology-Activities and processes associated with the knowledge or use of mechanical arts and applied sciences	(none)-

3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Transport-Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements	(none)-
8. Culture-Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Leisure-Activities associated with recreation and relaxation	(none)-

## Assessment of significance

### SHR Criteria a)

[Historical significance]

- Qantas House is an important landmark in the development of the modern office building in Australia. Significant for its use of early curtain wall technology and as one of the last multi-storey buildings designed prior to amendments to the Heights of Buildings Act in 1957 in NSW, it is from the first phase of curtain wall buildings that provided a transition to the mature high-rise buildings of the 1960s.

- Qantas House is significant as the first purpose-built world headquarters office building for Qantas Empire Airways, at that time Australia's only, and Government-owned, international airline. It is important evidence of the rapid post-War growth in Qantas Empire Airways' international operations and in air travel generally. Alterations to Qantas House to allow for the construction by Qantas of the adjacent Wentworth Hotel are important evidence of changes in the nature of air travel and the growth of international tourism in Australia.

- Qantas House is a statement of the confidence and progressive spirit which was characteristic of Australia during the 1950s. The international status and progressive nature of Qantas' operations when combined with the exuberant form and imagery, the use of innovative and local materials, and innovative techniques and services in the building itself, provides an exemplar of the positive, forward-looking aspects of Australian society during this period.

- The construction of Qantas House marked the partial implementation of a significant town planning scheme for the betterment of Sydney and provided the pattern for the eventual completion of Chifley Square as a significant urban space some eighty years after it was first envisaged. The fulfilment of this town planning vision provides important evidence of the complex nature of such activity and the interaction between various levels of Government, professionals and land owners.

- Qantas House shows the continuity of use from the time of construction to the present as a commercial office building and the continuous use of the ground floor for a publicly accessible use associated with travel. It provides evidence of the period during which air travel originated at city terminals for departure to Sydney Airport. It also provides evidence of the nature of changes in the nature of office use and fitout since the time of construction, including those resulting from the change from a single owner occupier to multiple tenancies on its upper levels.

The State Heritage Register inclusion criteria satisfied are:

- is associated with a significant activity or historical phases;
- maintains or shows the continuity of historical process of activity; and
- shows evidence of significant human activity.

**SHR Criteria b)**

[Associative significance]

- Qantas House has a strong association with Qantas Airways, a prominent Australian company of international renown. Qantas Empire Airways constructed the building as its first purpose-designed world headquarters, as an identifiable icon for its modern image, and was its sole occupant for twenty-five years. This association is continued through its lease of the ground and mezzanine floors and naming rights to the building.

- Qantas House is important for its public use associations with air travellers since its time of construction, as a booking and information venue for Qantas and other airlines that occupied the ground floor including TAA and Australian Airlines.

- Qantas House was designed by the noted architectural firm Rudder Littlemore & Rudder, with Felix Tavener as the design architect, and is arguably their most significant building achievement.

The State Heritage Register inclusion criteria satisfied is:

**SHR Criteria c)**

[Aesthetic significance]

- is associated with a significant event, person or groups of persons.

- Qantas House is a masterpiece of architectural form, composition and construction. It represents the highest standards of architectural design response its urban setting and its client's needs. Its unique graceful double curved form strikes a chord with the public and professionals alike. The composition of its façade elements is coherently ordered, as is its curtain wall construction featuring aerofoil-shaped mullions, symbolically linking building and client, lustrous teal coloured spandrels and green-tinted glazing.

- Qantas House is an important early and innovative example of post-War multi-storeyed office building in Australia. It was one of the first uses of curtain-walled technology in Australia and was designed as a showcase for Australian materials. It also featured an innovative internal fitout and use of air conditioning services. It was critically acclaimed in the architectural press at the time and it was the recipient of the 1959 Royal Institute of British Architects Bronze Medal.

- Qantas House is significant as a variation within the Post-War International style of architecture, representing some aspects of transition from interwar European modernism. Characteristics of earlier styles can be identified in both the building (a humanist/organic form, a traditional composition and symbolic use of elemental forms) and in the influences identified by its designer, while its materials, such as aluminium, and its curtain wall construction arrived as post-War construction technologies.

- As a landmark building in such a prominent location, Qantas House demonstrates an excellent urban design response. Its relationship with Chifley Square, which it helps to define, reflects earlier twentieth-century schemes for the space and has itself been respected by the recent developments around this important urban space. The generous footpath space in front of Qantas House provides an appropriate forecourt to the public ground-floor booking hall.

- Qantas House was designed as and forms an aesthetically distinctive termination of the northern view along Elizabeth Street, while at the same time the building leads the eye around the Chifley Square space and onto the extension of Elizabeth Street as Philip Street.

- The external form of Qantas House retains its integrity with only minor alteration, and its key internal ground-floor/mezzanine space is retained along with its key internal circulation spaces. Although much of the building's internal fabric has been altered, the external fabric remains largely intact.

The State Heritage Register inclusion criteria satisfied are:

- shows, or is associated with, creative or technical innovating or achievement;
  - is aesthetically distinctive;
  - has landmark qualities and
  - exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology.
- It is likely that Qantas House is viewed as culturally significant within the community of NSW generally, not just for its association with Qantas, an Australian corporate icon, but also for its readily appreciated aesthetic and townscape qualities. This level of esteem was evident at the time of construction and there is evidence, through media coverage in recent years when it was perceived as being under threat, that it remains.
- Qantas House is also held in a high level of esteem by the architectural profession and other conservation groups in NSW. The building is included on the Royal Australian Institute of Architects Register of Twentieth Century Buildings of Significance and they recently nominated the building for inclusion on the State Heritage Register.
- Qantas House is likely to have a strong association for current and former employees of Qantas Airways because of its former headquarters role for twenty-five years and its current role as the Qantas city-based booking office.

**SHR Criteria d)**  
[Social significance]

The State Heritage Register inclusion criteria satisfied are:

- is important for its associations with an identifiable group; and
  - is crucial to a community's sense of place.
- Although the building interior has been considerably altered, it is likely that some internet fabric of the interior would be able to reveal further information about spatial arrangements, materials and finishes from the original construction period.
- Qantas House has the potential to yield important information on aspects of mid-twentieth-century architectural history and other technical aspects of its construction, such as the detail of the internal fitout, the provision of air conditioning services, the first phases of curtain wall construction and office functional arrangements in the 1950s and 1960s.
- Qantas House is an important reference site for its early use of high-quality, curtain-walled technology and as a showcase for Australian building materials, including the granite and sandstone facing of the façade.
- Because of the depth of excavation for the construction of the basement levels for Qantas House across most of the site, there is little potential for archaeological remains that predate the existing building to remain intact. There is some potential for intact subsurface deposits to survive in the northwestern corner of the site (currently lightwell) as the amount of disturbance that has occurred in these areas is uncertain. The northwestern corner of the site may contain the northern extension of an early brick-barrel drain, dating to the 1820s. (This drain previously ran diagonally across the site but was removed during the construction of Qantas House and replaced by a modern ceramic drainpipe. It is also likely to adjoin the southeastern boundary of the site).
- Although not part of the Qantas House site itself, the area adjoining the front of Qantas

**SHR Criteria e)**  
[Research potential]

House (Philip Street and Chifley Square) has high potential to contain intact subsurface deposits related to the previous street alignment and associated development.

The State Heritage Register inclusion criteria satisfied are:

- has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information; and
- is an important benchmark or reference site or type.
- Qantas House is a rare and outstanding example of architectural design of the highest quality in the Australian context from the first phase of post-War, multi-storey commercial building construction in Australia in the period up to 1960.

**SHR Criteria f)**  
[Rarity]

- Qantas House is a unique example in the Australian context of a curved, curtain wall building of this type and period.
- The façade of Qantas House retains its original, aluminium-framed, curtain wall construction, with distinctive aerofoil-shaped mullions. This early technology is becoming increasingly rare with continual upgrading of buildings and the Qantas House façade is an excellent example of this type.
- Qantas House is one of the five heritage listed 'non-high-rise' multi-storeyed buildings within Sydney (four in the city of Sydney and one in North Sydney) to remain that were constructed prior to 1960. Qantas House and the MLC building in North Sydney represent the finest examples from this period, and both represent distinctive and different forms of Post-War International style architecture.
- Qantas House is part of a small group of multi-storey buildings constructed by the last generation of Post-War corporate clients whose buildings were specifically designed to reflect that corporation's public image.
- Qantas House is a rare example of Post-War International Style architecture with an expressionist form.
- Qantas House illustrates a high quality consideration for its context and for urban design, forming a key element in the Chifley Square urban area that was part of this long-standing town planning scheme for the betterment of this area of Sydney that dated to the early twentieth century.

The State Heritage Register inclusion criteria satisfied are:

- scarce example of particular style custom or activity esteemed by the community; and
- demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest.
- Qantas House is representative of the intact Post-War International style, multi-storeyed office buildings from the 1950s. It is one of only a handful of similar intact buildings in Sydney from that period and only a small numbering Australia.

**SHR Criteria g)**  
[Representativeness]

- Qantas House is a fine example of early curtain-walled building technology in Australia, with

an unconventional curved design.

- Qantas House is one of the small group of post-War, multi-storeyed office buildings remaining intact in NSW whose design preceded the amendments to the Heights of Buildings Act in 1957.


- Qantas House is representative of the group of commercial buildings in Sydney associated with travel and is representative of the group of buildings with ground-floor public booking hall spaces.

- Qantas House is a good example of the work of the architectural firm Rudder Littlemore and Rudder.

- Qantas House is associated with the group of planned and implemented proposals for the betterment of Sydney's streets.

The State Heritage Register inclusion criteria satisfied are:

- is a fine example of its type;
- is part of a group which collectively illustrate a representative type; and
- is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size.

**Assessment criteria:** Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Procedures /Exemptions

Section of act	Description	Title	Comments	Action date
21(1)(b)	Conservation Plan submitted for endorsement	Qantas House, 1 No. Chifley Square, Sydney (Godden Mackay Logan, Feb 02)	<p>CMP endorsed 9 July 2002 - expires 9 July 2007</p> <p>Amendment to CMP endorsed 6 July 2004 - expires 9 July 2007</p>	Jul 9 2002
21(1)(b)	Conservation Plan submitted for comment	Qantas House CMP Amendment No 1	CMP amendment endorsed 6 July 2004 - expires 9 July 2007	Jul 6 2004
57(2)	Exemption to allow work	Standard Exemptions	<p>SCHEDULE OF STANDARD EXEMPTIONS</p> <p>HERITAGE ACT 1977</p> <p>Notice of Order Under Section 57 (2) of the Heritage Act 1977</p> <p>I, the Minister for Planning, pursuant to</p>	Sep 5 2008

			<p>subsection 57(2) of the Heritage Act 1977, on the recommendation of the Heritage Council of New South Wales, do by this Order:</p> <p>1. revoke the Schedule of Exemptions to subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act made under subsection 57(2) and published in the Government Gazette on 22 February 2008; and</p> <p>2. grant standard exemptions from subsection 57(1) of the Heritage Act 1977, described in the Schedule attached.</p> <p>FRANK SARTOR</p> <p>Minister for Planning</p> <p>Sydney, 11 July 2008</p> <p>To view the schedule click on the Standard Exemptions for Works Requiring Heritage Council Approval link below.</p>	
21(1)(b)	Conservation Plan submitted for endorsement	Submission for Endorsement of CMP prepared by Graham Brooks and Associates dated 2008		Jun 12 2009

 **Standard exemptions** for works requiring Heritage Council approval

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - State Heritage Register		01512	25 May 01	89	2940

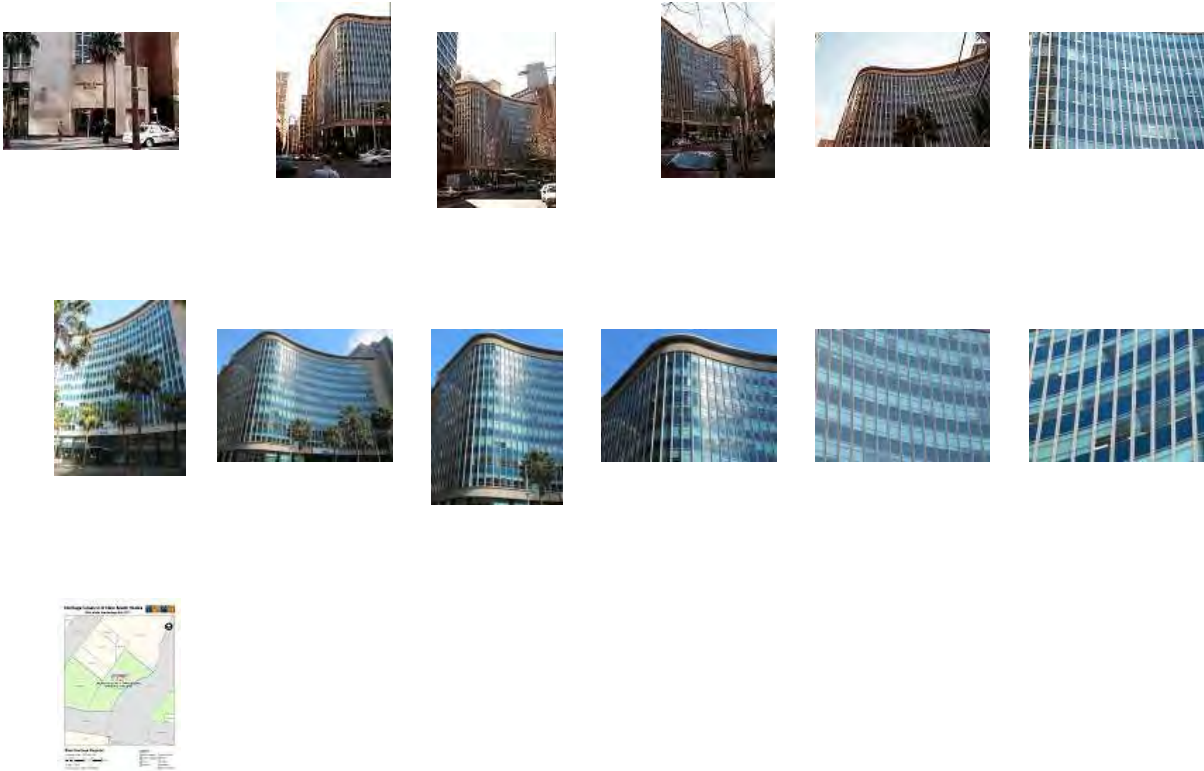
## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written		1958	Architecture in Australia magazine - Qantas House - Jan/Mar 1958	
Written	Australian Heritage Commission		Register of the National Estate listing information	
Written	Jahn, Graham	1994	Sydney Architecture	
Written	Jennifer Taylor in conjunction with Susan Stewart	1994	Post World War II Multistoried Office Buildings in Australia 1945-1977	



Written	Royal Australian Institute of Architects	2000	State Heritage Inventory form	
Written	Sydney City Council		Sydney City Council Heritage Inventory	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



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# Former Australian Provincial Assurance (Apa) Building Including Interiors

## Item details

**Name of item:** Former Australian Provincial Assurance (Apa) Building Including Interiors  
**Type of item:** Built  
**Group/Collection:** Commercial  
**Category:** Commercial Office/Building  
**Location:** Lat: -33.8695880364305 Long: 151.209746481882  
**Primary address:** 53-63 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000  
**Local govt. area:** Sydney

### All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
53-63 Martin Place	Sydney	Sydney			Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

The APA Building exhibits a high level of architectural quality in terms of its proportions, facade treatment and vocabulary of detail. The building is representative of the brief period of economic expansion between the end of the depression and the Second World War. The APA building is the last remaining example in Martin Place of what was a consistent group of structures exhibiting a conformity of scale, facade treatment and vocabulary of detail.

