
National Bank of Australasia, Former



261 Victoria Street



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261 Victoria Street.JPG

Location

261 Victoria Street, ABBOTSFORD VIC 3067 - Property No 103980

Municipality

YARRA CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area indiv sig

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO54

Heritage Listing

Yarra City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2008

The following wording is from the Allom and Lovell Building Citation, 1998 for the property. Please note that this is a "Building Citation", not a "Statement of Significance". For further information refer to the Building Citation held by the City of Yarra.

History:

In 1866 Alexander Skeene, a manager, was listed as owner of vacant land measuring 166 feet by 100 feet on the northwest corner of Victoria and James Streets. In 1887 a National Bank was built on the site, with Alexander Campbell listed as manager. Tenders were called for the work on 4 September 1886.

Description:

The former National Bank of Australasia is a double-storey building of rendered masonry construction, designed in an Italianate style. The ground floor of the Victoria and Hoddle Street facades are rusticated in the manner of a Renaissance palazzo, embellished with vermiculated quoining. The central projecting entrance porch is supported on Tuscan Doric columns, and is flanked by semi-circular arched window openings with vermiculated keystones. Above the porch is a balustraded balconette. A moulded cornice divides the two storeys. At first floor level, the rendered walls are quoined, and the rectangular double-hung sash windows have bracketed pediments. There is a tripartite window above the entrance porch, articulated with Ionic pilasters. The first floor cornice is modillioned and dentillated, surmounted by a balustrade parapet, with a central stilted semi-circular arched pediment containing the words EST 1858 in raised lettering. The name of the bank is inscribed within the frieze below the first floor cornice.

Significance:

The former National Bank of Australasia at 261 Victoria Street, Abbotsford, is of local architectural significance and local historical interest. The building is a good example of the restrained use of the Italianate palazzo style, typical of bank premises in the late 19th century. The building's association with Albert Purchas, architect of the Melbourne General Cemetery (from 1852), and of the Richmond South branch of the bank, is of interest.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Yarra - City of Collingwood Conservation Study, Andrew Ward & Associates, 1989; Yarra - City of Collingwood Conservation Study, Andrew Ward & Associates, 1995; Yarra - City of Yarra Heritage Review, Allom Lovell & Associates, 1998; Yarra - City of Yarra Review of Heritage Overlay Areas, Graeme Butler & Associates, 2007;
Construction dates	1887,
Hermes Number	103728
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

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Integrity

not assessed

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>