
LOMBARD BUILDING



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2008



1 lombard building queen
street melbourne front-view
jan1979

Location

15-17 QUEEN STREET MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

Municipality

MELBOURNE CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0460

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO728

VHR Registration

May 21, 1980

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 27, 2000

What is significant?

The Lombard Building is a seven storey office building, including basement, constructed in 1889 for Balfour, Elliott & Co. The architect was Reed, Henderson & Smart and the builder was H Lockington of Carlton. The Lombard Building is constructed of load bearing brick with a stuccoed facade. It is arranged about a light well located on the south facade. Internally there is structural use of iron. Stylistically the building gains in complexity as it rises and makes free use of the classical language, notably with arched openings, pediments, pilasters, a Hellenistic frieze and a large Diocletian window. The picturesque roofline with pedimented parapet and bold flanking chimney stacks is an early indication of the emerging Queen Anne Revival style. Wrought iron balustrading at the ground floor level masks the basement level. The interior and the main entrance doors have been considerably altered. In 1926 an electric lift was installed adjacent to the original hydraulic lift.

How is it significant?

The Lombard Building is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Lombard Building is historically significant as one of the last city buildings to be constructed before the effects of the 1890s economic depression largely halted building for a number of years.

The Lombard Building is architecturally significant as a late expression of so-called boom style design, freely incorporating disparate classical elements into a building unashamedly expressing the aspirations and success of its owners. The Lombard Building is an example of the Victorian skyscraper and, in terms of height, simultaneously demonstrates the liberating effect of the lift and the limiting effect of load bearing brick construction.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

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

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

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

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

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

Construction dates 1890,
Architect/Designer Reed Henderson & Smart,
Heritage Act Categories Registered place,
Hermes Number 789
Property Number

History

History of Place:

Notice of intent to build dated October 9 1888, Reg. No. 3636, on behalf of owner Balfour, Elliott & Co.

Extent of Registration

Historic Building No. 460, Lombard Building - Lombard Building, 15-17 Queen Street, Melbourne (to the extent of the total exterior fabric of the building including the wrought iron balustrading, the walls and stairs between the facade and the Queen Street frontage).

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. 35 21 May 1980 p.1560]

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/>