**Date significance updated:** 09 Jan 06

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** David W. King  
**Builder/Maker:** Kell & Rigby  
**Construction years:** 1936-1937

**Physical description:** The APA building was constructed in 1936-1937 in a brief period of economic expansion between the end of the depression and the Second World War. It is an example of Art Deco or Jazz Modern style which was at its peak at the time of the building's construction. The most notable feature of the building is its facade of granite and terracotta. Situated in Martin Place, the building is a integral component in the streetscape, and is the last remaining example of the consistent group of structures which exhibited a conformity of scale and detail. The main fabric of the building has survived largely unaltered from its original construction and is in reasonable condition. Internally, the main public areas of the building remain reasonably intact in terms of their original detail, and in good condition. Martin Place is unique in the history of the urban development of Sydney, in that the street was deliberately created between the years 1892 and 1935 to be a great urban thoroughfare. An incidental result of the development of Martin Place was that the blocks becoming available along both sides of the thoroughfare were taken up by major commercial and professional organisations for the purpose of developing quality office buildings to house their head offices. Consequently, Martin Place became the most prestigious address in the business area of Sydney, and remains so to this day.

The APA building was designed to formalise and define the new major civic thoroughfare of Martin Place, and continues to do so with the transition of the street into pedestrian space. The building presents a uniform and harmonious composition around three sides of the block.

Category: Individual Building. Style: Inter-War Art Deco. Storeys: 13 + Lower Ground Floor & Basement. Facade: Granite cladding, glazed terracotta tiles. Side/Rear Walls: Granite cladding, terracotta tiles. Internal Walls: Plastered brick, plasterbd. stud. Roof Cladding: Waterproof membrane. Internal Structure: Conc. encased steel frame. Floor: Reinf. conc. slabs, marble, terrazzo, carpet, ceramic tiles. Roof: Reinf. conc. slab. Ceilings: Decorative plaster, suspended plasterbd., timber boards. Stairs: White marble clad entry stairs, main stair clad in marble and terrazzo, fire stairs - all in reinforced concrete. Fire Stairs: Exit in Phillip Street. AirConditioned: Yes. Sprinkler System: Yes. Lifts: Three, original lift cars and motors still in use.

<b>Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:</b>	<p>The APA Building, when it was opened, was considered to encompass the latest advances in building technology of the period. The structural system used for the building enabled the superstructure to be constructed extremely quickly - 15 weeks for the steel frame. The use of terracotta blocks on the facade was perceived as the most interesting aspect of the building at the time and basically remains intact. Services were of a high standard for the period. The existing ground floor foyer is relatively original..Intrusive Elements:Several areas of the lower facade of the building have been subject to previous alterations not compatible with the detail character of the original fabric.</p> <p><b>Date condition updated:</b>09 Jan 06</p>
<b>Modifications and dates:</b>	1936-1937
<b>Further information:</b>	<p>Exceptional Significance:Elements of the building are of outstanding significance due to their design integrity and originality. These elements are the construction and design of the facade and roof fenestration, and the main public areas of the building. High Significance:The scale, facade modulation and roof fenestration of the building, are an integral component of what remains an urban space dominated by pre-World War II buildings. Was a heritage item in 1989, and remains so since that time. Streetscape:Martin Place was listed on the Heritage Streetscape Map in the Heritage LEP 2000.</p> <p>Heritage Inventory sheets are often not comprehensive, and should be regarded as a general guide only. Inventory sheets are based on information available, and often do not include the social history of sites and buildings. Inventory sheets are constantly updated by the City as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may simply indicate that there has been no building work done to the item recently: it does not mean that items are not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items, and is necessary in preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Management Plans, so that the significance of heritage items can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.</p>
<b>Current use:</b>	Offices
<b>Former use:</b>	Offices

## History

<b>Historical notes:</b>	<p>The "Eora people" was the name given to the coastal Aborigines around Sydney. Central Sydney is therefore often referred to as "Eora Country". Within the City of Sydney local government area, the traditional owners are the Cadigal and Wangal bands of the Eora. There is no written record of the name of the language spoken and currently there are debates as whether the coastal peoples spoke a separate language "Eora" or whether this was actually a dialect of the Dharug language. Remnant bushland in places like Blackwattle Bay retain elements of traditional plant, bird and animal life, including fish and rock oysters.</p>
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With the invasion of the Sydney region, the Cadigal and Wangal people were decimated but there are descendants still living in Sydney today. All cities include many immigrants in their population. Aboriginal people from across the state have been attracted to suburbs such as Pyrmont, Balmain, Rozelle, Glebe and Redfern since the 1930s. Changes in government legislation in the 1960s provided freedom of movement enabling more Aboriginal people to choose to live in Sydney.


(Information sourced from Anita Heiss, "Aboriginal People and Place", Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani> )

The site for the building was purchased by the Australian Provincial Assurance Association Ltd from the Sydney Municipal Council in May 1935 for 83,000 pounds. David W. King was appointed to prepare a design for the project and construction by builders Kell & Rigby was commenced in 1936. The building was opened in May 1937, and was considered extremely successful by the press of the period. The Australian Provincial Assurance Association occupied the basement, ground floor and three-quarters of the first floor. The remainder of the building was occupied by the legal firm Allen, Allen and Hemsley, a government department, several smaller organisations and the architectural offices of David King. In 1939, with the outbreak of WW2, the APA relocated to other premises and the building was effectively taken over by the Department of Manpower and Industry. After 1945, the APA resumed occupation of the building, and were to remain in residence until 1989. The lower ground floor was occupied by a quality restaurant (Cahill's) with direct access from Elizabeth Street. The building underwent little major change from 1937 until the late 1970s, when extensive renovations were carried out. These included extensive repointing of the terracotta and granite, upgrading of the lift cars, new marble paving to ground floor and major refurbishment to office floors. In 1987 the APA sold the building to Noden P/L, although they remained in residence until 1989. David King had remanded a tenant until the late 1960s and his practice had been responsible for the ongoing maintenance and minor refurbishment of the building until that time. The building was again sold to the Charter Property Group in August 1989.

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce-Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	(none)-

Assessment of significance

<b>SHR Criteria a)</b> [Historical significance]	The construction of the APA Building and the Rural Bank opposite marked the beginning of the development of the eastern end of Martin Place and Phillip Street as a major commercial and professional precinct. Has historic significance at a State level.
<b>SHR Criteria c)</b> [Aesthetic significance]	The APA Building exhibits a high level of architectural quality in terms of its proportions, facade treatment and vocabulary of detail. Has aesthetic significance at a State level.
<b>SHR Criteria f)</b> [Rarity]	The APA building is the last remaining example in Martin Place of what was a consistent group of structures exhibiting a conformity of scale, facade treatment and vocabulary of detail. Is rare at a State level.
<b>SHR Criteria g)</b> [Representativeness]	The building is representative of the brief period of economic expansion between the end of the depression and the Second World War. Is representative at a State level.
<b>Assessment criteria:</b>	Items are assessed against the  <b>State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria</b> to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

Recommended management:

Conservation of the building and site should be in accordance with the Burra Charter principles. Certain qualities of the building have been identified as being of exceptional significance. The scope of work applied to these areas of the building should be limited to maintenance, preservation, restoration, and the minimum necessary reconstruction to retain this significance. Certain areas previously subject to unsympathetic alteration would not be compromised by further adaptation.

The building should be retained and conserved. A Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement should be prepared for the building prior to any major works being undertaken. There shall be no vertical additions to the building and no alterations to the façade of the building other than to reinstate original features. The principal room layout and planning configuration as well as significant internal original features including ceilings, cornices, joinery and flooring should be retained and conserved.

Heritage Floorspace restrictions apply to this site. Awarded 19 February 1998.

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Sydney LEP 2012	I1896	14 Dec 12		
Heritage study					

Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
Conservation Plan for APA House	1990		Peter Romy		N o
Conservation Plan for APA House	1990		Peter Romy		N o
Conservation Plan for APA House	1990		Peter Romy		N o

References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written		1984	Martin Place Civic Design Study	

Written			Council Records (BAs, DAs)	
Written	Peter Romey	1990	APA Building, 53 Martin Place, Sydney : conservation plan	
Written	Anita Heiss		Aboriginal People and Place, Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City	
Written	Paul Rappoport	2004	53 Martin Place Sydney: Conservation Maintenance Plan	

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# Martin Place

## Item details

**Name of item:** Martin Place  
**Type of item:** Built  
**Group/Collection:** Urban Area  
**Category:** Streetscape  
**Location:** Lat: -33.8692563806212 Long: 151.208490894265  
**Primary address:** Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000  
**Local govt. area:** Sydney

### All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Martin Place	Sydney	Sydney			Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

Martin Place has Historic and Aesthetic Significance for ability to evidence the development of Victorian and Interwar Sydney as a prestige address for institutional buildings. Ability to reflect the status of Sydney because of its relationship with Institutional Buildings. It is significant for its ability to contribute to understanding the nineteenth and twentieth century town planning intention. It has ability to evidence key period of building activity during the Victorian period and later the interwar period and post war period in direct response to the Height of Building controls. Martin Place has Historic Association Significance for its association with Sir James Martin, premier and Chief Justice of NSW.

**Date significance updated:** 03 Jul 06

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** Plaza area designed by Clarke Gizzard Pty Ltd, architects.

**Construction years:** 1891-1891

**Physical description:** The topography is generally sloping. The streetscape forms part of a grid and is bounded by Macquarie Street and terminated by George Street. The backdrop is not characterised by highrise. The street is characterised by commercial buildings. The streetscape features terminating vistas to CBC and ANZ Banks, Macquarie Street and Sydney Hospital. The roadway is wide and pedestrianised. Footpaths are wide and are bitumen, stone and paved. Kerbing is predominantly concrete. Remnant sandstone guttering also occurs. Utility services are concealed. There is little visual clutter. There is no awning pattern. Façade depth is pronounced. Extent of glass is not pronounced. Public domain feature include historic cenotaph (PD1), fountain (PD2), 'Passage' sculpture (PD3), and exposed drains within the GPO site (PD4). Neutral elements include telephone booths, seating, garbage bins and bollards. The landscape component of the streetscape comprises street plantings of London Plane trees. The subdivision pattern along the streetscape is irregular, narrow, wide consolidated resulting in a dense urban form. The predominant built form is Victorian and Interwar commercial. Buildings are built to the street alignment.

There are several Sydney 2005 LEP Schedule 8 Part 1 properties that contribute to the streetscape these include the GPO (Westin Hotel), Challis House, the Former MLC Building, Commonwealth Bank, APA Building, and the Reserve Bank. The Colonial Mutual Life Building (10A-16 Martin Place) street facade is the only Schedule 8 Part 2 Item listed in the Sydney LEP 2005 for Martin Place. The Tank Stream, listed on the State Heritage Register for archaeological value and as a Schedule 8, Part 3, abuts Martin Place. Contains many landscape items, including the Cenotaph (1928) and associated poplar planting's, Lloyd Rees Fountain (1976), and the Dobell Memorial Sculpture by Bert Flugelman (1979). The Plaza area from Pitt to Macquarie Streets was designed by Clarke Gizzard Pty Ltd, architects. Category: Urban Plaza. Style: Victorian, Inter-War and contemporary buildings.. General Details: Refer to Archaeological Zoning Plan.

**Modifications and dates:** 1891, 1976

**Further information:** Note that Martin Place Railway Station is listed on the State Heritage Register.

Heritage Inventory sheets are often not comprehensive, and should be regarded as a general guide only. Inventory sheets are based on information available, and often do not include the social history of sites and buildings. Inventory sheets are constantly updated by the City as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may simply indicate that there has been no building work done to the item recently: it does not mean that items are not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items, and is necessary in preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Management Plans, so that the significance of heritage items can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.

**Current use:** Plaza  
**Former use:** Street

## History

**Historical notes:** During the Colonial period, two or three storey brick and shingle buildings were built facing George and Pitt Streets. Most were shops with residences over. The centre of the block where the Tank Stream flowed, was left largely undeveloped. The General Post Office occupied a site on George Street from c.1830. This was a two-storey brick building thought to have been designed by Francis Greenway.

Martin Place commenced as a narrow lane, which ran between George Street and Pitt Street and was widened into a substantial thoroughfare as part of the setting for the General Post Office in 1891. The stretch between Pitt Street to Castlereagh Street was known as 'Foxlow Place' after the maiden name of the wife of Mr Hosking, the first elected Mayor of Sydney, in office between 1842 and 1843. The south side of Foxlow Place remained vacant up to 1867. The north side had been almost completely built upon with various businesses. In the same year, John Hosking was recorded as occupying 8-10 Foxlow Place as business premises. Foxlow Place was renamed Moore Street during the 1870's, in honour of Alderman Charles Moore, Mayor of Sydney 1867-69. Further buildings had been constructed on the southern side by 1876 including many private dwellings and small businesses.

The development of the built environment of Martin Place occurred in four distinct phases. Firstly, there was the construction of the General Post Office during the 1870's and 1880's, followed by the second stage consisting of the development of the western end of the street by such buildings as the Bank of Australasia, Challis House and the CML Building around the turn of the century. The third major period of activity began with the construction of the Government Savings Bank (now the Commonwealth Bank) in 1928 and ended with the opening of the Prudential Building in 1939. The fourth stage was the extension to Macquarie Place.

James Barnet's new post office in the Italian Renaissance revival style was built in two stages. The first was completed in 1874, fronting George Street. The second stage was completed in 1887 extended through to Pitt Street and incorporated a clock tower. The finishing stone to the tower was laid in 1885 and the colonnade along the northern side of the post office was opened to the public in May 1887. The tower clock was not completed until 16th September 1891. In 1898 the George Street frontage of the building was widened by two bays and by 1904 a fourth storey with two large mansard roof sections had been added by W.L. Vernon. Vernon made these additions with reluctance and did what he could to make them as unobtrusive and as harmonious as possible. Some years later he wrote: "Unfortunately the stately dignity of the building (has been marred) by the addition of an attic in the French design whose varied lines and want of repose is out of harmony with the rest of the structure..."

In 1863 when the land was purchased for the construction of the GPO, provision was made for a 20 foot wide lane and a 12 foot colonnade from George to Pitt Streets on the northern side of the building. The first official proposal for a street on the northern side of the post office was made by the Hon. Treasurer, Geoffrey Eagar in 1864 and was duly approved by the Executive Council. The purchase of additional land to the north of the lane from a Mrs Hughes enabled the widening of this lane in the 1870's. From this time numerous schemes were put forward to establish a suitable public street within the block defined between Pitt and George Streets and Hunter and King Streets.

