

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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**Heritage Place:** Electricity Substation

**PS ref no:** HO1382

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**Street Address:** 224-236 Salmon Street, Port Melbourne

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### What is significant?

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The electricity substation building, at 224-236 Salmon Street, built in 1935 by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria (SEC) is significant at a local level to the City of Melbourne.

Elements that contribute to the significance of the place include (but are not limited to):

- The building's original external form, materials and detailing;
- The steel-framed, strip highlight windows between the bays;
- The roller door facing Salmon Street and a timber door on the south side;
- The symmetry, division into vertical bays, large plain surfaces and stripped back use of classical elements, such as pilasters, plinth and dentils

### How is it significant?

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The 1935 substation building is of historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Melbourne.

### Why is it significant?

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Construction of the 1935 SEC substation was a government action to facilitate development of an industrial precinct at Fishermans Bend. Along with the establishment of the GMH site on Salmon Street, it was an early building and provided electricity for major manufacturers like GMH, the Commonwealth Aircraft Corporation, the Government Aircraft Factory and others which quickly followed. These industries made an important contribution during World War II and helped Victoria

become Australia's major manufacturing state. The substation's location, form and scale demonstrate its central role in distributing power to the Fishermans Bend industrial precinct. (Criterion A)

The Inter-War Stripped Classical style of the 1935 SEC substation evident in features such as its symmetry, division into vertical bays, large plain surfaces and stripped back use of classical elements, like pilasters, plinth and dentils, is of aesthetic significance. It reflected the prevailing application of architectural styles to functional buildings and particularly the aesthetic of the newly established GMH complex. (Criterion E)

#### **Primary source**

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Fishermans Bend Heritage Review (HLCD Pty Ltd, February 2021)