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# Cairo



B6298 Cairo

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## Location

98-104 Nicholson Street,, FITZROY VIC 3065 - Property No B6298

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

National

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1005

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 24, 2008

Cairo is architecturally of National significance as the first and finest example of a serially organised, minimal flat type in Australia and for its innovative and heroic use of concrete construction.

This U-shaped block of 36 Batchelor flats, comprising 26 bedsits and 10 single bed units, was designed by the noted architect, Best Overend of Messrs. Vivian, Taylor, Soilleux and Overend, and built in 1936 by Blease Macpherson & Co. The flats sought a distinctive type of accommodation, the custom designed batchelor flat, previously unavailable in Melbourne, providing maximum amenity in minimum space for minimum rent. The minimal units were supported by a communal dining room, an in-house meal and laundry service, communal flat to roof space and lockable garages. Cairo established a major break with the Maisonette model of flat block, the

predominant form of early flats in Melbourne and is significant for introducing the flat to the modernist programme in Australia and for its acknowledgement of the existence of a new, modern way of living.

Cairo succinctly encompassed the concerns of a new generation of architects in Australia. It is significant for the efficiency and modernity achieved in the planning and detailing of its units, for the progressive nature of its housing program and for Overend's heroic use of concrete structure.

Classified: 18/11/1992

Architect/Designer Overend, Best,

Hermes Number 67147

Property Number

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*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*