In July 1877, Barnet prepared sketches of buildings to face the new GPO across a piazza. The buildings were in a style to echo the GPO and stretched the length of the block from George Street to Pitt Street with mansard storeys at each end. Barnet's proposal of June 1888 shows a 70 feet line and 100 feet line for the northern boundary of the street. The 100 feet line was adopted.



Before the General Post Office was completed, an unforeseen opportunity for extending Martin Place presented itself. On the night of 1 October 1890 a fire broke out on the eastern side of Pitt Street and by the following morning the entire block of buildings between Hosking Place and Moore Street and from Pitt Street to Castlereagh Street had been burnt out.

Following the 1890 Great Fire of Sydney the Government passed an Act that enabled Council to acquire enough land to widen Moore Street such that it would continue from the first section between George Street and Pitt Street. The pedestrian lane connecting George Street and Pitt Street, popularly known as Post Office Place or Lane, was named Martin Place in 1891 in memory of former Premier and Chief Justice of NSW, Sir James Martin. It was not until January 1921 that Moore Street was renamed Martin Place. By November 1890 the resumed land was being cleared to establish a street 100 feet wide. On 15 February 1892 the area not required for Martin Place (then called Post Office Street) was put up for auction in eleven lots.

Buildings already in existence along the northern side of the new street, opposite the Post Office, were resumed and demolished. In 1891 National Mutual Life Building was constructed on the corner of George Street and what was then Chisholm Lane (currently Angel Place). This building was designed with the intention that it would front a grand piazza on its southern façade. The Bank of Australasia which had opened in Sydney in 1835, bought the three lots nearest to George Street in 1900 and 1902, consolidating the title in 1904. An American architect, Edward Raht, resident in Sydney since 1891 and already responsible for the Equitable Life Assurance Co building adjacent in Martin Place in 1896 was commissioned to design a new bank building, which was completed in 1904, with a banking chamber and rooms for tenants as well as for bank officers.

The NSW Government Savings Bank operated as a subsidiary office within the New South Wales Postal Department until the end of 1900 after which time Post Offices became an agency of the Commonwealth subsequent to Federation being established in 1901. In 1903 the Bank was required to find new premises. In 1905 the State Government leased a purpose built building in Moore Street, between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets. The Citizen's Life Assurance Company had built the building and offered a ten-year lease with the option to purchase. The site of the Moore Street building, now the site of the present plaza entrance to the MLC Centre previously accommodated a portion of the Australia Hotel. On May 1, 1914, the Savings Bank of New South Wales (known as "Campbell's Bank" established in June 1819), amalgamated with the Government Savings Bank of New South Wales. The bank first Governor, Denison Samuel King Miller, decided to relocate the Bank's head Office from Melbourne to Sydney where it remains today. The decision reflected the emerging pre-eminence of the Sydney CBD financial centre within Australia. The Commonwealth Bank achieved healthy expansion during the wars years, which was largely attributable to government business. The building was later extended in a similar style in 1933 and in 1968 in a modern style. Both of these buildings, located adjacent one another on George Street, are important landmarks that define the western end of Martin Place. It was intended at one stage for Martin Place to be extended through to York Street, however these banks refused to give up the auspicious location.

Martin Place had a strong civic and ceremonial tradition regularly reinforced by the Anzac Day marches and services, public ceremonies associated with royal visits and the celebrations at the end of both world wars. The arrival of the American Fleet of 1908, the Coronation of 1911, Hospital Saturday Collections, Button Days, Recruiting, Armistice Day, Anzac Day, were always best celebrated in Martin Place. The redcoats marched into Martin Place from Macquarie Street each Thursday near half-past twelve. Isadore Brodsky recalls that Martin Place had been the Actors Promenade where one could admire the celebrities of Theatre, where Billy Hughes could be spotted and where A.D. Kay could mount his box and win a crowd. Jim Tyrrell second hand book-seller and proprietor of Tost and Rohu dealt Tibby the newsboy, "Hoppy" Buchanan the flower sellers the con men, the man with the telescope, a tiny milk bar ...you could find them all in Martin Place. Flower sellers in King Street decamped to the spaciousness of Martin Place created an atmosphere of unexcelled charm and bouquet. A line of poplars was planted. Martin Place became the centre of the city although there is no palace or cathedral. The entire Martin Place precinct became a place for the people and by 1935 was the centre of activity within the city and a meeting place for various nationalistic movements, surrounded by buildings, commensurate with its importance to the community.

The decision to proceed with the extension of Martin Place, was finally implemented by the State Government in 1923 and it was agreed to acquire enough land on either side of the extension so that when it was sold at an increased value it would pay for the new street. In January 1926 the resumptions were gazetted but the affected properties were leased back to the existing tenants until sufficient funds were available for the works. In 1926 the Municipal Council of Sydney purchased a number of properties in Macquarie and Phillip Streets in anticipation of the extension of Martin Place east to Macquarie Street. These properties included those which would later be demolished for the building of the Reserve Bank head office building. Funding cuts and altered traffic flow proposals resulted in no progress being made on the Martin Place extension for some years. Eventually, in June 1934, Martin Place was extended from Castlereagh Street to Elizabeth Street and the final extension to

Macquarie Street was opened in April 1935.

Much discussion had taken place as to the form and function of the space created by the extension of Martin Place. It was finally concluded that the extension would accommodate the types of businesses seeking prestigious city centre addresses and would not only transform that part of Sydney but boost real estate values and the Council's rate returns. The Town Planning Association wrote in December 1932 that the significance of Martin Place as a "show street" be recognised, that all street corners be splayed or well rounded and that all buildings be a uniform height of 150 feet.

Following the opening of the extension of Martin Place to Macquarie Street, a series of development sites along each side of the new thoroughfare were made available by the Sydney Municipal Council. The first two sites sold were those between Elizabeth Street and Phillip Street. The northern block was sold to the Rural Bank of NSW and the southern block was purchased by the Australian Provincial Assurance Company Ltd on May 23, 1935, for the sum of 83,000 pounds. Blocks to Macquarie Street were not sold until after World War II, and it was not until the late 1960's that the twin towers of the Westpac Building and the Reserve Bank were constructed to complete the development of Martin Place.

Martin Place is probably unique in the history of the urban development of Sydney, in that the street was deliberately created between the years 1892, and 1935 to be a great urban thoroughfare. An incidental result of the development of Martin Place as that the blocks becoming available along both sides of the thoroughfare were taken up by major commercial and professional organisations for the purpose of developing quality office buildings to house their head offices. Consequently, Martin Place became the most prestigious address in the business area of Sydney, and remains so to this day.

The construction of the APA building marked the beginning of the development of the eastern end of Martin Place and Phillip Street as a major commercial and professional precinct. The building at 53-63 Martin Place was designed to formalise and define the new major civic thoroughfare of Martin Place. David W. King a young architect was appointed. The brief was to erect premises to the full building height and to design in conformity with that of the surrounding buildings. In a special feature in 1938, Building nominated the APA Building as one of a group of nine "Sydney Buildings that have made Architectural History", with the caption "the APA Building, Sydney, may be said to represent the new Sydney, for it is built upon one of the sites made available by the extension of Martin Place. ...While the lines are very simple, they impart a vertical effect that is most impressive... The building was opened in May 1937. The APA Building is the last remaining example in Martin Place of what was a consistent group of structures exhibiting a conformity of scale, façade treatment and vocabulary of detail.

The design and construction of the APA Building closely followed that of the Rural Bank opposite (F.W. Turner, opened 1936), and together these buildings set the precedent for the redevelopment of the extended Martin Place as the commercial and professional address for Sydney, with Art Deco as the architectural language for this redevelopment. The Prudential Building (Hennessy and Hennessy, 1939), the MLC Building (Bates, Smart and McCutcheon, 1938) and alterations to the Australia Hotel (Emil Sodersten, 1937), exemplify this phase. Challis House assumed the function of a commercial city building that was closely linked with tourism by virtue of the occupation of the lower floors by the Railways Ticketing Office and Government Tourist Bureau.

During the war it was feared that the Post Office tower might be a target, and in 1942 the clock and bells were dismantled. No move was made to re-erect the tower until twelve years after the war had ended. For the next five years public pressure began to grow. Robert Menzies, Prime Minister supported the project in April 1962. Work began after Anzac Day, 25 April 1963 and was finished on Anzac Day, 1964.

In 1957, the site at the top of Martin Place on the southern side was purchased by the Commonwealth Bank as the location for the first Reserve Bank of Australia building. The government had decided to separate the Central Bank from the rest of the Commonwealth Bank Group to ensure a sense of fair trading between all trading banks and the Central Bank. The Bank's administrators made a deliberate decision to call for a design for the building that was contemporary and international to exemplify a post war cultural shift away from an architectural emphasis on strength and expressed through massive walls and pillars. For the newly created Bank, the decade of the 1960's was tremendously significant in creating an International image for the Australian economy. Covenants on the site required that the facades of the building be constructed of stone and other complimentary materials and that the building have a minimum height of 150 feet with a setback to Martin Place of 16 feet above a height of 60 feet from Macquarie Street. Three members of the Design Committee undertook an overseas tour to investigate design and building trends generally and specific

facilities for other central banking agencies. A conscious policy of using materials of Australian origin works by Australian artists and sculptors was adopted. Extensions to the south of the building were completed in 1980.

The idea of developing a pedestrian square in front of the GPO was again proposed in 1954 by town planners George Clarke and Geoffrey Faithful. Development of a civic plaza was seen as a viable solution to alleviate the increasing congestion of traffic and people in this area. Twelve years later, the idea had gained wide support and in 1966 Clarke, Gazzard and partners together with Professor Denis Winston (then Professor of Town Planning at the University of Sydney) proposed a scheme which subsequently gained the support of city Council. Stage two between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets was opened in July 1976, and stage five between Phillip and Macquarie Streets in September 1977. The remaining stages from Castlereagh to Phillip Streets, with Elizabeth Street between were completed concurrently with Martin Place railway station. Martin Place station was finally put into service in 1980.

The period 1970's and 1980's also witnessed the demolition of several major buildings (the Australia Hotel, the Rural Bank and the Prudential Building) and erection of new structures to replace these. The foremost of these, the MLC Centre, the Prudential Building and the State Bank, have been designed to a very different set of urban design concepts, particularly in regard to scale and setbacks, yet Martin Place has remained a space defined by buildings of a perceptively high quality, and has retained its character as Sydney's most important urban space.

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce-Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	(none)-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Communication-Activities relating to the creation and conveyance of information	(none)-
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Technology-Activities and processes associated with the knowledge or use of mechanical arts and applied sciences	(none)-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	(none)-

## Assessment of significance

### SHR Criteria a)

[Historical significance]

Martin Place has Historic Significance:

For its ability to evidence the development of Victorian and Interwar Sydney.

For its ability to evidence its role as a prestige address for institutional buildings.

For its ability to reflect the status of Sydney because of its relationship with Institutional Buildings Significant for its ability to contribute to understanding the nineteenth century town planning intention.

For its ability to illustrate the pressure on city sites in the later nineteenth century to maximise returns on their property by increasing the number of storeys.

For its ability to reflect in its materials the wealth of natural resources available for building within New South Wales and other Australian States.

For its ability to evidence key period of building activity during the Victorian period and later the interwar period and post war period in direct response to the Height of Building controls.

For its protection of original buildings due to resident action to save.

### SHR Criteria b)


[Associative significance]

Martin Place has Historic Association Significance for its:

Association with Sir James Martin, Premier and Chief Justice of NSW.

Association with important Institutions, including the Post Office

Association with prominent local architects, including Barnet

<b>SHR Criteria c)</b> [Aesthetic significance]	Martin Place has Aesthetic Significance:
	As one of Sydney's most important 19th and 20th century townscapes with a high degree of architectural intactness remaining from a variety of periods.
	For its ability to illustrate various periods of development and architectural styles and building types.
	For its collection of professional chambers.
	For the number of public and commercial buildings designed by distinguished architects.
	For its important street planting which provides a green and attractive environment.
	For the high level of integrity of the building stock.
<b>SHR Criteria d)</b> [Social significance]	Has aesthetic significance locally. Has cultural significance locally.
	Martin Place is a pedestrian thoroughfare, meeting place and access point to railway. Has social significance locally. Has cultural significance locally.
<b>SHR Criteria e)</b> [Research potential]	Martin Place has Technical Significance:  For its use of sandstone and for the vast array of quality building materials and finishes used.
<b>SHR Criteria f)</b> [Rarity]	Tank Stream (Refer to Archaeological Zoning Plan)
	Martin Place has Rarity Significance:
	As a rare surviving example of an important institutional Street
<b>SHR Criteria g)</b> [Representativeness]	Macquarie Street has Representative Significance:
<b>Assessment criteria:</b>	Items are assessed against the  <b>State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria</b> to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Recommended management:

### RECOGNISE THE HISTORICAL LAYERS

Victorian Development

These form the character of the city

Interwar Development

Buildings of the early twentieth century usually have an appropriate scale and are therefore neutral elements although some buildings may contribute to the significance of the area and are therefore contributing elements

Interwar development provides a greater range of finishes, greater extent of solid façade and recessed balconies which provide more wall façade than post-60's development.

Interwar development provides hierarchical composition to centre, base, middle and top and a stepped skyline

Associated planting lessens visual impact of Interwar development

Buildings of the Post-War Development were seen to indicate Sydney's progressive status

### PROTECTION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Protect Subdivision Pattern

Retain Victorian, subdivision

Do not allow amalgamation of sites within these important subdivisions

Retain the block width characteristics of an area

Protect Key Period Significant (Contributory) Development and Settings

Retain Victorian Public Buildings

Retain Victorian Commercial Buildings

Retain Interwar Buildings where they contribute to the streetscape

Retain significant corner buildings

Retain Scale

Maintain building alignments

Retain pattern of forms

Retain finishes and details

Protect Significant Building Type – Warehouse

Retain scale and finishes.

Remove detracting additions to (Contributory) Development

Awnings

Airconditioning

Dominating signage

Large infill shopfront (reconstruction may be required)

Reinforce the street character dominant scale

Maintain scale of development abutting lanes so that it is complementary to adjacent buildings and encourages pedestrian use by providing for retail or other activity in the lane.

Reinforce the dominant street character and scale  
Retain scale of institutional development  
Maintain characteristic building alignment  
Retain characteristic building form and façade composition  
Retain characteristic building finishes and details

Change of Use  
Retain commercial usage  
Retain institutional usage  
Retain an understanding of a former use by not allowing the new use to compromise the significant façade.

#### ENHANCEMENT OF STREETScape SETTING

Landscaping  
Encourage trees at the end of streets to reinforce landscape vistas and frame views.  
Encourage trees to screen detracting development

Views  
Protect the close and distant views which are important to the character of the city  
Reinforce street end vistas with street trees

Pedestrianisation  
Retain role of the space as public open space, by maintaining and enhancing pedestrian access and activity.

