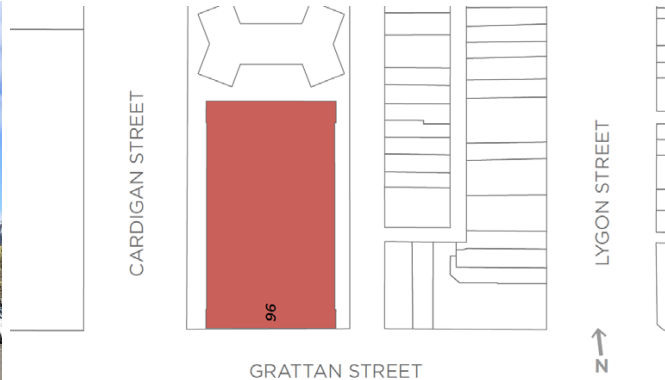


## Statement of Significance: Royal Women's Hospital Carpark, 96 Grattan Street, Carlton (November, 2021)

<b>Heritage Place:</b>	Cardigan House Carpark (formerly Royal Women's Hospital Carpark)	<b>PS ref no:</b>	HO1391
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### What is significant?

The Cardigan House Carpark, formerly the Royal Women's Hospital Carpark, constructed in 1974 and located at the corner of Grattan and Cardigan streets, Carlton, is significant.

### How is it significant?

The Cardigan House Carpark constructed in 1974 and located at the corner of Grattan and Cardigan streets, Carlton, is of local aesthetic significance and of representative value.

### Why is it significant?

The Cardigan House Carpark, formerly the Royal Women's Hospital Carpark, is of aesthetic significance (Criterion E). It was constructed in 1974 to a design by noted architects Mockridge, Stahle and Mitchell, in the Brutalist style. The architectural practice were highly regarded for their comprehensive body of work, which ranged across ecclesiastical, institutional, educational, commercial and residential projects. The carpark was constructed at a time when the Royal Women's Hospital was significantly expanding its local services and facilities in response to the post-war population boom. The subject building, a substantial steel-framed brick and concrete building of seven carpark levels with an additional office level, remains highly externally intact to its 1970s design. It is distinguished by the heavy off-form concrete balustrades to the angled carpark ramps, as expressed to the two long west and east elevations. The ramps act as a visual counterfoil to the building's solid brick service block volumes at either end of the facades, and read as spans 'slung' between brick 'pylons'. Stylistically, the building draws on a number of mostly earlier international and local examples of both Brutalist buildings, and the carpark typology. As a carpark, it is striking, robust and bold, with a powerful presence to its Grattan and Cardigan streets corner. Mockridge, Stahle and Mitchell also achieved with this building, as they did with others of their broadly contemporary designs, a monumental building which is both strong and simple in its form and expression.

The Cardigan House Carpark is also of representative value (Criterion D). It demonstrates some of the principal characteristics of a multi-storey carpark, as evolved internationally from the 1920s, and as seen in earlier examples in Melbourne. These include the clearly expressed open carpark levels or ramped decks with balustrades, in this case of heavy off-form concrete with a curved form; the ground

floor vehicle entry and exits; and the integrated commercial/office spaces, here located to the top of the building.

**Primary source**

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*Carlton Heritage Review (Lovell Chen, 2021)*