

Victorian Heritage Database Report
NEWBURN FLATS



Location:

30 QUEENS ROAD MELBOURNE, PORT PHILLIP CITY

Heritage Status / Level of Significance:

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number: H0578

Listing Authority: VHR

Heritage Overlay Number: HO235

Statement of Significance:

Newburn was designed in 1939 by Frederick Romberg as an investment block of bachelor flats. The design was Romberg's first independent commission. He studied architecture in Germany before moving to Switzerland. In Zurich he continued his studies under Walter Gropius and Erich Mendelsohn who were also refugees and under Otto Salvisberg. In 1939 he arrived in Australia on a scholarship. Richard Hocking and Mary Turner Shaw were his first partners. In 1953 he joined Roy Grounds and Robin Boyd.

The original design was amended to reduce costs and meet the client's new requirements. The building was innovative stylistically and contrasted dramatically with the other flat development around it. As well, the communal servicing arrangements, the details for plumbing and venting and the arrangement for independent sun control all indicate the skilful implementation of the principles of modern architecture. Newburn is believed to be the first building to use off form concrete for its complete exterior.

The building has been altered by the addition of a penthouse. This replaced a pergola. Most flats have been altered internally in their finishes and fittings. The building was strata subdivided in the 1970's. The building remains relatively intact on the exterior and is in good condition structurally.

[Source: Historic Building Council Notes.]

Heritage Study / Consultant	
Construction Date Range	1939 - 1943
Architect / Designer	Romberg, Frederick
Municipality	PORT PHILLIP CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	1062
Property number	

This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online