Street Parking  
Incorporate street trees.  
Do not alter street alignment.  
Car Parking/ Access (CBD)  
Do allow new car access from the street  
Generally allow parking access from rear lanes  
Reduce the impact of below ground garages by narrowing garage door, garage lighting screening, providing appropriate gates and doors and providing landscape screening

#### ENHANCE SIGNIFICANCE ON REDEVELOPED SITE

Redevelopment of Detracting Sites  
Respect the Established Area Character  
Encourage appropriate replacement development on detracting sites.  
Recognise the collective precedent and impact of the proposal.  
Recognise the verticality of significant City streetscapes  
Avoid raised podiums  
Respect the character of precinct  
Respect the scale and form of significant development  
Prepare policy for development of former industrial sites (Glebe) or large sites

Respect the Established Façade  
Encourage reinterpretation of Victorian Subdivision in the vicinity  
Respect building line, scale, form and roof pitch of significant development in the vicinity  
Encourage façade qualities being multiple finishes, greater extent of solid façade and recessed balconies.  
Reduce the impact of uncharacteristic scale and large extent of glass  
Reduce the impact of minimal setbacks for increased building height  
Encourage streetwalls  
Encourage reinterpretation of adjacent significant façade composition  
Encourage rendered and painted finishes  
Encourage an appropriate level of contemporary decorative detail

Avoid Visual Clutter  
Reduce the impact of A/C, signs etc.  
Awnings should not occur in street  
Disallow bridges and projections over the street lane which overshadows the Lane, obstructs a view or vista or diminishes pedestrian activity at ground level

Landscape screening  
Encourage screening (landscape and architectural) to detracting development by appropriate policy

Enhance Significance of Area  
Establish/maintain and enhance street planting to unify streetscapes  
Encourage render/paint/stone finishes to detracting developments  
Remove / discourage reproduction of period detail in contemporary development  
Provide landscape screening to detracting sites  
Promote public buildings  
Promote retail strip  
Promote art installations on improvements within the area

#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LEP PROTECTION

#### BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT

Adjust boundary to include area which do contribute to an understanding of the significance of the Streetscape. Consider extension of the boundary of the Streetscape to Angel Place.

STATUTORY PROTECTION  
Confirm listing in the LEP

Interpretation  
Interpret Victorian street lane pattern and subdivision  
Encourage historical interpretation of the laneway.

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Sydney LEP 2012	I1889	14 Dec 12		
Heritage study					

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written		1993	City of Sydney, Areas of Special Significance, 1993.	
Written		1937	Building Magazine, 24 August	
Written			City of Sydney Draft Development Control Plan, 1990.	
Written	Anita Heiss		Aboriginal People and Place, Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City	
Written	D Gazzard	1988	'The People's Promenade' in the Design of Sydney	
Written	Higgenbottom	1995	Conservation Management Plan 16-32 Bridge Street	
Written	Howard Tanner		Conservation Management Plan 48 Martin Place	
Written	Isadore Brodsky	1962	The Streets of Sydney	
Written	Lucas Stapleton	1991	Conservation Management Plan GPO	
Written	Noel Bell Ridley Smith	2001	Conservation Management Plan 65 Martin Place	
Written	NSW Heritage Office		State Heritage Inventory 2 Martin Place	
Written	P Romey	1990	Conservation Management Plan 53 Martin Place	

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# Martin Place Railway Station

## Item details

**Name of item:** Martin Place Railway Station  
**Type of item:** Built  
**Group/Collection:** Transport - Rail  
**Category:** Railway Platform/ Station  
**Primary address:** Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000  
**Local govt. area:** Sydney

## Boundary:

The listing boundary is the whole of the underground station area from the main public and pedestrian concourse where ticket vending machines and ticket windows are located (to the entrance of the western pedestrian subway as defined by the line of the newsagent and shops). Within the paid concourse the boundary extends up to the open ceiling above the concourse, while in the station area the boundary should be considered to be a 5 metre radius from the tunnel ceiling and platform ends. (Does not include modern retail areas).

## All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Martin Place	Sydney	Sydney			Primary Address

## Owner/s

Organisation Name	Owner Category	Date Ownership Updated
RailCorp	State Government	
RailCorp	State Government	
RailCorp	State Government	

## Statement of significance:

Martin Place Railway Station is significant as a representative example of the most recent major railway construction undertaken in Sydney city, as part of the Eastern Suburbs Railway (ESR). The design of the Martin Place Station as displayed in its colour scheme particularly, reflects the design ideas of the 1920s city underground stations such as St James and Museum, and the individual colour schemes used for each of the stations on the ESR. Martin Place is a good example of alate Twentieth-Century International style structure which is highly intact with many of its original materials and finishes still in place.

**Date significance updated:** 14 May 09

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** Fowell, Mansfield Jarvis and McLurcan  
**Builder/Maker:** Urban Transport Authority  
**Construction years:** 1973-1979  
**Physical description:** BUILDINGS  
Station complex and entrances, (1979)

### STRUCTURES

Platforms, (1979)

Escalators (9), (1979)

Concourses, (1979)

Subways, (1979)

#### STATION COMPLEX AND ENTRANCES (1979)

The station complex is below ground with access via stairs from Martin Place and then banks of three escalators to the concourse level. Pedestrian access is via arcades constructed at the same time as the station and leading to adjacent office and retail plazas. The ceiling of the public concourse above the platforms is raked following the topography of the street above and the supporting concrete beams are painted red to match the feature ceramic wall tiling, also in red.

#### STRUCTURES (1979)

The station consists of an island platform with two faces serving an Up and Down line. The platform is accessed via two sets of three escalators. The station and platforms are constructed of reinforced concrete finished with pre-cast white terrazzo panels, and red glazed ceramic wall tiles.

The ceilings of the escalators are moulded plywood with recessed strip lighting.

**Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:** The station is in good condition with a high degree of original fabric intact.

**Date condition updated:** 13 Nov 08

**Modifications and dates:** c2000: The station has not been significantly altered from its original design other than through the introduction of updated automated ticket barriers and indicator boards.

**Current use:** Railway Station

**Former use:** Nil

## History

**Historical notes:** Martin Place Station was opened on 23 June 1979 as part of the inauguration of the Eastern Suburbs Railway (ESR) line. The station had been constructed using an open-cut excavation.

A line to the eastern suburbs had been part of the wider rail plan for Sydney since the late 1890s, with provisions made for the eventuality during the construction of the city underground stations in the 1920s, although work never proceeded past the planning phase at this time.

Since the late 1940s the ESR had been under construction on and off, with meaningful progress made from the early 1970s. The construction of the line was a contentious political issue, not only because of the extended period over which it was undertaken, but also because of the resumptions and demolitions throughout Woollahroomooloo that were required to build it. The alignment and profile for the ESR was set in 1926 and construction on the railway was started by the NSW Department of Railways. In 1952, the project was abandoned until the mid 1960s. In 1967 the NSW Department of Railways engaged the Snowy Mountains Authority (SMA) to prepare and develop documents for the city tunnels and stations, Kings Cross tunnel and stations, and Rushcutters Bay viaduct and various other associated works.

The City and Suburban Electric Railways (Amendment) Act, Act No. 13 of 1947, made provision for the construction of further electric railways in the City of Sydney, serving the eastern, southern and south-eastern suburbs. This Act amended an earlier scheme proposed by JJC Bradfield in 1916 which had provided for an eastern suburbs line (via St James Station) and a south-eastern railway. The Act made provision for the construction of 44 miles of new suburban electric railways.

The design of the stations along the ESR line was an integral part of the process, with each station being a different colour to identify it. Bright red was used throughout Martin Place in both glazed tiles for walls and columns and painted cement surfaces. The red was chosen to reflect the banking and finance associations of the area. The design of the ESR underground stations continued the design ideas of the city underground stations of the 1920s, with individual station colours and features.

As with other stations on the line, the new modern design also included escalators as the principal access to station platforms and the introduction of electric ticket machines and automatic barriers and gates - the first time they were used on the NSW railways network.

Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Transport-Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements	Railway Infrastructure-

Assessment of significance

<b>SHR Criteria a)</b> [Historical significance]	The station has historic significance as the only new station constructed in the city centre and only the second railway station built in the Sydney city area since World War II, the other being Circular Quay. It is an essential component of the ESR, a project that had taken over forty years from conception to completion. The station was also the first to introduce electronic ticket machines and automatic barriers as standard, which is now commonplace across the city rail system.
<b>SHR Criteria c)</b> [Aesthetic significance]	The station is a good example of a Late Twentieth-Century International style design and demonstrates many of the key aspects of the style. This includes the feature red ceramic wall tiling, the red painted concrete structure and other finishes and materials which are all part of the original 1970s station design and fitout. Individual station colours were a feature of all the ESR stations, with Martin Place retaining the best example.
<b>SHR Criteria d)</b> [Social significance]	The place has the potential to contribute to the local community's sense of place and can provide a connection to the local community's history.
<b>SHR Criteria f)</b> [Rarity]	The station is rare, being one of only two railway stations constructed in the centre of Sydney since the end of World War II, the other being Circular Quay Station.
<b>SHR Criteria g)</b> [Representativeness]	The station is a representative example of a late twentieth-century railway station and is part of a collection of similar stations built for the Eastern Suburbs Railway in Sydney.
<b>Integrity/Intactness:</b>	Martin Place Station is intact and has a high level of integrity.
<b>Assessment criteria:</b>	Items are assessed against the 🏛️ <b>State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria</b> to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register	SRA s.170 Register				

Study details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines used
State Rail Authority Heritage Register Study	1999	SRA162	State Rail Authority		N o
S170 Heritage & Conservation Register Update	2009		Godden Mackay Logan		Y e s
Heritage Platforms Conservation Management Strategy	2015		Australian Museum Consulting		Y e s

References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written	Christopher Jay	1979	Eastern Suburbs Railway Brings New Direction for Underground Architecture	
Written	Urban Transport Commission	1979	Eastern Suburbs Railway: Now a Reality	

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# Martin Place Railway Station Including Interiors

## Item details

**Name of item:** Martin Place Railway Station Including Interiors  
**Type of item:** Built  
**Group/Collection:** Transport - Rail  
**Category:** Railway Platform/ Station  
**Primary address:** 3 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000  
**Parish:** St Philip  
**County:** Cumberland  
**Local govt. area:** Sydney

### All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
3 Martin Place	Sydney	Sydney	St Philip	Cumberland	Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

Martin Place Railway Station is significant as the only underground railway station constructed in the centre of the city within the last 50 years. It is a good example of a Late Twentieth-Century International style structure which is highly intact with many of its original materials and finishes still in place. Its design by architects Fowell Mansfield Jarvis & Maclurcan Pty Ltd was awarded a public buildings merit award by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in 1979.

**Date significance updated:** 10 Feb 16

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** Fowell Mansfield Jarvis & Maclurcan Pty Ltd  
**Construction years:** 1967-1979

**Physical description:** The station is below ground with access via escalators and /or stairs from Martin Place. Some of the access is through arcades constructed at the same time. The station contains 2 platforms and is constructed of reinforced concrete finished with pre-cast terrazzo panels, and red glazed ceramic wall tiles. The ceiling is raked following the topography of the street above and the supporting concrete beams are painted red to match the feature ceramic wall tiling also in red.

**Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:** The station is in good condition with a high degree of original fabric in tact.

**Date condition updated:**25 Jul 06

**Modifications and dates:** The station is little altered from its original design other than automated ticket barriers and indicator boards.

**Further information:** Heritage Inventory sheets are often not comprehensive, and should be regarded as a general guide only. Inventory sheets are based on information available, and often do not include the social history of sites and buildings. Inventory sheets are constantly updated by the City as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may simply indicate that there has been no building work done to the item recently: it does not mean that items are not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items, and is necessary in preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Management Plans, so that the significance of heritage items can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.

## History

**Historical notes:** The "Eora people" was the name given to the coastal Aborigines around Sydney. Central Sydney is therefore often referred to as "Eora Country". Within the City of Sydney local government area, the traditional owners are the Cadigal and Wangal bands of the Eora. There is no written record of the name of the language spoken and currently there are debates as whether the coastal peoples spoke a separate language "Eora" or whether this was actually a dialect of the Dharug language. Remnant bushland in places like Blackwattle Bay retain

elements of traditional plant, bird and animal life, including fish and rock oysters.

With the invasion of the Sydney region, the Cadigal and Wangal people were decimated but there are descendants still living in Sydney today. All cities include many immigrants in their population. Aboriginal people from across the state have been attracted to suburbs such as Pyrmont, Balmain, Rozelle, Glebe and Redfern since the 1930s. Changes in government legislation in the 1960s provided freedom of movement enabling more Aboriginal people to choose to live in Sydney.

(Information sourced from Anita Heiss, "Aboriginal People and Place", Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani>).

The alignment and profile for the Eastern Suburbs Railway was set in 1926 and construction on the railway was started by the NSW Department of Railways. In 1952, the project was abandoned until the mid 60s when it was started again. In 1967 the NSW Department of Railways engaged the Snowy Mountains Authority (SMA) to prepare and develop documents for the city tunnels and stations, Kings Cross tunnel and stations, and Rushcutters Bay viaduct and various other associated works.

The City and Suburban Electric Railways (Amendment) Act, Act No. 13 of 1947, made provision for the construction of further electric railways in the City of Sydney, serving the eastern, southern and south eastern suburbs. This Act amended an earlier scheme proposed by J.J.C. Bradfield in 1916, which had provided for an Eastern Suburbs Railway (via St James Station), and a South Eastern Railway. The City and Suburban Electric Railways (Amendment) Act of 1947 made provision for the construction of 44 miles of new suburban electric railways.

The Eastern Suburbs Railway is a key component of Sydney's transport network linking Central Station with the city centre and the suburb of Bondi Junction, a distance of 7.5 kilometres.

The railway was first proposed in the 1920s and construction actually commenced, but the Great Depression and the Second War caused its abandonment until the 1960s. In 1967 the New South Wales Government awarded the contract for the civil and structural design of the entire line to the Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority (SMA), the Commonwealth Government agency responsible for the design and construction of the Snowy Mountains Scheme in south-eastern Australia. The contract involved approximately 10 kilometres of single track tunnel structures and crossovers, four underground stations and one surface station, two 772metre concrete viaducts and a further 800 metres of surface works, including a prestressed concrete overbridge. Originally the line was planned to extend south through Randwick and the NSW University but this did not eventuate. The proposed stations were to be known as: Charing Cross, Frenchmans Road, Randwick, University and Kingsford.

With the establishment of SMEC in 1970 from the SMA, the contracts were transferred. The work cost \$800 million and was completed in 1973. The Eastern Suburbs Railway continues to serve the people of Sydney today.

Martin Place Railway Station and its Place within the Urban Design of Martin Place:

Martin Place was created in stages between 1860 and 1935 and transformed into a pedestrian area between 1968 and 1978. The final form of the area was determined by prolonged argument and, ultimately, compromise between the City Council, State Government and authorities and private landowners.

By the late 1960s, the conversion of Martin Place into a pedestrian plaza had reached as far east as Pitt Street. In mid 1971, a new plan for the long-term development of the City, known as the Strategic Plan, was published. The second of four principles in this plan involved the improvement of 'access and movement within the city', including pedestrian movement (Gazzard, 1988: 84). Included among the 'actions', was the extension of Martin Place as a pedestrian plaza through to Macquarie Street. This extension of the closure of Macquarie Street had long been proposed and objected to by various parties, not the least of whom were the affected property owners. The design of Martin Place Railway Station played an important role in promoting the extension of Martin Place to Macquarie Street and in determining the design of the eastern-most end of the plaza.

