

Devon House

Address 729 Hay Street, Perth
Practice William Leighton and Baxter Cox
Designed 1937 Completed 1938

History & Description *Devon House* was constructed during the Inter-War period during the period of recovery following the Great Depression, just prior to the commencement of World War II. It was built for and later occupied as a retail store by John R Saunders Ltd, a leading Western Australian menswear chain, which had stores in Goldfields city of Kalgoorlie, and throughout the Perth metropolitan area.

William Leighton designed *Devon House* while he was working with Baxter Cox, and is a fine example of Leighton's work. Leighton was one of the State's foremost exponents of the style.

It is a very fine example a multi storey commercial building of steel and concrete construction with stucco masonry exterior in the Inter-War Art Deco style. Although one of the city's narrowest buildings, the conviction with which the place is designed makes it one of Perth's finest Art Deco style building facades. The section of building between first and fourth floor is finely detailed and intact.

Devon House, Gledden Buildings and P&O Building (fmr) is a landmark group of buildings in the Inter-War Functionalist and Art Deco styles.

Located at the west end of the Hay Street Mall, *Devon House, Gledden Buildings and P&O Building (fmr)* on the south side of the street and *Economic Stores* on the north side of the street visually terminate a strong collection of late nineteenth and twentieth century buildings completed before the outbreak of World War II.

Statement of Significance

Devon House, a five storey commercial building of steel and concrete construction, with stucco masonry exterior is a very fine example the Inter-War Art Deco style applied to a commercial building incorporating one of Perth's finest intact Art Deco style facades.

It is part of an important landmark group of buildings in the Inter-War Functionalist and Art Deco styles comprising *Devon House, Gledden Buildings and P&O Building (fmr)*.

William Leighton one of the State's foremost exponents of the Art Deco style designed it.

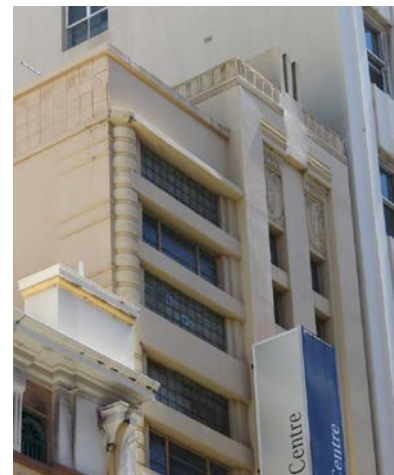
It was built for and later occupied as a retail store by John R Saunders Ltd, a leading Western Australian chain of menswear stores.

Criteria Applicable

Insert Criteria N1, N2 and N3.



Philip Griffiths Architects 2010



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