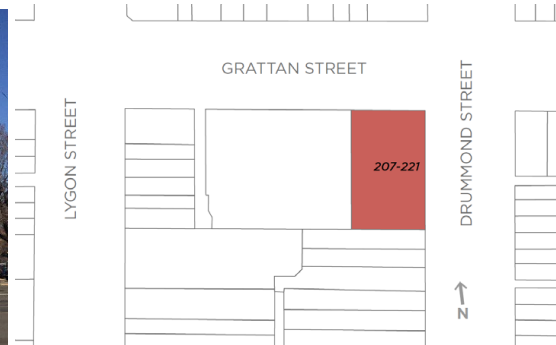


Statement of Significance: Office building, 207-221 Drummond Street, Carlton (November, 2021)

Heritage Place:	207-221 Drummond Street Carlton	PS ref no:	HO1395
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What is significant?

The office building at 207-221 Drummond Street, Carlton, constructed in 1986-7 to a design by architects Steve Ashton and Howard Raggatt, is significant.

How is it significant?

The office building at 207-221 Drummond Street, Carlton, is of local aesthetic significance.

Why is it significant?

The office building at 207-221 Drummond Street, Carlton is of aesthetic significance (Criterion E). It was designed by architects Steve Ashton and Howard Raggatt (soon to be Ashton Raggatt McDougall Pty Ltd, or ARM) for the Church of England and constructed by PDA Projects in 1986-7. The design was shaped by budgetary constraints and the Church's wish for easily rentable spaces and financial returns. It is aesthetically significant, as a substantially externally intact early work of Ashton and Raggatt, just before Ian McDougall joined the partnership, and although relatively modest in scale, it was a precursor to their later and often grander celebrated work. ARM, in the period following completion of 207-221 Drummond Street, went on to become one of Australia's premier architectural practices.

Prominently located to the corner of Drummond and Grattan streets, the exterior of the building, with its contrasting façade treatments, is noted for its panels of overlapping yet commonplace materials (brickwork, concrete panels with exposed aggregate, rendered panels, aluminium framed openings) cleverly arranged so as to suggest the various components are in transition and breaking or sliding apart. At the centre of the composition - the corner to Drummond and Grattan streets – the brick and contrasting panels cleverly part to reveal an inner skin of glass, while also angling up in height to emphasise the corner. Added to this is the elevated entrance to Drummond Street, which appears to sit behind another break in the façade; and the cross bracing and steel tie plates to the same façade which (visually if not structurally) suggest a counter to the expansion of the building and bring it into a tense equilibrium.

More broadly, the building is also of aesthetic significance for being reflective of the built form changes in Carlton in the later twentieth century, including the 1980s, when contemporary architects

were responsible for some celebrated new developments which, in turn, challenged the typical building form and character of the suburb.

Primary source

Carlton Heritage Review (Lovell Chen, 2021)