Construction of the Eastern Suburbs Railway line had first been proposed in the 1920s, begun and then abandoned until the 1960s. In 1967, the State Government awarded the contract for the civil and structural design of the line to the Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Authority. The section of the line near Macquarie Street was 30 metres below ground level; the main concourse for the proposed Martin Place Station were thus below street level and extended from under Phillip Street as far as Macquarie Street. It was proposed to construct entrances, with escalator access, down to the concourse from both streets. Concurrent to the development of the station, there were proposals to provide underground access from the railway concourse, under Elizabeth Street, to connect with a retail arcade within the Prudential Building on the southern side of Martin Place. The area beneath the roadway between Elizabeth and Castlereagh Streets consisted of basements, owned by the Council, which had been constructed for an aborted State Savings Bank building.

Above ground, the design of the Pitt Street-Castlereagh Street block of Martin Place took shape. Taking advantage of the six-metre height difference between the two streets, a raised terrace, overlooking the existing plaza area of Martin Place to the west, was proposed for the Pitt Street end of the block. At the Castlereagh Street end, it was proposed to build a sunken amphitheatre for civic and public performances, from which access under Castlereagh Street would lead via a shopping arcade into the City owned basements to the railway concourse. This vital link was opposed for sometime and would be the last element in the overall plan to be constructed (see below). Varied uses for the plaza above were proposed. The short block between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Street was considered suitable for markets and the area between Elizabeth and Phillip Street was to be a quiet landscaped haven. The final section, between Phillip and Macquarie Streets, was to be an important place of arrival in the City centre. A large fountain was proposed to provide a focal point for the vista towards Sydney Hospital and it was envisaged that outdoor café seating would make this area a good waiting area near the railway entrance.

The Minister for Lands gave notice of the closure of Martin Place from the eastern side of Pitt Street to the western side of Macquarie Street, exclusive of cross streets, on 24 November, 1972. Almost every Government Agency and owner objected, resulting in prolonged negotiations. The objector who could not be satisfied was the Chairman of the Rural Bank, who used his high level contacts to ensure that the plaza, as first gazetted, extended only as far as Elizabeth Street, stopping short of the Rural Bank (1973). In reality, the upper two blocks were closed for a number of years to through traffic to allow railway construction, ultimately paving the way for permanent closure. The objections of the Rural Bank were finally overcome in 1974. It had always been the Railway's intention to build an entrance to the station in the corner of the Rural Bank Building because there was no room on the footpath. This entrance could be moved into the plaza, if created, a clear incentive for the Rural Bank's co-operation. The design of for the upper two blocks of Martin Place were finalised during 1975.

The design of the middle block between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Streets had, meanwhile, been held up by a number of considerations, partially connected to the railway. It was not clear if the concourse of the railway station would extend beyond the eastern side of Elizabeth Street. Secondly, it was a condition of consent for the MLC Centre, then under construction, that a subway be built under Castlereagh Street to connect the building to the station. Thirdly, the lessee of the old basements of the aborted State Savings Building, Prudential Insurance Company, were reluctant to surrender their lease to Council "The architects were trying to bring all these issues together so that the MLC tunnel under Castlereagh Street would connect into a naturally lit shopping arcade in the basements and then join under Elizabeth Street to the railway concourse. If this was realised there would be an undercover connection from the amphitheatre on the western side of Castlereagh Street to the railway concourse" (Gazzard, 1988: 89).

The design by Fowell Mansfield Jarvis & Maclurcan Pty Ltd was awarded a public buildings merit award by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in 1979.

These issues took years to resolve; this section of Martin Place would be the last to be built. The Eastern Suburbs Railway line officially opened in 1979. Although originally proposed to extend southwards into Randwick, the line was only built to Bondi Junction. The shopping arcade and connection to the railway station was not made until 1982.

Martin Place Station and Railway Architecture of the Period:

There are seven stations that form part of the Eastern Suburbs Line: Redfern, Central, Town Hall, Martin Place, Kings Cross, Edgecliff and Bondi Junction (Town Hall Station was extended to provide for the Eastern Suburbs line. Additional underground platforms were constructed



at the other stations). Martin Place and Kings Cross lie within the City of Sydney. Until the recent construction of the Airport Line, these had been the only two new stations to be opened in the City since Circular Quay Station in 1956.

The platforms for the Eastern Suburb Railway line at Redfern and Central Station had been constructed in 1947-52, before work on the line was stopped. These platforms were excavated by open cut methods, from the surface down. When work started on line again in the 1960s, the remaining platforms were excavated and lined by tunnelling methods; the concourses were constructed in excavations opened from the surface and connected to the platforms by escalators shafts. Excavation at Martin Place and Kings Cross was complicated because explosives could not be used; the concourse excavations were completed using large bulldozers with ripping attachments and hand-held pneumatic tools (Kennedy, 1982). The Eastern Suburbs Railway stations were not the first stations to have escalators access to platforms. Wynyard Station opened in 1932, is accessed from York Street by still extant escalators. The provision of retail possibilities was also not new. At Wynyard, for example, there was Wynyard Arcade.

A high level of finishes was demanded for the new stations and included the use of various wall and wall surfaces, including mosaic tiles, terrazzo, exposed terrazzo and rubber, and suspended moulded panel ceilings, all popular Post World War II commercial finishes. In their 1979 publication, *The Story of the Eastern Suburbs Railway Line*, the Public Transport Commission of New South Wales described their new stations as follows:

"All of the new stations are provided with an Automatic Fare Collection system with ticket vending machines and automatic barriers. Major bus interchange terminals are provided over the stations at Edgecliffe and Bondi Junction. These terminals offer passengers a direct transfer from buses to rail platforms via stairs and high speed escalators.

"The new stations, being the most modern in Australia, are bright and attractive with many sophisticated inclusion such as studded rubber platforms, special level adjusting P.A. sound equipment, excellent lighting, closed circuit surveillance equipment at Martin Place, Kings Cross, Edgecliffe and Bondi Junction, and modern amenities and booking office facilities.

"(Martin Place) The predominant colour is red, with extensive use made of white terrazzo and off-form finished concrete. Platform and escalator shafts are finished with deep red moulded plywood ceilings coved at intervals for lighting, and hinged to allow access to the services located above them.

"(Kings Cross) The concourse is paved with grey-green terrazzo forming a background for a colour scheme of orange, which appears in the plywood ceilings and tiled columns. Walls are lined with white tile and precast terrazzo panels. Booking office windows have surrounds of blue moulded panels which are used throughout the ESR system to identify ticket selling areas.

"(Edgecliff) Both gallery and concourse are paved with terrazzo and walls are lined with bluff-coloured exposed aggregated render. Columns are faced attractive glazed tiles of deep blue-the basis for the station colour scheme. Four escalators lead to the platform which, like the concourse and gallery, is finished with ivory coloured plywood ceilings.

"(Bondi Junction) Two escalators, complimented by stairs, operate between the bus platforms and the concourse which is lined with light grey exposed aggregate render. The ceiling is bright yellow metal slats with recessed lighting covers. Four escalators run from the concourse, through shafts with yellow moulded plywood ceilings to the rubber paved platform. The light grey exposed aggregate walls form a backdrop to the deep orange glazed tiled columns." (Public Transport Commission of NSW, 1979: 8-10)

Integrity in the stations along the Eastern Suburbs Line varies; integrity is generally higher at platform level. While the entrance from the public domain and concourse is largely intact at Martin Place, it has been reconfigured at Bondi Junction as a result of recent works to the Bus Interchange above; at Kings Cross Station, the wall tiling has been painted, whereas it is largely intact at other stations. As reflected by the listings on the s170 Register of State Rail, Martin Place is the more intact station of the two stations that lie within the City of Sydney area.


The tiling of railway stations was not a new phenomenon. St. James and Museum Stations (1926) and Circular Quay Station (1956), part of the City Circle, all feature extensive tiling. The differences in shape, colour and pattern are a product of different eras. The tiling of these stations in turn echoes the extensive tiling carried out to 46 stations that form part of the London Tube network in 1906/7. While these schemes were decorative, earlier use of tiling in the London underground was white, to improve illumination (Rose, 2007).

A similar palette or hard-wearing materials would be used in the Melbourne underground city stations, the first stations for which were opened in 1981.

Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Transport-Activities associated with the moving of people and goods from one place to another, and systems for the provision of such movements	Railway-movements

Assessment of significance

<b>SHR Criteria a)</b> [Historical significance]	The station has historic significance as the only railway station constructed in the centre of Sydney in the last 50 years.
<b>SHR Criteria b)</b> [Associative significance]	The station is associated with the construction of the Eastern Suburbs Railway Line.
<b>SHR Criteria c)</b> [Aesthetic significance]	The station is a good example of a Late Twentieth-Century International style design which demonstrates many of the key aspects of the style. This includes the feature red ceramic wall tiling, red painted concrete structure and othe finishes and materials. The station, designed by architects Fowell Mansfield Jarvis & Maclurcan Pty Ltd, was awarded a public buildings merit award by the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in 1979.
<b>SHR Criteria d)</b> [Social significance]	The station is an important hub in the transport network of the centre of Sydney used daily by commuters.
<b>SHR Criteria f)</b> [Rarity]	The station is rare being one of only 2 constructed in the centre of Sydney within the last 50 years.
<b>SHR Criteria g)</b> [Representativeness]	The station is a representative example of a Late Twentieth century railway station which is part of the eastern suburbs rail line in Sydney.
<b>Integrity/Intactness:</b> High	
<b>Assessment criteria:</b> Items are assessed against the  <b>State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria</b> to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.	

Recommended management:

A Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement should be prepared for the station prior to any major works being undertaken. The principal layout and planning configuration as well as significant internal original features such as the terazzo cladding and ceramic tiling should be retained and conserved.

Recommendations

Management Category	Description	Date Updated
Statutory Instrument	Nominate for State Heritage Register (SHR)	05 Sep 16
Statutory Instrument	Nominate for State Heritage Register (SHR)	05 Sep 16

Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Sydney LEP 2012	I1891	14 Dec 12		
Heritage study					

References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written		1979	The Story of the Eastern Suburbs Railway	

Written	Brady, I.A.	1979	Eastern Suburbs Railway: A Political and Economic Survey of Sydney Suburban Railways, with Particular Emphasis on the Construction of the Eastern Sydney Railway	
Written	Clarke Gazzard Architects	1976	Martin Place Pedestrian Precinct (Prepared for the City of Sydney)	
Written	Rose, Douglas	2007	Tiles of the Unexpected Underground: A Study of six Miles of Geometric Tile Patterns on the London Underground	
Written	Gazzard, Don	1988	'The Peoples' Promenade: Martin Place 1860-1985', in Peter Webber (ed.), "The Design of Sydney: Three Decades of Change in the City Centre"	
Written	Gunn, John	1989	Along Parallel Lines: A History of the Railways of New South Wales, 1850-1986	
Written	Kennedy, B and B	1982	'Martin Place Railway Station' from "Subterranean Sydney"	
Written	Peter Webber (ed)	1988	The Design of Sydney: Three Decards of Change in the City Centre	

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# Richard Johnson Square Including Monument and Plinth

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Richard Johnson Square Including Monument and Plinth
<b>Type of item:</b>	Built
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Parks, Gardens and Trees
<b>Category:</b>	Urban Park
<b>Location:</b>	Lat: -33.8675549408237 Long: 151.208691038508
<b>Primary address:</b>	Bligh Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Sydney

### All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Bligh Street	Sydney	Sydney			Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

Richard Johnson Square is historically and culturally significant as an important example of 20th century civic planning.

**Date significance updated:** 01 Feb 06

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Construction years:** 1925-1925

**Physical description:** The square is of historic and cultural significance as the site of the Christian service in Australia. Category: Urban Plaza. General Details: Refer to Archaeological Zoning Plan.

**Modifications and dates:** 1925

In 1974, the island platform around the monument was enlarged and integrated with the western Bligh Street footpath.

**Further information:** Heritage Inventory sheets are often not comprehensive, and should be regarded as a general guide only. Inventory sheets are based on information available, and often do not include the social history of sites and buildings. Inventory sheets are constantly updated by the City as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may simply indicate that there has been no building work done to the item recently: it does not mean that items are not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items, and is necessary in preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Management Plans, so that the significance of heritage items can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.

## History

**Historical notes:** The "Eora people" was the name given to the coastal Aborigines around Sydney. Central Sydney is therefore often referred to as "Eora Country". Within the City of Sydney local government area, the traditional owners are the Cadigal and Wangal bands of the Eora. There

is no written record of the name of the language spoken and currently there are debates as whether the coastal peoples spoke a separate language "Eora" or whether this was actually a dialect of the Dharug language. Remnant bushland in places like Blackwattle Bay retain elements of traditional plant, bird and animal life, including fish and rock oysters.

With the invasion of the Sydney region, the Cadigal and Wangal people were decimated but there are descendants still living in Sydney today. All cities include many immigrants in their population. Aboriginal people from across the state have been attracted to suburbs such as Pyrmont, Balmain, Rozelle, Glebe and Redfern since the 1930s. Changes in government legislation in the 1960s provided freedom of movement enabling more Aboriginal people to choose to live in Sydney.

(Information sourced from Anita Heiss, "Aboriginal People and Place", Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani> )

Commemorates the site of the first church erected in Australia (1793-1798), the Chaplain being the Reverend Richard Johnson.

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Community facilities-

## Recommended management:

The building should be retained and conserved. A Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement, or a Conservation Management Plan, should be prepared for the building prior to any major works being undertaken. There shall be no vertical additions to the building and no alterations to the façade of the building other than to reinstate original features. The principal room layout and planning configuration as well as significant internal original features including ceilings, cornices, joinery, flooring and fireplaces should be retained and conserved. Any additions and alterations should be confined to the rear in areas of less significance, should not be visibly prominent and shall be in accordance with the relevant planning controls.

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Sydney LEP 2012	I1673	14 Dec 12		
Heritage study					

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written	Anita Heiss		Aboriginal People and Place, Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.

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# Chifley Square

## Item details

**Name of item:** Chifley Square  
**Type of item:** Complex / Group  
**Group/Collection:** Urban Area  
**Category:** Townscape  
**Primary address:** Chifley Square, Sydney, NSW 2000  
**Local govt. area:** Sydney

### All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
Chifley Square	Sydney	Sydney			Primary Address
68-96 Hunter Street	Sydney	Sydney			Alternate Address
Phillip Street	Sydney	Sydney			Alternate Address

## Statement of significance:

Chifley Square is of historical and aesthetic significance as an early 20th exercise in city planning to create a new public open space, and for its naming to honour J.B. Chifley, Australia's prominent and well loved wartime Prime Minister 1945-1949. The construction of the heritage-listed 1957 Qantas House (designed by Rudder Littlemore and Rudder) at 68-96 Hunter Street was integral to the creation of Chifley Square, and adds to the historical and aesthetic significance of the Square.

