

Victoria, Australia

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International working party for  
**documentation and conservation**  
of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the  
**modern movement**

## NR & NIS MINIMUM FICHE

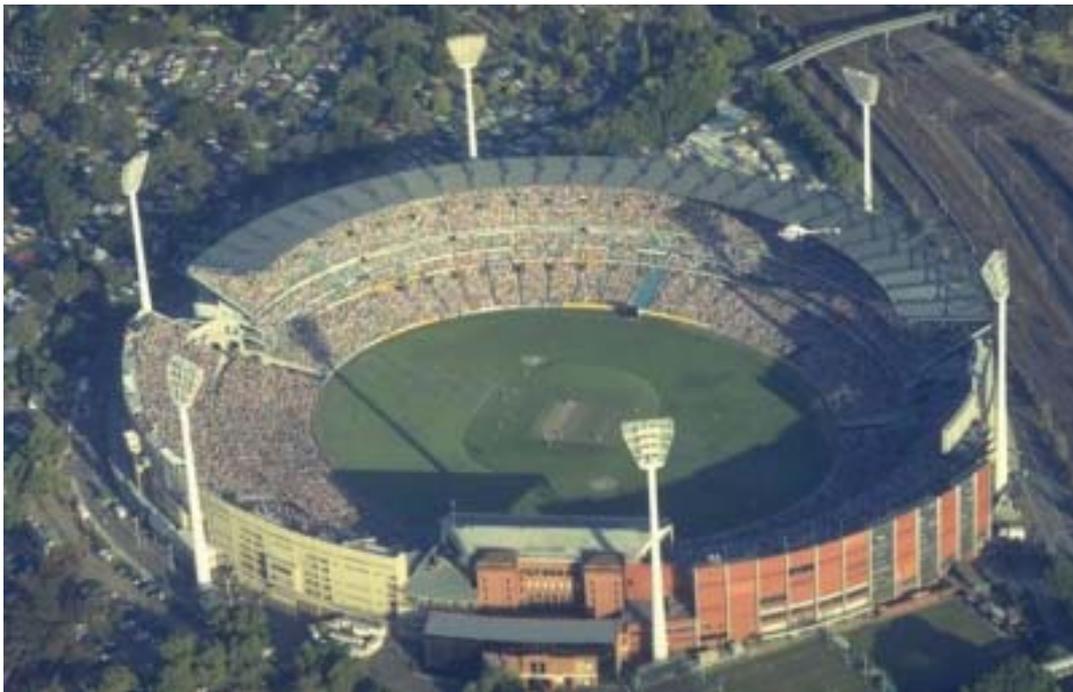
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Wp/ref no

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composed by working party of:

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | <b>Identity of building/group of buildings/urban scheme/ landscape/garden</b> | <b>Great Southern Stand, Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG)</b> |
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Aerial view of the MCG, the Great Southern Stand is at the top of the image  
Source: Victorian Heritage Register <http://www.doi.vic.gov.au>

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|-----|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.1 | current name of building | <b>Great Southern Stand</b> |
| 1.2 | variant or former name   | n/a                         |
| 1.3 | number & name of street  | Brunton Avenue, Jolimont    |
| 1.4 | town                     | Melbourne                   |

1.5	province	Victoria
1.6	zip code	
1.7	country	Australia
1.8	national grid reference	
1.9	classification/typology	Sports Stadia
1.10	protection status & date	Register of the National Estate

## 2 History of building

2.1	original brief/purpose	Built to replace the 1937 Southern Stand by Purnell and Pearce.
2.2	dates: commission/completion	1989-1992
2.3	architectural designers	Daryl Jackson in association with Tompkins Shaw and Evans
2.4	others associated with building	
2.5	significant alterations with dates	No significant alterations
	current use	Grandstand
	current condition	The building is in good condition

## 3.0 Description

3.1	general description	The stand is described by Philip Goad in his <i>Guide to Melbourne Architecture</i> , the “ <i>Great Southern Stand precinct accommodates a total of 60,000 spectators. Externally the articulation of spectator movement through inclined ramps with lines of port hole windows and glazed stair bays is crowned by a dramatic half ring of steel roof stays, masts and cantilever truss supports for the grandstand roof, recalling the kinetic aesthetic of the Constructivist stadia designs of the 1920s.</i> ” (Goad: 1999: 220)
3.2	construction	Re-inforced concrete, steel roof structure including trusses, masts and stays.
3.3	context	The Register of the National Estate describes the development of the Melbourne Cricket Ground, or MCG as it is usually known.  <i>From its beginnings as a simple paddock-like ground with a modest pavilion and with limited grandstand and other facilities scattered around the perimeter, the Melbourne Cricket Ground has evolved and expanded through a process of phased redevelopment and renewal into a major piece of sporting infrastructure serving the metropolitan area and the State as a whole.</i>  <i>Currently, the stadium comprises four principal stands, the MCC Members Pavilion (the third on the site, designed by Stephenson and Meldrum and</i>

completed in 1927), the Northern (Olympic) Stand (designed by AW Purnell and completed in 1956), the Western (Ponsford) Stand (designed by Tompkins, Shaw & Evans and completed in 1968) and the Great Southern Stand (designed by Daryl Jackson in association with Tompkins Shaw & Evans and completed in 1992), the oval, light towers (1984) and Australian Gallery of Sport (1986).

## 4 Evaluation

4.1 technical The structurally expressive design reflects the involvement of Daryl Jackson (1937-) reknown in Australia for his expertise in designing sporting structures and stadiums. (Goad: 1999: p. 220)

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4.2 social In the broader context, the MCG is also of historical and social significance for its egalitarian image as the 'people's ground' and its long tradition of serving the people of Victoria. The MCG is socially significant as a living icon, a focus of attention in which importance lies in participating in events as well as experiencing the place itself. (VHR entry for the MCG)

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4.3 cultural & aesthetic Within the broader conception of the MCG, there are elements with their own architectural significance. Firstly, the Members Pavilion by Stephenson and Meldrum (1927), is architecturally important as a large and relatively intact grandstand from the interwar period, although an appreciation of its impressive façade is marred by the somewhat intrusive Australian Gallery of Sport of 1986. Secondly, the Great Southern Stand by Daryl Jackson in association with Tompkins Shaw and Evans (1992) has been the recipient of a wide range of design awards and has generally been received with acclaim by architectural critics. (VHR entry for the MCG)

The MCG is of aesthetic significance primarily for its overall form and scale.

The MCG is a landmark on the edge of the city, a vast stadium which retains its traditional parkland setting. Whether full or empty, the stadium is of considerable aesthetic power and significance and is a place of energy and great atmosphere. (VHR entry for the MCG)

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4.4 Historical The MCG is also of historical and social significance for its association with the Melbourne Cricket Club, the oldest club in Victoria and a major force in the development of cricket and other sports in Victoria from the nineteenth century. (VHR entry for the MCG)

4.5 general assessment The MCG is one of the most well known sporting facilities in Australia and has been used continuously since the nineteenth century.

## 5 Documentation

5.1 principal references Register of the National Estate, entry for the MCG  
Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) [www.doi.vic.gov.au/doi/hvolr.nsf](http://www.doi.vic.gov.au/doi/hvolr.nsf)  
Allom Lovell & Associates in association with Bryce Raworth, *Melbourne Cricket Ground, Yarra Park, Jolimont : Conservation Management Plan*, 2000, MCC  
Goad, Philip, *Melbourne Architecture*, Watermark Press, Sydney, 1999

5.2 visual material attached

5.3 rapporteur/date Noni Boyd June 2003