

## Appendix 3 National Heritage Citation

The Australian Heritage Database has a detailed entry accessible at [https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place\\_detail;place\\_id=105143](https://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl?mode=place_detail;place_id=105143) for the REB & Carlton Gardens.

The *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette, No. P7, 20 July 2004* included the REB & Carlton Gardens in the National Heritage List under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* with the following assessment (<https://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/pages/43dd8bc3-b5eb-4050-b54d-7651241e963e/files/105708.pdf> )

### Royal Exhibition Building National Historic Place:

About 26ha, Victoria Street, Carlton, comprising all of the Land Reserve Rs 37130 (Royal Exhibition Building and Museum of Victoria) and Rs 9990 (Carlton Gardens), Crown Allotment 19A, shown on Diagram 1501 held by the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria, being the land bounded by Rathdowne Street, Carlton Street, Nicholson Street and Victoria Street.

### Criterion A. Events, Processes

#### Values

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, the venue for the grand opening of the first Australian Parliament in 1901, has outstanding national historic value for its role in the defining event of Federation. It is the place where Commonwealth of Australia's first Parliament was commissioned and sworn in, on 9 May 1901.

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens is a tangible symbol of the country's pride in its technological and cultural achievements in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Together with the associated gardens the Royal Exhibition Building is the most significant extant nineteenth century exhibition building in Australia.

#### Attributes

The entire site of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens encompass the values of the place.

The site, comprising the Royal Exhibition Building and its Carlton Gardens, is a purpose built assemblage. The boundary of the site is defined by the bluestone plinth of the perimeter fence constructed for the 1880-81 Melbourne International Exhibition. The Exhibition Building comprises a timber framed Great Hall, cruciform in plan, with a pair of elongated rectangular wings, a transept to the north and a truncated transept to the south, cement rendered brickwork walls, timber framed roof, soaring octagonal dome, naves, aisles, continuous galleries, towers, corner pavilions, great portal entries, fanlights and clerestory lighting.

A decorative painting scheme, the third since the building's construction, was undertaken for the opening of the first Federal Parliament with themes and allegories to represent the building as a seat of government and legislative power. The decorative scheme was recovered and restored during renovations in the 1990s. Parts of the 1880 murals are still intact. Remains of the decorative painting scheme for the 1888 Centennial Exhibition may exist beneath subsequent paint layers.

Carlton Gardens as a whole comprises the setting for the Royal Exhibition Building.

This value is most strongly associated with the 1879-1901 period of the Garden's development which includes both the Gardenesque and the classically inspired garden design elements.

## **Criterion B. Rarity**

### **Values**

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens including the AT gardens' associated ornamental features has outstanding historic values as the major extant nineteenth century international exhibition building and garden complex in Australia.

The Royal Exhibition Building in its garden setting is a rare surviving example of an Australian response to the international exhibition movement.

The Royal Exhibition Building is one of the few major nineteenth century exhibition Great Halls to survive substantially intact worldwide and represents a rare example of the nineteenth century international movement's belief in the benefits of industrialisation, the transmission of ideas and social progress and development of an extensive international economy.

The Royal Exhibition Building in its original garden setting is a rare example of a surviving nineteenth century exhibition precinct, nationally and internationally.

Carlton Gardens is a significant example of nineteenth century classicism in an Australian public garden, featuring earlier nineteenth century 'Gardenesque' style elements and later more classical features. These more classical features are seen in the south garden and are references to the classical gardens of European aristocracy and royalty. These features include the main north-south tree-lined avenue framing the southern entrance to the Exhibition Building (Grande Allee and tapis vert), the east-west terrace, the circular garden bed surrounding a central fountain (Hochgurtel fountain), the radial pattern of tree-lined linear pathways (allees) all converging on the Hochgurtel fountain (patte d'oi), the formal garden beds created along the south facade (parterres), the eastern forecourt with circular garden beds and the French fountain, the creation of axial views with foci and the planting of trees in groups or clumps (bosquets).

Further axial features are used to reinforce the building's function as the focus of the garden. These design elements are reminiscent of European baroque palace gardens. These features include the axial layout of the building on a north south alignment extended by the Grand Allee, the creation of the Promenade Deck (at the base of the dome) which reinforces the importance of the view down the Grande Allee and across to the city (which is intended to link the Exhibition Building with other central places of democracy and civic institutions - Parliament and Government House) and the placement of the building on the high point of a ridgeline so that the building's dome would become a landmark in the surrounding city. The adjacent gardens on the north and south sides of the Yarra River, the Fitzroy, Treasury and Parliament Gardens, Yarra Park and the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, all heightened the contrived device of the Carlton Gardens and Royal Exhibition Building as set within an endless boulevard of greenery and civic grandeur (World Heritage nomination report).

The ornamental lakes, the diagonal tree-lined pathways and lawn in the north garden and the mature nineteenth century specimen tree planting, some of which are rare, also contribute to the garden's values.

## Attributes

The Royal Exhibition Building within its garden setting, the garden and associated elements demonstrate the characteristic features of the international exhibition movement. The Great Hall or 'Palace of Industry', is one of the few great halls to survive worldwide and the only one to have remained in use as a hall, still in its original landscaped setting.

The classical features are best displayed in the south garden. The classical features include the main north-south tree-lined avenue framing the southern entrance to the Exhibition Building (Grande Allee and tapis vert), the east-west terrace, the circular garden bed surrounding a central fountain (Hochgurtel fountain), the radial pattern of tree-lined linear pathways (allees) all converging on the Hochgurtel fountain (patte d'oi), the formal garden beds created along the south facade (parterres), the eastern forecourt with circular garden beds and the French fountain, the creation of axial views with foci and the planting of trees in groups or clumps (bosquets).