**Date significance updated:** 07 Aug 07

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Construction years:** 1957-1993

**Physical description:** The area is characterised by large-scale high-rise tower buildings interspersed with lower scale development. The majority of towers at the edges of the Square are seen as individual elements within the cityscape, however they follow the street alignment at lower levels, with a curved alignment to the north creating a distinct sense of enclosure for the Square. The curved form of the Square and the recent Aurora Place to the east, visible within this setting, create a unique urban landscape within the Sydney CBD and provide a visual relief and break in the intensely built up area of the financial centre.

**Modifications and dates:** Sydney's Deutsche Bank Place at 126 Phillip Street, which fronts Chifley Square, designed by London's Foster & Partners (Lord Norman Foster) was constructed 1996-2005. This was regarded as an iconic modern building of high design quality within the City's financial district at its time.

In 2007, a Stage 1 DA approval was given for demolition and redevelopment of the Goodsell building site at 8-12 Chifley Square.

**Further information:** Heritage Inventory sheets are often not comprehensive, and should be regarded as a general guide only. Inventory sheets are based on information available, and often do not include the social history of sites and buildings. Inventory sheets are constantly updated by the City as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may simply



indicate that there has been no building work done to the item recently: it does not mean that items are not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items, and is necessary in preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Management Plans, so that the significance of heritage items can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.

## History

### Historical notes:

The "Eora people" was the name given to the coastal Aborigines around Sydney. Central Sydney is therefore often referred to as "Eora Country". Within the City of Sydney local government area, the traditional owners are the Cadigal and Wangal bands of the Eora. There is no written record of the name of the language spoken and currently there are debates as to whether the coastal peoples spoke a separate language "Eora" or whether this was actually a dialect of the Dharug language. Remnant bushland in places like Blackwattle Bay retain elements of traditional plant, bird and animal life, including fish and rock oysters.

With the invasion of the Sydney region, the Cadigal and Wangal people were decimated but there are descendants still living in Sydney today. All cities include many immigrants in their population. Aboriginal people from across the state have been attracted to suburbs such as Pyrmont, Balmain, Rozelle, Glebe and Redfern since the 1930s. Changes in government legislation in the 1960s provided freedom of movement enabling more Aboriginal people to choose to live in Sydney.

(Information sourced from Anita Heiss, "Aboriginal People and Place", Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani> )

The original concept of the semi-circular form was first proposed by John Sulman in 1908. The same concept resurfaced in 1937 and was proposed by City Engineer Garnsey, as a means of relieving traffic congestion at the junction of Hunter and Elizabeth Streets. The scheme was implemented in 1947.

The completion of Qantas House with a curved form in 1957 made a major contribution to the creation of Chifley Square. The place was officially named "Chifley Square" in 1961 in honour of the late Hon. J.B. Chifley (1885-1951), 16th Prime Minister of Australia in 1945-1949. In 1962 Elizabeth Street was extended, creating a public square with a traffic island in the middle.


The final semi-circular form of the Square was formed with the completion of Chifley Tower in 1993 to the east of the Square, which completed the curved form of Qantas House to the west. Further public domain works were implemented in 1996-1997 to reclaim the Square, improve its quality and create a sophisticated public plaza. (from Sydney LEP 2005 Character Statement for Special Area 14 Chifley Square).

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy- Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce-Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	(none)-

8. Culture- Developing cultural institutions and ways of life	Creative endeavour-Activities associated with the production and performance of literary, artistic, architectural and other imaginative, interpretive or inventive works; and/or associated with the production and expression of cultural phenomena; and/or environments that have inspired such creative activities.	(none)-
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## Assessment of significance

<b>SHR Criteria a)</b> [Historical significance]	Chifley Square is of historical significance for the history of town planning in Australia, as an early 20th exercise in city planning to create a new public open space.
<b>SHR Criteria b)</b> [Associative significance]	Named in honour of Australia's 16th Prime Minister the Hon. J.B. Chifley.
<b>SHR Criteria c)</b> [Aesthetic significance]	Chifley Square is of aesthetic significance as an early 20th exercise in city planning to create a new public open space. The construction of the heritage-listed 1957 Qantas House (designed by Rudder Littlemore and Rudder) at 68-96 Hunter Street was integral to the creation of Chifley Square, and adds to the historical and aesthetic significance of the Square.
<b>Assessment criteria:</b>	Items are assessed against the  <b>State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria</b> to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Recommended management:

Chifley Square is to be recognised and enhanced as one of the major public open spaces in the heart of the financial centre of the city.

The use of the space as a destination and meeting place for people is to be promoted and encouraged.

The history of the place and its evolution in the design of both public and private domain should be interpreted to enhance a distinct sense of place inherent in the character of Chifley Square.

The urban character and distinct sense of enclosure of Chifley Square is to be reinforced by emphasising and reinforcing the semi-circular geometry of the space, requiring new buildings to be integrated with the form of existing buildings and limiting the height of new buildings.

Sun access to the Square during lunchtime hours from mid-April to the end of August is to be protected and extended.

Works to unify the Square and improve the relationship between the space and the buildings forming it are to be encouraged.

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Sydney LEP 2012	I1708	14 Dec 12		
Heritage study					

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written			Sydney LEP 2005 Character Statement for Special Area 14 - Chifley Square	
Written	Anita Heiss		"Aboriginal People and Place", Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City	

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# Flat Building Including Interiors

## Item details

<b>Name of item:</b>	Flat Building Including Interiors
<b>Other name/s:</b>	Seven Elizabeth Street, Sydney
<b>Type of item:</b>	Built
<b>Group/Collection:</b>	Residential buildings (private)
<b>Category:</b>	Block of Flats
<b>Primary address:</b>	7 Elizabeth Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
<b>Parish:</b>	St Philip
<b>County:</b>	Cumberland
<b>Local govt. area:</b>	Sydney

The curtilage is parcel of land on which the building is situated (Lots 1 to 57 of Stata Plan No.13171).

## Boundary:

### All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
7 Elizabeth Street	Sydney	Sydney	St Philip	Cumberland	Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

The building is historically significant because it is the only block of flats constructed in the City of Sydney during the 1930s to have survived and still fulfil its function as a residential building. The building is aesthetically significant because of its associations with two prominent and influential designers, architect Emil Sodersten and interior designer Marion Hall Best. Emil Sodersten was one of the most important architects to have practised in New South Wales during the 1920s and 1930s. Famous for the residential flat buildings that were designed in his office, this is the only one known to have been constructed in the CBD and shows the influence of the modernist European architecture on his work. As such it has state significance. Its interiors were an early and well publicised example of the work of Marion Hall Best, who went on to exercise a great influence on interior design in this state during the three decades after World War II.

**Date significance updated:** 29 May 13

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

<b>Designer/Maker:</b>	Emil Sodersten, Architect and Marion Hall Best interior designer (interiors)
<b>Builder/Maker:</b>	H.W. Thompson & Co.
<b>Construction years:</b>	1939-1940
<b>Physical description:</b>	A 10-storey apartment building, designed to contain 54 flats with two shops at ground floor level and a basement restaurant. The building is steel framed with reinforced concrete floors, clad with pale cream brickwork, and originally had green painted steel framed windows. Each level above the ground floor contained 6 bachelor flats. An awning with green coloured fascia divided the street frontage from the upper floors. Beneath the awning the street frontage was clad in ivory tinted structural glass (Vitrolite), above a black tile base, a small section of which remains. The shopfronts to each side of the entrance are rounded, while the top hampers were subdivided by two horizontal and two vertical bars into six subdivisions fitted with broad reeded glass placed vertically. The glazing of the shopfronts was almost flush with the Vitrolite facing. The shopfront frames, transoms and dividing bars were removed but were reconstructed circa 2010 based on the documentary evidence of the original design. The main ground floor foyer is paved with the original green and buff coloured terrazzo in a chequered pattern and divided by brass strips, and the glazed entrance doors still feature the original triple push bars of chrome finish. In the centre of the entrance, stairs lead down to the basement, formerly a café. The stairs were originally finished in terrazzo,

buff coloured to treads and green to risers. The walls enclosing the basement stair are later, as originally the stair was enclosed only by a balustrade clad in ivory Vitrolite, and secured by a roller shutter. The black tile base to the street frontage continued into the entrance foyer as a skirting, above which the render was originally sand coloured and coursed. The ceiling of the foyer was originally a rich wine colour complimented by a gilt cornice. The flagpole was also reinstated circa 2010.

**Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:** In 2010, the shopfront were reconstruced based on documentary evidence of the original. The flagpole was also reinstated circa 2010.

**Date condition updated:** 29 May 13

**Modifications and dates:** Original steel framed windows have been replaced with aluminium framed sashes. The stair to the basement has been fire isolated. The shopfronts have been altered - stall boards and glazing have been removed and new fabric inserted. The ground floor exterior has been reclad with travertine. The flagpole is missing. The interior of the building has been unsympathetically altered through insensitive fire upgrading. Many kitchens and bathrooms are altered, however at the time of the National Trust listing at least one flat retained the original kitchen and most of the original bathroom fabric in 2004.

**Further information:** Comparative Analysis:

Emil Sodersten's Works:

Sydney born, Emil Lawrence Sodersten (born Sodersteen) was the second of seven children born to Swedish master mariner Emil Gustavus Sodersteen and his Australian wife Julia. Emil changed his surname to Sodersten in the Post WWII era. For clarity, the later spelling is adopted.

Sodersten began his studies at Sydney Technical College in 1915, working part time with the architectural practice of H.E. Ross & Rowe. In 1921, he attended Leslie Wilkinson's lectures at the University of Sydney. Following a brief period in Queensland where, with the firm F.R. Hall & Prentice, he helped design the City Hall, Sodersten worked for John P. Tate & Young on office buildings in Sydney. Two years following his registration as an architect (1923), Sodersten established his own office where he also executed presentation drawings for other architects (1925). Together with John Crust, he designed the Australian War Memorial in Canberra; he resigned, however, before the building was completed. By the mid 1930s, having designed a number of buildings in the City, including Wall House in Loftus Street and Trenton House and Tudor House in Phillip Street, Sodersten's reputation was well established. During the period leading up to the outbreak of World War II, he came to be considered among the leading Sydney architects working in the Art Deco Style.

The French decorative styles later termed Art Deco and Moderne entered Australia, mostly via the United State of America (as opposed to Europe) in the late 1920s. Art Deco, a term coined as an abbreviation for 'art decoratif', belonged to the pro-decoration design idiom. In its original (Parisian) state, Art Deco was a full-blooded coherent decorative style, one of splendour and luxury that utilised series of stylised motifs, zigzags and curvaceous geometry. Developed during the 1920s, Art Deco (USA) was considered to be a 'bastardised version' of the European style and tended to utilise less surface decoration than its French counterpart.

Art Deco reflected the aspiration of the era. Caught between two world wars and a depression, the late 1920s and early 1930s represent a brief period during which new styles were presented to a public that was: "seeking newness, perhaps a rebirth, as it climbed back to what was hoped would be an even footing, with everyone being able to participate in the country's economy" (Thorne, R., and K. Cork, 1994: 9). Art Deco celebrated the exciting, dynamic aspects of the post WWI machine age, unashamedly making a 'direct assault' on the emotions by the use of vivid, purely decorative elements. Eye catching materials and finishes, such as chrome, veneer and opaque glass, found favour: "Straight lines- often three in parallel- were used horizontally, vertically and diagonally in conjunction with geometric curves. Low relief sculpture was popular: it was heavily stylised and tended to be rather naively symbolic of speed, power, industry and progress" (Apperley, R., et al, 1989: 188). The popularity of Art Deco for movie theatre design did much to popularise the style in the Australian imagination.

The first phase of Art Deco (USA) was geometrical and angular and: "derived its visual vocabulary from the exposition and reflected 'the dominance of the triangle and "T"-square couple with stylised classic derived ornaments" (van Daele, P., and R. Lumby, 1997: 17). Commercial buildings were graced with strongly modelled vertical fins, giving a stepped skyline or silhouette. By these means, buildings were given a strong suggestion of arrested vertical and/or horizontal motion. Fully resolved Art Deco buildings began to appear in Sydney around 1933 as the worst effects of the Great Depression eased and just before the second phase of Art Deco design appeared: the curvilinear and streamline phase.

By the mid 1930s, Sydney architects practicing in the Art Deco Style had turned more towards German expressionist architecture, and the 'streamlined' functional shapes developed by industrial designers, and away from the predominantly Art Nouveau influences of the pre WWI era. A distinctive characteristic of Interwar era architecture in Sydney was the continual refinement and reduction in decoration, revealing simple masses punctuated by fenestration. Between 1931 and 1935, Sodersten explored the 'dramatic potential' of the modern form: "His work demonstrates a mastery of composition and carefully worked detail that was a direct legacy of his Beaux Arts training. From 1931 to 1935 he designed a range of buildings where, in a play raking brick fans, vertical ribs, texture and pattern, he manipulated the decorative potential of this material" (Stapleton, M., 2001: 181).

During the Interwar period steel framed structures were typically clad with brick for fire rating purposes. The Royal Exchange Assurance Building (1937) was the first glass façade building in Sydney; the trend was not, however, readily adopted until the Post WWII era. Inspired by the intricately patterned brickwork of contemporary Dutch and German Schools and architects such as Van der Maey, Dudock and De Klerk, whose work was often illustrated in the journal "Building", fine brickwork was considered to be a signatory feature of Sodersten's work: "delightful essays in brick, a material which he handles in masterly fashion. In his love of this versatile medium, Emil Sodersten is a worthy successor to the late Horbury Hunt" (Sodersten, E., 1934: 92); "(it) must have influenced the red-brick virtuosity of Sodersten's apartment blocks and the complex geometry of his building fabric" (Stapleton, M., 2001: 179).

Sodersten was also noted for his use of colour. A 1934 review, for example, stated that: "All Sodersten's work is colourful" (Stapleton, M., 2001: 91). Of the use of colour, he had reputedly remarked in 1930 that: "We are understanding colour a little better, especially now that synthetic stone- or as craftsmen prefer to call it, pre-cast stone- is making better results possible...the judicious use of colour could do a great deal to enhance the outside appearance of a house, just as much as the inside" (Cooper, N., 1930: 9).

Sodersten's buildings often incorporated innovative features. Birtley Towers (1934), containing fifty-four flats over nine floors, was one of the first (and the largest) residential apartment block to be built in Sydney as the Depression eased; his extension to the Australia Hotel included innovative mechanical ventilation for bathrooms, thereby allowing the living areas to maximum window areas; and the City Mutual Building was one of the first buildings in Sydney to include fully ducted air conditioning and automatically controlled lifts.

Sodersten's interiors were as carefully worked and detailed as his exteriors, the best known examples being the City Mutual Building and the now demolished interior of the Australia Hotel (1936). Interior designer Marion Hall Best, however, executed the interiors of No. 7 Elizabeth Street; these interiors were Hall Best's first major commission.

