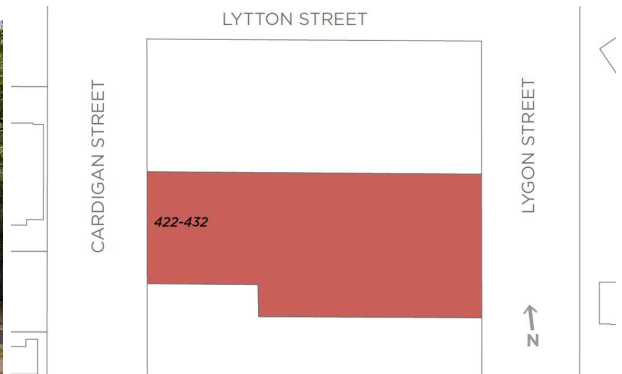


## Statement of Significance: Cross Street Co-operative Housing, 422-432 Cardigan Street, Carlton (November, 2021)

<b>Heritage Place:</b>	Cross Street Co-operative Housing	<b>PS ref no:</b>	HO1394
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### What is significant?

The complex of residential buildings originally known as Cross Street co-operative housing, constructed in 1969-70, and located at 422-432 Cardigan Street, Carlton, is significant.

### How is it significant?

The complex of residential buildings originally known as Cross Street co-operative housing, and located at 422-432 Cardigan Street, Carlton, is of local historical and aesthetic significance, and also has representative value.

### Why is it significant?

The complex of residential buildings originally known as Cross Street co-operative housing, constructed in 1969-70, is of historical significance (Criterion A). While co-operative housing societies had existed in Australia since the post-war period, this one was unusual for its association, albeit indirect, with a university (in this case, the University of Melbourne) and for its association with the slum clearance work of the Housing Commission of Victoria. The outcome, in terms of the housing complex, is also significant in that it represented (for the time) a new form of intensified yet higher quality housing development in Carlton, encouraged by the Housing Commission within the reclamation areas, and following a period in which the suburb had experienced a growth in the highly unpopular HCV towers. It is additionally one of Melbourne's largest co-operative housing developments; and constructed on a site which was specifically identified to house University staff and students in a period of significant University expansion and growth outside the historical campus landholding.

The former Cross Street co-operative housing is also significant as a representative example of co-operative housing (Criterion D). This describes a development built as a non-profit venture by housing societies or a group coming together to purchase shares to enable them to pay for a home ahead of its construction, with the funds of the co-operative used to construct the buildings.

The former Cross Street co-operative housing is additionally of aesthetic significance (Criterion E). The complex of 1969-70 remains substantially externally intact to its original design and conception. It was described not long after completion, in a Special Commendation from the Victorian Architecture Awards, as 'innovative'; and was celebrated for being 'in sympathy with old Carlton', and for reflecting

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the character of its historic environment and context. The complex, although built as one development, presents as a precinct of dwellings, with a variety of building forms and heights, and dynamic roof forms. The double-height central circulation space, which separates vehicle and pedestrian movement through providing access to car parking at the lower level, and access to dwellings at the upper level, is also a capable design component. The design, by architects Earle, Shaw and Partners although mainly attributed to James Earle, reflects his earlier interest in post-war intimately scaled housing developments in Scandinavia. It was also influenced by other housing projects in the United Kingdom and Australia from the early 1960s, which utilised modern terrace house forms and other traditional adaptations for modern higher density living.

### **Primary source**

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*Carlton Heritage Review (November, 2021)*