The ponds, the formal flowerbeds and mature specimen trees associated with Sangster's 1880/81 period and earlier also contribute to the gardens' significance.

The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens retain high integrity. They retain continuity of public use.

## Criterion D. Principal characteristics of a class of places

### Values

The Exhibition Building is an outstanding example demonstrating the principal characteristics of the Victorian Free Classical architectural style to express the form and ideas of the international exhibition movement. As one of the largest and finest nineteenth century buildings in Australia it represented a temple to industry rather than a palace.

Carlton Gardens were originally developed as a public park for passive recreation. Later more classical garden modifications were made forming the setting for the Royal Exhibition Building. The main garden elements include the main north-south tree-lined avenue (Grande Allee), the east-west terrace, the Hochgurtel fountain with surrounding circular garden bed, the eastern forecourt with surrounding circular garden bed and the French fountain, the radial pattern of tree-lined linear pathways converging on the Hochgurtel fountain (patte d'oi), the formal garden beds (parterres), the incorporation of axial views and vistas, the planting of trees in groups or clumps (bosquets), the ornamental ponds and the mature

specimen trees surviving from Bateman's plan and the later trees planted by Sangster in c1879-1880 and the c1890 diagonal tree lined pathways of the north garden.

The Royal Exhibition Building and its garden setting retain continuity of public use and its original purpose of exhibitions and displays has been maintained.

## **Attributes**

The Victorian Free Classical Style is demonstrated in the Royal Exhibition Building in the rich modelling, the vaulted dome with its decorative skyline feature, decorative pediments, arched entrance, and use of stucco and timber in stylistic effects.

The main 1880 Exhibition Building is cruciform in plan, comprising a pair of elongated rectangular wings, extending east and west, with a transept to the north and a truncated transept to the south. Features include the soaring dome, naves, aisles, fanlights and clerestory lighting, southern elevation with a prominent central porch and the northern elevation.

The Carlton Gardens area as a whole is a significant demonstration of a nineteenth century public park with a classically modified Gardenesque style. This includes the virtually intact path system, the high numbers of trees extant on the site from the 1880s and 1890 layouts, the classical garden design elements, the curator's lodge, the two ornamental ponds and three fountains (the Hochgurtel Fountain, the French Fountain and the Westgarth Fountain).

## **Criterion E. Aesthetic characteristics**

### **Values**

The Carlton Gardens, the setting for the Royal Exhibition Building, are of outstanding aesthetic significance for their nineteenth century classically modified 'Gardenesque' style.

The Royal Exhibition Building with its soaring dome, is a significant landmark in the Melbourne skyline. It is a leading icon in promotional literature for the State and city. The dome, building and its garden setting exhibit inspiring aesthetic features which are highly valued by the State of Victoria and the city of Melbourne.

The Royal Exhibition Building as a building in a garden ensemble continues to inspire Melbourne and Victorian communities.

### **Attributes**

The entire site of the Royal Exhibition Building and its garden setting encompass the values of the place.

## **Criterion F. Creative or technical achievement**

The Royal Exhibition Building together with its Carlton Gardens AT setting, demonstrates an outstanding achievement in design. The building and gardens are representative of the international

exhibition movement style, based on a Beaux-Arts axial scheme with the building as a palace, primarily in the German Rundbogenstil and Italian Renaissance style for which its designer

Joseph Reed, won the design competition. The soaring dome, based on the Florence Cathedral dome designed by Brunelleschi, is a landmark on the Melbourne skyline. The gardens to the south of the building were also designed to create a palatial garden setting.

Gardenesque and formal classical garden elements have been used in the design of Carlton Gardens to create a setting for the Royal Exhibition Building. The main garden elements creating the setting for the Royal Exhibition Building during the 1880 and 1888 exhibitions are in the south garden. These elements include the main north-south tree-lined avenue (Grande Allee), the east-west terrace, the Hochgurtel fountain with surrounding circular garden bed, the eastern forecourt with surrounding circular garden bed and the French fountain, the radial pattern of tree-lined linear pathways converging on the Hochgurtel fountain (patte d'oie), the formal garden beds (parterres), the incorporation of axial views and vistas, the planting of trees in groups or clumps (bosquets), the ornamental ponds and the mature specimen trees surviving from Bateman's plan and the later trees planted by Sangster in c1879-1880. These Gardenesque and classical elements are all integral to the original 1880 design for the setting of the building and are a major feature of the place's outstanding national values.

The Carlton Gardens, both north and south gardens together, are a notable creative achievement demonstrating a skilful Gardenesque design with classical elements and a landscape character with plantings of pines, cedar, Araucaria, cypress, gums, figs, pepper trees, elms, planes, oaks, poplars, Canary Island date palms and Washington palms that display contrasting colours and forms which enhances Carlton Gardens, the Royal Exhibition Building and the adjacent urban area.

## **Attributes**

In the Royal Exhibition Building the major typological elements of an international exhibition Great Hall as 'palace,' such as a dome, cruciform floor plan, continuous galleries at first floor level, towers, corner pavilions and great portal entries remain substantially intact in the structural form and materials, internally and externally.

The Carlton Gardens provide the setting for the exhibition hall. During the 1880 and 1888 exhibitions the pre-existing style of the southern garden was modified in part to create a grand garden setting. These modifications consisted of classically inspired elements. A high number of trees remain on site from this period. The remnant cast iron perimeter fence and remaining bluestone plinth (1880), and the two lakes with islands are also associated with the exhibition building setting.

The classical and Gardenesque features of Carlton Gardens as a whole comprise the attributes related to its value as a classically modified Gardenesque style garden.

The views of the Exhibition Building dome, the views within the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens complex and extending from the building and garden complex to the surrounding cityscape form part of the place's values.