Of all his varied work (including city buildings, theatres, hotels, factories and private residences), Sodersten was particularly recognised by his contemporaries for his success in the 'field of flat buildings'. In 1934, Art in Australia described his most recent designs as: "delightful essays in brickwork, a material which he handles in masterly fashion. In his love of this versatile medium, Emil Sodersten is a worthy successor to the late Horbury Hunt. ...These fine modern piles of flats were surely bold challengers to the many thoughtless and shoddy buildings of this type that unfortunately already exist to spoil our skyline. ...Some architects sign their buildings, but Emil Sodersten need never bother for, like paintings by Orpen or Brangwyn, they are so personal that every touch is Sodersten and no one else. ...For so young a man- and he has but reached his very early thirties- to have produced so colourful and fascinating a style is really remarkable; particularly when it is realised that it has been evolved solely in Australia without the influence from contemporary architecture overseas, for Sodersten has not yet been abroad" (Sodersten, 1934: 91).

Sodersten's designs appeared regularly in popular publications. Of his work in the 1930s Maisy Stapleton states: "In the early 1930s Sodersten was exploring the qualities of modern material and the dramatic potential of modern form. His work demonstrates a mastery of composition and carefully worked detail...from 1931 to 1935 he designed a range of brick buildings where, in a play of raking brick fans, vertical ribs, texture and pattern, he manipulated the decorative potential of this material. Sodersten...buildings encapsulate the changing direction of Australian architecture in the Interwar years" (Stapleton, M., 2001: 179-81).

In 1935, Sodersten went abroad where he discovered the work of European architects working in the Functionalist or Moderne Style; his work altered on his return to Sydney, as exemplified by Marlborough Hall (1938) and Elizabeth House (1939). Rather than adopting the rendered walls often associated with the moderne style, Sodersten continued to use brickwork, particularly texture brick, with 'forthright horizontal and vertical forms', a combination that would prove influential in Sydney. Sodersten designed two bachelor flat

complexes on his return to Sydney, being Marlborough Hall and Seven Elizabeth Street.

While Sodersten continued to work until the 1960s, his final work is considered to be "less innovative"; his "new approach seems to lack the vigorous individuality of his Art Deco work", which "exemplifies the pursuit of modern internationalism in Australia and acceptance of radical new forms" (Stapleton, 2001: 179-81).

Buildings in Sydney designed by Emil Sodersten between 1920 and 1950 include:

- c.1920 Gwydir Flats (now Wilkinson House), Forbes Street, Darlinghurst(local heritage listing)
- 1925 Kingsley Hall, 14-18 Darlinghurst Road, Kings Cross
- 1928 The Broadway, 285 O'Sullivan Road, Bellevue Hills(local heritage listing)
- (Before) 1933 Tudor House, 127 Phillip Street
- 1930 Cheddington Apartments, 63 Elizabeth Bay Road, Elizabeth Bay
- 1930 Twenty Apartments, 20 Macleay Street
- 1931 St. Bede's Church, Church and College Street, Drummoyne
- 1934 Birtley Towers, Birtley Place, Elizabeth Bay(local heritage listing)
- 1934 Wychbury, 5 Manning Street, Potts Point(local heritage listing)
- 1934 Werrington Apartments, 85 Macleay Street, Potts Point
- 1934-6 City Mutual Life Building, corner Hunter and Bligh Streets(local heritage listing)
- 1936-8 Former Bryant House, 80-82 Pitt Street (with T.W. Hodgeson and Sons (local heritage listing)
- 1938 Belvedere, former Marlborough Hall, 2 Barncluth Square, KingsCross (local heritage listing)
- 1928 7 Elizabeth Street Apartments, Sydney
- 1939 Elizabeth House, Elizabeth and Foster Streets, SurryHills
- 1949 Reid Building Accommodation Block, St. Johns College, Carillon Avenue, University of Sydney

Inter-War Residential Flat Buildings in Sydney:

Residential flat buildings emerged in Europe and America in the mid to late nineteenth century. Directly challenging the cherished suburban ideal of detached houses with gardens, residential flat buildings were initially slow to take hold in Sydney following the construction of the first purpose built residential flat building in 1905. The number of flat buildings increased dramatically during the 1920s before being temporarily halted by the onset of the Great Depression. The revival of flat building in the mid 1930s was regarded as a sign by contemporary observers of a return to better times. In May 1935, the Sydney Morning Herald remarked that the procession of builders who were buying land for the erection of flats had no trouble selling their product, often long before they were completed.

Sydney's first precinct of inner city flat buildings was located in and around Macquarie Street, developing from c.1900 and reaching its peak with Esplin and Mould's The Astor, in 1923. Early residential flats were converted office buildings. The first purpose built mansion flats in Sydney was The Albany (1905), a seven storey building which once stood opposite Parliament House (now demolished). The Albany combined dwellings with professional chambers and was home to a prestigious clientele. The Albany was followed by Craignish (Macquarie Street, 1907), Stathkyle (Bligh Street, 1909), Wyoming (Macquarie Street, 1911) and the Temperance and General Insurance Company Building (Macquarie Street, 1915). Wyoming is the sole survivor from this period. These early buildings followed commercial architecture with their heavily rusticated stone bases, brickwork, narrow arched windows and Roman arches. By the early 1920s, the Palazzo style had become more favoured for commercial buildings, a trend also evident in the design of The Astor.

The number of residential flat buildings in Sydney increased dramatically during the 1920s. Within the City of Sydney, Kings Cross, Darlinghurst, Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay were favoured locations. A number of examples from these areas are listed as heritage items by the City of Sydney. While flat building increased in the inner suburbs, few major apartment



buildings were built in the CBD after The Astor (1923). City land was in too much demand for retail and business purposes: "In fact, apartment development was priced out of the city, along with workers' housing" (Butler-Bowden, C., and C. Pickett, 2007: 46).

On the subject of small bachelor flats, Decoration and Glass commented in 1938 that: "Small flats, known generally as 'bachelor flats', and slighter later than 'minimum flats', are very popular in England and on the Continent, and are fast becoming the vogue here in Australia" (Butler-Bowden, C., and C. Pickett, 2007: 90).

In an article in Decoration and Glass in June 1940, Number Seven Elizabeth Street was discussed alongside the nearly completed Marton Hall. These two buildings were described as achieving the 'ultimate in bachelor flats.' Marton Hall, which once stood in Margaret Street, has been demolished. As with Number Seven Elizabeth Street, Marton Hall was promoted by means of a colourful brochure (copy held by the National Library of Australia).

Residential flat construction provoked a wide variety of responses. The Australian National Journal of 1939 championed flat buildings as evidence of Sydney's increased sophistication. A greater number of flats were built in Sydney between 1933 and 1941 than in Melbourne, Sydney's great rival, Melbourne (Butler-Bowden, C., and C. Pickett, 2007: 72-73). Rampant flat building, however, was not without its critics. This form of residential accommodation stood in direct contrast to the ideal of detached houses in suburbia that had been steadfastly promoted since 1900. The construction of flats in Sydney was opposed by both major political parties, the UAP and Labour, and by many local councils, who typically cited traffic increase (and hence the destruction of tranquillity) and the unsuitability of the flat environment for the raising of a family. Flats built before 1940 were built without regulation via specific controls. Owners, for example, were not required to provide open space on-site. Inevitably, not all were built to a high standard. One contemporary critic went so far as to describe flats as 'immoral', 'horrid growths' (van Daele, P., and R. Lumby, 1997: 52). Despite such opposition, flat construction comprised 41 % of all dwellings built in Sydney between 1933 and 1941. Over 500 flats were constructed annually between 1935 and 1941 (Spearritt, P., 1978: 72).

Few purpose built residential flat buildings were constructed in Central Sydney during the interwar period. Contemporary literature (Building, The Home, Decoration and Glass etc.), the RAI A Twentieth Century Register, the NSW Art Deco Society and the recent publication "Homes in the Sky: Apartment Living in Australia" cite the following:

1915, T & G Building (demolished)

1923, The Astor (local heritage listing)

1938, 7 Elizabeth Street Apartments (not listed)

c.1940, Marton Hall (demolished)

There would appear to have been a small number of primarily commercial buildings designed to include some residential accommodation. Hengrove Hall in Macquarie Street, for example, designed for occupation by medical professionals, was described in Building, 13 May, 1929 as follows: "In the other floors the space is cut up into suites consisting of one fair sized room with bathroom and kitchenette, a bachelor type of flat popular amongst quite nice people at the present time" ('Building', 13/05/1929: 50).

Marion Hall Best:

Marion Hall Best (1905-1988) was one of Australia's preeminent interior designers during the twentieth century. Her first interior design was for her mother's home at Palm Beach in 1929. In 1938 she undertook a correspondence course in interior design from New York and attended lectures at the University of Sydney. In the same year she opened her business in Queen Street Woollahra (Marion Best Pty Ltd), followed by a shop in the city in Rowe Street.

Marion Best's entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography notes that the interior design of 7 Elizabeth Street was the most important amongst her first commissions. Early commissions also included the Lady Gowrie Child Care Centre in Erskineville (1941), the Rachel Forster Hospital for Women and Children in Redfern (1942 - a heritage item under South Sydney LEP 1998), and an exhibition for the Australian Red Cross Society. Following World War II, Marion Best was in charge of the David Jones Art Gallery and co-founded the Society of Interior Designers of Australia in 1951. One of her largest commercial commissions was for the Regent Theatre in Wollongong in 1957, and it is apparently the last surviving example of one of her major commercial commissions.

Her cutting edge use of colours and sourcing of up to date fabric and furnishings from overseas designers were hallmarks of her work, and along with frequent coverage in magazines, exposed her style to a wide audience. The Historic Houses Trust of NSW maintains a collection of Marions Hall's work and contemporary publications. In 2005, the Regent Theatre in Wollongong was listed on the State Heritage Register, largely due to the significance of the surviving Marion Hall Best interior.

#### Conclusions:

Interwar residential buildings are rare within the CBD. The near contemporary example, Marton Hall, has been demolished. The two pre World War II residential flat buildings currently heritage listed within the CBD, Wyoming (1911) and The Astor (1923), are representative of different architectural styles.

Emil Sodersten is an important and influential figure in the design of Sydney residential flat buildings in the 1920s and 1930s. He designed a number of residential flat buildings now listed as heritage items by the City of Sydney, mostly located in Kings Cross and Elizabeth Bay. His work is represented by two listed buildings, both commercial buildings, within the CBD: Bryant House and the CML Building. Both are, arguably, more complex and dynamic buildings. In contrast to these two buildings, 7 Elizabeth Street represents a more progressive version of Modernism as a result of Sodersten's 1935 voyage to Europe, leaving behind Art Deco for a more pure aesthetic. As a result it is less imposing and complex than the contemporary Marlborough Hall (1938) or Birtley Towers (1934).

7 Elizabeth Street is also an early work of influential Sydney designer Marion Hall Best (extent of fabric associated with her unknown).

<b>Current use:</b>	Residential; office; retail
<b>Former use:</b>	Residential; office; retail

## History

<b>Historical notes:</b>	The "Eora people" was the name given to the coastal Aborigines around Sydney. Central Sydney is therefore often referred to as "Eora Country". Within the City of Sydney local government area, the traditional owners are the Cadigal and Wangal bands of the Eora. There is no written record of the name of the language spoken and currently there are debates as whether the coastal peoples spoke a separate language "Eora" or whether this was actually a dialect of the Dharug language. Remnant bushland in places like Blackwattle Bay retain elements of traditional plant, bird and animal life, including fish and rock oysters.
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With the invasion of the Sydney region, the Cadigal and Wangal people were decimated but there are descendants still living in Sydney today. All cities include many immigrants in their population. Aboriginal people from across the state have been attracted to suburbs such as Pyrmont, Balmain, Rozelle, Glebe and Redfern since the 1930s. Changes in government legislation in the 1960s provided freedom of movement enabling more Aboriginal people to choose to live in Sydney.

(Information sourced from Anita Heiss, "Aboriginal People and Place", Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani>)

The building stands on what was part of Allotment 8 Section 39 of the City of Sydney, which was granted to James Norton on 23 April 1841. The land remained in the possession of Norton and his family until sold in October 1880 to a consortium of William Paling, Andrew McCulloch and William Billyard. In August 1895 the land was sold to Mrs Elizabeth Kirby. By 1896 the undertaking concern of Mrs. P. Kirby & Son Limited was established on the site and occupied the premises until the mid 1920s. During that time the then large parcel of land was split up via several transactions between Mrs Kirby and William Kirby. In October 1925 Mrs Kirby sold the property to William Lowe, who transferred its title to a company called Elizabeth House Limited. The company took out two mortgages over the building on the site in 1928. The building was used for investment purposes, with leasing to a restaurant proprietor and the Everhot Electric Company in 1929. Elizabeth House Limited, probably under pressure from the effects of the Great Depression, sold the property at the end of 1934 to a consortium of Jack Favie accountant and Hugh Poate, surgeon, and Kenneth Douglas, bank manager. An application for a new block of flats was lodged with the City Council on 28 November 1928 by architect Emil Sodersten, who also designed the building. Title to the property was transferred to a company called Seven Elizabeth Street Limited on 1 June 1939 and an application to demolish the existing building on the site lodged about two weeks later. The company then mortgaged the property to the Commonwealth Bank the following

September, presumably to finance the construction of 7 Elizabeth Street. The prominent interior designer Marion Hall Best was employed to design the interior of the flats.

The following contractors were employed on construction and finishing of the building:

Builder: H.W. Thompson & Co.

Excavator: E.M. Spinks

Telephone System: Telephone Sales & Service Co.

Elevator: White Elevators Pty Ltd

Shopfronts and Mirrors: James Sandy Pty Ltd (Sandy's)

Flooring: Timberworths Pty Ltd

Stainless Steel and Chrome Work: E.A. Harper & Sons Pty Ltd

Blinds: Milroy & Simmons Pty Ltd


In August 1960 the title to the building was transferred to Seven Elizabeth Street Units Limited, and in 1977 it was converted to strata title.

In 2010, the shopfront were reconstruced based on documentary evidence of the original. The flagpole was also reinstated circa 2010.

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Accommodation-Activities associated with the provision of accommodation, and particular types of accommodation – does not include architectural styles – use the theme of Creative Endeavour for such activities.	Flats-
4. Settlement-Building settlements, towns and cities	Towns, suburbs and villages-Activities associated with creating, planning and managing urban functions, landscapes and lifestyles in towns, suburbs and villages	Community facilities-

## Assessment of significance

<b>SHR Criteria a)</b> [Historical significance]	The building has historic significance as the one of the few blocks of flats constructed in the CBD in the 1930s which has survived and still fulfils its original function as a residential building.
<b>SHR Criteria b)</b> [Associative significance]	The building is associated with the work of architect Emil Sodersten and interior designer Marion Hall Best.
<b>SHR Criteria c)</b> [Aesthetic significance]	The building has state significance for its association with and as a representative of the work of prominent architect Emil Sodersten, and influential interior designer Marion Hall Best. Well known for his residential flat buildings, No. 7 Elizabeth St is the only one known to have been designed by Emil Sodersten within the CBD, and shows the influence of modernist European architecture on his work. Its interiors were an early and well publicised example of the work of Marion Hall Best, who went on to exercise a great influence on interior design in N.S.W. during the three decades after World War II.
<b>SHR Criteria d)</b> [Social significance]	The building is a rare example of inner city living dating from the inter war period in the CBD.
<b>SHR Criteria e)</b> [Research potential]	The site is not identified in an archaeological zoning plan and the area has been well researched and it is unlikely that the site would reveal further information that would contribute to the significance of the area.
<b>SHR Criteria f)</b> [Rarity]	The building is rare within the centre of the CBD.
<b>SHR Criteria g)</b> [Representativeness]	The building is a representative example of an inter war block of apartments found in the centre of Sydney.
<b>Integrity/Intactness:</b>	High externally and Medium internally
<b>Assessment criteria:</b>	Items are assessed against the  <b>State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria</b> to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Recommended management:

The building should be retained and conserved. A Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement, or a Conservation Management Plan, should be prepared for the building prior to any major works being undertaken. There shall be no vertical additions to the building and no alterations to the façade of the building other than to reinstate original features. No additions to the building are feasible given the constraints of the lift and stairs. The reconstructed shopfronts are to be retained. The original internal planning configuration of the building, the original interiors of the units, the lobby and as well as significant internal original features including ceilings, joinery, flooring, bathroom fitouts should be retained and conserved. Any alterations should be confined to the rear in areas of less significance, should not be visibly prominent and shall be in accordance with the relevant planning controls. The basement entrance should be reinstated to the original configuration.

## Recommendations

Management Category	Description	Date Updated
Statutory Instrument	Nominate for State Heritage Register (SHR)	05 Sep 16

## Listings

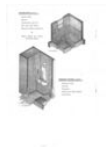
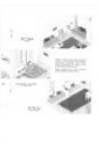
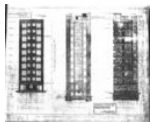
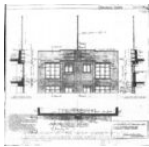
Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Sydney LEP 2012	I1737	14 Dec 12		
Heritage study					

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written		2005	State Heritage Inventory entry for Regent Theatre, 197 Keira Street, Wollongong (SHI No.5053515)	
Written		1940	Decoration and Glass (magazine) June 1940	
Written		1940	'Number Seven Elizabeth Street, Sydney,' Nine Storeys of Bachelor Flats in the Heart of the City', Decoration and Glass, June, 1940	
Written		1929	'Plans, Hengrove Hall, 193 Macquarie Street, Sydney', Building, 13 May, 1929	
Written	Apperly, Richard, et al	1989	A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture, Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present	
Written	Cooper, Nora	1930	'Striking the Individual Note: Two Sydney homes that reflect the personality of one of our younger Architects', The Australian Home Beautiful, 01/12/1930	
Written	Fitzgerald, Shirley	1992	Sydney 1842-1992	
Written	Ritchie, John(ed)	2002	The Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 16 1940-1980, Pik-Z	
Written	Roberts, Jan(ed)	2003	The Astor	
Written	Sodersten, Emil	1934	Art in Australia, 05/11/1934	
Written	Spearritt, Peter	1978	Sydney Since the Twenties	
Written	Thorne, Ross and Kevin Cork	1994	For all the Kings Men: The King Theatre of Sydney, NSW	
Written	Alex May	2005	Marion Hall Best: a profile originally published in Sydney Morning Herald's Domain Section May 2005	
Written	Butler-Bowden, Caroline and Charles Pickett	2007	Homes in the Sky: Apartment Living in Australia	
Written	Catriona Quinn	2006	'Best, Marion Esdaile Hall (1905-1988)', "Australian Dictionary of Biography", Volume 17	

Written	Ferson, Mark and Mary Nilsson (eds)	2001	Art Deco in Australia: Sunrise Over the Pacific	
Written	Roy Lumby	2003	National Trust of Australia (NSW) Classification Report	
Written	Tod, Les and Kevin Cork	1989	The Dream Palaces. Part II: The Spanish Influence	
Written	van Daele, Patrick and Roy Lumby	1997	A Spirit of Progress; Art Deco in Australia	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



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## Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

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**Database number:** 2428684

**File number:** S047500

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# Reserve Bank Including Interior

## Item details

**Name of item:** Reserve Bank Including Interior  
**Type of item:** Built  
**Group/Collection:** Commercial  
**Category:** Bank  
**Location:** Lat: -33.8697517372948 Long: 151.210514764895  
**Primary address:** 65 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000  
**Local govt. area:** Sydney

### All addresses

Street Address	Suburb/town	LGA	Parish	County	Type
65 Martin Place	Sydney	Sydney			Primary Address

## Statement of significance:

The Reserve Bank is a 22 storey high rise tower of Post War International Style, which occupies a full block on Martin Place. It has historic importance for its ability to exemplify a post war cultural shift within the banking industry. This shift led away from an architectural emphasis on strength and stability (expressed through massive walls and pillars) towards a contemporary design that would signal the bank's ability to adapt its policies and techniques, to the changing needs of its clientele. For these reasons the building has outstanding ability to reflect through its aesthetics the changing nature of financial institutions. It is a good example of a Post War International office building designed by an important government organisation finished in high quality Australian materials. Due to recent restoration work it has great potential to continue in its restored state. The building is of social significance for its ability to demonstrate the importance attached to the use of Australian public art, in prestige buildings in the post war era. The incorporation within the building of two residential flats is rare for its time. The two doors to the main strongroom in the building are of scientific significance as the largest and most technically advanced strongroom doors of their time in the Southern Hemisphere.

**Date significance updated:** 09 Jan 06

*Note: There are incomplete details for a number of items listed in NSW. The Heritage Division intends to develop or upgrade statements of significance and other information for these items as resources become available.*

## Description

**Designer/Maker:** Commonwealth Department of Works, Bank and Special Project Section. F.J.Crocker (architect in charge)  
**Builder/Maker:** E.A. Watts Pty Limited  
**Construction years:** 1961-1964  
**Physical description:** The Reserve Bank, located on a prominent site, has 3 glazed facades. A 4 storey podium is divided into 2 upper floors with projecting horizontal fins and 2 floors of full height recessed glazing to the mezzanine below. This contains the 2 storey public area and the banking chamber in the mezzanine over. The building is entered via a bronzed railed grey and black granite terrace which accommodates the site slope. The tower is capped with recessed balconies at L20. Above this is a roof terrace with full height glazing and an extensive cantilever roof. The vertical columns, faced in black granite and aluminium, define the 8 bays of the tower and extend up to form the supports for the balconies. Between the columns 4 panels of white marble spandrel panels over clad in granite alternate with recessed glazing.



The glazing panels stop short of the corner. The plan is rectangular around the lift foyer core. The granite podium floor finish and external floor finishes continues internally. Internally 8 anodised metal ceiling panels sit within the structural grid. Most lift foyers are marble lined, L3 is timber. The original lead lined leather acoustic doors and timber panelling are retained extensively. The board room features a marble floor. Category:Individual Building. Style:Post-War International. Storeys:22 (including Mezzanine and Ground) + 3 basement. Facade:Granite, Glazed curtain wall. Side/Rear Walls:Granite, Glazed curtain wall, Marble overlaid in granite above podium. Internal Walls:Rendered brick, Granite, Marble. Roof Cladding:Waterproof membrane. Internal Structure:Reinf. conc. structural steel frame. Floor:Reinf. conc. slab. Roof:Reinf. conc. slab. Ceilings:Susp. plasterboard metal pan tile. Stairs:4. Fire Stairs:4. Sprinkler System:Yes. Lifts:15. AirConditioned:Yes

**Physical condition and/or Archaeological potential:**

In general the building retains its original design appearance but some of the original fabric has been replaced with new compatible finishes. Internally the building has been remodelled at the upper office levels but specific significant spaces such as the boardroom, and lift foyers are retained intact. The ground level double volume spaces are highly intact, although there has been substantial alterations to furniture and fittings. The original marble ceiling panel has been replaced in metal. Intrusive Elements:The external stairs to the Martin Place underground.

**Date condition updated:**09 Jan 06

**Modifications and dates:**

1964

**Further information:**

High Significance:The north, east and west facades of the tower, the podium space and the ground floor foyer, banking chamber, lift lobby and public art. Medium Significance:All original built in and loose furniture associated with the interiors of high significance. Low Significance:General office areas.

Heritage Inventory sheets are often not comprehensive, and should be regarded as a general guide only. Inventory sheets are based on information available, and often do not include the social history of sites and buildings. Inventory sheets are constantly updated by the City as further information becomes available. An inventory sheet with little information may simply indicate that there has been no building work done to the item recently: it does not mean that items are not significant. Further research is always recommended as part of preparation of development proposals for heritage items, and is necessary in preparation of Heritage Impact Assessments and Conservation Management Plans, so that the significance of heritage items can be fully assessed prior to submitting development applications.

**Current use:**

Bank

**Former use:**

Bank

## History

**Historical notes:**

The "Eora people" was the name given to the coastal Aborigines around Sydney. Central Sydney is therefore often referred to as "Eora Country". Within the City of Sydney local government area, the traditional owners are the Cadigal and Wangal bands of the Eora. There is no written record of the name of the language spoken and currently there are debates as whether the coastal peoples spoke a separate language "Eora" or whether this was actually a dialect of the Dharug language. Remnant bushland in places like Blackwattle Bay retain elements of traditional plant, bird and animal life, including fish and rock oysters.

With the invasion of the Sydney region, the Cadigal and Wangal people were decimated but there are descendants still living in Sydney today. All cities include many immigrants in their population. Aboriginal people from across the state have been attracted to suburbs such as Pyrmont, Balmain, Rozelle, Glebe and Redfern since the 1930s. Changes in government legislation in the 1960s provided freedom of movement enabling more Aboriginal people to choose to live in Sydney.

(Information sourced from Anita Heiss, "Aboriginal People and Place", Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City <http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/barani> )

Following the decision by the Australian government to separate the Central Bank from the rest of the Commonwealth Bank Group, it was proposed that land in Macquarie Street and

Phillip Street be used for the site of a new Reserve Bank building. Clearing of the site commenced in March 1961, and the building was completed in 1964. The Bank's administrators made a deliberate decision to call for a design for the building that was contemporary and international. They wanted the design of the building to exemplify a post war cultural shift away from an architectural emphasis on strength and stability (expressed through massive walls and pillars) towards a design that would signify the bank's ability to adapt its policies and techniques to the changing needs of its clientele. At the same time the bank adopted a conscious policy of using materials of Australian origin and manufacture and chose to further enhance the prestige of the building through the use of works by Australian artists and sculptors. The bank no longer retains any information on the reason for the inclusion of the two residential flats. It is believed they were to accommodate senior executives travelling from interstate. They were an unusual inclusion. Major changes to the exterior and interior of the building were approved by the parliament of Australia in December 2000, following an investigation and report by the Parliamentary Public Works committee in 2000. A large percentage of the building, being vacant, is to be refurbished for lease to the private sector. The residential flats are to be demolished and the space used for a new cafeteria. The level 3 Auditorium, cafeteria and associated staff spaces are to be deleted. North elevation level 17 window sills are to be lowered. Former plant room space and squash courts on level 17 are to be replaced with office space.

## Historic themes

Australian theme (abbrev)	New South Wales theme	Local theme
3. Economy-Developing local, regional and national economies	Commerce-Activities relating to buying, selling and exchanging goods and services	(none)-

## Assessment of significance

**SHR Criteria a)**  
[Historical significance] The Reserve Bank is of historical importance for its ability to exemplify a post war cultural shift within the banking industry . This shift led away from an architectural emphasis on strength and stability (expressed through massive walls and pillars) towards a contemporary design that would signal the bank's ability to adapt its policies and techniques, to the changing needs of its clientele.


**SHR Criteria c)**  
[Aesthetic significance] The two safes at the time were the largest and most technically advanced in the Southern Hemisphere.

Has aesthetic significance at a State level. Cultural:The Reserve Bank is a good example of a Post War International office building designed by an important government organisation . The building is finished in high quality Australian materials and due to recent restoration work has great potential to continue in its restored state. The incorporation within the building of two residential flats of high quality is rare for its time.

**SHR Criteria d)**  
[Social significance] The building is of social significance for its ability to demonstrate the importance attached to the use of Australian public art, in prestige buildings in the post war era. The incorporation within the building of two residential flats is rare for its time. Has social significance at a State level.The Reserve Bank is a good example of a Post War International office building designed by an important government organisation . The building is finished in high quality Australian materials and due to recent restoration work has great potential to continue in its restored state. The incorporation within the building of two residential flats of high quality is rare for its time.

**SHR Criteria f)**  
[Rarity] The Reserve Bank is important for the coordinated program of Australian public art, within the building. The incorporation within the building of two residential flats of high quality, is rare for its time.

**SHR Criteria g)**  
[Representativeness] The Reserve Bank is important for its ability to exemplify a post war cultural shift within the banking industry.

**Assessment criteria:** Items are assessed against the  **State Heritage Register (SHR) Criteria** to determine the level of significance. Refer to the Listings below for the level of statutory protection.

## Recommended management:

General: The overall form of the Reserve Bank should be retained and conserved. A conservation plan should be prepared to guide the future use and maintenance of the building. Finishes never intended for painting, such as the marble and granite should remain unpainted and should continue to be appropriately maintained. Surfaces intended for painting should continue to be painted in appropriate colours.

Exterior: All remaining intact fabric on the external facades and the public art, should be retained and conserved. As the original building is a significant feature within the Martin Place streetscape and has a distinctive silhouette there should be no vertical extension. Alterations to the recessed podium should not be considered. Any future development should preserve the existing form, external surfaces and materials of the facade, and door and window openings should not be enlarged or closed in.

Interior: All remaining intact fabric on the interior such as the ground floor foyer and banking chamber areas, public art, and lift lobby should be retained and conserved. As the general office interiors excluding the lift foyers and the boardrooms have been extensively remodelled, further alterations could be carried out in these areas, subject to a heritage impact assessment.

The building should be retained and conserved. A Heritage Assessment and Heritage Impact Statement, or a Conservation Management Plan, should be prepared for the building prior to any major works being undertaken. There shall be no vertical additions to the building and no alterations to the façade of the building other than to reinstate original features. The principal room layout and planning configuration as well as significant internal original features including ceilings, cornices, joinery, flooring and fireplaces should be retained and conserved. Any additions and alterations should be confined to the rear in areas of less significance, should not be visibly prominent and shall be in accordance with the relevant planning controls.

## Listings

Heritage Listing	Listing Title	Listing Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
Local Environmental Plan	Sydney LEP 2012	I1897	14 Dec 12		
Heritage study					

## References, internet links & images

Type	Author	Year	Title	Internet Links
Written		1966	Architecture in Australia September 1966 pp71-77	
Written			Australian Heritage Commission Martin Place Urban Conservation Area	
Written	Anita Heiss		Aboriginal People and Place, Barani: Indigenous History of Sydney City	
Written	Jennifer Taylor		Post War II Multistorey Office Buildings in Australia 1945-67	
Written	Noel Bell Ridley Smith & Partners	2001	The Reserve Bank of Australia, 65 Martin Place, Sydney : conservation management plan	
Written	Noel Bell Ridley Smith & Partners	2001	The Photographic record for the Reserve bank	
Written	Noel Bell, Ridley Smith & Partners.	2001	Revised statement of heritage impact : Reserve Bank of Australia, head office consolidation, 65 Martin Place, Sydney	

Note: internet links may be to web pages, documents or images.



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## Data source

The information for this entry comes from the following source:

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